

ANDREW MERCER ONTARIO REFORMATORY FOR FEMALES, TORONTO.

In my last Annual Report, I gave a very minute description of the structure designed for the purposes of this institution, which is now supplemented by a wood-cut and an architectural description, prepared by the Architect of the Public Works Department. It will be unnecessary, therefore, to further refer to the structure, except in its bearing upon the system of management and discipline, which it is proposed to follow in administering the affairs of the institution.

During the last session of the Legislature, two Acts were passed, one providing for the organization and government of the "Andrew Mercer Ontario Reformatory for (adult) Females," and the other for the establishment of an "Industrial Refuge for Girls." These two institutions, although under the same roof, have each a separate and distinct work to perform, and for all practical purposes, particularly in the separation of their respective inmates, their disjunction will be as complete and effective as if they were miles apart. For these reasons, the two establishments will, in this and all future reports and references, be separately dealt with.

In the construction of the Reformatory for adults, the most advanced designs have been introduced, so as to obtain as perfect a system of classification as it is possible to have in the various dormitories, shops, work-rooms and other departments of the institution where the inmates associate.

There are twelve distinct corridors or wards in the building, to each of which is attached a separate work-room, and in addition the general work-shop is divided into two flats and five distinct compartments. Means are provided for either serving the meals separately or in partial association, as may be found most desirable, and there are also four distinct yards for airing and exercise. In fact, the structural arrangement of the building secures, in my opinion, the means for as perfect a system of classification of the inmates as can be obtained under the partially associated system, and as effective and practical a method of separation as under the silent, or solitary system, without its bad effects.

The following summary shews the division of the dormitory space, and the capacity of each ward, viz.:-

			Cells.	Rooms.	Total.
Basement, ward No.	1, east wing, front range of cells.....		16	...	16
"	" 2, " " rear " "		12	...	12
"	" 3, west " front " "		11	...	11
"	" 4, " " rear " "		10	...	10
Ground floor,	" 5, east " front " three } galleries of 16 cells in each }		48	...	48
"	" 6, west wing, front range of three } galleries of 11 cells in each }		33	...	33
"	" 7, east wing, rear range of rooms.....		...	12	12
"	" 8, west " " "	10	10
First storey,	" 9, east " range of rooms.....		...	12	12
"	" 10, west " "	10	10
Second storey	" 11, east " "	12	12
"	" 12, west " "	10	10
			130	66	196

From the above statement it will be seen that there are twelve distinct wards, with 130 cells and 66 small rooms, or a total dormitory capacity for 196 inmates. It will further be observed that the capacity of each ward is arranged to admit of from 10 to 48 prisoners being allotted thereto, so that while there are really only four grades of dormitory accommodation, namely, small and large cells and small and large rooms, these grades, by the sub-division of the wards, will admit of no less than twelve distinct classifications.

Having regard to the vital importance of the inmates of such an institution as this being properly separated and classified, it will be seen from the foregoing statement that this has been most effectively provided for, so far as the structural design of the building is concerned. This important desideratum being secured, it is only necessary to make the disciplinary arrangements of such a character as to fully accomplish the end in view.

The Act which was passed during the last session of the Legislature provides for two methods of commitment to the Reformatory, as the two following extracts from the Statute will shew, viz. :—

First. "All females from time to time confined in any of the common gaols of the Province, under sentence of imprisonment for any offence against any Act of the Legislature of the Province, may, by direction of the Provincial Secretary, be transferred from such common gaols respectively to the said Reformatory, to be imprisoned for the unexpired portion of the term of imprisonment to which any such female was originally sentenced or committed to such common gaols respectively; and such females shall thereupon be imprisoned in the Reformatory aforesaid, for the residue of the said respective terms, and shall be subject to all the rules and regulations of the Reformatory."

Second. "Every Court before which any female is convicted of an offence against any Act of the Legislature of this Province, punishable by imprisonment in the common gaol, may sentence such female to imprisonment in the said Reformatory instead of the common gaol of the county where the offence was committed or was tried; but this section shall not authorize the imposition of such sentence by any Justice of the Peace, or Police or Stipendiary Magistrate."

These provisions for commitment to the Reformatory are similar to those in force in respect to the Central Prison, except that Justices of the Peace, or Police or Stipendiary Magistrates, are not authorized to sentence direct to the Institution. The authority vested in the Provincial Secretary to direct the removal to the Reformatory of any female who has been sentenced to the common gaol, enables a selection to be made, as is now done in regard to prisoners removed to the Central Prison, of the most suitable persons for Reformatory discipline and treatment.

