ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,

NEW WESTMINSTER,

FOR THE

YEAR 1886.

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at the Government Printing Office, James' Bay.

REPORT

ON THE

ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

NEW WESTMINSTER.

FOR THE YEAR

1886.

To the Honourable CLEMENT FRANCIS CORNWALL,

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The undersigned respectfully submits, herewith, the Annual Report of the Medical Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane for the year 1886.

JNO. ROBSON,

Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,

19th March, 1887.

PROVINCIAL ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., 26th Jan., 1887.

To the Hon. John Robson,
Provincial Secretary.

SIR,—In the annual Report of this Asylum for 1886 enclosed, I beg to call your attention to my remarks with regard to the Estimates required. We require less money, but divided up differently; also, to the question of the water supply. I am glad to say that I consider the report on expenditure and the general health of this institution to be very satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
R. I. BENTLEY,
Medical Superintendent.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1886.

To the Hon. John Robson,
Provincial Secretary.

SIR,—I have the honour to herewith present the Report for the fifteenth year of this Asylum, ending 31st December, 1886.

The usual tables are appended, containing such information as is annually required.

The total number received during the year was twenty-seven (27); the number discharged, seventeen (17); and the number of deaths, six (6).

RECEIVED.

The number of admissions, twenty-seven (27), is greater than the year before by six (6). This does not prove that insanity is on the increase in British Columbia, as six (6) of the number received were new comers to the Province during the year. Five (5) of those admitted are Chinamen, which makes a total of thirteen (13) Chinese in the institution. It does seem a pity that this undesirable class should be such an expense to the country.

DISCHARGED.

The number discharged, seventeen (17), of whom one (1) was removed by relations, improved. The other sixteen (16) were discharged cured. This does not mean that some of them may not become insane again, but that they were perfectly sane when they were sent out of the Asylum. This is the largest percentage of cured to admissions since the Asylum was opened, and is, I believe, in a great measure due to their out-door work and regular life.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths, six (6), of which four (4) were from general paralysis, one (1) from general debility, and one (1) from exhaustion. This is not a large number amongst the eighty-eight (88) diseased and infirm people treated during the year.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The improvements which have been added by the Government to the building during the two previous years have greatly increased the comfort and general health of the inmates. In fact, I can almost say that there has not been any sickness, except those kinds which result direct from their mental condition. The introduction of gas, which I believe to be the intention of the Government, will be a great improvement, as at present the filling and cleaning of our large number of lamps occupies a great deal of the time of one of the keepers.

The water supply, I am sorry to say, will soon have to be attended to. At present our supply is derived from about a mile up the ravine which runs past the old Government House. The present dam and supply-pipe were put in seven years ago last June. Our main is only one and a half inch pipe (that of the Penitentiary, starting about half a mile above ours, being five-inch pipe), and probably owing to rust and sediment deposited in the angles formed by the

unevenness of its course (in some two or more places it dips down abruptly fully ten feet into small ravines and then rises as abruptly on the other side), the force of the stream is much less and the volume of water not so large as it was a few years ago. Another source of trouble in connection with this subject is this: The Dominion Government have enclosed the ground over our line of pipe with a twelve-foot fence, which, when any break occurs, necessitates our having to walk to the Penitentiary first to get permission of the Warden and the key of the gate leading into this enclosure before we can find out where the leak is, then back over the same ground a distance of over a mile, then to get a plumber to go this round-about way before it can be repaired. We have had one break this winter so far, and may have more Our dam is some distance above the Penitentiary fence, and if a straight pipe could be laid by going a little higher up the ravine, outside the fence, it would be better. In fact, I expect it will be a matter of necessity, for when they begin to cultivate their new enclosure our pipe may be seriously damaged. I would respectfully suggest the advisability of having a civil engineer examine the land as soon as possible.

I purpose enclosing ten acres more behind the building with a rough fence, and clearing away the brush and underwood for the use of our live stock; this will allow me to put in roots in the front for winter feeding.

The question of more sleeping accommodation will soon have to be taken up again. The ward formerly occupied by the women in the main building is as full as it can hold—seven beds in the bed-rooms and six in the day-room. The dormitory in the new wing contains six convalescents.

EXPENDITURE.

The "per capita" cost (Table 14) covers all expenses, including salaries, food, fuel, and lighting, drugs, furniture, bedding, stationery, &c.; and, in fact, all expenses connected with the institution, except what belongs to the Lands and Works Department and transport of lunatics and keepers to the Asylum.

