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Twenty-Third Annual Report

OF THE

**Prisoners' Aid Association
of Canada**

62 QUEEN STREET EAST, TORONTO

For the Year 1896-97

WITH

List of Subscribers

"Finally, the prevention of crime depends, to a very large degree, upon the education of public sentiment. . . . Public opinion, therefore, needs to be enlightened, informed and guided, upon all questions relating to crime, its causation and prevention, and to criminals, their treatment, reformation and rehabilitation."—F. H. WINES, LL.D.

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Prisoners' Aid Association.

Officers for 1897-98.

President :

HON. S. H. BLAKE, Q.C.

Vice-Presidents :

HON. G. W. ALLEN.
J. T. GILMOUR, ESQ., M.D.
J. G. HODGINS, LL.D.

ROBERT KILGOUR, ESQ.
E. A. MEREDITH, LL.D.
JAMES MASSIE, ESQ.*

Secretary :

A. M. ROSEBRUGH, M.D.

Treasurer :

JOHN AITKEN, ESQ.

Supt. S.S. Central Prison :

HAMILTON CASSELS, ESQ.

Supt. S.S. Reformatory for Women :

HUGH MACMATH, ESQ.

Supt. S.S. County Jail :

ROBERT HALL, ESQ.

Agent and Teacher :

FINLAY SPENCER, ESQ.

Bible Woman.

MRS. L. C. BELLAMY

*Arranged Alphabetically. Dr. J. G. Hodgins is the Pioneer Canadian Prison Worker.

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OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The objects of the Association are the reformation of offenders their welfare when discharged, the prevention of crime, and prison reform.

The means employed are :—

1. A Sunday School Mission in Central Prison.
2. A Sunday School Mission in the Reformatory for Women.
3. A Sunday School Mission in the County Jail.
4. A Night School for secular education in the Central Prison.
5. The employment of an agent, and a Bible-woman for the welfare of prisoners.
6. The distribution of prison reform literature, and the use of other means for awakening a more general interest in the cause of prison reform.
7. The formation of Branch Societies in different parts of the Province of Ontario.
8. The maintenance of a Home for Girls in connection with the work of the Bible-woman.
9. Assisting with tools, making temporary loans to discharged prisoners, and helping the families of prisoners when necessary.
10. A preaching service weekly at the Central Prison, and at the Female Reformatory, by members of the Toronto Ministerial Association.

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Prisoners' Aid Association.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

Since our last Annual Report, the Sunday Schools conducted every morning at the Central Prison, Woman's Reformatory, and City Jail have been carried on uninterruptedly and by a full staff of teachers, and during the year work has been steadily carried forward in all the departments. The religious services by the Toronto Ministerial Association, at the Central Prison on Sunday afternoons, and at the Woman's Reformatory on Sunday afternoons have been conducted as usual, but the Tuesday evening meeting, hitherto conducted by the Ministerial Association at the reformatory has been discontinued.

These services are very much appreciated by the inmates. We thankfully recognize the assistance given by many of the ministers of the city in this respect. Sometimes those who undertake these services do not attend according to appointment. If they knew the disappointment caused by this, we are satisfied that they would make the attendance on these services an absolute duty. Even when a substitute is sent there is not the same satisfaction given as when, according to the programme, the minister appointed to the allotted day is present.

HOME FOR GIRLS.

In January, '96, we were fortunate in securing for Bible Woman the services of Mrs. Bellamy, whose home for years has given a welcome to the unfortunate of her sex. We were so favorably impressed with this happy feature in her method of working, that we were glad to avail ourselves of the first opportunity of making arrangements whereby Mrs. Bellamy would be placed in a position to develop this feature in her method of working. In September of last year, we were enabled to secure a flat in the same building occupied

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by Mr. and Mrs. Bellamy. This was fitted up as a "Home for Girls;" the Home was opened on October 1st, and soon after the opening Miss Ward was appointed Matron. Miss Ward has been an active worker for years in connection with the Jail Mission as well as with the Boys' Mission on George St. This Home for Girls has greatly facilitated our work among the class of girls for whom it is designed, namely, those who have been imprisoned or simply arrested for petty offences, and whom we desire to save from become confirmed criminals.

THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT AND PRISON REFORM.

We must confess to no little disappointment, that the year 1897, —the Victorian Jubilee year—was not marked by the inauguration of important legislative measures in the interests of Prison Reform, including the following, namely, the establishment of the principle of Cumulative sentences, Indeterminate sentences, the Parole system, the Massachusetts Probation system, and a scheme for aiding discharged prisoners, Prisoners' Aid Societies, and aiding the organization and maintenance of a Board of Charities and Correction. We were also hopeful of seeing some steps taken both in the direction of placing the penitentiaries of Canada on a reformatory basis as also in the direction of providing special facilities for the reformation of young men—first offenders—either independently or by an arrangement with the different provinces.

In this connection we desire to express our thanks to Justice Ferguson and to Justice Rose for addressing the Grand Jury of the Toronto Assize, on the question of Prison Reform and the necessity of better Prison Reform Legislation. This is referred to at greater length in the appendix.

THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AND PRISON REFORM.

In our report for 1896-97, we wrote as follows:—"We know of no more fitting way whereby the Ontario Government can commemorate the completion of the sixth decade of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, than by giving practical effect to the recommendations of the Ontario Prison Reform Commission, made fully five years ago,—including the establishment of a Reformatory for Inebriates and reorganizing the Woman's Reformatory, Boy's Reformatory, and Girl's Refuge. We are also desirous that a

Provincial Board of Charities and Correction shall be established in Ontario similar to the State Boards in the United States. Within the last few months correspondence has been held with Inspector Noxon with regard to certain very desirable reforms required in connection with the Ontario Woman's Reformatory; and we are pleased to be able to report that the Inspector appears to be in full accord with us in regard to the desirability of the proposed reforms. We trust our recommendations, endorsed by Inspector Noxon, will be acted upon by the Ontario Government."

This was written twelve months ago. No action has as yet been taken by the Government with a view of giving effect to the recommendation referred to. We are gratified at being able to announce, however, that the Provincial Secretary, during the last session of the Provincial Assembly, made the following announcements, viz.: (a) That the Boys' Reformatory would be removed from Penetanguishene, and established on good farm land, where a larger number of the inmates may be taught farming; (b) that a thorough reorganization of the Woman's Reformatory will be made; (c) that the girls in the Girls' Refuge will be removed from the contaminating influence of the Woman's Reformatory; and (d) that larger accommodation will be provided for weak-minded women who require to be secluded from society. We would have been still more gratified at an announcement by the Government to the effect that an appropriation would be made for the reformation of inebriates.

COUNTY COUNCILS AND PRISON REFORMS.

It has been our custom for several years to communicate, at least once a year, with each of the County Councils in regard to the objects and aims of our Association, especially in the direction of prison reform, and asking for co-operation in this work. We are pleased to report that within the last two years three county poorhouses have been established, making thirteen in all now in operation in Ontario,—and that other counties are moving in the same direction. In this connection we desire to thank the Justice of Ontario for calling the attention of Grand Juries to these questions, as also the Clergy and the County W. C. T. Unions, for most valuable help. A number of the counties contribute to the funds

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of our Association, for which we are very thankful. Last year we suggested to the County Councils the propriety of making the year 1897 memorable, by the introduction of much-needed reforms in our County Jail system. As about nine-tenths of all the prisoners of the Province are incarcerated in county jails, it is of first importance that these jails should be both deterrent and reformatory. As now constituted, they are neither. On the contrary, it is claimed by our best authorities that our common jails are actually schools of vice. We are hopeful that the County Councils, as constituted under the new Municipal Act, will be enabled to approach this important question from a more liberal and patriotic standpoint than has characterized the County Councils as previously constituted. These remarks apply also to the lack of provision in many of the counties for the proper care of the destitute poor. It is in the interests of the counties, as also of the Province, that there should be a properly organized poorhouse in every county. Poorhouses are as necessary as hospitals, and we hope soon to see one in full operation in every county in Canada.

TORONTO AND PRISON REFORM.

In our last Annual Report we referred to Toronto Jail as follows: "It has not yet transpired in what manner the Toronto City Council proposes to commemorate the Victoria Jubilee. We do not know however what would be more appropriate than to make more humane provision for two classes now confined in Toronto Jail, namely, (a) the destitute poor whose only crime is poverty, (b) and first offenders, many of whom are quite innocent of any criminality and who should be kept separate on the English cellular system. The destitute poor should be provided for on a farm colony." We are gratified at being able to report that during the past year, through the efforts of Governor Green and the concurrence of Inspector Chamberlain, an important step has been taken looking towards the gradual introduction of the separate system of confinement for young first offenders. In this connection we would call attention to the important report of the Superintendent of the Jail Sunday School and the "serious abuses that ought to be remedied," namely, firstly, sending the aged and destitute poor to jail instead of providing for them in an Industrial Home, and secondly, sending habitual drunkards to jail on short sentences instead of to an hospital for Inebriation.

CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.

There is an organization in the United States called the National Conference of Charities and Correction. The Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of this influential Society was held in Toronto in July last. This Society has never before met in Canada. As a result of this meeting, we trust there will be formed in Canada an organization of like character, to carry on similar work here. We bespeak the hearty co-operation of all, in the organization and maintenance of a Canadian Conference of Charities and Correction.

SEPARATE REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

For the reports of the separate departments of our work, our friends are referred to the Report of the Central Prison Sunday School by Mr. Hamilton Cassels, the Superintendent; that of the Reformatory for Women S. S. by Mr. MacMath and Miss Sams; that of the Toronto Jail S. S. by Mr. Robert Hall, Supt. Male Department, and Miss Cull, Supt. Female Department; that of the Night School by Mr. Finlay Spencer, and that of the Bible Woman by Mrs. L. C. Bellamy, and that of the Home for Girl's by Miss Ward.

PRACTICAL WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The statistics of practical work of the Association for twelve months, ending September 30th, 1897, are as follows:

Total number discharged from City prisons, 1702.

The number of prisoners assisted by the Association on being discharged, was 277.

Employment was found for 54. Provisions were given to 5 families and rent paid for 2. Number of articles of clothing given 152. Railway fares were paid either to homes or where employment could be obtained, for 6. Number of meals furnished 2611. Number of night's lodgings 748.

