PROVINCIAL INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Hon. W. J. Bowser,
Attorney-General, Victoria, B. C.

Sir,—I have the honour to present to you and the Honourable Members of the Legislature the Sixth Annual Report of the Provincial Industrial School, giving some particulars of our work during the year ending 30th November, 1910.

I am pleased to report that the year has been a very satisfactory one, and we have reason to be thankful for the measure of success that has followed our labours, in our endeavour to transfer youthful offenders into good and useful citizens.

During the year twenty-one boys have entered the school, making a total of 134 since the institution was opened, 1st February, 1905.

Twenty-three boys have been liberated during the past twelve months, fifteen having been pardoned, or paroled, for good conduct. One boy who was sentenced for theft had his case appealed, and his sentence was cancelled by His Honour Judge McInnes.

At the present time there are forty-three boys in the school, their terms ranging from six months to five years; others are indefinite.

Of the ninety-one boys who have been liberated since the school was opened, seventy-three were pardoned or paroled, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, while the remaining eighteen, who served out their full sentence, did so in nearly every case because it was a kindness to the boys, as some of them had no home to go to, while in the other cases the homes were not of a desirable character.

In regard to the boys who have left the school, the Superintendent continues to receive letters and photos from many of them. Some fifty of the boys have manifested their kindly feelings towards their Alma Mater by coming back (many of them repeatedly) to visit the school, have a chat with the officials, and enjoy a game of football with the boys, or spend a healthful half-hour in the gymnasium; while others who are scattered over the Province, and some in the United States, communicate with the Superintendent. It is a satisfaction to know that they have carried with them an affection for the school and for those who have tried to change their lives, in turning their steps from a course of folly to one of self-respect and honour.

One boy who had a five years' sentence, and who was paroled for good conduct and is making a good record, wrote me recently that he has saved enough money to start a home for himself, and has forwarded $250 to the Old Land to bring out the young woman that he had left behind him as a girl years ago. Another boy writes me that he is earning $100 a month. Quite a few of the old boys are earning good wages in their different callings, and give evidence of the same by their dress and general respectable appearance.

As may be expected, we have our disappointments; some that started out well and gave good promise have got weary in well-doing and have fallen back into evil habits.

Also considering the class of boys sent to the school, all being of the incorrigible class, some of them are very trying, and it requires the exercise of much patience in handling them ; at the same time many of them appreciate the work done in their behalf. The following extract from a letter written by one of the larger boys to his mother some months ago speaks for itself. He says : "We had a lovely time both at Christmas and New Year. For Christmas dinner we had turkey, plum pudding, etc.; in the afternoon we had candy, oranges, and apples, and for supper a large piece of fruit cake. Mother, I thought I was coming to a reformatory, but this is a home. You couldn't wish anything better."

I am also glad to report that many of the parents are appreciative of our work, the following being a sample of some of the letters we receive to cheer us up and brighten the way : "Many thanks for your kindness to our boy, and for the good care that yourself and other officials have taken of him. He speaks so highly of you and quite regrets leaving you, although of course glad to get home again. Believe me, etc."

The general health of the boys has been exceedingly good—in fact, not a serious case of illness during the year. A number of boys came to the school bringing with them enlarged tonsils, and the medical adviser, Dr. McPhillips, considered it wise to snip them, but none of them lost a meal over the operation.

Another boy sent to us had very crooked eyes which would have handicapped him for life. This poor little fellow hasn't a relative in the world to care for him. As an orphan he was adopted by a man and his wife in Scotland, who afterwards came to Canada. The foster-mother died some years ago and the foster-father deserted the boy. He was placed in various institutions in the East, but, as the chief of police in one of the cities wrote, none of them were able to hold him. He beat his way to Vancouver, and shortly after his arrival was arrested and sent to the Industrial School, where he has been for the past two years, and is turning out a good boy. I brought his case before the Hon Attorney-General, who authorised that he be operated on. The operation, I am glad to say, has been most successful, and will wonderfully help the poor boy in the battle of life that is before him.