The Act further provides that any woman thus removed to the Reformatory may be re-transferred to the common gaol for any cause or causes which may arise.

EMPLOYMENT OF THE INMATES.

The manner in which the inmates of the Reformatory shall be employed is perhaps the most important problem in connection with this institution, which has to be solved.

That employment of some kind must be found for every person committed will not, I assume, be gainsaid by even the most unreasonable decrifier of prison labour; for to congregate in an institution a large number of females of the class interested, without furnishing suitable employment for them, would be simply an act of folly. Better far to leave them in comparative idleness in the common gaols. The Act, therefore, very properly provides that the Reformatory shall be furnished with all requisite means for enforcing the performance of hard labour

by the inmates. I am of opinion that the provisions of the statute will be best carried out by the adoption of a variety of employments. In this way, not only will undue interference with the outside industries of the kind entered into in the Reformatory be minimized, but greater scope will be given for the full employment of every woman committed. It is also desirable for disciplinary reasons, that there should be a variety of labour, commencing with that of a more menial order, such as washing, etc., so that the continued good conduct of an inmate might be rewarded by advancement to a higher grade of work, such as machine-sewing, etc. The employments I have suggested for the consideration of the Government, comprise washing in all its branches, cane seating, light shoemaking, paper-box making, tailoring and sewing of all kinds, both by machine and hand, and any other work of a similar nature. As the best means of settling the matter, I would recommend that as soon as the work-shops and work-rooms are ready for occupation, and the Reformatory is in working order, tenders be solicited for the employment of a given number of women in each shop, either upon piece-work or by the day; also that the intending contractors should be required to describe the kind of employment they proposed to carry on, and the number of inmates whose labour would be required. In this manner the most fitting employment could be selected.

DISCIPLINE.

It will be apparent that entire uniformity of discipline cannot be observed throughout the Reformatory, and to all inmates alike. All women will enter the institution as prisoners, and all will at first be subject to the same kind of discipline. It will rest, however, with each inmate herself how long she shall remain under the more rigid forms of discipline, both in respect to surroundings and the character of employment. If the conduct of a woman be in the main satisfactory, and she give evidence of an honest desire to reform, she will at once be advanced from the more prison-like surroundings and the more menial employment, to those of higher grade, and will be promoted from ward to ward until she reaches the highest classification, where the discipline will be of the mildest type, and the surroundings very nearly approach those of an ordinary well-conducted household.

From first to last, however, the disciplinary regulations will be of a reformatory character, and the reclamation from evil courses of the women committed to the Reformatory will be kept steadily in view, as the great object to be reached. While it will be necessary, having regard to the former lives of the inmates, to at first enforce strict, and even rigid, discipline, it will have to be administered with the greatest firmness and impartiality, and while the disciplinary treatment of the inmates must be characterized by kindness, forbearance and encouragement, it must be completely freed from all that mawkish sentimentality which only encourages dissimulation and hypocrisy.

Having regard to the reasonable degree of success which has attended the system of imparting religious instruction to the prisoners in the Central Prison, I would recommend that it be adopted in the Reformatory, namely, that divine worship be conducted by ministers of the various city churches, and that Sabbath school be carried on by volunteer teachers of various religious denominations. I would also recommend that in addition to a school-mistress being attached to the staff of the Prison, volunteer teachers be invited to form evening schools once or twice a week, and that other means of instruction be also instituted.

INDUSTRIAL REFUGE FOR GIRLS.

The building to be used for the purposes of the Refuge comprises fifty-six feet of the west wing of the Reformatory for women, from which it is entirely cut

off by an eighteen-inch brick wall. The entrance to the Refuge is from the west end of the structure ; that to the Reformatory being through the centre building. There is a large yard attached to the institution for the airing and exercise of the inmates.

The interior space comprises the basement for culinary and domestic purposes, the ground floor, for the office and receiving-room in the front, and a work and sitting-room and other departments in the rear ; the second storey on one side will be used as a school-room and chapel, and on the other for dormitories, and the third or upper storey will be exclusively used for dormitory purposes. The rooms are all well lighted, airy and cheerful in appearance, and the most distinctive feature of the whole structure is the entire absence of everything of a prison character. There are no cells, iron bars or gates, and the sleeping rooms are all of the associated character, with space for from five to twelve beds in each, or for fifty in all.

