

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

FOR 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.:

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

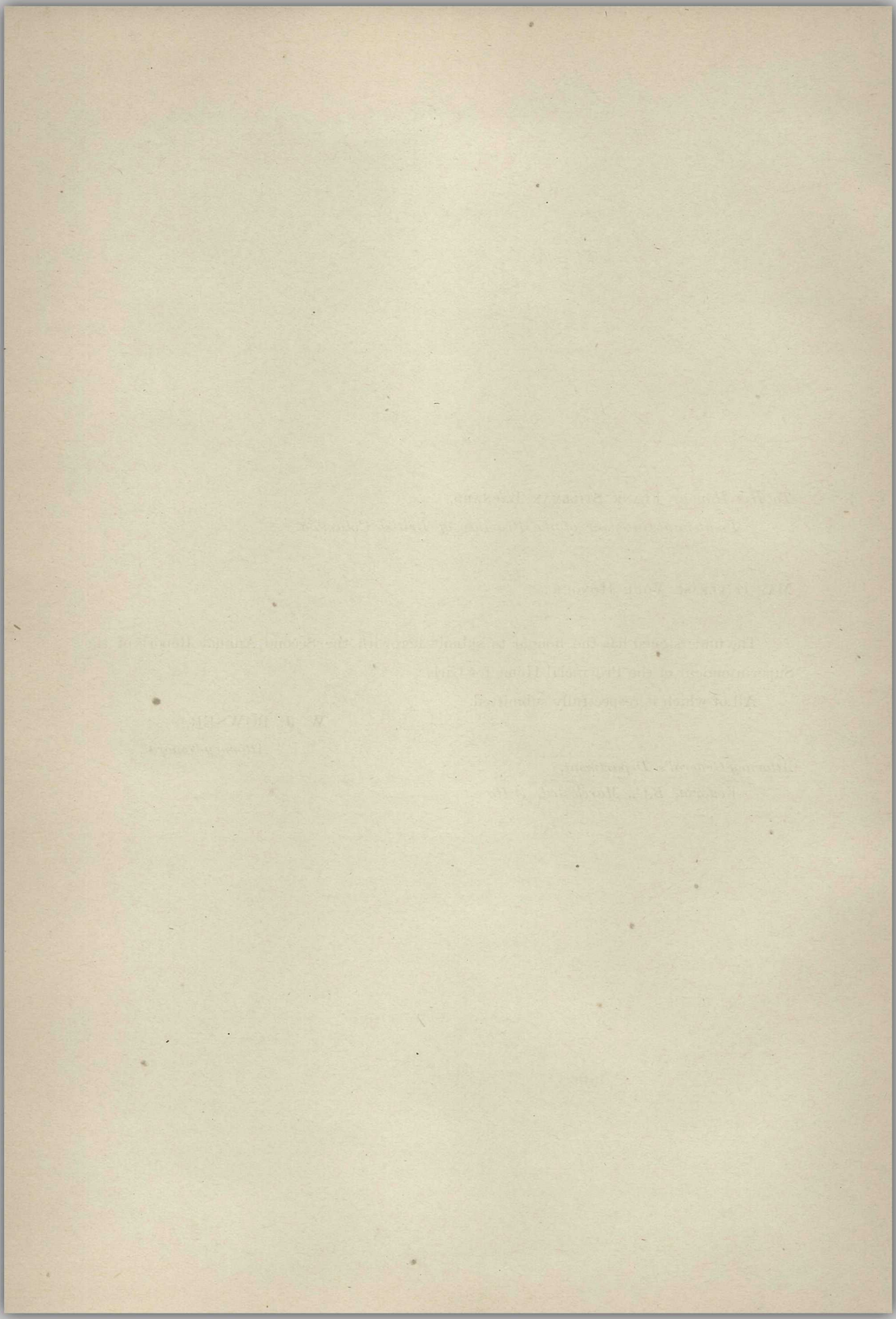
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned has the honour to submit herewith the Second Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Provincial Home for Girls.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. J. BOWSER,
Attorney-General.

*Attorney-General's Department,
Victoria, B.C., March 3rd, 1916.*



PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

*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 the Second Annual Report of the Provincial Industrial School for Girls for the Province of British Columbia, from December 1st, 1914, to November 30th 1915.

