

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL
SCHOOL FOR BOYS

OF THE PROVINCE OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

BY THE SUPERINTENDENT



THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PRINTED BY
AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

VICTORIA, B.C.:

Printed by WILLIAM H. CULLIN, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

1915.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
 PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL
 SCHOOL FOR BOYS
 OF THE PROVINCE OF
 BRITISH COLUMBIA

BY THE SUPERINTENDENT



THE GOVERNMENT OF
 THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

PRINTED BY
 AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

VICTORIA, B.C.

Printed by William H. Gairdner, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

1912

*To His Honour FRANK STILLMAN BARNARD,
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

I beg to submit herewith the Tenth Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Provincial Industrial School for Boys.

W. J. BOWSER,
Attorney-General.

*Attorney-General's Office,
Victoria, B.C., January 25th, 1915.*

To the Honorable Secretary of the
Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the report of the
Provincial Industrial School for Boys.

W. A. BOWSER

Secretary

Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C., January 24th, 1911

PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

*Honourable W. J. Bowser, K.C.,
Attorney-General, Victoria, B.C.*

SIR,—I have the honour to submit to you and the Honourable Members of the Legislature of British Columbia the Tenth Annual Report of the Provincial Industrial School for Boys of British Columbia from December 1st, 1913, till November 30th, 1914.

During the year forty-nine boys have been admitted, making a total of 283 since the institution was opened on February 1st, 1905.

Twenty-eight boys were liberated during the year; of that number fifteen were paroled and one was pardoned; at present there are ninety boys on the register.

Countries where born.—Forty of these boys were born in Canada, nineteen in England, ten in Scotland, one in Ireland, three in Italy, fourteen in the United States, one in Gibraltar, two in Russia, one in Japan, one in China, two in Finland, and one in Poland.

Nationality.—Twenty-five are of English descent, twenty-one Scotch, seventeen Irish, four American, three French, two Russian, one Austrian, one Spanish, two Finland, one German, three Italian, two Slavs, two Japanese, two Welsh, two Chinese, one Pole, and one Indian.

Length of Sentences.—Sentences range as follows: Five years, 5; four years, 1; three years, 7; two years, 25; indefinite, 13; indeterminate, 39.

Boys' Ages.—Nine years, 2; ten years, 1; eleven years, 2; twelve years, 7; thirteen years, 9; fourteen years, 15; fifteen years, 20; sixteen years, 20; seventeen years, 11; eighteen years, 2; nineteen years, 1.

Crimes committed.—Theft, 50; obtaining money by deceit, 1; obtaining a rifle by false pretences, 1; opening a switch, 1; vicious conduct, 1; using forged cheques, 1; indecency, 1; housebreaking, 5; vagrancy, 8; forgery, 1; incorrigible, 13; horse-stealing, 1; burglary, 5; attempting suicide, 1.

Escapes.—During the year seven boys made their escape from the school; two of them, being young men nineteen and seventeen years of age, broke out of the dormitory during the night and made their escape to the United States. Four of the others were recaptured, and the seventh, who left very recently, is in hiding near his home in South Vancouver and will be captured in a day or two.

The health of the boys has been phenomenally good, so remarkable, indeed, that it has not been necessary to call in the medical adviser *even once* during the whole year. I attribute their good health to wholesome well-cooked food, plenty of outdoor exercise, well-ventilated dormitories, and an occasional dose of medicine to keep their machinery in good working-order.

Owing to the building being very much overcrowded, I found it necessary at the beginning of the year to make application to the Government for more dormitory accommodation, also for a special day-room in order to separate the smaller boys from the larger ones. The matter was attended to without delay, and these, together with a much-needed drying-room, coat-room, and band-room, were added, and we now have dormitory and other accommodation for 100 pupils, except in the dining-room, which is very much overcrowded. This room was intended

by the architect to accommodate fifty, but at present we are obliged to crowd in ninety at the tables. Should our numbers increase during the coming year as rapidly as they have done this year, it may be necessary to enlarge the dining-room by adding to it the present kitchen and pantry, which would necessitate the erection of a new kitchen and pantry.

The year just closed has been one of considerable perplexity, requiring much anxious thought as how to best handle the class of boys placed under our care in order to get the best results. The boys who have come to us during the past twelve months have certainly not been (white) angels, and have been more than usually trying. At the same time, no boy in the school during the whole year has been ordered a whipping, with the exception of those boys who made their escape and were recaptured.

Some, of course, are more easily influenced for good than others, but line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, combined with a great deal of patience and perseverance, and provided that the example set before them is in keeping with the precepts taught, will usually be successful and bring out the best that is in the boy. While I have found it necessary to demand and enforce a somewhat strict discipline, at the same time we have tried as far as possible to eliminate the idea of a prison and prison surroundings.

