

## PROVINCIAL PENITENTIARY.

The Inspectors have to refer to the very full reports and tables furnished by the Warden and by the other officers of the Penitentiary, and to the tabular statements which accompany this Report for detailed information respecting this vast and important institution.

It will be observed that the total number of convicts, male and female, remaining at the close of 1866, was eight hundred and fifteen against seven hundred and seventy-four at the end of 1865, being an increase of forty-one for 1866.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS AND SANITARY CONDITION.

Besides the extensive works connected with the Rockwood Lunatic Asylum, carried on by means of convict labor, during the year 1866, some important though minor works have been completed at the Penitentiary itself. Foremost among these are the works connected with the sewerage, and with the water supply of the institution.

According to the original design for the Penitentiary, the whole sewerage was made to discharge into the lake, to the westward, and at no great distance from the point at which the water supply-pipe is laid down. The Inspectors had been long convinced of the impropriety of this arrangement, both because the natural flow of the water is from the west, and because the prevailing winds are also in the same direction, and they should at once have changed it had they not been restrained by motives of economy. Typhus fever, however, having broken out to an alarming extent, and there being no room to doubt that the appearance and violence of this most formidable epidemic were due in a very great degree to the impurity of the water, the Inspectors felt it to be an imperative duty to remedy this evil, and to secure if possible a supply of pure water for the institution.

They accordingly directed the remodelling to a certain extent of the drainage system, so as to carry all the impurities of the establishment as far to the east as the limits of the Prison property would permit, and this work, although one of great labor, has been satisfactorily accomplished.

At the same time, feeling that a second separate and independent apparatus for supplying water was required, where a prison population, convicts, officers and guards, of nearly nine hundred (900) souls existed, so that in case of accidents to one set of machinery another should be in readiness to work; they directed a filtering crib to be sunk in deep water in the bay, on the west of the point of land which forms the limit of the property on the western side, and connected it with pumping gear worked by a steam-engine, distinct from and independent of that connected with the other apparatus.

The Inspectors have therefore satisfaction in stating that not only is the sewerage now carried off at the most advantageous place, but the supply of pure water is put beyond the reach of any common accident.

They have also, during last year, been able again to place at command, for the use of the convicts the most ample means for bathing, by the construction of a set of baths for the convicts, which are supplied abundantly with hot and cold water.

Owing to the important improvements referred to, and to others, in warming and ventilating the buildings, as well as to the fortnightly strict examination of the drains, and other hygienic measures, the health of the convicts during the last year has been much better than for some years previous. The Inspectors regret, however, to be compelled to state, that notwithstanding all their exertions and precautions, typhoid fever still lingered in the institution during the greater part of last year, and that seven deaths occurred from that disease.

The officers of the institution generally continue to discharge their duties to the satisfaction of the Inspectors. They feel it, however, to be their duty to state that, in their opinion, the burthen of so great a labor and responsibility as the care of this vast institution involves, is now too heavy for the advanced years of the Warden. The Matron, Mrs. Pless, appears to be deserving of especial commendation, for the admirable order and discipline which now distinguishes the female department of the Prison, and for the amount of profitable work which is performed by the female prisoners under her control,