The splendid health enjoyed by the boys I attribute to pure air and good wholesome food. The physique of the boys shows a great improvement very shortly after their admission to the school ; the healthy exercise in games and sports, also the training they get in the gymnasium and on the drill-ground, has a telling effect on their physical development. The evenings each week spent in the gymnasium is a pleasant and healthful pastime for them, and some of the boys who have left during the year had become acrobats of no mean order.

Altogether the work done in the institution during the year has been of a very satisfactory character. The instructors at the head of each department have done his and her best, and have rendered great assistance to the Superintendent, in order by precept and example to inculcate such teachings as may induce the boys to take a different view of life to what they have been accustomed in the past, and be led to become good and useful citizens.

We aim to do for the boy what his former environment has failed to do, the cause of many of the boys' delinquencies being often a lack of home training. We make the institution a home and school, eliminating the prison idea as much as possible.

SCHOOL STUDIES.

Every boy is enrolled in school and spends nearly three hours each day in the regular public-school studies. The boys in the Primer and 1st and 2nd Reader classes attend school in the forenoon, and the more advanced classes in the afternoon. This arrangement gives all the boys the opportunity of getting an education, and at the same time to learn a trade, or get experience in farm and garden work.

TAILORING.

The tailoring department is in good running-order and turns out all the working clothes and Sunday uniforms worn by the boys, as well as the uniforms of the officials. Two boys who spent about a year in the tailor's shop left the school recently, each proudly wearing a suit of clothes made altogether by himself.

SHOE-SHOP.

During the year we started a shoemaking-shop with a throughly competent instructor in charge. All the boots worn by the boys are now made on the premises; quite a number of the boys give promise to become very proficient in both the tailoring and shoemaking departments.

FARM AND GARDEN.

A great deal of useful but very hard work has been done during the year by the farm instructor and the larger boys. Besides the routine work of keeping the cattle, horses, pigs, and poultry in good condition, cultivating the young orchard (some 3 acres) and the vegetable garden, and keeping lawns, shrubs, and flower-gardens in good order, a tract of land some 2 acres that was literally covered with stones and boulders was cleared of the same, ploughed and planted with potatoes. Another couple of acres through which a creek flowed has been cleared of boulders and roots. On this part of the farm it was found necessary to build a large box sewer 2 feet deep and 4 feet wide to accommodate the heavy flow of water during the rainy season; the sloping banks on either side were ploughed and scraped to completely cover the waterway, so that cultivation can proceed on the same, converting into good garden what was previously waste land.

Also some 500 feet of underdraining has been done, the same being constructed of broken-up boulders and stones.

These improvements with a number of minor ones, together with the ordinary work of planting, weeding, and harvesting, as well as cutting about a hundred cords of firewood, have given the farm instructor and his boys an exceedingly busy year, and have also given the boys considerable practical experience that will come in useful to them later.

In connection with the farm and garden, we have harvested the following: Potatoes, 9 tons; parsnips, 4 tons; mangolds, 8 tons; corn feed, 3 tons; carrots, 1½ tons; onions, 1 ton; turnips, 1 ton; strawberries, 300 quarts; cabbage, 600 heads. Also an abundance of celery, lettuce, rhubarb, pumpkin, squash, and other miscellaneous garden products for use of the school.

In fact, our garden and farm have brought forth so abundantly that, like the man in the Gospels, we haven't got room to bestow all our goods, and in order to provide accommodation for next season's crop we will be obliged to ask for authority from the Department to build a root-house, waggon-sheds, etc., which are absolute necessities.

During the year we improved the various fire-escapes on the building, extending them all the way to the ground, to avoid accident in case of a panic. The boys get fire-drill frequently to prepare them for an emergency should it arise. At the last fire-drill, from the time the fire-bell rang until the drill instructor had opened the escape windows and the last boy was safely out, was less than two minutes.