The agent and Bible-woman made 667 visits to the prisoners, and 886 visits outside in the interests of the prisoners and their families; 258 visits made to the Police Court, and 222 visits to the

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Hospitals and Homes of the city. They have had 2917 personal interviews with prisoners either before or after discharge.

The Night School at the Central Prison has been held four nights each week during the year, with an average attendance of 76.20. A class for imparting secular education is held weekly at the Mercer Reformatory. The Bible-woman has relieved the Police Court Matron 45 nights. She has written 483 letters to female ex-prisoners, and received 279 replies. 792 female ex-prisoners have called at the home of the Bible-woman for advice and assistance.

278,000 pages of literature was printed during the year, the greater part of which has been distributed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

The thanks of the Association are due to the following, viz :

The Ontario Government for encouragement and help.

The Toronto Ministerial Association for sympathy and co-operation.

The Clergy and members of the W. C. T. Unions throughout the Province, who have co-operated in the cause of Prison Reform.

Upper Canada Bible Society for Bibles.

The Willard Tract Society for periodicals.

The large number of teachers, for so faithfully conducting the Sunday School work every Sunday.

Our members for their annual subscriptions.

The Corporation of the City of Toronto ; the County Council of the County of York ; and to the other County Councils, for the annual grants to our Association, as well as to the township, town and village corporations, for donations.

A number of friends for cast-off clothing.

The Managers of the Fred Victor Mission for the use of room for meeting discharged prisoners.

A. M. ROSEBURGH,
Secretary.

S. H. BLAKE,
President.

THE CENTRAL PRISON SABBATH SCHOOL.

I have the honor to present the annual Report of the work carried on in the Sabbath School at the Central Prison for the year ending 30th September last.

The average attendance of men has been slightly larger than during the preceding twelve months, and the average attendance of teachers slightly less : the average for the year being, teachers 31, scholars 235.

There were no marked features in connection with the work of the past year to which attention needs to be specially called. All engaged in the work are glad to be so occupied and are much encouraged in their labors. As has always been the case, we have experienced nothing but the greatest courtesy on all occasions from the Warden and other Officers of the Prison.

HAMILTON CASSELS, *Supt. C.P.S.S.*

AGENT'S REPORT.

Having completed my first year's work as agent of the Prisoner's Aid Association, I would respectfully submit the following report :

As the greater part of the work was entirely new to me there has been much to learn. I have at all times viewed the work from two standpoints, firstly, the moral condition, and secondly the temporal welfare of the prisoners. I have given practical aid when needed and deserved, and have ever tried to use my influence among the men so as to point out to them that it is better to acquire a living by honest means than by crime.

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All the men who have gone out have been visited previous to their discharge and have been met on the morning of their release. Many have been assisted either by way of meals, lodgings or loans, as each case required, according to my knowledge of the men. I may say here that the prison officials, both at the Central Prison and the Toronto Jail, have given me much assistance by way of information regarding special cases, and have at all times shown great interest in the affairs of the Association, and exhibited towards your agent an appreciable courtesy in the discharge of his duties. The families of prisoners have been visited by me when so desired by the prisoners.

In January last through the aid of Warden Gilmour, I organized and arranged for a men's prayer meeting. I began with seven men and the average attendance now is about fifty. The results of the work done by the Sabbath School teachers and the ministers who attend on Sunday is probably best ascertained by a visit to this meeting. The influence of the men who attend has been silently at work upon others, and I think we can safely say it has become the starting point with many toward living a new and better life. I have had valuable assistance in this new department from Mr. Isaac Wardell, Mr. Andrew Bates and Mr. Robert Simpson who are much interested in this meeting, and who are regular in attendance. An important influence for good upon the men in the prison is the evening school which is well attended, and which is conducted four nights in the week. More could not be accommodated on account of lack of room.

I regret that I have not been able to secure work for more men, but my inability has been due to the fact that the employers of labor were inclined to keep down expenses by carrying on business with as few hands as possible, rather than giving work to those out of employment, and by showing a preference to others than prisoners. I find among those who are unfortunate enough to get into prison a desire to stop in the city or go to some other city rather than go to the country to look for work. This we discourage as much as possible.

Before closing my report I wish to express my thanks to the several publishing houses for their liberality in supplying Bibles and other literature for the use of the prisoners.

FINLAY SPENCER, *Agent.*

CENTRAL PRISON NIGHT SCHOOL REPORT.

The work in connection with the Night School in the Central Prison has been carried on continuously, four evenings each week, during the year, excepting two weeks in August, the attendance of those registered being very regular, while the interest manifested and progress made are quite satisfactory. The conduct of the prisoners in school has been most commendable.

The principal subjects taught are reading, writing and arithmetic, while spelling, geography and literature, as met with in the "Readers," receive a fair share of attention.

The average attendance for the year was 76.20; the highest monthly average attendance was 85.57 and the lowest 66.30.

The Senior Division, including those reading in the Third and Fourth Books, meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and the Junior Division, including those reading in the First and Second Books, meets on Wednesday and Friday evenings. The senior arithmetic class is working problems in percentage as met with in commission, insurance and brokerage.

Special mention should be made regarding the Junior Division. During the year I have had a goodly number of young men register who have never had an opportunity of attending any school, while others have forgotten what they learned at school several years ago.

I am pleased to report that most of these men are now able to read and write. Hence the effort put forth in behalf of this class is of great importance, inasmuch as it opens up to them new avenues for thought, and places them in a position to acquire useful knowledge after their discharge. Moreover the work of reformation is made easier as it is almost impossible to reform the lives of men who are groping in mental darkness.

I would strongly recommend the extension of the school work among the prisoners. This, however, is impossible on account of the lack of proper accommodation. The present school room

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is altogether too small to meet the requirements of even those who now attend, or to regulate the temperature even in winter or summer. The air becomes stifling and even offensive before the evening's work is completed, to say nothing of the effect upon the health of the pupils and teacher. Further, the school is not infrequently interrupted and the attention of the class distracted by the noise and excitement occasioned by the arrival of new prisoners who are, for want of a better place, searched and registered in the hall adjoining the school room.

Before closing my report I desire to acknowledge, with thankfulness, the interest taken in the school by the Warden, Dr. Gilmour, who is a frequent visitor, and those members of his staff with whom I am more intimately associated in the prison. I also wish to thank the Guards for their valuable assistance.

FINLAY SPENCER,

Teacher.

MERCER REFORMATORY SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The school has held its session 52 times during the year. The smallest attendance of women has been 26, the largest attendance 47. The children's smallest attendance 25, the largest 33. Staff of teachers 13. In the children's department there is the most hopeful work. Owing to the most careful training on the lesson during the week by Miss Elliott, nearly every child, on the Sabbath, can repeat the Golden Text, and many can repeat the whole lesson. This storing of their minds with the Scriptures must result in much good in after life. Many of the women also show great interest in the lessons.

There have been thoughtful, searching, loving addresses by Hon. S. H. Blake, Q.C., Rev. W. F. Wilson, Hamilton Cassels, Esq., Rev. W. H. Rochester, of Parkdale, Mr. Bone, of Wel-

land, and Miss Carson of New York. On Sunday, October 24th, Mrs. Charlton Edholm, of the Florence Crittenden Mission, Chicago, and Mrs. Kenney, of the Children's Rescue, Port Huron, delegates to the W. C. T. U. Convention, addressed the school. The International lessons are used.

This Report cannot be closed without making reference to the great need of proper classification of the women and girls in the Reformatory. In a Memorial to Inspector Noxon, a few months ago, the officers and teachers of the Sunday School took the liberty of suggesting certain changes, that in their judgment, if carried out, would effect a great improvement, and make the religious teaching in the Reformatory much more effective. It is quite certain that the effort put forth by the officers of the Institution, by the Clergy and Salvation Army, as well as by the Sunday School, for the reformation of the inmates of the Reformatory, are largely in vain, so long as the young and the comparatively innocent are allowed to associate with the most depraved of their sex. The teachers are hoping that this great evil may very shortly be remedied. They are also hopeful that the Government may very soon be able to provide a more appropriate place for the young girls of the Refuge.

We go forth hopefully to enter a new year in this work ; our duty to sow the seed, knowing assuredly the Master of the vineyard will see to the gathering in of the harvest of our labors.

The officers and teachers are as follows :—Hugh MacMath, Superintendent ; Mrs. Dr. Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent ; Misses Scott, Wallace, Howells, Kelly, McKenzie, Parker, Carlyle, Hamilton, and Mrs. Slocum and Mrs. Leach, teachers.

HUGH MACMATH, *Supt.*

E. Y. SAMS, *Sec.*

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REPORT OF JAIL SUNDAY SCHOOL, HOSPITAL AND
CORRIDOR WORK.

MEN'S DEPARTMENT.

Our work in the Jail has been gradually changing. The circumstances of the prisoners, due to their better classification, and the introduction of labour for the able-bodied men amongst them, have been greatly improved, and has been the means of considerably reducing their number. Our opportunities for doing good have also improved, and especially among first offenders, who are now completely isolated from older criminals. Special personal work has been done during the week amongst these by Mr. Arnold and myself, which we believe has been blessed of God, and very few of those dealt with have come back, charged with a second offence. As first offenders are thus completely isolated, the providing of a small library at once is absolutely necessary.

But there are serious abuses that ought to be remedied. We have constantly in our Jail from 20 to 30 men and women, some of whom have been there for many years, who are guilty of no offence, save that they are poor and unable to provide for themselves. For such, an Industrial Home ought to be established, directly under the control of the Municipality.

Another abuse, is the awful farce of sending drunkards to jail on short terms, or even sending them there at all, where there is no possibility of aiding them to overcome the terrible power of their appetite for strong drink. There are of this class a number of men and women who have, for the last 10 or 12 years, been almost constant inmates of our Jail, and when discharged, in a few hours or in a few days at most, they go through the old round and come back to us again, so that the Jail seems really to be their home. These unfortunates should be put under special treatment, and for such, a Home for Inebriates is an absolute necessity. They are not

criminals, they are diseased persons and they require medical care as well as hospital and reformatory treatment.

As to our Sunday and Sunday School work, there is little change. Faithful service has been rendered by the following:—viz., Messrs. John Wood, S. Arnold, T. Taylor, T. Cowan, W. D. Inglee, and Messrs. Bremner, Hannah, Scott and Hamilton. The services in the Chapel during the year were 53, with a total attendance of 1543 male prisoners and 319 workers, or an average of 30 prisoners and 6 workers at each gathering. Most of these services took the form of Sunday Schools, and a goodly number have professed to have received blessing.