A question often asked the Superintendent is: How do the boys employ themselves from the time they get up in the morning until they retire to their dormitories at night? And perhaps some information on that line may be interesting to the members of the Legislature.

At 6 o'clock every morning the nightwatchman rouses the boys, who assist the gardener to milk the cows, feed the cattle, etc., and at the same time he takes out of the dormitory boys who assist in the kitchen and bake-shop. At 6.30 the Superintendent's bell rings for general rising and morning wash. At 7.15 o'clock the bell rings for breakfast, after which either a chapter from the Bible, the verses being read alternately by the Superintendent and boys, or the Ten Commandments are repeated in unison, followed by all joining in repeating the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. From 8 o'clock to 8.30 is spent in the playground at football, baseball, nobbies, or some other game; very often at the same time the drill instructor has a class in the gymnasium, also a band practice is proceeding in the school-room.

At 8.30 the bell rings for general morning work. The Superintendent divides up the boys, detailing a number to each of the various departments—tailoring, shoemaking, carpentering, cooking and baking, farm and garden work, also a number to do dormitory and dining-room and pantry work. Twice a week the building is thoroughly scrubbed and disinfected. At 9.15 a recess is called for fifteen minutes to prepare for morning school. Fifty boys in the junior grades attend at the morning session; the other forty are employed at work—some in the tailor-shop, shoe-shop, carpenter's shop, kitchen, and bake-shop, some work in the garden, and others go to the bush to cut firewood. On Mondays about twenty of the larger boys work in the laundry.

The bell rings a few minutes before 12 o'clock for roll-call, and half an hour is allowed for washing and getting ready for dinner. Dinner is served from 12.30 to 1 o'clock, when a recess is called to prepare for afternoon school. Forty boys in the senior grades attend until 4.30 o'clock. A number of the boys who attend school in the morning take manual-training work in the afternoon, the others being employed in one or other of the departments. After school all are allowed a short time for recreation on the playground. Bell rings for supper at 5 o'clock, and from 5.30 to 6 o'clock is given up to dish-washing and general tidying-up. In the summer-time from 6 o'clock p.m. to 7.15 they indulge in all kinds of outdoor sports, while in the winter most of the boys spend the time in the gymnasium taking physical exercises, playing basket-ball or some other game, while a number prefer to remain in the assembly-rooms to read

or play checkers or other games. At 7.30 washing and getting ready for bed. After Bible-reading and prayers the boys retire to the various dormitories, where they are allowed to have the electric light until 9 o'clock for reading.

During the night the watchman visits each dormitory once every hour. Should he fail to do so the watchman's clock will show the omission.

Saturday is bath-day, and from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. the hot-water bath-tubs are kept busy; each boy is furnished with clean underwear; clean sheets and pillow-cases on each bed and clean night-ropes; and socks and towels are washed. Saturday afternoon is always a half-holiday, and if the weather permits the boys have a big time on the playground, playing football, baseball, and all kinds of sports. After supper there is a general shoe-shine, shaving, and trimming of hair in order to be ready for the Sunday morning parade to church.

On Sunday the boys rise at the usual time, only doing necessary work, the same as in all well-regulated households. After breakfast and prayers and the usual washing-up, sweeping, etc., the boys don their Sunday uniforms. Protestant boys attend one or other of the Protestant churches in Point Grey; Catholic boys march to Kitsilano and attend service at the Church of St. Augustine. In the afternoon a Protestant service is held in the school-room, conducted two Sundays in the month by officers of the Salvation Army; once a month by Mrs. J. K. Macken and Miss Trainery, of the W.C.T.U.; and once a month by E. W. Leeson, Esq. Very often those in charge of the services bring along speakers who are visiting in the city. The meetings are made bright and interesting, the singing of the boys themselves being a feature of all the services. At the same hour every Sunday afternoon Rev. Father Tavenier, of St. Augustine's Church, Kitsilano, or his assistant, has a class in the reception-room for the Catholic boys; also on the first Tuesday morning of every month Father Tavenier attends at the school at 6.30 o'clock and dispenses Communion to the Roman Catholic boys.

I might mention the fact that most of the boys are fond of reading, and the Superintendent has great difficulty in providing them with reading-matter of an interesting and helpful character. Through the kindness of three friends, the Hon. J. W. Bowser, Miss Davis, and F. C. Wade, Esq., who donated \$10 each last Christmas, I was enabled to procure a number of magazines and other publications, which are eagerly looked for each month and carefully read, but with ninety boys in the school we should have a library of a thousand volumes.

