

South River. This piece of land contains about 145 arpents, and is situated on an angle lying between the south shore of the Richelieu, opposite to Isle-aux-Noix and the South River. The wood upon it would furnish fuel and winter occupation for the inmates in preparing it for some time to come; when cleared it could, under a proper system of reformatory management, be used for agricultural purposes, or if sold hereafter, could be sold at an enhanced price.

Then, the land on the island and at South River will furnish together nearly 300 acres applicable to those farming operations, best suited to the Educational objects of a Reformatory Institution.

In regard to the establishment of this prison, the editor of the *Kingston Commercial Advertiser* thus writes: "On the occasion of the first visit of His Excellency Governor Head to Kingston, the writer accompanied him in his visit to the Provincial Penitentiary, and our readers will recollect, that in recording what took place we dwelt upon the exceeding pain which we felt at the sight of a number of young boys, many of them hardly emerged from childhood, and with the stamp of childish innocence yet unobliterated from their countenances, compelled to herd with the most hardened and vile to which it is possible for poor human nature to become degraded by a lifetime of crime. It was indeed a most painful sight, the impressions of which will never be removed from our memory, and we took the opportunity to direct the attention of the Government to the cruel injustice of condemning those innocents to what was tantamount to temporal and eternal destruction, for crimes, the fault of the Government, which left the poor things uncared for to commence an apprenticeship of crime in the streets or amidst the disreputable haunts of vice where they were born. In a short time after we were informed officially, that our remarks had attracted attention in a high quarter, and that early steps would be taken by the Government to establish a Reformatory Prison for Juvenile Criminals, where they would be free from the corrupting influences derived from their association with hardened criminals, and where by a proper system of discipline, education, moral and religious instruction, they might be weaned from the evil habits which time could have hardly yet hardened their youthful minds to. When we heard that His Excellency had interested himself in this philanthropic object, we were satisfied, that he would not allow it to fall through, and we were therefore greatly pleased, when we learned that it had been decided to establish a Reformatory Prison at Isle-aux-Noix, in Lower Canada, of which Andrew Dickson, Esq., late Penitentiary Inspector, has been appointed Governor. Mr. Dickson is a kind hearted, humane man, of large experience, with a knowledge of human nature, and especially of criminal nature, acquired during the many years he was Sheriff, which most admirably fit him for the office, and we anticipate under his government to see the Reformatory Prison become a model institution, redeeming from the haunts of vice and crime, and sending forth into the world again many young men to be useful members of society, who would otherwise have gone on from bad to worse, until perhaps ending on the scaffold.

"Mr. Dickson left Kingston a couple of weeks ago, having in his charge some forty Juvenile Criminals from the Provincial Penitentiary, for the purpose of commencing the establishment at Isle-aux-Noix, where they arrived safely, and he is now busily engaged setting his house in order for his somewhat large family. We wish him all the success the undertaking deserves, and we can assure him that the public will watch the progress of the new institution with much interest."

We may remark that Mr. Dickson has recently obtained from the Upper Canada Educational Department a valuable library for the prison, consisting of 163 volumes.

2. THE UPPER CANADA REFORMATORY PRISON AT PENETANGUSHENE, WM. MOORE KELLY, ESQ., WARDEN.

The *Toronto Colonist* thus refers to the recent establishment of this Institution: "Among the many interesting subjects which have awakened public attention in Upper Canada, we do not know one which has been more deserving of the deepest consideration than the establishment of Reformatory Institutions for the education of juvenile offenders. And we have never taken pen in hand with more unmixed pleasure than we do now, to record the issuing of a proclamation, in a recent extra *Gazette*, by which His Excellency the Governor General in Council sets apart the land and buildings formerly used for military purposes at Penetanguishene, to be hereafter employed as 'The Reformatory Prison for Upper Canada,' under the provisions of the Prison Inspection Act of 1857.

