

A library was purchased in the early part of my official capacity; but the whole of the appropriation in that direction was not consumed. I examined the library and pronounced it to be as good a selection of books as could possibly be purchased. They are composed of works of fiction by standard authors, interspersed with those of a more scientific turn and historical interest. In my official visits to the Penitentiary I noticed that every convict who could read made use of the library.

The school has, up to this time, been taught mainly by the Steward, and he is entitled to some credit for the interest he has manifested in the education of the unfortunate criminals. I would suggest that some satisfactory arrangement be arrived at to determine whose duty it shall be to teach the school. I do not argue with the Warden's proposition, in his annual report, to have a schoolmaster specially appointed. The expense of the staff are sufficiently high, and I think one of the officers would undertake to teach the school were a small addition made to his salary for so doing.

Before closing my report, I would suggest that an appropriation be made for fitting up the surgery with dispensing bottles, and a good supply of drugs. The present system of purchasing medical supplies is a most expensive one. It must not be imagined, either, that the drug bills for this institution are to be in the same proportion as to population as in the other penitentiaries.

On the Pacific slope more chronic cases of sickness exist among the population, and consequently among criminals than on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. Quite a number of convicts are tainted with diseases common to the coast, and the presence of such a large number of Chinese and Indians among the convicts, who are more or less tainted with syphilis and scrofula swells up the drug bills to an extent which calls for this explanation.

I might call your attention to the large proportion of Indians and Chinese among the criminals. Since the close of the year four more Chinese have been received into the Penitentiary. I am informed by the Attorney-General (Hon. Geo. A. Walkem, Q.C.,) that the great cost of the administration of justice in the Province is largely due to crime committed by Chinese and Indians.

I have to mention Mr. Fitzsimmons, the Chief Keeper, as having shown a great deal of energy, industry and ability in the routine and other work of the Penitentiary, and to him I think is due a good deal of the credit for that efficiency which now exists.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

W. WYMOND WALKEM, M.D.,

Assistant Inspector.

To JAS. G. MOYLAN, Esq.,
Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa.

BRITISH COLUMBIA PENITENTIARY, July 1st, 1879.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit my first Report on the management of the British Columbia Penitentiary.

As the institution has been working but nine months, the returns and statistics accompanying this Report will not compare with those of the other Penitentiaries which have been working a full year.

On the 28th September, 1878, I received from the Sheriff of Victoria, 12 convicts; on the 29th from the Sheriff of New Westminster, 11 convicts.

On the 1st of October, therefore, there remained in the institution; 23 convicts received since from common gaols 13; discharged since by expiration of sentence 6, leaving at midnight, on June 30th, 1879, 30 convicts.

Many difficulties had to be overcome in opening the institution. On arrival little or no furniture was found the offices being absolutely empty. Tools and lumber were purchased and two convicts who understood a little carpentering were set to work to make desks and tables, &c.