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PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

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To His Honour THOMAS W. PATERSON,  
*Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.*

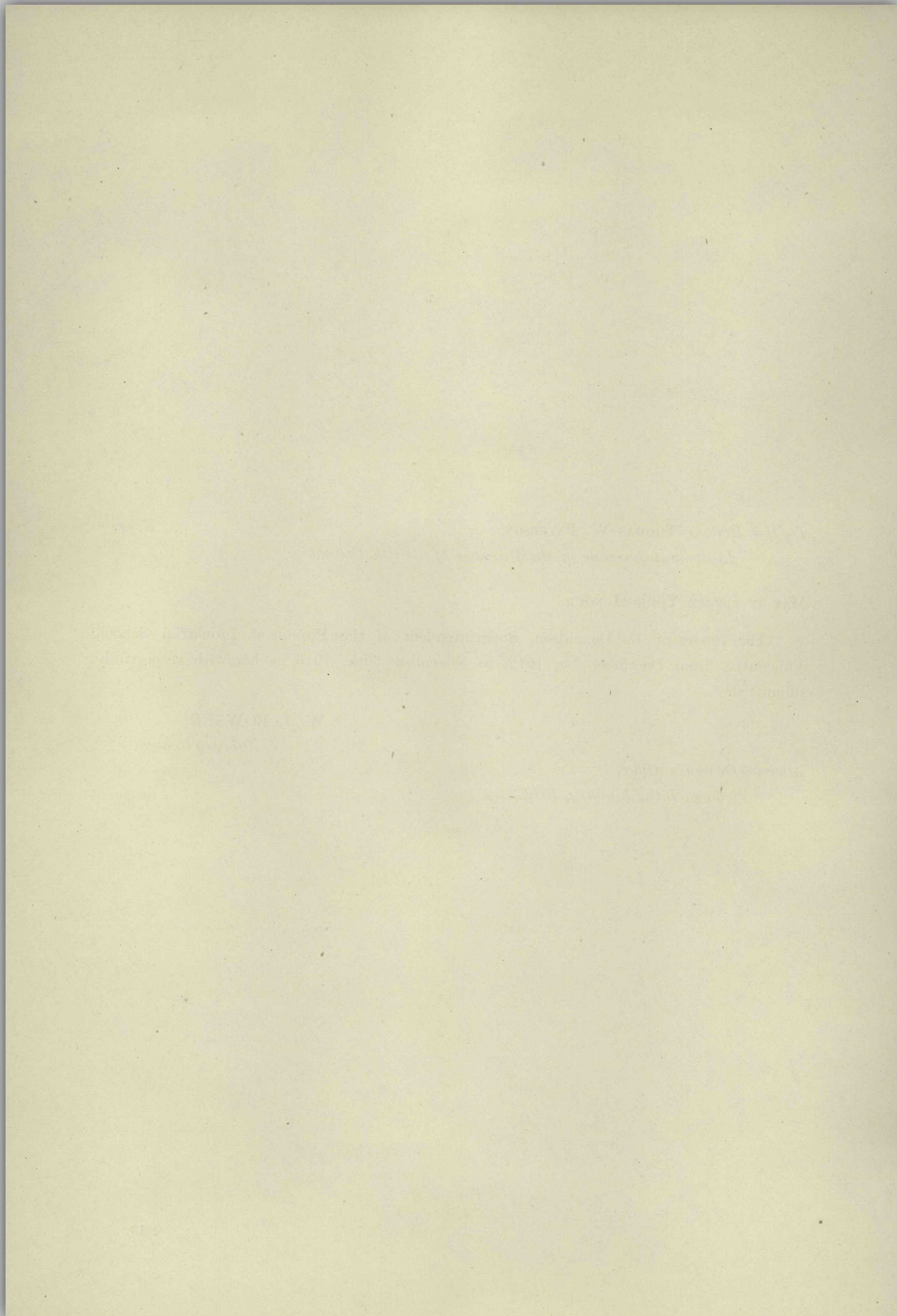
MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The report of D. Donaldson, Superintendent of the Provincial Industrial School, Vancouver, from December 1st, 1912, to November 30th, 1913, is herewith respectfully submitted.

