

quietly marched into the prison by the north doorway, thereby avoiding the basement entrance. This was effected without disturbance, and each convict confined to his cell. The prison was then left in charge of the guard on duty, the remaining guard being then posted outside of the different outlets of the building, with a few volunteers at the different stairways and passages in the front part of the building, instructions being given in the event of any outbreak taking place, at any of the points guarded, that I should be notified by means of an understood signal, the convicts to be kept at bay until my arrival. I, with the Chief Keeper and another, were stationed at the basement door, which I considered to be the point which they would naturally make for. At a little after 3 p.m., the steam was turned on in the washing vats in the vicinity of the officer on duty. This was unexpected. The noise occasioned by this drowned any noise that would likely have been caused by the convicts in their attempt to escape. This was a feature which entirely escaped my notice. Shortly after this, the basement door was opened, and convict No. 14, Faut (the ring leader) pistol in hand, appeared. I at once grappled with him and forced him down the steps. He discharged the pistol at me until every cap was exploded, calling on the others to come on and follow him. I ordered the guard who was with me to fire. This he did, the gun being loaded blank. The result of the discharge was instantaneous. The convicts at once became submissive, surrendered at discretion, were marched off to their cells and locked up.

The convict, Faut, on being brought before me the following day, admitted that the plot had been concocted whilst in gaol in Winnipeg, and that it was owing to the want of a boundary wall and the insecure state of the prison (of which they had learned) that they were tempted to endeavor to escape. The convicts implicated in this matter will, of course, be arraigned at the forthcoming fall Assizes. The reward granted by the Minister, upon your recommendation, to the Chief Keeper and guard Fairbairn, was fully appreciated.

A number of Indians from the plains, convicted of bringing stolen horses into the Dominion of Canada, are now serving out their sentences. In the case of this class of prisoners, it has been my ambition so to look after their future, that at the expiration of their imprisonment they would return to their respective bands useful tradesmen, and be in a position to turn their knowledge to practical account as blacksmiths, carpenters, &c., in the workshops connected with the farms on their reservations.

Their progress at the school, considering their opportunities, is remarkable. In connection with the library and chapels, a larger grant is necessary. The accommodation in the Roman Catholic chapel is altogether too limited. The school has to be held, owing to want of proper room, in the corridor of the prison, which is not as it should be.

#### HOSPITAL.

The want of proper hospital accommodation is more than ever felt. I have touched upon this in previous Reports, and the Surgeon comments very strongly upon the same subject in his Report now appended.

#### BOUNDARY WALL.

In my first Annual Report, after the occupation of this building for the year 1876-77, I then wrote as follows:—

"The great necessity that exists for the erection of a prison wall, is also a matter to which I beg to draw your careful consideration. The Penitentiary stands upon a small plateau of rising ground, elevated above the general prairie level some fifty feet, entirely unprotected by enclosure of any kind, adjacent to a public highway, and open on all sides to uninterrupted communication from passers-by, entailing a degree of diligence on the part of the guards on duty, that admits of no relaxation. There are many other very apparent reasons why there should be as little delay as possible in the completion of this important construction."