This is our first report for a full year's work, and even now we can scarcely refer to results, as, most of the girls having been committed to either an indefinite period under section 16 of the "Juvenile Delinquents Act" of 1908 or an undefined period of not less than two years under section 6 of the "Industrial Home for Girls Act" of 1912, we have not yet come up to the time for their release.

Number of Inmates received.—During the year thirteen girls have been received, making a total since the opening on April 3rd, 1914, of thirty-five girls, thirty-four of whom are still inmates.

Released on Parole.—One girl, an American citizen, who was committed from Vancouver and whose parents had returned to the United States, was allowed out on parole at the end of fifteen months, to go to her home in Seattle.

Length of Sentences.—Most of the commitments have been made under sections of the two Acts previously mentioned, consequently there was only one this year who was committed for a definite period—viz., until she is fourteen years of age.

Age of Girls at Commitment.—Sixteen years, 1; fifteen years, 3; 14 years, 5; thirteen years, 2; twelve years, 1; eight years, 1.

Nationality.—Four girls are of English descent, two of Scotch descent, two of American descent, one of German descent, one of Newfoundland descent, one of French descent, one of Canadian descent, and one of Jewish descent.

Countries where born.—Four girls were born in England, two in Scotland, two in the United States, and five were born in Canada.

Charges under which committed.—Incorrigibility, 8; vagrancy or wandering abroad, 3; common bawdy-house, 1; theft, 1.

Escapes.—One girl has made two attempts to escape during the year and four others have made one attempt each, but I am pleased to say that in each case the plans were frustrated owing to close oversight, and we still have them all with us.

Health.—I am pleased to say that, with one exception, there has been nothing more than the usual small ailments amongst the girls. One girl has undergone a serious operation, but is now almost as strong as before. The girl mentioned in our last report as suffering from a long-standing nerve trouble still suffers, and I fear is likely to do so.

Playgrounds.—We made mention in our last report that we hoped to be able to do more in the line of outdoor exercises this year, and while some improvement has been made, especially for the summer months, owing to the war and financial conditions connected therewith, we have not been able to extend our outdoor operations as much as we hoped. We are looking for greater progress in this line during the coming year. We are still looking forward to the time when we will have a fully equipped gymnasium.

Gardening.—Our gardening operations under the care of Mr. Cameron have been on a larger scale than last year, making more work for the girls in this respect, and when we get our grounds all fenced we will be able to make still further progress.

Day-school.—I am very pleased to report that the girls have made splendid progress in their studies under Miss Day, the teacher, and many of them have been promoted to higher grades, and in many cases they take a very keen interest in their studies and the various school competitions from time to time. In this connection they are also receiving so instruction in music.

Other Work.—All the other branches of work mentioned in our last report—bread-making, cooking, general housekeeping, laundry-work, plain and fancy sewing—are being carried on with much success, and many of the girls who have been with us for some little time are becoming proficient along these lines, and will do themselves and the institution credit in future years.

Sewing and Fancy Work.—I would make special mention of this work; many of the girls who knew nothing whatever of work of this kind when they came to us are now able to turn out splendid work indeed. We had a stall at the Vancouver Exhibition this year, which was very favourably commented upon by both officials and visitors, and we were awarded a diploma by the Exhibition Association for the same. We also had several exhibits of school drawing and writing.

Knitting.—Since our last report the Matron and staff have taken a great deal of pains in teaching the girls to knit, with the result that almost every girl is now about to knit her own mittens for winter wear, and in addition they have knitted nearly eighty pairs of socks and some twenty pairs of mittens for the soldiers at the front; so that while unable to enlist as soldiers—which they would gladly do if they could—they are doing their bit to help make the “brave boys” comfortable.

Library.—We have to thank the Honourable the Attorney-General for a donation at Christmas of last year, one-half of which we spent on books; also our friend Mr. Greatrix for a large number of books kindly given, as well as other kind friends for papers, magazines, etc all of which are gratefully received and thoroughly read by the girls.