In the Hospitals, Mr. Arnold has done a grand work among the sick and aged. He is respected by every one of them and his labours have been blessed.

The Superintendent is assisted in Corridors 3 and 4, by students, who hold services among these men who are awaiting trial and who are not allowed to mix with other prisoners. Some of these are discharged when they come to trial; others are convicted, and we have many of the worst criminals to deal with. We have preached Christ to them and dealt with many of them personally, and conversions have also been reported as the result. A number have been aided by us on their discharge, and some have been sent home to friends in the country.

Mr. John Wood still assists me in superintending the school, and his services are much appreciated.

We have also to express our sense of the debt we owe to Governor Green, to Deputy Ewing and the officers under their charge, all of whom have given us every aid possible in carrying out this good work.

Yours sincerely,

ROBERT HALL,
Superintendent.

January 6th, 1898.

THE JAIL SUNDAY SCHOOL.

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT.

In reporting the work done in the women's Department of the Jail for the year closing September 30th, 1897, we would state that our usual Sunday School system has been followed, interspersed with occasional Evangelistic Meetings. The women we have to deal with have been exclusively of the class known as "old offenders," a class which could be much more successfully dealt with, we believe, if longer sentences were imposed, as any degree of thoughtfulness acquired during the thirty days' sentence is completely dissipated during the few days they are at large, between discharge and re-conviction.

When practicable, short prayer and song services have been held in hospital wards and corridors. The supply of religious papers has been ample, and a quantity of clothing provided to discharged prisoners. We gratefully acknowledge the preventative work accomplished in the Cottage Home for Girls, under the charge of Mrs. Bellamy and Miss Ward, and we firmly believe it has been the means whereby the actual convictions of female prisoners have been confined to the class referred to above. The same courtesy and Christian support has been extended to us by the Officials and Matrons of the Institution as has characterized past years. The teachers have labored faithfully through many discouragements, feeling "He was faithful who promised"—"My word shall not return unto me void."

Teachers—Misses Ward, Kelly, Grun and Wood.

ANNA CULL, *Assistant-Superintendent,*
Women's Department.

REPORT OF BIBLE-WOMAN FOR THE REFORMATORY AND JAIL.

In writing this Report, we would express thankfulness to our Lord and Master for His Divine blessing which has rested upon our work.

Every morning we visit the Police Court and do what we can to help women or girls who are there in trouble, under arrest. One night each week, from 7 p.m. to midnight, I relieve the Police Matron—taking care of the women who are arrested and brought in during that time. We visit the Jail and Reformatory twice every week and look after any discharged prisoners who will accept our help. Members of our class of illiterate women in the Mercer Reformatory have made good progress during the year. Our religious service on Thursday evening in the Reformatory is well attended by the Reformatory women and Refuge girls.

We have the names of one hundred and forty-seven (147) women on our list—some of them not more than twenty years of age—who are habitual drunkards and who spend a large part of their time in Toronto Jail on short sentences. Our experience is that these short sentences have no beneficial effect on this class. Long sentences at the Mercer Reformatory or medical treatment in an hospital would be of far more avail.

At present there are several of "our women" in the different Hospitals of the City, and we visit them twice each week and help them in many ways. During the year we have taken sixty-one (61) discharged prisoners to the different Homes and Institutions of the City.

Our "Cottage Home for Girls," which was opened twelve months ago, has proved to be a very important aid in the prosecution of our work. It has in fact, become indispensable.

We cannot close without thanking the Officials in the several Institutions and at the Police Court, for their kindness and help.

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May the dear Lord help each one of us to live so near to Him
that His likeness may be seen in us.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPT. 30TH, 1897.

No. of visits to Police Court	258
No. of visits to Jail	121
No. of visits to Reformatory	104
No. of visits to Hospitals	163
No. of services held in Jail	55
No. of services held in Reformatory	45
No. of services held in General Hospital	37
No. of times relieved Police Matron	47
No. of times taught in Reformatory	43
No. of calls made	781
No. of calls received	792
No. of letters written	483
No. of letters received	279
No. of personal interviews	2050
No. supplied with clothing	83
No. supplied with work	50
No. of meals and lodgings given (2606 meals, 860 lodgings)	3466

(MRS.) L. C. BELLAMY.

PRACTICAL WORK, YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPT., 1897.

Discharged from the City Prisons	1702
Aided with Meals and Lodging	277
Number of Meals to discharged prisoners	2611
Number of night's lodgings	748
Number of articles of Clothing	152
Work found for	54

Railway fares paid for	6
Rent paid	2
Provisions to families	5
Visits to Prisons	667
" Police Court	258
" Hospitals and Homes	222
" outside (in the interest of prisoners)	886
Times relieved Police Court Matron	45
Personal Interviews	2917
Pages of Literature Distributed	278,000

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REPORT OF HOME FOR GIRLS.

In presenting our first Annual Report of the Home for Girls, we would express our deep thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for the success that has attended the House during the year.

During the twelve months ending September 30th, we have had 43 girls in the Home ; of these, 36 are doing well, 3 are doing fairly well, and the remaining four we fear are on the downward way, although we still hope to see them repent and be saved. Only 5 of these 43 have been imprisoned however. Most of our girls are sent to us direct from the Police Court ; 26 of these girls would have been sent to jail had it not been for our Home.

The class of girls we take in our Home are those who have either been imprisoned for petty offences or simply arrested for such. We find that classifying does much to prevent first offenders from becoming hardened. We keep the girls apart as much as possible. What we require is complete separation—not allowing any two girls to become acquainted with each other.

We keep every girl in the Home until we think she is fit to take a situation. Many of them have not required to be returned to our Home a second time, others have been taken back three times.

After a girl leaves the Home we try not to lose sight of her. Even when she is not doing well we invite her to come and see us, and we do all we can for her ; and when all our efforts fail we return her to the Police Court to be sent to the Reformatory. They are never sent adrift.

Much of the work must be left untold in such a brief report. The work of the Home is a great work, and we hope that in the coming year the Home may do larger service in saving girls and young women from a life of vice and crime.

STATISTICS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING NOV. 30TH, 1897.

Admitted from

Police Court.....	25
Home of Good Shepherd.....	1
The Haven.....	3
Hospital.....	1
Other Institutions.....	3
Private Houses.....	6
The Country.....	4
Total.....	<hr/> 43

Discharged.

For Situations in City.....	28
For Hospital.....	4
For other Institutions.....	3
Returned to their Homes.....	7
Number Remaining in the Home.....	1
Total.....	<hr/> 43

Of these 43 girls 26 would have been sent to jail, with all that involves, had it not been for this rescue Home.

Results.

Number doing remarkably well.....	36
“ fairly well.....	3
“ doubtful or relapsed.....	3
“ lost trace of.....	1
Total.....	<hr/> 43

(MRS.) L. C. BELLAMY.
(MISS) MATTIE WARD.

J. A.

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TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. AITKEN, TREASURER, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE PRISONERS'
AID ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

For the Year Ending September 30th, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

To Balance September 30th, 1896.....	\$1040 42
Ontario Government Grant, on account	1000 00
City of Toronto	600 00
County Grants	320 00
Grants for Cabs	875 00
Subscriptions	274 00
Interest on Wm. Gooderham's Legacy	91 24
Interest on Savings Bank Deposit	13 71
Sundries	507 32
Balance due to Treasurer	606 00
	<hr/>
	\$5328 19

DISBURSEMENTS.

By Interest, Insurance, Taxes and Repairs, Simcoe Street property	\$ 771 09
Rent of Office	54 00
Furnishing Girls' Refuge	175 49
Rent of Telephone, Advertising and Sundries.....	228 16
Meals and Lodgings for ex-Prisoners	477 20
Central Prison Night School	444 00
Cabs for Teachers and Ministers	393 00
Salaries.....	965 29
Printing and Stationery	184 09
Prison Reform.....	910 53
Bicycle for Agent.....	80 00
Hymn Books for Prison Sunday Schools.. ..	14 40
Savings Bank Deposit, account Gooderham's Fund	278 51
“ “ Interest on William Gooderham's Legacy	91 24
Balance in Savings Bank, Canadian Bank of Commerce..	17 66
“ Canadian Bank of Commerce, Current Account	54 56
Bank Commission	1 05
Due from Gooderham Fund, Current Account	12 92
On hand, for deposit	30 00
“ “ Subscriptions.....	145 00
	<hr/>
	\$5328 19

Audited and correct, with vouchers,

HUGH MACMATH.

COUNTY GRANTS FOR 1897.

County of York	\$100 00	County of Leeds, etc...	\$ 10 00
“ Ontario	25 00	“ N. and D. ..	10 00
“ Lanark	15 00	“ Oxford.....	10 00
“ Essex	10 00	“ Brant.....	10 00
“ Elgin	10 00	“ Norfolk.....	10 00
“ Victoria.....	10 00		

City of Toronto.....\$600 00

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		Aikenhead Hardware Co.....	Adelaide st. E.....\$ 1 00
		Aitken, J.....	523 Bathurst st..... 1 00
		Allan, Hon. G. W.....	Leader Lane..... 5 00
		A Friend.....	50 Bond st..... 50
		Barwick, Aylesworth & Frank.....	18 King W..... 5 00
		Beardmore & Co.....	39 Front st. E..... 2 00
		Beatty, Mrs. M. E.....	327 Jarvis st..... 1 00
		Bellamy, Mrs. Loverna.....	639 Queen st. E..... 1 00
		Bishop of Toronto.....	15 Wellington st. W..... 3 00
		Blake, Hon. S. H.....	19 King st. W..... 10 00
		Blake, Lash & Cassels.....	19 King st. W..... 20 00
		Boddy, Rev. Archdeacon.....	Winchester st..... 1 00
		Boyd, Hon. J.....	119 Bloor st. E..... 3 00
		Briggs, Rev. Wm. D. D.....	21 Grenville st..... 1 00
		Brock & Co., W. R.....	Bay and Wellington sts..... 5 00
		Brown Bros.....	64 King st. E..... 2 00
		Canada Paper Co.....	15 Front st. W..... 2 00
		Carty, The Misses.....	263 Jarvis st..... 1 00
		Caley, Rev. J. D.....	205 John st..... 50
		Clarke, Mrs. H. E.....	603 Jarvis st..... 1 00
		Coad, Mrs. L. M.....	Mercer Reformatory..... 2 00
		Coatsworth, E.....	City Hall..... 1 00
		Copp, Clarke Co.....	9 Front st. W..... 2 00
		Cowan Co.....	468 King st. W..... 1 00
		Courtice, Rev. A. C.....	Guardian Office..... 1 00
		Dixon, Miss Homer.....	14 Walmer Road..... 2 00
		Dudley & Burns.....	11 Colborne st..... 1 00
		Dunn & Co., R. G.....	Board of Trade..... 2 00
		Elliott, Miss M. C.....	Mercer Reformatory..... 1 00
		Flett, Loundess & Co.....	27 Front st. W..... 1 00
		French, Isaac.....	501 Bathurst st..... 1 00
		Galt, Sir Thomas P.....	99 Pembroke st..... 2 00
		Gartshore, J. J.....	49 Front st. W..... 1 00
		Gillespie, Ansley & Dixon.....	54 Wellington st. W..... 2 50
		Gilmour, Dr. J. T.....	Central Prison..... 1 00
		Gooderham, Mrs. A. E.....	72 Trinity st..... 2 00
		“ Mrs. Alfred.....	433 Sherbourne st..... 1 00
		“ George.....	Wellington and Church sts... 2 00
		“ Mrs. George.....	cor. Bloor and George sts... 5 00
		“ Mrs. Robert.....	331 Sherbourne st..... 5 00
		“ Mrs. W. G.....	69 Trinity st..... 5 00
		Goulding & Son.....	55 Bay st..... 5 00

