

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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.

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1871

*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 First Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Provincial Home for Girls.

W. J. BOWSER,
Attorney-General.

*Attorney-General's Office,
Victoria, B.C., January 21st, 1915.*

To His Honor, Judge Thomas H. Johnson
At the County Court of the District of Columbia

May 7, 1904

I am to submit herewith the final report of the Superintendent of the
Administration for this

W. J. BOWEN
Superintendent

Respectfully,
W. J. BOWEN

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 of British Columbia the first Year-end Report of the Provincial Industrial School for Girls from February 1st to November 30th, 1914.

Although the Superintendent, Matron, and janitor commenced their duties on February 1st, the institution was not furnished or in shape to receive any girls for some weeks after that date; in fact, the first inmate came to us on February 28th and the first members of the staff commenced their duties on March 1st, 1914.

Official Opening.—The institution was officially opened by the Honourable the Attorney-General on Friday, April 3rd. At this function we had a large and representative gathering, and a number of citizens, both civic, legal, ministerial, and representatives of the different women's societies, delivered addresses, after which the Honourable the Attorney-General, in a comprehensive address, described the work for which the institution had been erected, gave some figures as to the cost of the same, described the Government's policy of prison reform, and declared the building officially opened, after which it was inspected by any and all who cared to go through the different departments.

Number of Inmates received.—Since the opening and up to November 30th, 1914, twenty-two girls have been received from different parts of the Province, all of whom are still inmates of the institution.

Length of Sentences.—The majority of the girls have been committed, under section 6 of the "Industrial Home for Girls Act," to an undefined period of not less than two years, while one has a sentence of seven years.

Age of Girls at Commitment.—Twelve years, 2; thirteen years, 1; fourteen years, 7; fifteen years, 10; sixteen years, 2.

Nationality.—Seven are of Canadian descent, four of English descent, four of American descent, two of French descent, one of Scotch descent, one of Irish descent, one of Swedish descent, one of Italian descent, and one of Newfoundland descent.

Countries where born.—Twelve were born in Canada, six in America, two in England, and one each in Scotland and Sweden.

Charges under which committed.—Incorrigibility, 16; vagrancy, 3; unlawful escape, 2; associating with a criminal, 1.

Although it is a little difficult to say very much owing to the short time we have been in operation and have had sufficient girls to make any real arrangement, yet very satisfactory progress is being made in the different departments of work, and at present girls are being instructed in the following branches:—

Cooking.—We aim, as much as possible, at giving each girl a period in the kitchen, some of necessity longer than others, as they have had less experience before entering the institution.

Bread-making.—This also comes under the supervision of the cook, and already we have several girls who can make first-class bread, and all the bread used in the institution is made in our own bakery.

Plain Sewing and Fancy Work.—In this department we make all the working dresses, skirts, aprons, and part of the underclothing worn by the inmates; also endeavour to teach girls some fancy work.

Laundry.—The girls, of course, do all the laundry-work, both washing and ironing for the institution and their own personal work as well.

First Aid.—All the girls in the institution are in the First Aid class; this is held once a week, and is of great interest to the girls and will be very helpful to them in after-life.

Day-school.—Although nothing was done until April 27th owing to the small number of girls in the institution, I am pleased to report very good progress indeed in this branch. At the present time twenty girls attend school, the junior classes in the morning and the seniors in the afternoon. This arrangement leaves the senior girls to do the bulk of the work in the morning and the juniors for the balance and lighter work in the afternoon.

We find some of the girls very much behind in their studies, while others are far more advanced. At present we have one girl in the First Reader, seven in the Second Reader, and twelve in the Third Reader, with three or four of them proposed for promotion after Christmas.

Health.—I am pleased to report that, with one exception, that of a girl who is suffering from an old nerve trouble of long standing, there has been nothing more than minor illness during the last year amongst the girls, and up to the present we have not had to make use of the hospital accommodation of the institution. Long may it remain so.

Library.—We have a small library from which a collection of useful and moral books are supplied to the girls for reading purposes. Each girl is allowed one book per week if she desires it, but if not finished with it at the end of the week she is allowed to retain it longer. Many kind friends have also sent in from time to time a supply of magazines and periodicals which has been much appreciated.

Playgrounds.—During the summer months the girls were allowed all the outdoor exercise possible, and while the grounds were of necessity very incomplete, we hope to be able to do more on this line next year. We also expect to add gardening and the care of small fruits to our outdoor work next summer. It may be of interest to know that we produced over forty sacks of potatoes this year. We are also looking forward to the time when we will have a properly equipped gymnasium in connection with the institution.

Religious Services.—We are endeavouring to help the girls mentally and spiritually as well as physically. Each Sunday afternoon from 3 to 4 o'clock in the assembly-room we have a Gospel service conducted by representatives from different churches and societies, and on each alternate Wednesday evening at 4.30 arrangements have been made for the Catholic clergy to have a service with the Catholic girls in the reception-room, so that all are having attention in spiritual matters.

Concerts and Entertainments.—We have also had some special entertainment on week-nights on several occasions. The bandmaster of the Salvation Army Band brought out a dozen instrumentalists on one occasion and gave us an hour of musical entertainment. At another time he gave us a gramophone service. The Epworth League of the city, under the leadership of Mr. Stewart, provided another evening's entertainment, while the Salvation Army Songsters and League of Mercy Workers were the entertainers on two other occasions. Our engineer, Mr. A. O. Allen, contributed an evening on the phonograph. In addition to this, the girls get up a concert amongst themselves about every three weeks.

The following are the present staff of officials :—

Superintendent—T. H. Collier.

Matron—Mrs. Collier.

Engineer and Janitor—A. O. Allen.

First Assistant and Nurse—Mrs. K. McNaughton.

Needlewoman and Laundress—Miss Emma Bailey.

Cook—Miss C. A. Pain.

Teacher—Miss L. C. Day.

All of which I submit most respectfully.

T. H. COLLIER,
Superintendent.

Vancouver, B.C., December 7th, 1914.

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