

ELEVENTH 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.

1916.

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1910

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 Eleventh Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Provincial Industrial School for Boys.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. J. BOWSER,
Attorney-General.

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

To the Honorable Senate of the State of New York

Commissioner of the State of New York

My dear Sir:

The undersigned has the honor to inform you that the report of the
Superintendent of the State Industrial School for the Deaf

and of which is respectfully submitted.

W. A. BOHLEN

Commissioner

Albany, New York

Albany, N. Y., March 10, 1891.

PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ELEVENTH 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 of British Columbia the Eleventh Annual Report of the Provincial Industrial School for Boys, from December 1st, 1914, till November 30th, 1915.

During the year forty-one boys have been admitted, making a total of 324 since the institution was opened on February 1st, 1905.

Forty-two boys left the school during the year; of that number twenty-five were parolled and seven were pardoned, the sentence of one boy was cancelled by the Court, and one boy was transferred to the Oakalla Prison Farm; at present there are ninety-one boys on the Register.

Countries where born.—Fifty-two of the boys now in the school were born in Canada, nine in the United States, ten in England, seven in Scotland, one in Ireland, two in Russia, one in Japan, two in Poland, four in Italy, one in China, one in Switzerland, and one in Finland.

Nationality.—Twenty-two are of English descent, fourteen Scotch, seven Irish, six American, three Russian, two Chinese, two Slavonic, one Welsh, one Japanese, one German, two Polish, seven Italian, two Swede, one French, one Finn, one Norwegian, one Swiss, one Negro, two Indian, and fourteen others who only know that their parents were born in Canada.

Length of Sentences.—Two years, 31; three years, 6; four years, 3; five years, 6; indeterminate sentence, 24; indefinite sentence, 21.

Boys' Ages.—Ten years, 3; eleven years 9; twelve years, 4; thirteen years, 10; fourteen years, 19; fifteen years, 15; sixteen years, 12; seventeen years, 18; eighteen years, 1.

Crimes committed.—Theft, 52; incorrigible, 17; house-breaking, 7; burglary, 2; assault, 1; indecency, 2; vagrancy, 4; horse-stealing, 1; vicious conduct, 1; forgery, 1; using forged cheque, 1; conspiracy, 1; attempted suicide, 1.

Escapes.—During the year nine boys made their escape; two of them were captured a few minutes after leaving the grounds; one young man came back voluntarily the following morning, gave himself up, and apologized for his mistake; four were very small boys who made up their minds to travel and see life, stole a couple of valuable horses and got as far as Burnaby Lake, started in to have a good time with the boys in that vicinity, but when the Burnaby boys found out who they were and what they had done they arrested them, ducked them in the lake, and then handed them over to a policeman. They were sorry-looking spectacles when they arrived at the school, sadder, but very much wiser boys. One of the nine is still absent. One young man who was mentioned in the last Annual Report as having broken

out of one of the dormitories during the night and made his escape to the United States was located some months afterwards at San Francisco, was arrested and returned to the school.

As usual, the health of the boys has been remarkably good; plenty of fresh air and outdoor exercise seems to make the boys proof against serious illness.

During the year very satisfactory progress has been made in all departments, and many of the boys who left during the year took with them a good knowledge of the particular trade they were learning. Much useful work was done in the tailoring and shoemaking departments. In the carpenter-shop, besides doing the ordinary repairs around the buildings, manufacturing tables, benches, wheelbarrows, washing-machines, etc., the larger boys painted the exterior of the buildings and also varnished the interior.

Many of the boys prefer farm-work, and we encourage them along that line, as the knowledge obtained under the direction of the Farm Instructor will be of great advantage to them in years to come.

During the summer months the Boys' Brass Band, under the leadership of Bandmaster Collier, was much in demand, and furnished music at a goodly number of garden-parties given under the auspices of the Red Cross Society and the various local churches.

In the day-school the boys have made good progress in their studies. The Patriotic Concert given by them at the closing of the school for the Christmas holidays was quite a success, and reflected great credit on their teacher, Miss Pullen.

