

## House of Industry and Refuge County of Elgin.

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inmates are sick or troublesome. Success depends entirely upon these officials. In Elgin three keepers, including the present one, have been installed since the institution was started. The physician visits the institution weekly and at other times as may be necessary.

Religious services are conducted by the chaplain and ladies of the W. C. T. U. on alternate Sundays.

The county clerk, who was inspector for sixteen years, acts as secretary of the committee. All accounts are paid by the county treasurer.

## Farm Stock and Crops.

The farm stock consists of 3 horses and a driver owned by the keeper; 10 cows, 5 yearlings and 3 calves; 25 pigs; chickens, turkeys and geese.

The greater part of the farm produce is consumed on the premises. The crop for 1903 was reported by the keeper to be as follows:

24 bushels of wheat	7 bushels of peas
50 tons of hay	440 bushels of corn
510 bushels oats	10 bushels sweet corn
266 bushels barley	115 bushels carrots
600 bushels mangolds	9 bushels table carrots
18 bushels turnips	30 loads oat straw
135 bushels potatoes	1,000 heads cabbage
15 bushels beets	12 loads corn stalks
70 barrels apples	20 bushels parsnips
20 bushels onions	40 hogs
356 jars fruit	22 turkeys
8 bushels beans	100 chickens
7 bushels salsify	1,249 pounds of butter
1 load tobacco	

## Dietary.

The dietary of the inmates is varied with the seasons, the produce of the garden being consumed on the premises. The bill of fare in general is as follows:

## Breakfast:

Corn or oatmeal porridge.

Milk, bread, butter, tea and meat for the men who work.

## Dinner:

Meat (pork or beef roast), meat pie or hash.

Potatoes or beans.

One other vegetable in season.

Bread, tea, gravy.

In cool weather, soup (meat or vegetable) twice a week in place of potatoes.

On Sundays pie or bread pudding.

## Supper:

Bread, butter, apple sauce or rice and milk.

Tea and cold meat for working men, and sometimes stale bread and potatoes warmed up together.

On Sundays cake, cheese, boiled eggs.

On special occasions, turkey and chicken raised on the farm.

## Notes.

The institution will accommodate 125 inmates.

Bread, meat and coal are the only supplies purchased by tender.

The kitchen furniture includes one of McClary's Famous Ranges, No. 9—50, with two fire pots and one agricultural boiler, No. 30, used for soup and boiling meat.

Three iron stairways, one on each wing, and four stairways in the building, accessible from all of the rooms, insure the escape of the inmates in case of fire.

For fire protection the institution depends on tank in the attic to supply hose and pails kept on each flat.

All windows on second flat have wire guards to prevent inmates falling out.

Inmates are admitted through the bath room, which is supplied with an instantaneous water heater and 80-gallon tank.

Tobacco is supplied to both men and women. The working men receive the most consideration in its distribution.

All bed clothes and clothing for inmates, except men's heavy coats and pants, are made in the institution. Winter shirts are purchased from Bursar of the Central Prison industries.

## Municipal Debentures in the Money Market

Contributed by G. A. Stimson & Co., Toronto.

A peculiar and almost unaccountable position has existed for some little time in connection with the money market generally in Canada. While money, both in Europe and the United States, gradually grows cheaper and more plentiful, and while money in Canada is fairly plentiful and higher rates of interest have prevailed, this condition has not tended in any sense to enhance the value of municipal debentures. This is contrary to the usual custom. We must look for something different than the ordinary value of money to account for the continued decreasing value of municipal debentures. Undoubtedly the development of our North-West has played a larger part in this matter than we are willing to admit. That the general feeling of confidence which has come about through the prosperous conditions of the Northern Provinces, many of our largest moneyed interests have become satisfied and are now free lenders there for all purposes. Then, again, the various insurance companies, through a certain amount of rivalry, have evinced a special desire to increase their interest return on invested money, and for these reasons have become very extensive lenders at the higher rates of interest prevailing in Manitoba and the North-West. Another feature also has a bearing on it, the increased cost of living in Ontario for

the last few years has been about 25 per cent, and those who live on an income from invested monies have looked about to obtain a larger return than what was heretofore quite satisfactory. No better opportunity seemed to present itself than our Western Provinces, so that taking all these circumstances together it is quite easy to see that millions of money have been taken from the financial centres of Ontario for the general development and expansion of the North-West. We are safe in saying that to a very great extent this money has heretofore been employed by investment in municipal debentures, thus a gradual lessening of the demand and an exceptionally large amount of bonds being offered by various municipalities have brought about such a condition of demand and supply as to make a material difference in the value of municipal bonds. It was to a certain extent expected that the general decline of business which has taken place to a large extent both in the United States and England would be felt greater in Canada than it has and the commercial interests in this country suffer accordingly. In this event large surpluses of money would naturally come in sooner or later, and have favorably effected the demand for municipal debenture investments. With the continued good conditions in Canada