This brings the cost of each patient for the past year down to 67½ cents per day, which is 11 cents less than the year before. This is accounted for by the savings from the garden and milk, and the increase in the number of patients without any increase in the number of the staff of employés; the average number of patients per day being sixty-two (62), while that of last year was fifty-four and two-thirds (54⅔). The total expenditure for "maintenance" during the past year was $5,977, being $607.60 less than the previous year and $1,673 less than the amount ($7,650) allowed in the Estimates, which shows that the institution has been carried on in as economical a manner as possible.

ESTIMATES.

The estimated amount required to carry on this institution for the coming year will be as follows:—

Salaries	$9,400 00	
Provisions	4,500 00	
Fuel	900 00	
Medicines	200 00	
Clothing	400 00	
Furnitnre, Stoves, Bedding, &c	250 00	
Transport of Lunatics and Keepers	300 00	
Miscellaneous	200 00	
		$16,150 00
LANDS AND WORKS:—		
Lumber Tools, &c., &c		300 00
Total		$16,450 00

I had hoped to give an estimate of the cost of putting in gas, but have not yet obtained it from the manager of the Gas Works. Although the amount asked for this year is not so large as that allowed, it would be more convenient if divided up differently, as the amounts voted for Lands and Works, Fuel, Furniture, and Bedding were not enough, while some of the others were unnecessarily large.

GARDEN.

Our garden did very well for new ground this year, as may be seen in the returns (Table No. 15). Over 20,000 pounds of vegetables were gathered, which, if bought at the current contract price of 1½ cents per pound, would have amounted to $210. This I hope will be increased yearly. We cannot expect much return from the orchard yet, but I hope next year to have quite a supply of small fruit for the patients during the summer.

WORK.

This means the work done by the patients under the guidance of attendants. As I stated in my last year's report, no one is compelled to work, and they are only allowed to work in fine weather and then only for 5 or 6 hours a day. The average number of workers among the men was twenty-two, including six who work indoors. The number of days' work done was 4,265. The work done consisted of taking an old barn to pieces, from the materials of which were built a stable and carriage-house, a cow-house, a tool-house and shed, and a morgue. Besides this we built a green-house to protect our plants during the winter, made a large lawn for games, made sidewalk, repaired roads, prepared the ground for cultivation, and a lot of small carpenter work, &c., too numerous to mention.

The female patients did a lot of work this year, out-door weeding and in-door sewing, as shown in Table No. 13.

PAYING PATIENTS.

The total amount collected from this class during the year was $50.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

I have great pleasure in acknowledging, with thanks, gift of a large number of books for our library from the Lord Bishop of New Westminster and the Venerable Archdeacon Woods; also, pictures for the women's bed-rooms from the Rev. Mr. Croucher. Again, I have to thank the publishers of the two local papers for the *British Columbian* and *Mainland Guardian* received regularly.

AMUSEMENTS.

Almost everything is done that can be done by way of amusement without the help of music. The enjoyment that could be derived from a piano would be quite worth the expense. The men play draughts and dominoes, and the women have a dance by themselves once a week without music. I hope to have the lawn ready for out-door games of ball, tennis, &c., for the patients by summer.

DIVINE SERVICE.

Every Wednesday during the past year service has been held by the Venerable Archdeacon Woods. The average attendance was twenty-nine (29), and the services seemed to be appreciated by all. Again, I have much pleasure in thanking a number of young ladies from the city who attended regularly to assist in the singing.

At the close of another year I have pleasure in thanking the Steward, Matron, and all the employés for their careful attention to the comfort and welfare of the patients and their willing assistance to myself.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) R. I. BENTLEY, M.B.,

Medical Superintendent.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT.

TABLE 1.

Showing the number of patients in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1885, number admitted, number under care and treatment, number discharged and died, and the number remaining in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1886.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of patients on 31st December, 1885	51	10	61
Number admitted during the year	27	.....	27
Number under care and treatment	78	10	88
Number discharged recovered	14	2	16
Number discharged improved	1	.....	1
Number died	6	.....	6
Number discharged and died	21	2	23
Number of patients remaining 31st December, 1886	57	8	65

TABLE 2.

Showing the place of residence from which patients were received during the year 1886.