As we have mentioned in previous reports, besides aiming to help the boys morally, mentally, and physically, we encourage them as young Canadians to be loyal to the old Union Jack and British institutions, and the number of boys who have passed through our hands and are now at the front doing their bit speaks louder than words of the kind of material they are made of. While it would not be judicious to publish their names, I am sure it will be interesting to the Government and the members of the Legislature to know that at the call of duty the following fifty-two young men have responded for active service, and several of them are now among the wounded in the hospitals in France: Nos. 3, 4, 15, 32, 41, 45, 56, 57, 58, 59, 64, 75, 80, 81, 82, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 101, 104, 114, 116, 124, 125, 126, 138, 144, 146, 156, 170, 171, 172, 174, 176, 179, 184, 194, 195, 201, 202, 203, 206, 208, 209, 213, 218, 224, 230, 265, 275. Quite a few others made application for service, but owing to defective eyesight or some other medical cause were not accepted.

During the year the Grand Jury, the *World* newspaper, and the *Point Grey Gazette* took occasion to refer to the work that we are trying to do, and I have thought that probably the members of the Legislature might be interested in learning from these outside and independent sources something of what is being done in the Point Grey institution. When the Grand Jury visited the school in October the Superintendent was absent in the city, having taken two young men from the school to the recruiting-station to join the 72nd Highlanders. Under the guidance of First Assistant Forsyth the Grand Jury visited the day-school where some fifty boys were busy at their various studies; they inspected the dormitories, laundry, dining-room, etc., and were interested in seeing the boys at work in the tailoring, shoemaking, carpentry, cooking, and bakery departments, after which all the boys were lined up on the playground for military drill, which was conducted by officers selected from their own ranks. The Superintendent arrived on the scene in time to hear the Foreman, E. W. McLean, compliment Sergeant-Major (Boy No. 254) for the highly creditable way in which he had put the boys through their military evolutions. In their presentment to Justice Gregory the Grand Jury stated that they were favourably impressed with the conduct and management of the institution, being assured from their investigation that those in charge were endeavouring to uplift and make good citizens out of the boys committed to their care.

A short time ago the *Vancouver World* (quite unsolicited) sent a representative from that journal to the school; the gentleman asked many questions and was shown over the buildings, and on the following Saturday a write-up appeared in the *World* under the heading "Vancouver Bad Boys now on the Firing Line," which reads as follows:—

"Over thirty (now increased to fifty) students and ex-students of the Provincial Industrial School at Point Grey have enlisted for service on the Continent. Quite a number of them have been on the firing line for some time, having gone with the First Contingent, and nothing but the highest reports of their general conduct and bravery in action have been received. In more than one incident it is known that they have distinguished themselves, and it was with this in mind that a *World* reporter approached Superintendent D. Donaldson for particulars.

"Mr. Donaldson, however, was averse to giving the names or experiences of some of the boys, and quite rightly so, because he considers that a boy who has left his institution and is making his way in such a creditable manner should have nothing made public of his identity that would possibly stamp him as an industrial-school boy, leaving room for criticism in after-years. 'Were I to tell you some of the noteworthy experiences of some of our boys you would at once recognize the names concerned,' said Mr. Donaldson, 'and for that reason their feats must come through some other channel than the school. We are all proud of their record however, for one thing we do try to do in the institution is to turn out good Canadian citizens and loyal subjects of the Empire. In the ten years the school has been established over 300 students have passed through our hands, and, deducting those not eligible for joining the ranks, such as American boys, Germans, Chinese, Japanese, etc., it is worthy of note that one out of every five eligible have joined the colours, and more are endeavouring to do so.'

"At present there are ninety boys in the institution. Since the school was instituted 300 boys have passed through Mr. Donaldson's hands, and the fact that, according to the Superintendent, only some ten or twelve have gone astray since leaving the school, stamps the work of the institution as a mighty achievement. Constantly Mr. Donaldson is in receipt of letters from former inmates from all parts of the world thanking him for what the school has done for them. Many of the boys are now married, and all, almost without exception, have taken their places as desirable citizens of whatever part of the world they may happen to be in. There is no doubt but that the training and environments thrown about them have been responsible for the eminently satisfactory condition—a splendid exemplification of what modern methods will do with incorrigible boys or youngsters who, through circumstances over which largely they have no control, have committed some act not in strict accordance with the eye of the law.