Gourlay, Winter & Leeming.....	188 Yonge st.....	2 00
Gowans, Kent & Co.....	10 Front st.....	2 00
Grasett, Dr.....	208 Simcoe st.....	1 00
Grip Printing & Publishing Co.....	Adelaide W.....	1 00
Gzowski, C. S., Jr.....	103 Bay st.....	2 00
Hagarty, Hon. Chief Justice.....	Simcoe st.....	10 00
Hamilton, W. B. & Co.....	15 Front st. E.....	1 00
Harris, Wm.....	420 Pape ave.....	2 00
Harvie, John.....	U. C. Bible Society.....	1 00
Henderson, Rev. J.....	165 Carlton st.....	1 00
Heward, Mrs. S.....	38 Peter st.....	1 00
Hillock, Frank.....	31 Wilton Crescent.....	1 00
Hooper & Co.....	43 King st. W.....	1 00
Hoskin, Alfred.....	23 Toronto st.....	1 00
Howard, A. McL.....	Court House.....	1 00
Henderson, J.....	Bank of Toronto.....	1 00
Howitt, Dr. W. H.....	100 Carlton st.....	1 00
Howland & Son, H. S.....	37 Front st. W.....	2 00
Howland, O. A., M. P. P.....	103 Bay st.....	2 00
Irving, A. S.....	42 Yonge st.....	1 00
Johnson, W. R. & Co.....	45 Front st. W.....	5 00
Jones, McKenzie & Leonard.....	Canada Permanent Building.....	5 00
Jones, Lyman.....	Massey-Harris Works.....	2 00
Kay, John & Son.....	34 King st. W.....	5 00
Kent, Ambrose & Sons.....	Yonge st.....	1 00
Kent, B. & H. B.....	144 Yonge st.....	1 00
Kerr, Bull & Rowell.....	62 Wellington st. W.....	2 00
Kilgour Bros.....	21 Wellington st. W.....	5 00
Laird, R. N.....	Mercer Reformatory.....	1 00
Langmuir, M.....	800 King st. W.....	1 00
Ladley, E. & Co.....	87 Front st. E.....	1 00
Ledger, W. R.....	151 Cowan ave.....	1 00
Lee, W. S.....	76 Church st.....	1 00
Lyman Bros. & Co.....	71 Front st. E.....	5 00
Mail and Empire.....	King st. W.....	5 00
Mason, J. H.....	16 Toronto st.....	2 00
Matthews, H. J.....	95 Yonge st.....	1 00
Matthews, W. D.....	Board of Trade.....	2 00
Minto Bros.....	73 Colborne st. (Goods).....	2 00
Mowat, E.....	Court House.....	2 00
Murray, W. A. & Co.....	King st. E.....	1 00
Macdonald, John & Co.....	Wellington st. E.....	2 00
McCall, D. & Co.....	12 Wellington st E.....	2 00
McMurrich, W. B.....	1 Toronto st.....	2 00
MacMahon, Justice.....	Osgoode Hall.....	1 00
Macdonald, J. K.....	8 Richmond E.....	2 00
Nelson, H. A. & Son.....	56 Front st. W.....	1 00
Newcomb, O. & Co.....	107 Church st.....	1 00
Northrop & Lyman.....	21 Front st. W.....	5 00

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Ogden, Dr. W. W.	184 Spadina ave.	1 00
Oldwright, Dr. Wm. M. A.	154 Carlton st.	1 00
Osborne, James Kerr	Massey-Harris Works	2 00
Osler, E. B.	18 King st. W.	1 00
Osler, Hon. F.	125 College st.	5 00
Pearson, W. H.	19 Toronto st.	2 00
Pellatt, Mrs. H. M.	559 Sherbourne st.	1 00
Perkins, Ince & Co.	43 Front st. E.	1 00
Parson, Rev. Dr.	235 Jarvis st.	1 00
Philips, Jas.	8 Richmond st. E.	1 00
Rowell & Hutchison	74 King st. E.	1 00
Rice, Lewis & Co.	30 King st. E.	5 00
Rogers & Son Co., The Chas.	97 Yonge st.	1 00
Rolph, Smith & Co.	49 Wellington st. W.	1 00
Rogers & Co., Elias.	20 King st. W.	2 00
Spencer, Finlay	62 Queen st. E.	2 00
Stenhouse, Dr.	553 Sherbourne st.	50
Samuel, Benjamin & Co.	29 Front st. W.	2 00
Stark, Harry L.	26 Toronto st.	2 00
Stark & Co., John	26 Toronto st.	5 00
Steel, Briggs Seed Co.	cor. Front and Jarvis sts.	2 00
Sanson, Rev. Alex.	417 King st. E.	1 00
Shenstone, J. H.	Massey-Harris Works.	2 00
Taylor Bros.	Market and Colborne st.	1 00
Taylor, J. & J.	145 Front st. E.	1 00
The Toronto World	Yonge st.	1 00
Toronto Lithographing Co.	cor. Bathurst and King.	1 00
Trust & Loan Co.	Toronto st.	1 00
Vernoy, Prof. S.	231 Jarvis st.	1 00
Vokes Hardware Co., The.	111 Yonge st.	1 00
Ward, Miss Mattie.	639 Queen st. E.	1 00
Wardell, Isaac.	556 Spadina ave.	1 00
Warren Bros. & Co.	35 Front st. E.	2 00
Warwick Bros. & Rutter.	68 Front st. W.	2 00
Woodhouse, J. J.	242 Church st.	2 00
Wyld, Grasett & Darling	Bay st.	5 00

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE THE CLOSE OF THE
YEAR, SEPTEMBER 30th, 1897.

LIFE MEMBERS.*

Hon. E. J. Davis	25 00	Mrs. Massey-Treble	25 00
W. Davies, Sr.	25 00		
Henry O'Brien	\$ 25	Barwick, Aylesworth, &	
T. McCausland	1 00	Franks	5 00
Rice Lewis & Son	5 00	Hon. Sir O. Mowat	5 00
The Brown Bros.	2 00	Robt. Jaffray	2 00
W. A. Murray & Co.	1 00	Elliott & Co.	2 00
The Mail, Empire Co.	5 00	Cowan Kent Co.	2 00
John Kay Son & Co.	5 00	J. J. Gartshore	1 00
The Davidson & Hay Co. .	2 00	W. R. Johnston & Co.	5 00
John Stark	5 00	Beardmore & Co.	2 00
Harry L. Stark	2 00	Warwick Bros. & Rutter	2 00
Alfred Hoskin	1 00	The H. A. Nelson & Son Co	2 00
Dudley & Burns.	3 00	The Copp Clark Co.	2 00
Flett, Lowndes & Co.	1 00	M. & L. Samuel, Benjamin	
John Macdonald Esq.	2 00	& Co.	3 00
T. E. Aikenhead	1 00	John Earls	1 00
John Harvey	1 00	The Lyman Bros. Co.	5 00
Rolph, Smith & Co.	2 00	J. & J. Taylor	1 00
Octavius Newcombe	2 00	Canada Paper Co.	2 00
Hon. F. Osler	2 00	Northrop & Lyman Co.	5 00
John Hoskin, Q. C.	5 00	Kerr, Bull & Rowell	2 00
H. & C. Blackford, <i>goods</i> .	4 00	Friend	50
A. A. Allen & Co.	3 00	E. Leadley	1 00
Caldicott, Burton & Spence		C. Martin & Son	1 00
<i>goods</i>	5 00	W. B. Hamilton & Co.	1 00
E. M. Chadwick	1 00	The W. R. Brock Co.	5 00
T. Adams	1 00	C. Rogers, Son & Co.	1 00
Robt. Beaty	1 00	B. & H. B. Kent	1 00
Hon. Chief Justice Hagarty	10 00	Gourlay, Winter & Leeming	2 00
Blake, Lash & Cassels	20 00	E. Coatsworth	1 00
T. G. Mason	1 00	Wyld, Grasett & Darling .	5 00
Minto Bros., <i>goods</i>	2 00	Bishop Sullivan	5 00

*A Subscription of \$25 paid at one time entitles to Life Membership.

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada was held in St. James' Cathedral Schoolhouse, Toronto, Friday, January 28th, 1898, at 8 p.m. Hon. G. W. Allan presided in the absence of the President, Hon. S. H. Blake, Q.C., and the following prominent gentlemen were noticed on the platform and in the audience:—Bishop Sullivan, Rev. Dr. Potts, Dr. Gilmour (Warden Central Prison), Dr. Beaton (Orillia Asylum), Major Loughrane, Dr. Chamberlain (Inspector of Prisons), Rev. Dr. Blackstock, Rev. John Hunt, Rev. Thomas Geoghegan (Hamilton), Mr. Robert Hall (City Missionary,) Dr. A. M. Roseburgh (Secretary), Mr. Edward Taylor (City Relief Officer), Mr. Finlay Spencer (Agent), Mr. Hamilton Cassels, Ald. J. J. Graham, N. W. Hoyles, Q.C., Mr. Beverley Jones, O. A. Howland, Ex. M.P.P., Mr. Frank Wooten (Canadian Churchman), and Mr. J. J. Kelso (Superintendent of Neglected Children for Ontario).