As a protection from fire we have had water-pipes extended to various parts of the building, and taps for hose attachment installed, together with coils of rubber hose at each tap, so that water can be turned on at a moment's notice; also Babcock's Fire Extinguishers placed in various parts of the building, charged and ready for use. Two Ajax Hand Fire-

engines on wheels are now on order, and will be delivered in a few days, which can be used to good advantage in case of fire at the main building, the stables, or at the various cottages occupied by the officials. In this connection I might mention that the watchman's clock installed a few months since is a most valuable arrangement; the six stations at which the keys are rivetted, and to each of which the watchman must take his clock in order to punch the particular number, have been so arranged that it is necessary for him to pass through the entire main building and visit the stables, also on the way thither he passes the gymnasium building; thus the Superintendent knows positively each morning whether or not the hourly rounds have been made.

In regard to the work for the coming year, I have respectfully suggested to the Honourable the Attorney-General the importance of making provision in the Estimates for a carpenter, that the boys may be instructed in that important branch of work.

Instead of having a manual-training instructor and school-teacher combined, as in former years, who was compelled to divide his time between the school and the workshops, I believe that it will be in the best interests of the boys that a thoroughly competent man should be appointed for the workshops, and a lady teacher, as at present, have charge of the school. While a number of boys will always be detailed to the tailoring and shoemaking departments, yet it is most important that all should receive a good common-school education, also that as far as possible all should have a certain amount of experience in carpentry and farm and garden work, so that when thrown upon the world they may be able to earn an honest living. The erection of buildings, as mentioned, and the manufacture of tables, benches, wheelbarrows, etc., and doing repairs around the main buildings, will be good experience for the larger boys, while the smaller boys will be instructed in the use of tools in the manual-training shop. This will enable the lady teacher, who is now in charge of the school, and doing splendid work, to keep the school open during the whole day, which is very important, as many of the boys have had their education sadly neglected. For example, the last boy that came into the school is about thirteen years of age (part Indian). I pointed to the first letter of the alphabet, but he was unable to tell what letter it was, and quite a few of the larger boys are in the Primer and 1st and 2nd Reader classes. On the other hand, we have boys in the 4th class who are as sharp as steel traps. The teacher requires to be thoroughly capable—one who can patiently train the dull scholars and yet be thoroughly up to date for the alert students.

With this report I am taking the liberty of forwarding a photograph of the building with the boys and officials in front, also a photograph of one of the athletic classes taken in the gymnasium building. The following are the present staff of officials :—

Superintendent—D. Donaldson.
Matron and Housekeeper—Mrs. C. Donaldson.
Tailor and Drill Instructor—Wm. Forsyth.
Shoemaker and Assistant Drill Instructor—Alex. McLean.
Gardener—E. L. Woodruff.
Cook and Baker—S. Stevens.
Guard—Thos. Calbeck.
Nightwatchman—A. M. Evans.
School-teacher—Mrs. Brentall.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

D. DONALDSON,
Superintendent.

November 30th, 1910.

ADDENDUM.

The following memorandum gives the ages and countries of birth of each of the forty-three boys now in the school, also the various offences they committed, the length of their term of detention, together with the number of deaths, escapes, pardons, etc., recorded during the year, as required by the amendment to the Act of 1909:—

Age.

11 years	2	boys.
12 "	7	"
13 "	7	"
14 "	6	"
15 "	9	"
16 "	7	"
17 "	3	"
18 "	1	"
19 "	1	"

Countries where Born.

*Canada	27	boys.
United States	6	"
Scotland	4	"
China	2	"
England	1	"
Italy	1	"
Norway	1	"
Bulgaria	1	"

*British Columbia, 17 (three of whom are Indian); Ontario, 2; Quebec, 2; Nova Scotia, 2; Manitoba, 2; N. W. T., 2.)

Offences.

Incorrigible	16	boys.
Theft	19	"
Housebreaking	5	"
Wounding	1	"
Forgery	1	"
Murder	1	"

Terms of Detention.

Indefinite terms	9	boys.
Two years	17	"
Three years	8	"
Five years	8	"
Six months	1	"

Deaths.—None.

Escapes.

Two. One boy was captured two hours after, and the other one the following day.

Liberated During the Year.

Pardoned	6	boys.
Paroled	9	"
Served full term	7	"
Cases appealed and sentence cancelled	1	"

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