"'What is responsible for boys coming here?' Mr. Donaldson was asked.

"'Largely too much steam,' he replied without hesitation. That answer in a large measure explains the Superintendent's policy in dealing with the boys. To him they are just boys. He is not particularly concerned with what deed has brought them into the institution. He looks at them all as just the ordinary animal, boy, with ambitions and bubbling over with boyish spirits. Working from that hypothesis, he does what any sensible parent would do, uses common-sense methods in dealing with them.

"The idea of the Provincial Industrial School is to get as far as possible away from the conception of the building as a place where boys are confined as in gaol. On the other hand, it is endeavoured to make the school as much like a home as possible. Perhaps not all those indescribable influences of a home are found in the institution—that would be impossible—but every possible home association is thrown around the boys, as well as other influences for rapid development of the boy physically and mentally that perhaps many of these boys would not find in the homes they have come from.

"There are no visible restraints making the boy stay in the place, and it is easy for him to run away from the grounds, but few of them do so after they have been there a few months. For one thing, they are invariably detected and brought back; but principally they do not wish to leave the place, realizing they are fleeing from something that they unconsciously feel is for their own good. It is not an uncommon sight, when special events take place at the school, to see boys who have left the place come back for the day to help with the events. The tendency to run away is, of course, pronounced when the boy first enters the place, and the rather astonishing reason for this is cigarettes. Almost all the boys sent to Point Grey are cigarette-smokers, and when first entering the longing to run away for a short time to have a smoke is strong. This is overcome, however, after the first six months.

"The boys are in competent hands at the school, there being an instructors' staff of eight people. They are given several hours' recreation a day, some hours of study, and also instruction in manual training. They do a lot of the repair-work of the institution, and the many samples of their handiwork about the place shows that many of them are getting a training that will be useful to them in after-years. Some of the boys learn shoemaking, and the *World* man saw a pair of boots that one of them had turned out that for style and general appearance rivalled any of the high-priced shoes from well-known makers that are sold down-town. All the uniforms are made in the tailor-shop, and good-looking clothes they are. In the kitchen and bake-shop more of the boys are qualifying as cooks and bakers, and out on the farm others again are getting a useful knowledge of agriculture, as well as building up a sound constitution.

"Monday morning is wash-day at the school, and the boys take turns in running the washing-machines, and there is considerable washing, too, for every week each boy gets clean sheets for his bed and a clean change of underwear. With regular baths and several swims each week in the bay near by, cleanliness is a fetish with them. This is probably responsible for the wonderful immunity from contagious diseases the school has enjoyed since its inception, there having been only one or two cases in all of that time. The hospital is practically deserted for months at a time, excepting perhaps when new boys enter, when often surgical attention is necessary to correct irregularities which would handicap the youngsters the rest of their lives.

"The boys feed well, too—good wholesome food such as a growing boy requires, with plenty of milk and fresh butter from their own farm. It is doubtful if any boys in the city drink more milk than they do.

"From a casual inspection of the institution one cannot but be convinced that the results obtained are highly satisfactory and the school fulfilling a great mission in the bad-boy problem. Bad boy is not a good term to use either, for Mr. Donaldson does not believe there are bad boys as a general principle. His boys are just like other boys, and all they require is the chance and the training to acquit themselves as other good boys do."

On Saturday, September 26th last, the Superintendent was surprised to find some very complimentary remarks about the school in the *Point Grey Weekly Gazette*, and especially gratified from the fact that the editor who wrote the article was a former official. The article referred to was headed "Turning Wayward Boys into Useful Citizens," and reads as follows:—

"A work which has received a certain amount of publicity from time to time, but which is worthy of a larger measure of interest and praise than has been accorded it by the public, is that being carried on by the Industrial School, Point Grey, under the superintendence of Mr. D. Donaldson.

"Our attention was directed to that admirable institution recently by the item which appeared in the Vancouver papers describing the visit of eighty-six boys from the School to

the Colony Farm at Coquitlam, the excursion being made in gaily decorated autos to the accompaniment of their own band of juvenile musicians, and while we lack space and ability to fittingly describe the benefits to society which accrue from educating the wayward boys of the Province to lead clean, useful lives, we feel it our duty to seize the opportunity to pay a brief tribute of praise.

