
 COMMON GAOLS OF UPPER CANADA.

BELLEVILLE,

(County of Hastings).

In their report for 1865, the Inspectors stated that in July of that year, plans for the erection of a new Gaol were approved by the Board and sanctioned by the Executive Government, and the Inspectors expressed the hope that the County Council would proceed with the building during the course of the following year. The Inspectors have much pleasure in recording that they have not been disappointed. The work was pushed on energetically during the year, and the Gaol, in which accommodation for 18 prisoners is provided, will be ready for occupation early in 1867.

BRAMPTON.

(County of Peel).

The erection of the Gaol of the County of Peel was completed last year.

The Government Architect who was sent to make the necessary report before the approval of the Gaol by the Board, found that the Architect or Contractor, apparently without the knowledge of the County authorities, had departed in several important particulars from the plans approved by the Board and sanctioned by the Executive Government. The consequences of this departure from the plan, was that the Gaol, when completed, was quite insecure. The Board was unable, consequently, to accept it, and the County Council were compelled to spend a large additional sum of money to make it secure. This the County authorities lost no time in doing, and in the month of November the Board were enabled to report the building as completed, and to recommend its acceptance by the Government.

The separation of the County of Peel from York did not, however, take place in 1866, and the Gaol was consequently not made use of during that year.

CORNWALL.

(United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.)

In concluding their remarks on this Gaol in their Report for last year, the Inspectors ventured, though with some hesitation, to express their belief that the Municipal Council of the large and populous Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, were prepared to proceed, without further delay, either to repair the old Gaol or build a new one.

The Inspectors regret very much that they have been disappointed in their expectations. Another year has passed, and the County Gaol at Cornwall still continues, as heretofore, one of the very worst in Upper Canada, a disgrace not only to those counties but to the Province.

Public attention was called to the utterly insecure condition of the Gaol in consequence of the escape from it on the night of the 1st of September last, of six of the prisoners confined in it as Fenians.

By direction of the Executive, the Board held a special meeting at the Gaol to enquire into this extraordinary occurrence. A thorough investigation was made into all the circumstances connected with the escape, and a full report communicated to the Provincial Secretary. As the Report is still under the consideration of the Executive, it is not thought necessary here to do more than refer to it. The Inspectors may, however, observe that they have always reported the Gaol as utterly insecure, and that the circumstances connected with the escapes last year, conclusively established this fact. On the night when the prisoners in question effected their escape, there were, in addition to the ordinary gaol attendants, three military guards and an extra turnkey, and yet, in the face of all this, the prisoners would appear to have made their escape without any difficulty.

Let us hope that out of evil good may come, and that the local authorities of those counties may at length be taught to see the necessity of doing something to improve their Gaol.