After singing "All hail the power of Jesus' name," Bishop Sullivan opened the meeting with prayer.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Allan said: "I have been requested to take the chair this evening, in the absence of the President, the Honourable Samuel Blake, who is unavoidably detained by business.

"Mr. Blake had always taken so deep an interest in the Association, and so thoroughly understands its aims and objects, that it is a great misfortune that we cannot have the advantage of his presence and counsel on an occasion like the present. The programme of the proceedings, however, contains, I am glad to say, the names of gentlemen who are deeply interested in the work of the Association, who will address you this evening, and we shall

doubtless have from them much valuable information as to the best mode of carrying out the work successfully.

"I do not know of any philanthropic institution which should commend itself more thoroughly to the sympathy and support of Christian men and women than this Association. It is doing a work of incalculable importance to the country, for if "prevention be better than cure," surely it is better to prevent the spread of crime, not merely by punishing, but endeavoring to reform offenders, and so prevent their leading others astray. This is the work which the members of the Association are endeavoring to do, by friendly counsel, Christian instruction and kind assistance, reaching the hearts of those whose offences have brought them under the penalties of the law, leading them to consider the folly of their past lives, to repent of their wrong-doing, and to look for pardon, and strength to do right, to that Saviour who died for them.

"It may be of interest to some who are present who may not be familiar with the different agencies by which the Association seeks to carry out its work, to mention some few of these. In the first place there are the Mission Sunday Schools, which have been established through the agency of the Association in the Central Prison, the Mercer Reformatory, and the County Jail. The beneficial effects of these Schools, and the good influences under which the inmates of these various institutions are thereby brought, can scarcely be overrated, and hearty thanks are due to those who are giving their time and labour to such Christian work.

"There is also a Night School at the Central Prison for instruction in reading, writing, etc., of those confined there, many of whom are very young, almost boys, who have either never received an education, or have forgotten what they once knew. They are taught to read and write, and are thereby better fitted, when they come out of prison, to earn an honest livelihood.

"Again the Association looks after the welfare of the prisoners when they are discharged from prison. It aids them in many ways, sometimes by pecuniary aid and clothing, and by helping them to procure situations, where they can redeem their past lives and earn an honest living.

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“The Association has also been endeavouring to induce the Government to have a better classification of prisoners at the Central Prison, by separating the younger offenders from older and more hardened criminals.

“In the Report will be found much interesting information of the work done in the women’s department of the Association, and I would like to emphasize particularly the work of the Bible women, and the Cottage Home for Girls, under the care of Mrs. Bellamy and Miss Ward. It is an incalculable blessing for these unfortunate girls, many of them brought up at the Police Court for some comparatively small offence, to be rescued from contamination by associating with old offenders, and to be placed in a home, where they receive Christian care and kindness, and have an opportunity given them of redeeming the past and becoming respectable members of society.

“There are several matters of great importance which the Association is endeavouring to bring under the notice of the Government, with a view to their amendment. One is the case of women sentenced to jail for drunkenness, perhaps, or vagrancy; their sentence may be for ten days or some such period; while there, they are associating with old and depraved offenders; they get out at the end of their sentence worse than when they went in—from the evil influences they have been exposed to—and perhaps in a week they are back again. I understand that the Association have on their books the names of some 147 women, most of them quite young, who are in this way spending a large part of their time in Toronto jail. Surely drunkenness becomes a disease, and instead of sending those addicted to it to the common jail, to become more hopelessly depraved by evil communication, they should be sent to an Inebriate Asylum.

“Another matter which calls for immediate attention, and which is indeed a disgrace to our civilization, and that is the fact that a very considerable number of the inmates of the Common Jail in Toronto are confined there for no other crime—if it could be called a crime—than their poverty. Surely it is, as I have said, a disgrace that such a thing should be. It is to be hoped

that the Association, with the assistance of its friends, may bring such pressure to bear on those in authority, that the municipalities shall be compelled to make due provision for these unfortunates.

“The last thing I shall refer to is the proposal to again bring before the Dominion Government the importance of giving to the Provincial Government the power to legislate in the direction of adopting the system of Cumulative Sentences for old offenders, and the Indeterminate Sentence and Parole System for first offenders. I consider it to be of very great importance that power should be placed in the hands of the Provincial authorities. Some two or three years ago, at the request of the Association, I brought the matter before the then Minister of Justice, who did not look unfavorably upon it at first, but I suppose he must have changed his views, as nothing was done. I believe that the Province of Quebec now has that power, and I do not see why it should not be granted to Ontario also. There are several other matters which I might refer to, but I have trespassed quite long enough upon your time, and I shall now conclude by moving the following resolution” :—

.1 That the reports of the various officers be taken as read, that this meeting recognizes with deep satisfaction the helpful character of the work of the Association, and its steady development and advance in the direction of increased usefulness, and that the work done by this Association commends itself to the sympathy and support of the Christian public of this Province,

FURTHER, That 3,000 copies of the Report of the Directors, as presented to the Annual Meeting of the Prisoners' Aid Association, be printed for circulation, and that the following officers be appointed for the year 1897-8 : (See page 4.)

Mr. Robert Hall said he did not know that it was quite in order, as one of the officers of the Association referred to in the report, to second the resolution. During the thirteen years he had been engaged in the work, especially in jail work, great advances had been made in improving the classification of the inmates of our prisons, but there was still much more to be done. God had given His blessing to the work, and many of those who had been confined in Toronto Jail had had their physical and spiritual condition improved and were now living an exemplary life.

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Bishop Sullivan asked permission to say a few words at that stage of the meeting. He told a story of a man calling at his house and telling a pathetic story of how he had at one time worked in an American town, had been attacked by a man, and in self-defence had taken up a crowbar and struck the man, for which "he got seven years," but in five years had been released for good conduct. He had worked his way to Toronto, and his family was at North Bay and he wanted to get to them. When he spoke of his family he did so with tears in his eyes. The Bishop said his sympathies had been aroused and he called to see Mr. Finlay Spencer, who listened very attentively, and then said that man was an impostor. Mr. Spencer told me how he had procured that man a ticket for North Bay some time previously, and had wisely given it to the conductor. He warned me against that kind of a man. Now the Prisoners' Aid Association was doing good in exposing impostors of that character. The Bishop said persons should not be incarcerated in the jail on the charge of insanity. People had to wait weeks in jail before they were removed to the asylum. Something should be done to prevent that. Then there was the sending to jail of confirmed drunkards. He understood there was a lady in the city now taking up that question, she was advocating the introduction of the Keeley Gold Cure in the jails for drunkenness. It had met with marvellous success in the United States. It had been introduced in the National Home for retired veterans of the war, and marvellous had been the results accomplished.

Out of the cases taken into one of the Institutions in the United States it was claimed that only thirteen and a fraction per cent. had not been cured, and that eighty-seven per cent. had been actually cured. That was a question which should be taken up by the Association and urged upon the Civic authorities.

The Chairman said with regard to the confinement of the insane in the common Jail, that had been mentioned in one of the previous reports of the Association. He then put the first resolution to the meeting and it was adopted unanimously.

2. WHEREAS prison reform in Canada has been very seriously retarded by the lack of adequate legislation—as for instance the adoption of the Cumulative Sentence System for old offenders, and the Indeterminate Sentence and Parole System for first offenders; and whereas it is important that the necessary legislation should be prepared and introduced early in the approaching session of the Dominion Parliament:

Therefore RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of this Association be requested to seek an interview with the Minister of Justice, at an early date, for the purpose of discussing the proposed prison reform legislation.

Dr. Gilmour, in moving the second resolution said, it was like carrying coals to Newcastle for him to do so, as those who were present were in thorough accord with the work of the Association. He said, that the Association took up both lines of the work referred to by Bishop Sullivan. As to the Gold Cure, Miss Fitzgerald, the lady referred to by the Bishop, was arranging to introduce test cases in the Central Prison. With regard to lunatics being confined to the common Jails, they had been trying to prevent that for years back. Warden Gilmour said his observations that evening would chiefly be in connection with the Central Prison. We should have the Indeterminate Sentence and Parole System here. They had two classes of criminals to deal with, the occasional criminal and the habitual criminal. The habitual criminal existed for several reasons, the chief causes being hereditary and defective early environment. Quite recently, the British Scientific Association had appointed an Anthropometric Committee to make some investigations regarding the matter, and in 24,000 criminals children they found 8,000 had lost either one or both parents, the stature of the children was smaller than those in better life, and they had no trouble to arrive at very reliable data to show that the physical and mental equipment of these children were such as not to give them a fair start in the race of life. The relation of education to crime was very interesting. From the most recent statistics on this continent it was found that one-sixth of the habitual class were totally illiterate, one-third practically illiterate, the illiterates being ten times greater than those having had a Common School education. A Frenchman, who gave his early life—in fact he died while young—to sociological questions, defined education as having a twofold function. First, the evolving, development and bringing out in the human character all that was best for the

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individual in particular and society in general. Secondly, in eliminating from the human character that which is detrimental to the individual in particular and society in general. Those two functions assist us in understanding the great necessity of education for the confirmed criminal class. Legislators would be surprised to see, if they took the trouble to investigate, what a large element of the prison population is practically a stationary population. For that reason they were anxious to introduce in the Central Prison a much more extensive system of education. It was a great mistake, both from a financial as well as a moral standpoint, that the prison government should be conducted on the line of making young men permanent wards of the State. It would be much better to have more time spent upon these men in their youth than to have them a life-long charge upon the country. There were more indictments for crime between the ages of twenty to thirty than at any other age, the next greatest period being sixteen to twenty-one. That was sufficient to show that we should look after the criminal when young. At the Central Prison the reforming of prisoners was paralyzed for the want of more modern legislation. They were a quarter of a century behind the times, a quarter of a century behind the State across the river. They had connected with their prisons there the Indeterminate and Parole System, and statistics were exceedingly gratifying regarding it, and he thought about thirteen States had adopted it. They had a similar system in England, while the Parliament here was adverse to it. Last year they had laid the matter before Sir Oliver Mowat, he had listened attentively to them and had said he would give it to them at once. Near the end of the Session Sir Oliver reluctantly wrote, saying he would give it to us next Session. He was now out of office, and they would have to retrace their steps by approaching the Hon. David Mills, Minister of Justice. It has been said, it would propagate diplomacy on the part of prisoners to earn their parole. He was willing to try it, from what he heard about it. When they go out on parole, if they did not conduct themselves right they could be brought back without expense of a new trial. He, the speaker, thought it would be a valuable assistance in helping them to do

better. The statistics of Elmira Reformatory show that only thirteen per cent. repeat, while the statistics here give fifty to sixty per cent. He did not look upon it as a panacea, as a complete cure, but it is a step in the right direction. It would be a much better system than what we have at present, and for that reason he was exceedingly anxious to try it.