"The criticism has been levelled against present-day educational systems in general that they do little to evolve character and to fit youth for the struggle to earn a living, which is every day becoming more intense. 'What is the use of my boy spending several years in learning Latin and French or geometry,' many parents ask themselves, 'when he might be better employed?' Indeed, it is painfully true that instruction given tends to fill the ranks of the already overcrowded professions, instead of giving us more farmers and better mechanics.

"In this respect the boys sent to the Industrial School have a distinct advantage over the pupils of the public school, for the instruction they receive is not only extremely practical, but is given under ideal conditions, with all the appurtenances which transform study from wearisome drudgery to most fascinating employment. In place of learning something about farming and fruit-growing, for instance, from text-books, they go out to the school's own farm, dig in the earth, plant, weed, and harvest, handle tools, learning more during the season about nature's mysterious processes than the average public school boy could learn from text-books in a century.

"The school has its own tailor-shop and shoe-shop where both clothes and shoes are made for the boys, and its manual-training classes in which they are given instruction in wood-working and kindred branches, the idea throughout being to educate head and hand so that when the boys are allowed out on parole they will be able to get a good start in life. Nor is instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, and other branches neglected, for all the boys study half a day under a properly qualified instructor.

"Our Provincial Government has come in for a good deal of criticism lately on one score and another, but even its most rabid opponents must admit that it is entitled to a great deal of credit for its foresight in early recognizing the need of an institution of this character, and the uniformly liberal way it has supported it financially and fostered its progress.

"The school seems to be improving all the time, which may be attributed in part to the perfect harmony which exists between the various officials, and to the fact that the ideals of roughness and rowdiness which some of the older boys who were there at the beginning inculcated have been dissipated by time.

"Emerson has told us that 'every institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man,' and the success which has attended the efforts of the Industrial School in transforming wayward boys into useful citizens may be attributed in no small measure to the zeal and ability and force of character of the Superintendent, Mr. Donaldson.

"Mr. Donaldson is not one of those martinets who seizes every opportunity to break the spirit of those under their jurisdiction by punishing every minor infraction of rules with despotic severity, nor is he one of those bigots who strive to hold before the youthful mind the example of cold and austere morality. On the contrary, he tempers firmness with affection, masks the iron hand with the velvet glove, and by his broad-mindedness not only sets an example to the boys which they may follow to advantage through life, but secures their co-operation and rouses their dormant better selves.

"This article would be incomplete without some reference to Mr. William Forsyth, formerly of the Seaforth Highlanders, who is the physical exercise and drill instructor, and who has taught the boys the drill, and whose efficiency in that line has given the school advantages equal to any military academy.

"Another official, Mr. Collier, the manual-training expert, has organized the band of twenty boy musicians which took part in the recent excursion to Coquitlam, opened the Point Grey Horticultural Show, and bids fair to win for itself an excellent standing in musical circles.

"Instead of sending boys to the Industrial School for a definite time, as was formerly the custom, they are now sent for an indefinite period, the Superintendent recommending them for parole as soon as they demonstrate that they have outgrown their waywardness and are capable of becoming useful members of society.

"It is a self-evident proposition that there is no work as important as man-making, for we may be sure that if we have the right kind of men society as a whole will be all right, and there will be little, if any, need for gaols, prisons, saloons, law courts, almshouses, and similar institutions which we have grown to look upon as integral parts of our civilization, and which constitute such a heavy drain upon the average man's purse. The Industrial School is doing a splendid work in making men—in transforming the youth who usually is to blame for nothing except misdirected energy, but who, if left to himself, would in all probability develop into a criminal or parasite, into a valuable member of society."

The Superintendent is deeply grateful to the many friends who during the year have taken a practical interest in the welfare of the boys in supplying useful and interesting reading-matter and entertaining them in various ways. One outstanding feature of the year was the never-to-be-forgotten automobile excursion to the Provincial Government Colony Farm Essondale, which was an education to the boys. The *Western Canadian Motorist* of the month of October made reference to the trip as follows:—

"INDUSTRIAL BOYS' HOME OUTING.

