

TWELFTH 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.
1917.

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

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to submit herewith the Twelfth Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Provincial Industrial School for Boys.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. A. MACDONALD,
Attorney-General.

*Attorney-General's Department,
Victoria, B.C., March 1st, 1917.*

PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

SUPERINTENDENT'S TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

*Honourable M. A. Macdonald, 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 this my Twelfth Annual Report of the Provincial Industrial School for Boys, from December 1st, 1915, till November 30th, 1916.

In presenting the same, I may be permitted to briefly outline some of the means taken and methods employed in assisting delinquent boys to become good and useful citizens after leaving the institution. The ages of the boys who have been committed to the school have ranged from 8 to 15 years. The cause of their delinquency, in many cases, can be ascribed to a lack of proper home training on the part of parents and guardians.

The aim of the institution is to do for the boys what their former environment has failed to accomplish. We endeavour, as far as possible, to make the institution a home for the boys, as well as a school of instruction, eliminating as much as possible everything of a prison nature.

During the two or three years that the boys are under our care we endeavour by precept and example to inculcate such teachings as will lead them to take an altogether different view of life to what most of them had when they entered the school, and thus lead them to become good and honourable citizens.

The means adopted for their reformation are industrial work, school duties, physical exercises and military drill, recreation, and moral and religious training. While our equipment is very limited when compared with the work being done in the older and larger schools in Canada, Britain, and the United States, where they have an average attendance of from 300 to 800 boys, yet the institution supplies considerable room for industrial training, as practically the boys, under their various instructors, do all the work in connection with the Home. Such work is found in connection with the garden, farm, barn and stables, bake-shop, cooking department, laundry, dining-rooms, tailor's shop, shoe-shop, carpenter's shop, etc.

The boys are compelled to attend school during part of five days in the week. A number of the boys who have entered the institution have not been able to read or write, while a large percentage on entering the school find their places in the Primary and First and Second Reader classes, which shows that the school education for such boys is a very important part of our work. The regular public-school studies are taught, also more advanced work for the few who have been more fortunate in securing an education.

Some years ago we added carpentry and manual training to our school curriculum; to this, boys who have been most persistent truants take more readily than to school-work, as it is a departure from the regular tedium of school studies. The work in this department develops not only the motor activities, but the mental as well. As some one has said, this branch of education seems to give pleasure to work, and respect for it develops habits of independence, order, accuracy, cultivation of the eye, and power to accomplish with the hands, as well as

good mental training. Carpentry is taken for the larger and more advanced boys, and useful articles required on the premises, such as book-cases, cupboards, shelving, benches, tables, washing-machines, wheelbarrows, picture-frames, etc., are made in the carpenter-shop.

Almost every boy who comes to the school is a born carpenter; that class of work has a fascination for them, and it develops and brightens their mental powers and trains their hands to do work that in this young and growing Province will be of untold advantage to them in after years in assisting them to fight successfully the battle of life.

All the work done in the institution, as far as possible, is made educational; the boys are given instruction in tailoring, shoemaking, carpentry, baking, cooking, garden and farm-work, etc.

Also realizing the important part that sports and hearty recreation play in their development into young manhood, the boys are allowed to spend considerable time each day in the fresh air on the campus, indulging in such healthy amusements as football, baseball, cricket, etc. If the weather is unfavourable, they have amusements and exercise in the gymnasium building. Military drill, physical and gymnastic exercises given by a competent instructor play an important part in the boys' development. In the summer months, headed by a bugler and drummer, and occasionally by their Brass Band, the boys march to the Point Grey bathing-beach and take swimming exercises.

The moral and religious welfare of the boys is not forgotten; each morning and evening they assemble for Bible-reading and prayers, all joining in repeating the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. Every Sunday morning the boys in their military uniforms march to church; the Protestant boys attend service in one or other of the West Point Grey Protestant Churches, the Catholic boys march to the Catholic Church in Kitsilano. Protestant and Catholic services are held every Sunday afternoon at the same hours in different parts of the school building. Once every month, Father Louis, of St. Augustine Catholic Church, attends at 6.15 a.m. and conducts a service with the Catholic boys.