How we spend our Time.—It may be of interest to know how we occupy our time each day. The first bell is sounded at 6.30 a.m., when all hands get up, wash and dress ready for work. The kitchen and dining-room girls assist in getting breakfast, which is had at 7.30 a.m., after which prayers are conducted in the dining-room by the Superintendent or Matron at 8 a.m. The girls then have a half-hour for recreation. At 8.30 a.m. each girl goes to her allotted work, and at 9.30 a.m. the junior classes attend school and the seniors finish up the balance of the work for the morning. We have dinner at 12 noon, and then after another half-hour recreation the afternoon washing-up receives attention, and at 1.30 p.m. the seniors attend school, while the juniors do the work to which they have been appointed; at 3.45 p.m. all join in school drill under the supervision of the teacher. From 4.30 to 5 p.m. the girls have the time to themselves to read, play games, do personal work as they feel inclined; then preparation for tea, to which they go at 5.15 p.m. After the evening work is done all hands meet in the assembly-room where they read, play the organ, sing, or play games until bed-time (always under the supervision of one or more of the officials), which in the summer is at 8 p.m. and in the winter at 7.30 p.m. Each girl is allowed to take her book to bed, and lights are left on for forty-five minutes; this completes the day.

Religious Services.—The spiritual welfare of the girls is not neglected, and we are endeavouring to help them spiritually, as well as to fit them for useful pursuits in the future. Each Sunday afternoon from 3 to 4 o'clock we have a Gospel service conducted for the Protestant girls in the assembly-room; Mrs. J. K. Macken takes the first Sunday in the

month, Rev. Mr. McWhinney (Methodist) takes the second, Rev. Mrs. McAuley the third, and the officers of the Salvation Army the fourth, and the extra Sunday once in three months is filled in by others from the different churches. For the Roman Catholic girls the service has been arranged from every second Wednesday afternoon to every Sunday afternoon at the same hour as the other service is held; this is conducted by Rev. Fr. Lyons in the reception-room; he also has confession and communion frequently.

Entertainments, Social Evenings, and Treats.—We have had a goodly number of these during the year, for which we are indebted to the following: Miss Fraser and the young ladies of the Y.W.C.A.; the League of Mercy and the Gym Class of the Salvation Army; the Philanthropic Committee of the Women's Musical Club; the Vancouver Heights Methodist Choir, each of which have given a splendid concert; Staff-Captain Smith of the Salvation Army, for two lantern services; Mr. R. A. McCulloch and Mr. A. O. Allen for gramophone concerts, all of which have been enjoyed by the girls. In addition to this, our own girls have got up some splendid entertainments amongst themselves, rendering solos, drills, choruses, and recitations very creditably, one of them was given last Christmas, to which the girls had the privilege of inviting their parents.

We are also indebted to Mr. E. Leeson for arranging, and the gentlemen who so kindly loaned their autos for a splendid auto drive; eight autos were provided, and the girls, accompanied by the staff, were taken for a trip of about forty miles on a bright May afternoon; this was enjoyed and much appreciated.

We must also thank our dear friend Mrs. Fitch for the use of a splendid Dominion organ for as long a time as we require it; also Magistrate T. Johnston, of South Vancouver, for 2 gallons of delicious ice-cream for the girls on a hot summer afternoon. All these things are very much appreciated, and we thank the donors.

Cheering Others.—On two different occasions the Superintendent has taken the girls to the Old People's Home, where on each occasion they gave an informal concert, consisting of drills, songs, dialogues, recitations, etc., lasting for about an hour and a half. This was enjoyed by the old people, and helps to make the girls happy, because they are doing something to help others.

The following is the staff of officials for the year:—

Superintendent—T. H. Collier.

Matron—Mrs. Collier.

Engineer and Janitor—A. O. Allen.

First Assistant and Nurse—Mrs. K. McNaughton.

Needlewomen and Laundry—Miss Emma Bailey.

Cook—Miss Alexander.

Teacher—Miss Day.

Gardener—Mr. F. W. Cameron.

(Mr. Allen went to Great Britain at the end of September to work on munitions; since then Mr. J. R. Clark has taken his place.)

All of which I submit most respectfully.

T. H. COLLIER,
Superintendent.

Vancouver, B.C., December 3rd, 1915.

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