Mr. Hamilton Cassels said it was important that they should understand what they were adopting that night in passing the resolution before them. When they thought over the words that had been uttered by the Warden of the Central Prison, that very fact must in itself make them realize that what was asked for was required. If there was one person in Ontario, better than any other, able to form a reasonable judgment upon such a subject, it must be the man who was daily coming in contact with those whom they desired to help. Certainly the Warden's remarks had been strong in support of the resolution. The Warden was for years in the Ontario Legislature, yet his voice was never heard in favor of prison reform. Why? Because he did not know anything about it then, and now his eyes being opened he can see what was required very plainly. What the Warden had said that night they should listen to with a great deal of earnestness. They should endeavor to get the Local Legislature that controls the Central Prison to take up these questions referred to by Warden Gilmour. In the spiritual side of the work which the Association was interested in, they always had the sympathy and assistance of those in charge at the Central Prison. After speaking of the advantage of having secular and spiritual education conducted by the Association in the Central Prison, Mr. Cassels seconded the resolution.

The Chairman put the resolution to the meeting, and it was unanimously adopted.

3. WHEREAS the Provincial Secretary, during the last session of the Provincial Assembly, made the following announcements, viz.: (a) That the Boys' Reformatory would be removed from Penetanguishene, and established on good farm land, where a larger number of the inmates may be taught farming; (b) that a thorough reorganization of the Woman's Reformatory will be made; (c) that the girls in the Girls' Refuge will be removed from the contaminating influence of the Woman's Reformatory; and (d) that larger accommodation will be provided for weak-minded women who require to be secluded from society:

Therefore RESOLVED, That although these much-needed reforms have been persistently advocated for several years without apparent effect, we nevertheless place on record our gratification at this important announcement.

RESOLVED further, That we respectfully commend the following additional reforms to the Ontario Government, viz.: *Firstly*, the introduction of more of the reformatory element into the Central Prison, including the introduction of greater educational facilities, and the erection of a sufficient number of isolation cells; *secondly*, an arrangement with the Dominion Government whereby old offenders may be transferred from the Central Prison to the Kingston Penitentiary, and whereby the females in the Penitentiary may be removed to the Women's Reformatory, Toronto; and *thirdly*, the establishment of one or more hospitals for the reformation and medical treatment of alcoholic inebriates.

Dr. Potts thought it was a risky thing to speak to the audience he had before him, because being a novice, he knew he was addressing practical experts in prison reform work. He had been most deeply impressed with the extent and character of the work that was being carried on by the Prisoners' Aid Association. It was a great philanthropic work the Association was carrying on in Toronto. He had listened with extreme pleasure to the speech of Warden Gilmour, and he thought they were exceedingly fortunate in having as a successor to Mr. Massey, Dr. Gilmour. In Warden Gilmour they had one who was equally devoted to the best interests of the prisoners and therefore to the best interests of the Province of Ontario. Dr. Potts said he felt a little ashamed when he heard that the prisons across the river were a quarter of a century ahead of those in Ontario. That must not be. The Provincial Legislature and the Dominion Parliament must see that Canada was abreast of the great American Republic. The resolution he had to second was rather a remarkable one, it was full of promises. It was full of promises by his friend, Hon. Mr. Davis, Provincial Secretary. Although he held no brief for the Ontario Government, nor for Mr. Davis in particular, yet he would place par value upon the promises of Mr. Davis.

Dr. Potts then said he was thoroughly in sympathy with the aims of the Prisoners' Aid Association, and closed his remarks by saying that he had great pleasure in moving the adoption of the resolution.

Dr. Beaton, of Orillia, in seconding the resolution said, he had had some correspondence with the Secretary of the Associa-

tion respecting provisions that should be made for the care of feeble minded women, and he had received an invitation to be present that night and address them upon that subject. In no single direction, said the Doctor, can the Prisoners' Aid Association do more towards the diminution of crime, pauperism and imbecility than by having provision made for the care of feeble minded women in the Province of Ontario. Heredity, as Dr. Gilmour stated, has been the great cause of pauperism and crime, and anything that could be done to reduce that, would be a good work. In speaking of imbeciles, Dr. Beaton said, he referred to idiots, feeble minded people from the highest to the lowest. Some simple minded persons were looked upon as high grade idiots. In other words, the word 'idiot' at one end showed a grade of women feeble minded and helpless, while at the other end a higher grade of a feeble minded woman would exist. That was a class they should be protected against, because it was that class criminals and paupers came from. Dr. Beaton then stated that in the Orillia Asylum they had a number of families. They had had a family sent up from Toronto consisting of five, four girls and one boy. The boy had died. The girls ages ranged from twelve to twenty. They would be called high grade idiots. The girls were learning to read, write and do industrial work. They also had a family of four, two boys and two girls, another of three, mother and two daughters, and then a mother and son. You would take them to be brother and sister as they look so much alike. He said he had received a letter from a barrister a few years ago asking for the admission of seventeen members of one family. The speaker referred to a family in New York State where a single weak minded woman was the cause of many generations of paupers and criminals. It has been ascertained that in that family there have been two hundred thieves and thirty-two murderers, about two hundred and fifty invalids, ninety prostitutes, three hundred children who died in infancy, all having descended from one feeble minded woman. It has been estimated that in seventy-five years the decendants of this one woman cost the community no less a sum than one and a quarter million dol-

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lars. By inducing the Government to take care of women of this class it will be a great saving to the community. We have in this province about 3,500 idiots, this number is rather below than above the mark, about one-half of whom are females, or say 1,750. Two-thirds of this number would be between the age of fifteen and forty-five—the child-bearing age—which would make in round numbers 1,200, the one-half of whom would be low grade, paralytic, etc.,—from whom no danger need be apprehended. The other 600, however, remain a menace to society and if not cared for will go on reproducing their kind and thereby swelling the ranks of pauperism and crime. If that was allowed to go on, pauperism and crime would be increased. The Government should be induced to take this matter up. Dr. Beaton after referring to several American institutions where weak minded women were kept, closed his address by speaking of the system of training in vogue at his own institution at Orillia.

The third resolution was put to the meeting by the Chairman and unanimously adopted.

RESOLVED, That the following gentlemen, in association with the Board of Managers of the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada, be appointed an Advisory Committee by this meeting, to take such steps as they deem proper with a view of giving practical effect to the foregoing resolutions, viz.:

Hon. S. C. Biggs, O. A. Howland, Esq., Dr. Wm. Oldright, Dr. W. W. Ogden, J. S. Willison, Esq., J. K. Macdonald, Esq., Rev. Dr. Parsons, Rev. Dr. Potts, Rev. Dr. Thomas, Rev. Dr. Blackstock, Rev. Wm. Frizzell, and J. W. Langmuir, Esq., with power to add to their number.

Mr. Hoyles, Q.C., briefly moved the adoption of the resolution. He said he was deeply impressed with the remarks of Dr. Gilmour, and he was sorry that the Warden had not spoken longer.

Dr. Chamberlain said he wished to correct some of the misrepresentations or rather over-zealous ideas that had been made, and secondly explain some things that the Association did not seem to understand fully. He was in entire sympathy with the object of the Association, but if he were asked if he approved of the course pursued entirely by the Association, from his knowledge of prison work in Canada and in other countries, he would say he did not. He wishes to state that these questions brought by before them

had been discussed often by the Ontario Government. He had reported to the Government on these lines years ago. As to the delay in removing insane individuals from the jails to the insane asylum, that was a matter left entirely in the people's hands. Upon the examination of a person by two medical men, and he or she be declared insane, that person could be removed to the asylum without being sent to jail. He recognized the fact that they required, as the Association recommended, a place for confirmed inebriates, although he had not much faith in their reformation. They should be taken care of by the State. They required an institution for epileptics as much as for any other class of the afflicted in the community. They also required a home for feeble minded women. One important question was the financial maintenance of these institutions. One-third of the total revenue of the Province was now contributed to charity in caring for the sick, insane and other classes of individuals. He strongly deprecated the idea of the Government undertaking the financial charge or maintenance of all these institutions. The doctor said great improvement had taken place in the jails of the country during the past few years. Great fault was being found regarding the proper classification of prisoners. He would say that there was now a very good classification of the prisoners. There was only one in five in the jails to night who were guilty of crime and ought to be there. Why are not the other four comfortably cared for by the people of the Province instead of being in jail. Who was to blame for the old people being in jail from one end of the Province to the other. He answered the question by saying that the police magistrates, justices of the peace and judges of the Province, and perhaps in some instances, the Prisoners' Aid Association were to blame for allowing such a state of things to exist. There is a law on the statute book of the country which says, a man that has no employment or visible means of support shall be sent to jail. That law was placed on the statute book in 1866-67 by the Dominion Government on account of the country being over-run by a class called tramps, just after the American war. He did not suppose the law was intended to seize upon old men and women who had resided

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in the municipality for years, and who from circumstances beyond their control had lost all they had, and had become the care of the state. This Association should urge upon the municipalities of the Province to establish comfortable homes for the old people instead of sending them to jail. He would very much like to see the law in reference to vagrancy amended. Dr. Chamberlain concluded his remarks by seconding the resolution.

Upon the resolution being put to the meeting by the Chairman it was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Robert Hall said he desired to say one or two words in reference to the latter part of the previous speaker's address. The Association he said had a home on Simcoe Street, just for the class of persons referred to by Dr. Chamberlain. As to the aged people being sent to the jail, a deputation had waited upon the Government to get them to make it compulsory for all municipalities to provide a home of industry for such. Up to the present time it was voluntary with them as to whether they did have one or not.