Most of the boys committed to the school have become confirmed cigarette fiends; in order to break them off this habit the use of tobacco is absolutely forbidden.

No swearing or foul language is tolerated and any boy indulging in the same is punished. The boys are instructed in the principles of truthfulness and honesty. Every day each boy receives either a good, fair, or bad mark for work, conduct, school devotion, and drill; this is a guide to the Superintendent in making a recommendation for a boy's release.

The boy makes his own record, and it is up to himself in a great measure how long or short a time he remains in the school.

During the year thirty-one boys have been admitted to the school, making a total of 355 since the institution was opened on February 1st, 1905. At the present time there are seventy-nine boys on the register. Thirty-one boys were admitted during the year and forty-one were liberated; of that number, two were paroled and twenty-two pardoned for good conduct.

Countries and Provinces where born.—Twenty-seven of the boys now in the school were born in British Columbia, two in Saskatchewan, two in Ontario, five in Manitoba, one in New Brunswick, one in Quebec, twelve in England, five in Scotland, two in Ireland, eight in the United States, six in Italy, one in Russia, one in France, one in Holland, one in Finland, one in Poland, one in Sweden, one in Switzerland, and one in China.

Nationality.—Twenty-six are of English descent, ten Scotch, seven Irish, three French, one Russian, six Italian, two Slavonic, eight Indian, one Finlander, one Austrian, one Dutch, one Swede, seven American, one Swiss, one Pole, one Iclander, one Chinese, and one German.

Boys' Ages.—Nine years, 1; ten years, 8; eleven years, 10; twelve years, 7; thirteen years, 7; fourteen years, 10; fifteen years, 16; sixteen years, 11; seventeen years, 7; eighteen years, 2.

Crimes committed.—Theft, 37; incorrigible, 30; vagrancy, 2; burglary, 2; shop-breaking, 1; breaking and entering, 4; assault, 1; indecency, 1; indecent assault, 1.

Length of Sentences.—Five years, 6; four years, 2; three years, 4; two years, 18; indefinite, not less than two years and not more than five, 31; indeterminate, until released by Juvenile Court, 18.

Escapes.—During the year two boys made their escape from the school; one was captured a few hours later in Vancouver; the other boy was heading for the United States, and when crossing the bridge at Coquitlam was challenged by the soldier on guard, and was surprised and nonplussed when the guard produced his photo, also a sample of the cloth of the coat he was wearing, and which he had stolen, having received the same by mail from the Superintendent about an hour before the boy put in an appearance. The marvel is that we have so few escapes; there is no high fence around the school, and any boy who makes up his mind to take his departure without leave can be into the thick bush and out of sight in a very few moments. During the twelve years that the institution has been in existence only four boys who made their escape to the United States have been lost to the school, and only a few weeks ago I got trace of two of them, and find that for months past they have been doing their duty in the trenches in Flanders and France.

Out of 276 boys who have left the school over 90 per cent. are making good; many of them correspond with me from different parts of the globe; quite a number are married and have their little families around them.

Two officials and over ninety boys have joined the colours and have gone overseas; many of them are in France, and during the past month three of my noble young men have paid the supreme sacrifice, and now fill honoured graves at the Somme, while quite a few others, I regret to say, are among the wounded and the missing.

A great deal of good and useful work under competent instructors has been turned out in the Boot and Shoe and Tailoring Departments. Everything worn by the boys in the way of uniforms, overalls, and boots and shoes are made on the school premises, also all repair-work.

A goodly number of the senior boys have a taste for farming and gardening, and we encourage them to take experience in agriculture, and during the year, under the guidance of the Gardener and Farm Instructor, much successful work has been done, and as a result we harvested a bountiful supply of potatoes, parsnips, carrots, turnips, tomatoes, corn, and other farm and garden produce. The flower-gardens were also a success, and a number of boys have gained considerable experience in this interesting and elevating department.

About 100 cords of firewood were cut, split, and hauled from the adjoining bush.

The Brass Band, under the temporary management of Mr. S. B. Redburn (our regular Bandmaster, H. B. Collier, having gone to the front), has made excellence progress, and during the summer months the boys were in great demand, and furnished music for the Red Cross and other societies, thereby assisting to raise funds for various patriotic purposes. The band consists of thirty-one instruments, and at the present time nearly fifty boys are receiving musical instruction.

