

During the winter months several complaints were brought before me about the defective heating of the whole building and the Surgeon has reported upon the injurious effects likely to arise unless an improved plan for heating be adopted.

I would again suggest that the boundary wall of the prison be commenced and built as quickly as possible.

The Guards' dwellings have been commenced and are being built of stone, the work being done by the convicts, the material, except stone and lime, has been furnished by the Public Works Department.

I herewith enclose the usual returns.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,  
S. L. BEDSON.

J. G. MOYLAN, Esq.,  
Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa.

MANITOBA PENITENTIARY, 9th September, 1879.

SIR,—In submitting this, my Annual Report for the year ending 30th June, 1879, I must again call your attention to the sanitary condition of this institution. It is in a wretched state, and the health of the inmates is greatly endangered.

The drainage is so utterly defective that the slops and waste matter that should be carried off by drain, has to be kept in tubs made for the purpose, and carried out of the building by prisoners detailed for such work. At times, the slops and waste matter remain for some hours without being removed, and on Sundays remain in the building all day. The stench produced is not at all what it should be, and decidedly injurious to the health of the prisoners as well as officers, whose respective duties compel them to be inside the building.

Now, sir, referring to the heating of the building, this deserves your prompt and careful consideration. My opinion now is the same as when I reported to you before on this subject—that is, the best way the building can be heated (to the health, satisfaction and comfort of those confined) is by steam or hot air.

During last winter there was hardly a day but prisoners were paraded before me complaining of head-colds, rheumatism, etc., and asking for extra bed clothing.

I might mention that the want of a proper hospital ward is greatly felt.

I would again respectfully ask that you urge upon the Department the advisability of doing something to remedy the defect in draining and heating of the institution; also, considering the necessity of having a proper hospital ward attached to the prison.

In concluding this report, I feel it my duty to offer many thanks to the Warden and the officers generally for their courtesy and kind assistance rendered me in the performance of my duties.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,  
RODERICK MACDONALD, *Surgeon.*

J. G. MOYLAN, Esquire,  
Inspector of Penitentiaries.