That while we desire to reiterate our conviction that the English system of separate confinement is the only effectual method of preventing jail contamination, and while we would express our gratification that this principle has recently been recognized in caring for first offenders in Toronto Jail, we would respectfully call the attention of the Mayor and City Council to the fact that a much better classification of the Jail inmates could be made by making provision elsewhere for two classes now confined in jail, namely, the destitute poor and the habitual inebriate. The destitute poor should have an industrial home provided on farm land not too far from the city limits, and the habitual inebriate should be treated as other sick poor are treated, namely, either by means of a special hospital or by means of a special arrangement with some of our existing hospitals.

Rev. Thomas Geoghegan, of Hamilton, said he was thoroughly in accord with the sentiments expressed in the resolution. Inebriates should be treated in a proper manner. An inebriate asylum should be established for the treatment of such. The destitute poor should be carefully looked after and not put in prison because of their poverty. By establishing what was asked for in the resolution a great benefit would be conferred upon the community as well as upon the country at large. He then moved the fifth resolution.

Ald. J. J. Graham said, in seconding the resolution, that the subject which he was supposed to speak upon that evening had been pretty thoroughly dealt with by those who had preceded him. He thought that a committee should be appointed by every municipality in the country to look after the destitute poor. He saw no reason why a home should not be provided in the City of Toronto for the destitute poor. It would be a good thing for the establishment of such a home from a humanitarian standpoint. The matter had come before the Toronto Council but it had been set back during the past two or three years upon the score of economy. There was a large amount of money spent in enforcing law and yet there was not one dollar set apart for the reformation of that very class of the community which help to fill the jails.

The resolution was then put to the meeting by the Chairman and unanimously adopted.

The Chairman then read letters regretting inability to be present at the meeting from the following gentlemen:—Sir Oliver Mowat, the Bishop of Ottawa, the Bishop of Niagara, Prof. Goldwin Smith, and Mr. Adam Brown of Hamilton.

Rev. Dr. Potts closed the meeting with the benediction.

APPENDIX.

HABITUAL DRUNKARDS.

At the last annual Convention of the Ontario Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the following resolutions were adopted regarding the present — worse than useless — system of dealing with habitual drunkards.

Whereas, The Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada has called our attention to a fact that is already too well known to the members of this Convention, namely, that the present system of sending habitual drunkards to the common jail on short sentences, is neither deterrent nor reformatory :

And Whereas, representations have been made to the Ontario Government with regard to the necessity of one or more reformatories for inebriates being established in the province by the Government :

And Whereas, the Ontario Government has, up to the present time, shown no intention of making special provision for the care and treatment of the class referred to :

And Whereas, medical experts tell us that for the successful treatment of inebriety, whether the result of heredity or of acquired habit, prolonged removal from temptation is absolutely necessary :

And Whereas, it having been intimated, to our great satisfaction, that the Ontario Government contemplate, at an early date, making provision for the girls of the refuge department of the reformatory elsewhere, and providing for the effective classification of the inmates of the latter institution ; therefore,

Resolved,—That in the opinion of this Convention, in the case of women and girls who are chronic inebriates or who have been convicted two or more times of drunkenness, instead of being sent to the common jail, they should (as soon as the aforementioned much-needed improvement in the Woman's Reformatory be effected), be sent direct to the Reformatory, and the sentences should be for long periods, either on the Cumulative or on the Indeterminate Sentence System.

Resolved further,—That the attention of both the Attorney-General and the Police Magistrates of the Province be called to this important question.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

DEPARTMENT OF PRISONS AND POLICE.

(FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT, 1897, MRS. M. M. BROWNELL, 33 St. Mary St., Toronto, Superintendent.)

It is said "all great reforms move slowly," and so it seems with prison reform. The difficulty is in procuring the necessary legislation to make effectual what seems to be almost universally admitted as proper reforms.

The Prisoners' Aid Association have little to report this year. In January last, at their suggestion, a memorial was sent to the Warden of each county calling the attention of county councils to the following questions, namely:

1. The desirability of having a House of Industry, or Industrial Home or Refuge established in every county or group of adjoining counties in the province.
2. The county jail so constructed and so managed that first offenders and persons awaiting trial shall be kept altogether apart from old offenders and, if at all possible, separate from each other as well.
3. The jail supplied with suitable books and other reading matter for the use of prisoners.
4. The prisoners supplied with proper industrial employment every working day, so that there may be no idleness either in the jail or jail yard.
5. A small sum of money placed at the disposal of the jailer, or some society, for giving a helping hand to discharged prisoners.
6. That members of the Jail Committee and the Industrial Home Committee should be appointed for not less than two years.
7. That an annual grant be made to the Prisoners' Aid Association to promote prison reform and to aid prisoners discharged from the Central Prison and the Reformatory for Women.

So far as ascertained Toronto City Council is the only one that has taken action with regard to jail reforms. The upper flat of the jail has been remodelled and set apart for young first offenders, many of whom are quite innocent of any criminality. They are confined in individual cells, and have no intercourse with each other. This is the English system and is highly recommended.

It has been thought by the Prisoners' Aid Association that local or branch associations would be very helpful to prison reform, and to this end a circular has just been sent to the county councils urging the formation of branch associations.

To secure the appointment of a Police Matron, wherever women and girls are detained, or where there is a police court, is a very important matter, and we would ask a full report of this line of work next year. Toronto has one, and should have two.

One new House of Refuge has been opened in Lambton County, making 13 in all. There is still great lack of provision in many of the counties for the proper care of the destitute poor. It is in the interests of the counties, as also of the province, that there should be a properly organized House of Refuge or Industrial Home in every county. They are necessary as hospitals, and we hope soon there will be one in each county.

There are 16 Superintendents in this Department, and 13 counties have sent reports. Evangelistic services have been held regularly and are much appreciated; many of the prisoners expressed a desire to lead a new life, and, in one instance, there were a few conversions; 14 signed the pledge; 20,000 pages of literature and 750 weekly papers have been distributed; three libraries, containing in all 250 volumes, have been provided for the prisoners, and, in two cases, an annual grant of \$10.00 is given by county councils for libraries.

BRUCE—Mrs. Keeling—Reports evangelistic services held regularly, which were much appreciated; a number of aged and infirm were forced to remain in the jail for want of a House of Refuge.

BRANT—Mrs. Gillespie, Superintendent—Reports evangelistic services held every Sunday; meetings were very encouraging and the prisoners seemed eager for the Gospel; literature and flowers have also been distributed at the House of Industry; sermons have been preached each Sabbath by the different ministers of the town; the old people enjoy the services very much.

CARLETON—Mrs. Sanders, Superintendent—During the past year there have been a large number of female prisoners, and also 14 insane women, confined in the jail ; as the insane women only get prison fare, the W. C. T. U., assisted by friends, supplied them with suitable food. The prisoners are visited and evangelistic services held twice a week ; discharged prisoners are carefully looked after and assistance given whenever required. Many friends have assisted the Superintendent with money and provisions.

ESSEX—Mrs. Hardcastle, of Windsor, visits the prisoners regularly ; literature distributed and thankfully received.

FRONTENAC—Mrs. Tukster, Superintendent—Evangelistic services have been held regularly during the past year with the male as well as female prisoners in the jail and penitentiary, which have been much appreciated ; many have been led to see the error of their ways, and some have been truly converted ; discharged prisoners have been assisted with food and clothing and situations found for some. An entertainment for the women in the penitentiary was given during Christmas week, which was very much enjoyed by them.

GREY—Mrs. Rodgers—Reports the services regularly held and greatly appreciated ; large percentage were men out of employment during winter and glad of shelter even in the jail ; several times a number rose to express their desire for a better life, and many of them professed a change of heart. As there is no House of Refuge in this county, a number of aged and helpless people have been sheltered in the jail.

HASTINGS—Mrs. Lake, Belleville—Reports regular visitation to the prisoners ; services much appreciated ; literature supplied each week, and work found for some of the prisoners when leaving the jail.

KENT—The committee report holding evangelistic services every week ; have distributed 1,993 pages of literature, 26 leaflets, and a number of books, some of which were procured from Mr. Moody's Bible Institute.

LAMBTON—Mrs. Wheatley reports services held regularly ; 15,018 pages of literature and about 300 weeklies distributed ; 14 signed the pledge ; two or three W. C. T. U. ladies present at each service ; ministers very kindly assisted ; House of Refuge opened December 13th, 1896 ; services held weekly ; total number of inmates at present, 100.

LINCOLN—Superintendent reports very little work done. A library has been placed in the jail for the prisoners; the county council giving an annual grant of \$10.00.

MIDDLESEX—Superintendent reports 35 visits during the past year, and distributed 335 papers and leaflets.

OXFORD—The Superintendent reports having visited the prisoners, distributing literature and clothing. The House of Refuge has also been visited; the Superintendent was given free access to all departments; the house is well and comfortably furnished and the inmates seem happy and contented.

PETERBORO—Mrs. Paton, Superintendent—Reports good work still being done, having established a library of forty books.

TORONTO—The Superintendent reports the prisoners being visited every week, and the work satisfactory in many ways; visits have also been made to the police station.

WELLAND—No report sent, owing to the death of Superintendent, but we know good work has been done among the prisoners; two or three have received the gold cure treatment.

SUGGESTIONS.

We still urge upon the Unions the appointment of a Superintendent where jails or other institutions of a reformatory character are situated.

That Local Unions donate a collection each year to help the County Superintendents in obtaining literature.

Believing that local or branch Prisoners' Aid Associations will be of service in the work of reformation, we would ask our Superintendents and members to join in the movement.

Would recommend the books published by Mr. Moody's Bible Institute Colportage Association, in Chicago, as being most helpful to prisoners. They can be procured free of cost, simply by paying duty, and that is very light.

PREVENTIVE WORK.

LETTER FROM MRS. L. J. HARVIE, LATE PRESIDENT OF THE
HAVEN BOARD.

Toronto Parliament Buildings, Oct. 25th, 1897.

Dear Dr. Rosebrugh,—Your note enclosing report of rescue work done at your newly opened "Cottage Home for Girls" in connection with the Prisoners' Aid Association, duly received.

I desire to congratulate you upon this new department of work, and to note the success of the efforts of your Bible woman in the short space of six months.

Having been personally engaged in reformatory work for the past twenty years in the Haven and Prison Gate Mission, I can speak very decidedly as to the importance of saving your girls before they wander far away, into the ways of sin and folly. Preventive work is the noblest in the world, and by far the most encouraging as to results, therefore, in this police work the Prisoners' Aid Association has scope for the energies and capabilities of their consecrated Bible woman, Mrs. Bellamy.