Place of Residence.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Nicola	1	.....	1
Mission Valley	1	.....	1
Chemainus	2	.....	2
New Westminster	7	.....	7
Granite Creek	1	.....	1
Nanaimo	1	.....	1
Victoria	10	.....	10
Kamloops	1	.....	1
Vancouver	3	.....	3
	27	.....	27

TABLE 3.

Showing the birth place of patients received during the year 1886.

Birth Place.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Canada	5	.....	5
China	5	.....	5
England	6	.....	6
United States	4	.....	4
Douglas, B. C.	1	.....	1
Ireland	5	.....	5
Sweden	1	.....	1
	27	.....	27

TABLE 4.

Showing the ages of patients at the time of their admission during the year 1886.

Ages.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Between 20 and 25	7	.....	7
Between 25 and 30	3	.....	3
Between 30 and 35	3	.....	3
Between 35 and 40	3	.....	3
Between 40 and 45	2	.....	2
Between 45 and 50	4	.....	4
Between 50 and 55	5	.....	5
	27	.....	27

TABLE 5.

Showing the supposed cause of the insanity of patients admitted during the year 1886.

Suppposed Cause.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Hereditary	1	.....	1
Loss of money	2	.....	2
Tape-worm	1	.....	1
Property trouble	1	.....	1
Drink	8	.....	8
Masturbation	1	.....	1
Fright	1	.....	1
Ill health	1	.....	1
Spiritualism	1	.....	1
Not known	10	.....	10
	27	.....	27

TABLE 6.

Showing the class of insanity of patients admitted during the year 1886.

Form of Insanity.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Mania	11	.....	11
Melancholia	10	.....	10
Dementia	4	.....	4
Imbecile	2	.....	2
	27	.....	27

TABLE 7.

Showing the social state of patients admitted during the year 1886.

Social State.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Married	7	.....	7
Single	20	.....	20
	27	.....	27

TABLE 8.

Showing the occupation of patients admitted during the year 1886.

Occupation.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Carpenters	4	.....	4
Farm Labourers	1	.....	1
Miners	2	.....	2
Inn-keepers	1	.....	1
Bakers	1	.....	1
Cooks	1	.....	1
Sailors	1	.....	1
Soap Makers	1	.....	1
Ship Calkers	1	.....	1
Labourers	14	.....	14
	27	.....	27

TABLE 9.

Showing the religion of patients received during the year 1886.

Religion.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Church of England	5	.....	5
Roman Catholic	6	.....	6
Presbyterian	4	.....	4
W. Methodists	4	.....	4
Lutheran	1	.....	1
Spiritualist	1	.....	1
Chinese	5	.....	5
Not known	1	.....	1
	27	.....	27

TABLE 10.

Showing the age, length of residence, and proximate cause of death of those who died during the year 1886.

Initials.	Sex.	Age.	Date of Death.	Residence in Asylum.			Proximate Cause of Death.
				Years.	Months.	Days.	
A. P.	M.	30	10th January, 1886.	.....	11	25	General Paralysis.
W. B.	M.	50	19th January, 1886.	1	1	8	General Paralysis.
D. P.	M.	69	3rd May, 1886.	.....	6	5	General Debility.
J. D.	M.	53	13th Sept., 1886.	3	5	2	General Paralysis.
A. C.	M.	52	24th Sept., 1886.	.....	.....	9	Exhaustion.
P. C.	M.	47	25th Oct., 1886.	.....	4	23	General Paralysis.

TABLE 11.

Showing the admissions, discharges, deaths, escapes; number resident at the close of each year; increase or decrease each year; number treated each year; percentage of recoveries and deaths from the opening of the Asylum to the present date, December 31st, 1886.

Years.	Admissions.	Recoveries.	Discharged uncured.	Deaths.	Escaped.	No. resident at close of each year.	Increase.	Decrease.	Whole number treated.	Per cent. of Recoveries to admission.	Per cent. of Deaths to number treated.
1872	18	1	.....	1	.....	16	.....	2	18	5.55	5.55
1873	15	10	2	5	.....	14	.....	2	32	66.66	15.62
1874	12	4	.....	3	.....	19	5	.....	26	33.33	11.53
1875	29	3	3	10	.....	32	13	.....	48	10.34	20.83
1876	22	11	3	5	.....	35	3	....	54	50.00	9.25
1877	14	6	3	3	.....	37	2	.....	49	42.85	6.12
1878	17	8	.....	9	1	36	.....	1	54	47.05	16.16
1879	18	5	.....	8	.....	41	5	.....	54	27.77	14.81
1880	17	4	.....	5	1	48	7	.....	58	23.52	8.62
1881	13	5	3	5	.....	48	.....	.....	61	38.46	8.19
1882	7	3	1	2	.....	49	1	.....	55	42.85	3.63
1883	8	4	1	3	.....	49	.....	.....	57	50.00	5.26
1884	10	5	1	2	.....	51	2	.....	59	50.00	3.38
1885	21	5	1	5	.....	61	10	.....	80	23.80	6.25
1886	27	17	1	6	.....	65	4	.....	88	62.96	6.81

TABLE 12.