In the day-school, under Miss Pullen's tuition, the boys have made excellent progress; the teacher has a knack of varying the work in a way that makes her pupils become interested, and while most of the time is given to reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, etc., she also devotes some time to painting, singing, etc., which relieves the dull humdrum monotony of the old school-days. At present a great wave of enthusiasm has taken possession of both the juniors and seniors, and they are making preparations for a grand patriotic concert on the afternoon of December 22nd, that being the closing day for the Christmas holidays, and to which they are inviting their parents and a great many other friends.

Another prominent feature of the work of the year has been the remarkable progress made in connection with the School Band. During the summer their services were very much in demand in helping out various entertainments in Vancouver and Point Grey; the band also furnished music for a couple of days at the Vancouver Exhibition, for which they were highly complimented.

Under competent instructors in the tailor and shoe shops the uniform suits, overalls, boots, and slippers worn by the boys are made by the boys themselves on the premises, as well as the uniforms for the officials.

During the year a great deal of useful work has been done by the senior boys in the carpenter's shop, such as making benches, tables, washing-machines, wheelbarrows, and doing all general repair-work around the buildings; also built a very sightly and commodious horse-sleigh and a carriage-house, and fitted up the new tailor and shoemaking shops and the coat and band rooms. In this department the instructor takes up regular carpenter-work with the larger boys in the forenoon, devoting the afternoon to manual-training exercises for the smaller boys of the school.

The usual work has been done in farming and gardening; besides the ordinary vegetables, roots, and fruits, we had a very bountiful crop of potatoes, corn, and tomatoes, and for about six weeks the tables each evening were laden with one or other of the latter two delicacies, which were greatly appreciated by the boys.

Besides aiming to help the boys mentally, physically, and religiously, we encourage them as young Canadians to be loyal to the old flag and British institutions, and nowhere has the war fever been more marked than among the boys of the school. A great wave of patriotism has swept over them, and I have encouraged it by giving them the city papers with the latest war news, and each night after they have retired one boy is chosen in each dormitory to read aloud the latest news from the front.

A few months ago, when Vancouver and Point Grey were raising a War Relief Fund, the boys asked their school-teacher if they would be allowed to help out of the little moneys that were to their credit in the office, given to them to purchase candy and fruit. I allowed them to use their own judgment, and they started a subscription list which amounted to \$20. While many others gave out of their abundance, these lads, like the poor widow in the Gospels, gave all that they had, and it has been a great source of pleasure to me to find that the principles of loyalty and patriotism that we have tried to instil during the past ten years is now bearing fruit; and during the past months I have had visit after visit from my old boys now in their khaki uniforms, and as I looked at the fine military bearing of these young fellows I felt proud of them. Quite a few are now at Salisbury Plain, and a very goodly number are in training for the Second Contingent, and I feel convinced that the physical and military training given to them in the school by our drill instructor, who as sergeant in the Seaforth Highlanders Regiment (Regulars) saw active service on the Veldt, will stand them in good stead when they meet the German foe in deadly conflict.

During the year the boys lost two very valued friends by the removal of Rev. Hume Smith to England, and the sad death of Ensign Mardell, who was a passenger on the ill-fated "Empress of Ireland." On Sunday, June 14th, a memorial service was held in the school-room out of respect to the late Ensign; the School Band played "Nearer my God to Thee" and the "Dead March in Saul."

The Superintendent is very grateful to the many friends who by giving entertainments and by contributing books, magazines, fruit, candy, etc., have done much to brighten the lives of the boys.

In closing my report, I would respectfully suggest that the attention of the Federal authorities be drawn to the desirability of having special forms printed for inmates of industrial schools, so that when application is made for a boy's parole, and a report is called for by the Minister of Justice, such words as "convict" or "ticket-of-leave" may be eliminated from any and every document that has reference to juvenile delinquents.

Looking back upon the work of the year, I am encouraged to believe that our work has not been in vain, and attribute much of the success to the loyal assistance I have received from my officials.

The following is the present staff of officials :—

Superintendent—D. Donaldson.

Matron and Housekeeper—Mrs. C. Donaldson.

School-teacher—Miss Mabel F. Pullen.

Gardener—William Johnston.

First Assistant, Tailor, and Drill Instructor—William Forsyth.

Second Assistant and Shoemaker—Alex. McLean.

Third Assistant, Carpenter, and Bandmaster—Herbert B. Collier.

Fourth Assistant—George E. Cannon.

Fifth Assistant—William J. Strong.

Cook and Baker—Hugh Duff.

Nightwatchman—Thomas F. Callrick.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. DONALDSON,
Superintendent.

Vancouver, B.C., November 30th, 1914.

VICTORIA, B.C. :

Printed by WILLIAM H. CULLIN, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

1915.