The method of commitment to the Reformatory is defined in the following clauses of the Act passed at the last session of the Legislature :—

“ Whenever a girl under the age of fourteen years is convicted under any Act of the Legislature of Ontario of an offence punishable on summary conviction, and is thereupon sentenced and committed to prison in any common gaol, any Judge of the Superior Courts of law, or the Judge of any County Court (in a case occurring within his County) may examine and inquire into the circumstances of such case and conviction, and may direct the offender to be sent either forthwith or at the expiration of her sentence to the said Refuge, to be there detained for a period of not less than two years and not exceeding five years, and such offender shall be liable to be detained pursuant to such direction unless, in the manner hereinafter provided or otherwise lawfully, sooner discharged : Provided no one sent to the Refuge under this section shall be discharged under this Act until the period for which she is sentenced for the said offence has expired.

“ The Inspector of Prisons may, upon the application of the Superintendent, direct the removal from the said Reformatory to the said Refuge of any girl under sixteen who is confined in the said Reformatory for any offence within the jurisdiction of the Legislature of Ontario.

“ A County Court Judge or Police Magistrate may by his warrant commit to the said Industrial Refuge for Girls any girl apparently under the age of fourteen years who comes within any of the following descriptions :—

(1). “ Who is found begging or receiving alms or being in any street or public place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms ;

(2). “ Who is found wandering and not having any home or settled place of abode or proper guardianship ;

(3). “ Who is found destitute and is an orphan, or has a surviving parent who is undergoing penal servitude or imprisonment ;

(4). “ Whose parent, step-parent, or guardian represents to the Judge or Police Magistrate that he is unable to control the girl and that he desires her to be sent to the said Refuge. The word guardian as used herein shall include any officer of a society under whose charge the girl is, or any person standing in fact in the place of a parent although not lawfully appointed a guardian ;

(5). “ Who by reason of the neglect, drunkenness, or other vices of her parents or either of them, or of any other persons in whose charge such girl is, is suffered to be growing up without salutary control and education or in circumstances which render it probable that such girl will, unless placed under proper control, lead an idle and dissolute life.

OFFICERS AND *Employés*.

In my last report, I recommended, giving my reasons therefor, that the Reformatory for Females should, as much as practicable, be officered by women.

The Government adopted the suggestion and statutory authority is given for the appointment of a female Superintendent, and other officers of the same sex. The nature of the employment to be carried on will largely determine the size of the staff, but as a basis for the estimates of the coming year, I have recommended that legislative appropriation be asked for the following officers for the Reformatory and the Refuge.

Reformatory for Females.

A Superintendent (female) who shall reside on the premises and shall have furnished quarters and table.

An Assistant Superintendent (female) who shall reside on the premises and receive furnished quarters and table.

A Bursar (male), who shall also perform the duties of steward and store-keeper. He should be the husband of either the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent. He shall board and lodge on the premises.

A Schoolmistress to board and lodge on the premises.

An Engineer (male).

A Physician, who shall make a daily visit to the Reformatory, or oftener if required.

A Chief Industrial Instructor (female), who shall board and lodge on the premises.

Two ordinary instructors (females), who shall board and lodge on the premises.

Five disciplinary guards (females), who shall board and lodge on the premises.

One cook and baker (female).

One maid for officers' quarters.

One night watch (female).

One messenger (boy), who shall reside on the premises.

Refuge for Girls.

Assistant Superintendent, as above described.

Schoolmistress.

Cook.

Attendant.

Maid.



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DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING, AS FURNISHED BY THE ARCHITECT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The plot on which the Reformatory is now being constructed is on the Asylum farm, just south of the new extension on King Street, and west of the Central Prison premises.

The building will consist of a centre or main building lying north and south, with two wings, extending east and west, at right angles to it. The length of the building, from opposite ends of the wings, will be about three hundred feet. The centre building will be one hundred and ten feet in length by sixty-five feet width, and four storeys high above the basement. The wings will be each one hundred and eighteen feet in length by fifty-two feet wide, and three storeys high above the basement. In the rear of the centre building are the boiler and coal-houses, eighty feet long by twenty-five feet wide, and a workshop one hundred and thirty feet in length by forty feet in width. These buildings will be only two storeys high, above the basement.

In the rear of the building will be four airing yards, one for each of the different grades of prisoners, so that, here as elsewhere, the most complete isolation may be effected. In the centre of the main or centre building, through a tower, will be the main entrance or hall, twelve feet in width, on the ground floor. Off this, on one side, will be an office, twenty-four feet by eighteen feet, with a vault off it, while on the other side of the hall will be a reception room of the same size. From the hall a stairway will lead to the upper storey.

On the east side of the projected portion of the main or centre building, and just in the rear of the office, will be entrance for prisoners, leading to a receiving room thirty-seven feet by sixteen feet, with a storeroom off it, twenty-five feet by twenty-three feet.