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1886.

PROVISIONS :—		
Butter	$511 08	
Sugar	170 77	
Oatmeal	54 63	
Eggs	37 92	
Ham	52 41	
Currants and Raisins	13 35	
Tea	81 24	
Salt and Pepper	11 02	
Cheese	23 85	
Worcester Sauce	9 90	
Coffee	22 40	
Apples	17 85	
Pearl Barley	2 97	
Mustard	18 18	
Syrup	43 75	
Flour	14 45	
Small Groceries	8 45	
Rice	5 75	
Lard	1 30	
Sago	7 25	
Vinegar	3 50	
Beans	11 32	
Corn Starch	98	
Pickles	3 25	
Feed for Cow	40 16	
Beef and Mutton	1,275 84	
Vegetables	289 80	
Bread	820 66	
Milk	306 21	
Fish	104 25	
Sal Soda	12 00	
Tobacco	84 24	
Coal Oil	136 80	
Matches	7 82	
Soap	38 50	
Brooms and Brushes	16 47	
Knife Brick	90	
		4,261 26
FUEL :—		
Coal, Wood, and Bark		816 00
MEDICINES :—		
Drugs and Surgical Instruments		94 26
CLOTHING :—		
Clothing, Hats, Boots, and Slippers		362 87
FURNITURE :—		
Furniture, Stoves, Bedding, and Lamps		195 98
MISCELLANEOUS :—		
Funeral Expenses	90 00	
Post Office Box and Stamps	15 00	
Miscellaneous	85 63	
		190 63
SALARIES :—		
Salaries and wages		9,400 00
		$15,321 00
TRANSPORT :—		
Transport of Lunatics and Keepers		56 00
LANDS AND WORKS :—		
Lumber, Shingles, Nails, Glass, Paint and Putty, Wheelbarrows and Tools, Blacksmith and Plumber's Work, &c		287 34
Total		$15,664 34

TABLE 13.

Showing amount of work done by Female Patients during the year 1886.

Aprons	44
Chemises	11
Curtains for Windows	4
Drawers repaired	241
Dusters	24
Dresses	10
Flannels repaired	297
Night gowns	2
Petticoats	2
Pillow cases	58
Pocket-handkerchiefs	10
Pillow ticks	16
Pillow cases	119
Sheets repaired	589
Shirts repaired	12
Scrub clothes	12
Serge Jackets	1
Sheets	41
Socks, knitted (pairs)	10
Serge wrapper	1
Tape-yards	32
Neckties	85
Towels	46
Table cloths	3
Mending for male and femals patients.	

TABLE 14.

Showing the average number of patients per day, and average cost per day and per month for the year 1886.

Months.	Average number of Patients daily.	Average daily Expenses.	Average cost per capita per day.	Average cost per capita per month.
			cts.	
January	61	$44 28	72	$22 55
February	63	46 82	74	21 01
March	60	43 00	71	22 05
April	59	41 05	69	20 80
May	57	39 15	69	21 59
June	59	40 89	68	20 58
July	62	41 56	66	20 75
August	63	39 46	62	19 38
September	67	42 78	64	19 38
October	65	40 26	61	19 08
November	63	41 01	65	19 53
December	64	43 79	68	21 24
	62	42 50	67½	20 66

TABLE 15.

Showing Produce of Garden for the year 1886.

Potatoes	12,588	pounds.
Cabbage	1,739	,,
Swede turnips	2,873	,,
White turnips	164	,,
Carrots	1,739	,,
Beets	42	,,
Cauliflower	130	,,
Tomatoes	200	,,
Cucumbers	56	,,
Green Peas	58	,,
Indian Corn	86	,,
Beans	26	gallons.
Parsnips	49	pounds.
Celery	18	heads.

R. J. BENTLEY,
Medical Superintendent.

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