W. J. BOWSER,  
*Attorney-General*

*Attorney-General's Office,*  
*Victoria, B.C., January, 1914.*





# PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.

*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 Ninth Annual Report of the Provincial Industrial School of British Columbia from December 1st, 1912, till November 30th, 1913.

During the year thirty-nine boys have been admitted, making a total of 234 since the institution was opened on February 1st, 1905.

During the past year twenty-three have been liberated, of whom two were pardoned and seven paroled, leaving seventy-one boys at present in the school.

*Countries where born.*—Forty of these boys were born in Canada, eleven in England, five in Scotland, one in Ireland, eleven in United States, one in Italy, one in Gibraltar, and one in Russia.

*Nationalities.*—Twenty-four of English descent, fifteen Irish descent, twelve Scotch descent, four American, three French, two Slavonic, two German, two Italian, two Finland, one Indian, one Austrian, one Spanish, and one Russian.

*Length of Sentences.*—Sentences range as follows: Five years, 2; four years, 1; three years, 11; two years, 18; one year, 2; indefinite, 37.

*Boys' Ages.*—Ten years, 1; eleven years, 2; twelve years, 3; thirteen years, 10; fourteen years, 9; fifteen years, 16; sixteen years, 16; seventeen years, 11; eighteen years, 3.

*Crimes committed.*—Theft, 40; obtaining money under false pretences, 2; hold-up, 2; horse-stealing, 1; pointing gun, 1; placing dynamite on rails, 1; forgery, 1; passing a forged cheque, 1; vicious conduct, 1; vagrancy, 7; house-breaking, 2; opening switch, 1; burglary, 2; also neglected, 1; incorrigible, 8.

*Escapes.*—During the year three boys made their escape from the school, but were captured shortly afterwards. One of them got to his home in Fernie, and was surprised to find a Provincial constable waiting to receive him. Another made his way to Blaine, and was also surprised to find one of the officials of the school and the City Marshal waiting for him. However, on the plea that he was an American citizen, and on his way to his home in Ballard, Wash., and his mother having proved his citizenship to the satisfaction of the American authorities, the Immigration Department was obliged to release him. Knowing the harmful effect it would have in the school if the impression got abroad among the boys that they would be safe from arrest if they could only get across the border, the Superintendent made a request to the Honourable the Attorney-General to take proceedings, and if necessary to have the young man extradited and returned to the school. The matter was placed in the hands of the Crown prosecutor in Vancouver, with the result that inside of twenty-four hours the young man was arrested in bed at his home in Ballard, and taken back to the school, where he is now working in the tailor-shop.

The boy who made his way to Fernie was enabled to do so because two men harboured him for several days in their shack in South Vancouver, gave him clothing, and purchased a railway ticket to Fernie.



In order to put an end to the harbouring and assisting of runaway boys, an information was sworn out against these two men. The Government offered a reward of \$100 for such information as would lead to their arrest, but, anticipating some such action, both men fled the country and eventually found their way to Australia. However, the action taken will have a wholesome effect.