The visitation of the Police Court, the Lock Ward of the General Hospital, and disorderly houses on our own streets, fell to my lot years ago, as Secretary and President of the Haven, and I can truly say that our most hopeful and successful work was accomplished along these lines. I am inexpressibly glad that those thirteen girls from the Police Court found shelter in your Cottage Home, rather than confinement in the Toronto Jail.

I am not in favor of the increase of machinery or institutions for dealing with the helpless and the depraved, but I am free to say that no other organization in our City, or in our Province, is doing or can do the work undertaken by the Prisoners' Aid Association.

We cannot do the preventive work for girls at the Haven and Prison Gate Mission that you are accomplishing, simply because it requires all the time, strength and energy of a large and devoted committee to provide food, clothing, employment and spiritual care, for the daily average of 86 persons who look to us for these things.

Again only the Prisoners' Aid Association can deal with the men, continually being discharged from the prisons in our City and elsewhere; and personally I know that many a youth and more matured man are saved by the helping hand extended by your organization.

For these reasons I view with great satisfaction—now, as formerly, when engaged by the Prisoners' Aid Association to assist in the supervision of one of the Prison Sunday Schools—the efforts made by your Society, and I earnestly pray that your committee may never be in want either of means or workers to use in the rescue of the fallen, or the prevention of vice.

Very sincerely yours,

L. J. HARVIE.

A REPROACH TO OUR CRIMINAL SYSTEM.

Whenever a "frightful example" is wanted to display the crying need of legislation for dealing with habitual drunkards, there is Jane Cakebread to supply it. Her story is always the same. In the morning she is let out of prison, and wanders aimlessly about, with no home and nothing to look forward to. Then some one gives her a few coppers, which are at once spent in drink, and there is another interview with a police magistrate on the following day. The public, who are amused by watching her antics in court, or reading about them in newspapers, regard Jane Cakebread as a standing joke; they do not realize what a reproach it is to our criminal system that this woman should be abroad uncontrolled. Her 269 convictions are almost an exact record of the number of days she has spent at liberty throughout the last thirty years of her life, and she is now sixty-two. Mr. Lane on Saturday gave her a month's imprisonment, many magistrates have given her many previous months, with the full knowledge that in a month and a day's time she would again appear in a police court. And that is all that the State cares for her and her class. She cannot go to a home for inebriates because she has no money. If she goes to a workhouse, when the craving for drink returns she can demand to go out, and there is no power to restrain her. Had she the fortune to suffer from any other form of nerve malady she would be taken care of, lead a happier life, and be treated with skilled attention. As it is, she is turned loose to wander miserably between the streets and the prison.—*The Morning (English)*.

PRISON REFORM.

WHAT IS WANTED.

1. FROM THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT: (a) The proposed Reformatory for young men located near a large town or city, so that the Protestant inmates may receive the benefit of the sympathy as well as the moral and religious instruction of the members of the local Ministerial Association, and also that of the local Young Men's Christian Association. (b) Commissioners appointed by the Government to enquire into the working of reformatories in other countries, and to mature a well-considered scheme for the organization and management of the reformatory, before taking further steps in the matter. (c) Larger powers granted to the Provincial Governments to pardon, parole and deal generally with juvenile offenders, as has already been conceded to the Province of Quebec. (d) Placing under proper supervision first offenders discharged on suspended sentence, or the adoption of the Massachusetts probation system. (e) The adoption of the principle of cumulative sentences for old offenders, and the indeterminate sentence system for first offenders. (f) The establishment of a training school for prison officials. (g) An annual grant to promote prison reform in the Dominion, as well as to promote the maintenance of a Board or Conference of Charities and Correction.

2. FROM THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT: (a) A Reformatory for inebriates. (b) Re-organization of Boys' Reformatory, Women's Reformatory, and Refuge for Girls. (c) A new block of cells at the Central Prison, on the English local prison system, for the isolation of confirmed criminals. (d) More of the reformatory element introduced into the Central Prison, including better educational facilities. (e) Public aid to organize and maintain a Conference or Board of Charities and Correction. (f) Sending lunatics from Toronto and vicinity to the Lunatic Asylum direct, without the ignominy and circumlocution of jail incarceration.

3. FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILS: (a) Re-organization of the County Jail system—providing efficient classification of, and proper industrial employment for prisoners. (b) Providing the prisoners with wholesome literature, and giving them material aid upon their discharge. (c) Making independent provision for the poor of the county, and providing County Industrial Homes where required. (d) An annual grant to the Prisoners' Aid Association, to aid prisoners discharged from the Central Prison and Mercer Reformatory.

4. FROM THE TORONTO CITY COUNCIL: (a) A workhouse on farm land near the City, where tramps and vagrants may be made to contribute to their own maintenance. (b) Asking the Government to make other provision for the custody of the insane. (c) Making separate provision for the care and medical treatment of chronic inebriates.

PRESENTMENT OF GRAND JURY.

TORONTO, SPRING ASSIZE, 1898.

TO HIS LORDSHIP,

MR. JUSTICE ROSE,

High Court of Justice, Winter Assizes.

We, the Grand Jurors of the above-named Court, respectfully make our Presentment:

We have occupied twelve days, and had under consideration five indictments, of which we have returned all True Bills.

We have pleasure in stating that, in compliance with the required duties of Grand Jurors, we have visited the several Public Institutions, our first visit being to

THE COUNTY JAIL.

We were received by Governor Green's Deputy and were shown through the whole building, and we found everything clean and in good order. We find the prisoners are classified, and first offenders are kept from those older in crime. We are of the opinion that better beds should be put in the hospital wards of the Jail. We found a few lunatics still confined there, but we are pleased to notice that the Government contemplate providing a better place for these harmless lunatics at an early date.

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THE CENTRAL PRISON.

We also visited the Central Prison and were cordially received by the Warden, Dr. Gilmour, and by him conducted through the prison, where we find the prisoners to be composed of a majority of young men under 30 years of age, and we find the discipline of the prison very perfect, reflecting great credit on the Warden and officers.

The Grand Jurors would recommend more school accommodation, in the way of larger rooms, and that at least two half days a week be devoted to the education of the prisoners, which we think would do a very great deal to reform many of the prisoners. We think the change could be made without very much cost to the Government.

The Grand Jurors are of the opinion that the system of Indeterminate Sentence should be adopted, and that a Prison Commission

should be appointed, with power to parole prisoners, for good behaviour, and if they then violate the terms of parole, could be re-arrested and taken back to prison, without a new trial, which we think would be a saving of expense.

We were surprised to find there no Isolation Hospital for Contagious diseases, and would recommend the furnishing of such a place at once. We find that the buildings recently destroyed by fire are nearly completed, and will be fitted up so as to give employment to all the prisoners. In all other respects we find the prison very perfect.

THE NEW COURT HOUSE.

We visited the new Court House and County Buildings, and were kindly received by the parties in charge, and take pleasure in saying that we found that magnificent structure nearing completion, and take this opportunity of congratulating the City and County on the prospect of soon being able to occupy the best ventilated, heated, lighted, and most convenient Public Offices and Court Building in the Dominion.

REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN.

We also visited the Mercer Reformatory and found the Institution clean, but we think there should be a more efficient classification, so that women committed for vagrancy or petty offences, should not be compelled to associate with fallen women; and we would also recommend that the Girls' Refuge be removed from the baneful influence of the former, as, from the fact of their being in the same building, is bad, and only bad continually.

HOSPITAL FOR INEBRIATES.

The Grand Jurors are of the opinion that an Hospital, or Industrial Reformatory for Inebriates—habitual drunkards—should be established which we think would be in the interests of Society, Morality and Public Policy, as we think that unfortunate class of the community should be provided with accommodation other than the slums, or (?) the common jail, as we believe, in many cases, drunkenness is a disease, and requires medical treatment, should be furnished them, and which we believe would result in saving very many, yes, thousands, of valuable citizens of the country, and we would strongly recommend the Government to establish such an Institution.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

HENRY WILSON, Foreman.

THE REPLY OF HIS LORDSHIP JUSTICE ROSE.

Mr. Justice Rose, in his reply to the presentment of the Grand Jury, amongst other things said, in effect, that for many years he had given the question of prison reform as much attention as he found it in his power to give. He agreed with the Jury that the indeterminate sentence system should be adopted in Canada. If this system were adopted it would relieve the judges of a tremendous responsibility. No one who has not had special opportunities, can have any idea of the responsibility a judge realizes in passing a sentence. He feels that he should know the whole of the prisoner's previous history—his associates, environment, instincts and natural disposition. If we advance on the line of prison reform, and, thanks to prison reformers, we are advancing—so that a special study can be made of each prisoner, much will be accomplished both in the reformation of prisoners and in the protection of society. He would favour, he said, the appointment of an officer under Government to do this work, but the official should be a gentleman qualified by education, culture and refinement for, and in full sympathy with the work of reformation. Such an officer would be worthy of a high salary and should get it. To him would be entrusted the responsibility of reporting to the executive when, in the best interests of society, it would be safe and proper to give a prisoner his liberty. If this system be inaugurated, the trial judge could either simply commit the criminal to prison without defining the length of the sentence, or impose the maximum sentence. In either case, the actual length of the sentence would be determined at a subsequent period—and during the criminal's imprisonment—by the executive on the reports of the officer.

Many prisons are simply schools of crime, and many men and women who are imprisoned for a first offence, and comparatively innocent, come out of prison confirmed criminals and swell the ranks of the criminal class.

Classification is absolutely necessary. We cannot be too liberal in spending money for improving our jail and prison system, and for the physical, mental and moral rehabilitation of prisoners. This is a practical method of preventing the spread of vice and crime.

With regard to the question of the treatment of inebriates, his Lordship said that drunkards, as such, are not criminals; it is absolutely wrong to treat them as criminals and to so treat them has no justification. Under certain conditions, a drunkard may be no more responsible than a lunatic or an imbecile. Drunkenness should be treated as a disease, and special hospitals should be provided for the drunkard.

The Judge added that he was glad the Grand Jury had made these recommendations, and that they would be forwarded to the Inspector of Prisons. "This report," said his Lordship, "should not simply be pigeon-holed, but officials cannot accomplish much without a strong public sentiment behind them. Therefore, exert your personal influence, and help to bring about these most desirable reforms."

Form of Bequest.

*I Give and bequeath to the Board of Directors of
the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada, Toronto,
the sum of, \$ to be used
for carrying on the Charitable design of the aforesaid
Association.*