"The following is a description of this property, which we copy from Col. Coffin's report on the Ordnance properties, laid before the Legislature in July last: 'The barracks and buildings at Penetanguishene are well suited to the required purpose: they are of cut stone, and have been calculated to receive 140 men and officers,

The site is healthy, cheerful and well watered—the supplies sufficient—the military have always so found them; although remote from common intercourse it is perfectly accessible by railway to Barrie, and from thence by 35 miles of very good road; by water it can be reached from the whole Province. Materials for building are to be obtained easily; lumber, whether manufactured or otherwise, in the vicinity; stone from quarries on an island not far distant, which has already furnished material for the barracks. From 20 to 25 acres of land may be readily inclosed for purposes of gardening, to which a much larger extent for farming labor can be added, upon settlement of the question of the location of the pensioners, which cannot be long delayed. The accommodation for the officers of the institution is ready made and good. Storage convenient and ample.'

"We believe the total amount of land available here is 150 acres. This is the second institution of the kind now established. That for Lower Canada has been for several months in operation, at Isle-aux-Noix. The Warden, Mr. Dickson, took thither in October last from the Provincial Penitentiary at Kingston, a large number of young lads under the age of twenty, who have since been employed in fitting up and improving the buildings intended for their own occupation, and in learning useful trades. Of these, as many as belong to Upper Canada, or about two-thirds, will be shortly sent up to Penetanguishene, where their services will be employed in the same manner. So soon as the arrangements of the new prison shall be completed, it will be available for the reception of juvenile offenders generally, according to the terms of the Act, which extend to a large class of offenders. These include all convicts under the age of twenty-one, sentenced for any offence heretofore punishable by imprisonment in the Provincial Penitentiary for periods under five years; all persons under the age of sixteen, who may have been convicted of any offence punishable by law on summary conviction; as well as other classes of juvenile criminals, according to the circumstances under which they may have been convicted."

3. THE NEW BOARD OF PRISON INSPECTORS. — OTHER CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

In consequence of some delay on the part of the imperial authorities, in formally conveying the property to the Canadian Government, it has been impossible to issue this proclamation at an earlier date. For the same reason, the Prison Inspectors required to be appointed under the same Act, 20 Vic. c. 28, have not yet been nominated.

The Board of Inspectors will consist of five persons, of whom the present Penitentiary inspectors, Dr. Wolfred Nelson and Andrew Dickson, Esq., will be two; the other three will be shortly appointed. The powers of this Board will be very great, and their duties extensive and laborious. They will have immediate and entire control of and management, not only of the two reformatory prisons, but of all penitentiaries, county and city jails, houses of correction, prisons, hulks, and lock-up houses of all kinds whatsoever, both in Upper and Lower Canada. Also of the Provincial Lunatic Asylums at Toronto and Quebec, and of all similar institutions, whether public or private, throughout the Province. They will be authorized to inspect all buildings used as county and city jails, and, in conjunction with committees of the county and city councils, make such alterations in those buildings, or require their extension or the re-erection of new buildings, according to the plans they may adopt or approve.

These two properties, of which the Province has just obtained possession, in almost complete order for reformatory purposes, are estimated by Col. Coffin as worth for present uses not less than \$150,000, which is precisely so much money saved to the revenue. Their cost to the Imperial Government cannot have been less than half a million of dollars. The expense of adapting them to prison uses will be about \$10,000. The fact of their being handed over, fit for immediate occupation, without the usual delays arising from having to put up new erections, is also of the greatest advantage to us.

We give a mere outline of the beneficent objects to which the other ordnance properties may, and no doubt will be applied. The barracks at St. Johns, as Colonel Coffin suggests, would form a convenient lunatic asylum for Lower Canada, in addition to that at Beaufort (near Quebec). The stone hospitals and buildings at Laprairie are said to be suitable for an asylum for idiots and incurable lunatics. The stone barracks at Chambly would form a noble hospital for deaf and dumb, and blind invalids; while the barracks at Three Rivers might be applied to the reception of healthy persons of the same afflicted classes. All these are for Lower Canada. In Upper Canada, Fort Malden is suitable for idiots and incurable maniacs. The London barracks are adapted for a deaf and dumb and blind asylum; and the barracks and buildings at Niagara may be applied to a marine hospital. Such are Colonel Coffin's recommendations, as contained in his report.