*Fire.*—The work of the school was considerably interfered with for several weeks as a result of a fire in the building, which occurred during the month of July last, doing damage to the extent of over \$3,000. A very regrettable feature in connection therewith was the fact that it was one of the boys in the school who deliberately fired the building by pouring a gallon of turpentine over a pile of lumber in the carpenter-shop and putting a lighted match to it. For such conduct the boy richly deserved to be sent to the penitentiary, but previous to being committed to the school he had been unfortunate enough to be much in the company of agitators and anarchists, who had poisoned the boy's mind. It was thought well to give him another chance, and on the recommendation of the Superintendent the Attorney-General was pleased to take a similiar view of the case and allowed him to remain in the school. However, severe punishment was meted out to him, as a lesson to himself and a warning to the other boys in the school. While the action of this boy was to be deplored, the splendid conduct of the other seventy boys was a great satisfaction, as immediately the fire-bell rang every boy was ready for action, and inside of five minutes the senior boys had the two chemical hand-engines playing on the fire, with the result that the fire was held in check until the Vancouver and Point Grey fire brigades had arrived. While there was every chance during the progress of the fire for boys to make their escape, all were loyal, and worked like Trojans to clear out the contents of the building; and when the fire was got under control and the Superintendent blew his whistle for roll-call, every boy was present to answer to his number, and later, when they found it was one of their number that fired the building, the culprit would have been roughly handled by the boys had he not been protected by the school officials. One great drawback at the fire was the want of water, which delayed the work of the fire-engines, as it required half a mile of hose to reach the nearest hydrant. That matter has since been remedied, and the municipality has now two hydrants on Fourth Avenue, directly in front of the school building.

During the year very satisfactory progress has been made in the different departments. The various officials at the head of each department have worked unitedly and harmoniously with a common object in view, to make the institution efficient in every particular, and influence the boys in such a way that they will be led to take a different view of life than what they have been accustomed to, and help them to become good and useful citizens.

*Day-school.*—Considering the class of boys committed to the school, criminal and incorrigible and nearly all truants from school, I consider it very important that every boy should be enrolled in the day-school, as in most cases their education has been badly neglected, as will be seen from the fact that we have young men in the school sixteen to eighteen years of age who are only in the First and Second Readers. On entering the institution it is with very bad grace that these larger boys start afresh to attend day-school, but it is astonishing how soon they become interested in their studies and begin to realize that the chance of their lives has come to them to get an education that will be helpful to them. Nearly nine years ago a boy entered the school whose mind from an educational standpoint was a blank, could neither read nor write, but during the two years that he was with us made good progress with his studies. Travelling in a crowded street-car a short time ago, I was standing in the aisle, and a tall, well-built man was just behind me. He quietly said: "How is Mr. Donaldson?" I turned to see who was addressing me, and was agreeably surprised to find it was an old friend, No. 4, who entered the school the first week it was opened in 1905. Among other things he said:



"Mr. Donaldson, I will never be able to thank you enough for what you did for me. My only regret is that I hadn't another two years in the school; it would have been such a help to me now, as I am working my way up to be an engineer." Such little encouragements by the way more than repay us for the unkind and unjust criticisms that occasionally fall to our lot.

At present six boys are in the First Primer, three in the Second Primer, seven in the First Reader, seven in the Second Reader, seventeen in the Junior Third, twenty-four in the Senior Third, four in the Junior Fourth, and three in the Senior Fourth.

Under the direction of the teacher the boys are very busy preparing solos, recitations, choruses, etc., for a public closing entertainment on December 19th, and as I have allowed them to invite their parents and friends to be present, they are looking forward with great interest to the occasion. In connection with the day-school I cannot speak too highly of Miss Pullen as a teacher.

*School Band.*—Under the leadership of Mr. H. P. Collier, the members of the Senior and Junior Brass Bands have made excellent progress, and recently, before several audiences in the school-room, have acquitted themselves very creditably. At a recent concert given by the Army Band, our own band appeared twice on the programme, and in the closing selection, in which both bands (about fifty performers) took part, the baton was ably wielded by Bandmaster Collier, of our own school. On Dominion Day I had the boys parade on the campus, after which they assembled under the Canadian flag, and the band played and the boys sang "Rule Britannia," the "Maple Leaf," and the "National Anthem." We train them to be loyal Canadians and true Britishers.

*Tailoring and Shoemaking.*—Much good and useful work under the competent instructors has been done in the tailor-shop and shoe-shop, everything in the way of uniforms, overalls, boots, and shoes, etc., used in the school being made on the premises. The work sent from the various departments to the Vancouver Exhibition was awarded a diploma.