Perhaps in no department has more gratifying results been attained than in the day-school. The education of most of the boys committed to the school has been sadly neglected; most of them have been truants and would prefer to do any kind of work rather than go to school, but when they find that it is compulsory to attend regularly every day, it is surprising how they settle down to their studies and very soon become interested in their work. The

teacher, Miss Pullen, is a strict disciplinarian, quiet in manner, but very firm and persistent, and must be obeyed ; as a result she has perfect control of the forty boys in her charge at each morning and afternoon session. The junior boys attend in the forenoon, while the senior boys work in the different departments. In the afternoon the older boys attend school, while the others are working. At the close of the afternoon school all the boys assemble on the campus for physical exercise and military drill, after which, until supper-time, they enjoy themselves at football, baseball, or some other healthy amusement.

The Superintendent is indebted to a number of generous friends who have shown their interest in the boys by donating magazines and other reading-matter. Each night, after retiring to the dormitories, the boys are allowed to have the electric lights for an hour and a half for reading, and it is quite a problem for the Superintendent to supply eighty boys with up-to-date interesting and helpful reading-matter. A library of 1,000 carefully selected volumes would be a great boon to the boys, and would be money well spent by the Government.

At the present time the boys are much interested in the preparation of a literary and musical programme for the Christmas closing, when the parents and friends are invited to attend. The Patriotic Concert given by the boys last year reflected great credit on both teacher and pupils. The Christmas season is always looked forward to with great pleasure ; we try to give the boys a very enjoyable and pleasant time. The Government has always given permission for the boys to have a real Christmas dinner—roast turkey and cranberry sauce, plum pudding, fruit, candy, etc.—and it is needless to say that the boys always do ample justice to the good things provided.

The general health of the boys throughout the year has been good, except for an epidemic of la grippe which invaded the school last February. During the twelve years that the school has been in existence we have been singularly fortunate in escaping every epidemic of disease that was abroad, but on February last we struck a cyclone, and for a week, with sixty boys sick in bed, the Matron, the Doctor, and the Superintendent had a rather strenuous and anxious time, especially as seven of the boys were attacked with appendicitis and were operated on ; but all came safely through the trying ordeal.

In regard to health, our chief trouble has been with new arrivals, who have been neglected, and come to the school requiring medical treatment and in some cases have to be operated on. In a number of cases, from a physical standpoint, it has been a blessing to the boys that they were committed to the school, otherwise they would have been obliged to go through life handicapped.

The year just closed, like many previous ones, has been a strenuous one, yet we believe has been fruitful in good results. During the past few years the boys sent to the school are a more difficult class to handle than formerly, as it is after the home, the school, the church, suspended sentence, and probation have all been tried and failed that the boy reaches the industrial school—as it were, in the last stage of juvenile delinquency. But no case is hopeless. Some are more readily influenced for good than others, but line upon line, precept upon precept, combined with a considerable amount of patience and perseverance, and provided that at all times the example set before them is in keeping with the principles taught, the best that is in the boy is certain to be reached.

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

The following is the present staff of officials :—

Superintendent—D. Donaldson.

Matron and Housekeeper—Mrs. C. Donaldson.

School-teacher—Miss Mabel F. Pullen.

Gardener and Farm Instructor—William Johnston.

Tailor and First Assistant—William Forsyth.

Shoemaker and Second Assistant—Alex. McLean.

Carpenter, Bandmaster, and Third Assistant—H. B. Collier (at the front).

Fourth Assistant—W. J. Strong (at the front).

Fifth Assistant—J. C. Allen.

Cook and Baker—Hugh Duff.

Nightwatchman—Thomas F. Calbick.

S. B. Redburn is acting as Band Instructor in the absence of H. B. Collier, who has gone overseas. Harley Reid is temporarily employed to do W. J. Strong's work, who has gone overseas.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. DONALDSON,
Superintendent.

University Avenue, Point Grey, B.C., November 30th, 1916.

VICTORIA, B.C. :

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