"On Friday, September 18th, the boys of the Provincial Industrial Home, Point Grey, to the number of eighty-five, with nine attendants, including the Superintendent, Mr. D. Donaldson, were given an automobile outing to the Colony Farm at Essondale, where, through the kindness of Dr. McKay, the Superintendent, they were conducted over the farm premises.

"Leaving the home at 12.45, a procession of twenty automobiles belonging to members of the club, and headed by Chief Constable M. B. McLennan in his car, made the run to Columbia Street, New Westminster, where the members of the band left the cars and paraded along the business portion of that thoroughfare playing patriotic selections. This was the first time the band had appeared in that city, and from the welcome accorded it from the citizens who lined the sidewalks it was well received.

"Arriving at the mental home in New Westminster, the bands furnished several selections to the inmates in the grounds of that institution.

"Leaving again at 2.15 and headed by Dr. McKay in his car, a very pleasant run was made through Sapperton to the Provincial Asylum at Essondale, which is used solely for mentally afflicted men, the institution at New Westminster being used for women only. Driving into the grounds, the members of the boys' band again repeated the performance given at New Westminster, the inmates being allowed out on the screened balconies. After playing for half an hour the run was continued to the Colony Farm, which is within half a mile of the asylum. The boys were here shown the registered Holstein herd, the property of the Provincial Government, and the machinery used for cooling the milk, ripening the cream, and making the butter (all of which is used by the inmates of the two mental institutions) was shown and explained to them. A visit to the stables and a trotting exhibition of the blue-ribbon pacer owned by the Government brought the visit to a close, after which, through the kindness of Dr. McKay, the boys were supplied with milk and sandwiches, which were done full justice to. Another short performance by the band and the return drive to the

home at Point Grey completed a very enjoyable afternoon for the boys. In connection with the above the following communication has been received by the club:—

“*To the Secretary and Members of the Vancouver Automobile Club:*

“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in forwarding the enclosed resolution passed by the boys on their return to the school from the long-to-be-remembered auto drive, and permit me on my own behalf to thank the members of the club who gave the boys such an enjoyable day.

“Also the Honourable Mr. Bowser, as Attorney-General, has wired me to express his appreciation, and thank the club for their thoughtful and generous action.

“Very sincerely yours,

“(Sgd.) D. DONALDSON, *Superintendent.*”

“The resolution is as follows: ‘That we, the boys of the Provincial Industrial School, desire to thank the members of the Vancouver Automobile Club for their kindness in remembering us, and giving us such a splendid day’s outing. We will never forget our visit to the Colony Farm, and we hope that on some future occasion the members of the club will think of us again.’

“The following members of the club supplied automobiles: Mrs. W. H. Morrow, Mrs. J. A. Chambers, Mrs. Leslie Wright, and Mrs. D. McLeod, Messrs. T. J. Whiteside, H. W. White, Wm. J. Tulk, C. N. Lee, L. R. Bentson, J. P. D. Malkin, Ald. S. J. Crowe, E. J. Smardon, Captain French, H. E. MacDonald, F. W. Turner, W. D. Muir, W. G. Patrick (two cars), and A. Kerr.

“Major-General Lessard, who was in the city, being on the staff of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on the occasion of his visit to the Coast, also took advantage of the opportunity and was conveyed to the farm in Chief Constable McLennan’s automobile.”

As we look back upon the work of the year we are encouraged to believe that our labours have not been in vain, but that fruit will appear. Letters and personal visits from almost unmanageable boys of years ago, now useful law-abiding citizens, quite a few of whom are married and have families, make us feel well repaid for efforts made to reclaim those who had gone astray and bring them back to the paths of rectitude.

The following are the present staff of officers:—

Superintendent—D. Donaldson.

Matron and Housekeeper—Mrs. Donaldson.

School-teacher—Miss Mabel F. Pullen.

Gardener and Farm Instructor—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. Strong.

Fifth Assistant—J. C. Allan.

Cook and Baker—Hugh Duff.

Night officer—Thomas F. Calbick.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. DONALDSON, *Superintendent.*

University Avenue, Point Grey, November 30th, 1915.

VICTORIA, B.C.:

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

1916.