*Carpenter-shop.*—In the carpenter-shop a great deal of useful and necessary work has been done in the way of manufacturing many articles for use in the building and on the farm, besides looking after general repairs. Also it was found necessary to provide accommodation for the officials, and three very comfortable bedrooms were partitioned off from one of the dormitories. Also a very comfortable den for the officials was erected by the carpenter and his boys, all such work being good experience for the boys.

Farm and garden operations have been carried on as usual. The improvements made have meant a great deal of hard work to the Farm Instructor and his assistants.

Thanks to generous friends, the boys have been well supplied with good reading-matter, and in order to improve their minds they are allowed to have the lights in the dormitories for an hour each evening after retiring; and here the Superintendent would bear testimony to the great interest taken in the boys by the late Mr. J. C. Donald, by whose death the boys of the institution lost a generous and true friend.

The Superintendent is indebted to friends who in many ways have shown their interest in the boys, and made them realize that they are not forgotten. It is said that the shortest way to a boy's heart is through his stomach—two very enjoyable treats during the summer, in the form of generous supplies of ice-cream and cake, donated by Mrs. R. P. McLennan and Mrs. E. P. Davis, left a good impression.

We have tried during the year to help the boys physically, mentally, and religiously. Each Sunday morning the Protestant boys attend one or other of the West Point Grey Methodist or Presbyterian Churches. The Catholic boys attend St. Augustine Church in Kitsilano. Every Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock a religious service is held in the school-room



for the Protestant boys, and at the same hour the Catholics have a service in the reception-room. All the services are brightened up with a good deal of singing, occasionally one of the boys leading with his cornet. On the first Tuesday morning of the month, Rev. Father Tavernier has a communion service for the Catholic boys, commencing at 6.30 o'clock.

On several occasions during the winter friends from the city have come out to the school and given the boys a good time. Recently Rev. Mr. Edge gave the boys an illustrated lecture on the life of Jesus; the young people of Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church gave a musical and literary entertainment, not forgetting to bring a good supply of refreshments. Before proceeding to England to pursue her musical studies, Miss Eura Leeson expressed a desire to give the boys a good time, in which she was assisted by some of the best musical talent in the city, and Mr. Geo. Grant, whose humorous recitations kept the boys in an uproar of delight. The leader and members of the Salvation Army Band give the boys a first-class concert each winter and summer.

*Health.*—The general health of the boys has been excellent; our chief trouble has been new arrivals, who have been neglected and come in requiring medical treatment, and in several instances have had 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, as otherwise they would have been obliged to go through life handicapped.

*Water-supply.*—For the past nine years we have had a bountiful supply of pure spring-water in our own reservoir, but the time has about come when I will be obliged to request that for drinking purposes the school be supplied from the city main, owing to the fact that the surrounding bush has almost disappeared, and many buildings have been erected a short distance from the reservoir. Also the West Point Grey Public School is in so very close proximity that there is danger of the water being contaminated. Of course, for irrigation, laundry, and other purposes the reservoir can still be utilized.

*More Room required.*—In a short time I will be obliged to ask for more accommodation. At present our dormitories are full, while our dining-room, intended to seat fifty, is more than crowded with the seventy-one boys at present in the school.

The following are the names of the present staff of officers :—

Superintendent—D. Donaldson.

Matron—Mrs. Donaldson.

School-teacher—Miss Mabel F. Pullen.

Gardener—Wm. Johnston.

Tailor and First Assistant—Wm. Forsyth.

Shoemaker and Second Assistant—Alex. McLean.

Carpenter and Third Assistant—Herbert B. Collier.

Fourth Assistant—W. J. Caddell.

Fifth Assistant—Geo. E. Cannon.

Cook and Baker—Hugh Duff.

Nightwatchman—Thos. F. Calbick.

All of which is respectively submitted.

D. DONALDSON,  
*Superintendent.*

*Vancouver, November 30th, 1913.*

VICTORIA, B.C. :

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

1914.