In the rear of the centre building, and just south of the rooms already described, will be a large dining-room, forty-six feet by thirty-five feet, with corridors twelve feet wide running round three sides of it. These corridors will be lighted from the front or north, and also by a window at each end in the rear. The dining-room will also be lighted from the rear.

A covered walk runs from the dining-room to the workshops, about forty-five feet distant, the passage lying between the boiler and the coal-houses.

Returning to the wings once more, there will be four ranges of cells for the prisoners, numbers one and two ranges will be three rows in height, with corridors, galleries and stairs leading up to them, similar to the Central Prison.

In number one range there will be three rows of sixteen cells each, or forty-eight in all, each cell being eight feet long, by four feet nine inches wide, and about ten feet high.

Number two range will consist of three rows or tiers of cells, with eleven in each tier or thirty-three in all. They will be of the same dimensions as number one cells. These are the receiving cells, number one occupying the north side of the east wing, and number two the same side of the west wing. There will be three tiers of cells in number three range, but on separate floors, ten on each floor. These cells will be ten feet high, five feet six inches wide, and eleven feet high, on the south side of the west wing, thirty in all.

Range number four will be on the south side of the east wing, and will consist of twelve cells in a row on each floor, three tiers high, or thirty-six in all.

The cells in this range will be the same size as those in range number three, but the walls are to be plastered, while the walls of the others are to be of brick whitewashed.

The cells in number four range will be called the "privileged rooms," and will be occupied by prisoners who have attained to the highest grade for good behaviour.

Each of the rooms in ranges three and four will have a separate window looking into the airing yards.

There will be workrooms and bath-rooms off numbers one and two ranges of cells, on the ground floor, and off the "privileged rooms," in the two upper storeys of the east wing.

The kitchen and storeroom will be in the basement of the centre building, with an iron tramway leading from the kitchen to four lifts, by which the food can be conveyed to the dining-rooms and cells.

On the second storey of the centre building will be the Superintendent's departments, and dining-rooms for the officers and attendants, with bed-rooms for the attendants over the dining-hall.

On the third storey of the main building, there will be a large chapel or hall, in the centre portion, sixty-five feet by fifty feet, and thirty-five feet in height, extending to the roof.

On the front portion of the fourth storey in the centre building, there will be two large rooms for an isolated hospital, a surgery, and bedrooms for the Superintendents and attendants, with bath-rooms, etc.

In the western portion of the west wing there will be accommodation for about fifty girls, who will be under the care of the Assistant Superintendent.

To this section there will be a separate entrance through the projection at the extreme west end of the building, and this section of the institution will be entirely isolated from all the other portions of it, the girls having their own dining and work-rooms, and in fact, everything that they can require, so that all communication between them and the grown-up prisoners will be prevented.

On the ground floor, in addition to the Assistant Superintendent's apartments, there will be an office, receiving room, storeroom, sitting rooms and pantry.

On the second and third storeys of the west wing there will be class and work-rooms for the girls, bath rooms, etc.

The isolated cells will be in the basement under ranges numbers one, two three and four, to be used as punishment cells. Each cell will be ventilated by tile pipes four inches in diameter, leading to large ventilators in the roofs, and there will be fanlights over the doors of numbers three and four ranges, and isolated cells, the cells in numbers one and two to have iron gates. The whole of the windows will be protected by wire guards in iron frames, screwed to the window frames.

The building will be heated by steam at low pressure, by means of two boilers, circulating pipes and radiators. There will also be a boiler for steam cooking, with a hot water boiler for supplying the baths, wash basins, etc.

The outside of the building will be of red brick, tuck pointed, with white and black bricks interspersed in the arches and string courses, cut stone heads and sills for doors and windows, and cut stone plinth round the main building.

The Modern or Gothic style of architecture has been adopted, which will have very little of the gloomy or prison-like aspect.

The tower in the centre will be about ninety feet high, with an elevated roof, and large ventilators on the roofs of the wings and workshop.

The wings will be forty-eight feet, the centre building fifty-five feet high, and the workshop twenty-eight feet high.

The front portion of the fourth storey of the centre building will have a Mansard roof, suitable to the Gothic style. The buildings will be roofed with slate and galvanized iron.

The building will be supplied with water from the City water-works, and a sewer 22 inches in diameter is now being constructed to connect the sewerage from the building with the Asylum drain in the Central Prison grounds. The light will be supplied by the Gas Consumers Company, the mains having been extended for the purpose.

The total number of cells and rooms will be one hundred and forty-seven, and forty-nine isolated cells in the basement, affording accommodation for one hundred and ninety-six female prisoners, and fifty girls, in all about two hundred and fifty inmates. Estimated cost, \$90,000.