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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF INSPECTORS

OF

## ASYLUMS, PRISONS, &c., FOR THE YEAR 1863.

To His Excellency The Right Honorable CHARLES STANLEY, Viscount  
MONCK, Governor General of British North America, &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

Before entering upon the subject of the present Report, the Inspectors may be permitted, in few words, to pay a slight tribute of respect and regret to the memory of their late colleague and chairman, Dr. Wolfred Nelson.

It would be out of place here to award to the lamented deceased that full measure of praise to which a long and honorable career entitles him, but the Inspectors feel it to be their duty to bear testimony to the amiable qualities and happy disposition of character of one with whom, for three years, they were so intimately and constantly connected. While they desire to bear witness publicly to the perfect integrity, which guided every action of their deceased friend and colleague, they have also to record their high sense of the kindness of heart which regulated his intercourse with them, and which has left only agreeable recollections of the pleasant relations existing between them, and of works devised and carried on by them in a common spirit, for the common good.

### I.

The three statistical tables which follow are in continuation of the tables of previous years, forming a summary of the principal heads of information derived from the records, for the year 1863, of the various institutions under the supervision of the Inspectors.

It is important to observe that of all these institutions there is not one of which the material appliances are complete; several are still in course of construction, whilst their inhabitants are temporarily lodged in buildings which are entirely unfit for the purpose for which they are used.

The number of sick in the hospitals,—of lunatics in the asylums—and of accused persons and criminals in the penal institutions is gradually increasing, without, however, exceeding in proportion the increase in the population of the country. This observation applies generally to all such institutions, with the exception, indeed, of the Quarantine Hospital, where the numbers received from one year to another depend on special and

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ever-varying circumstances, quite irrespective of the ordinary increase of the population of the country.

A diminution therefore of the public expenditure, in connection with these institutions, is not to be looked for; on the contrary, the wants of the country absolutely require, at the present moment, the erection of a second lunatic asylum in Lower Canada; the completion of the Rockwood Asylum at Kingston, and of the Provincial Asylum at Toronto; the completion of the new gaol at Quebec, and the enlargement of the old gaol at Montreal, as well as the organization of both them as *central gaols*, simultaneously with the establishment of similar institutions in Upper Canada. These various works, therefore, cannot fail to entail considerable expense on the public for several years to come. Besides it is absurd to pretend that institutions which were not sufficient for a population of 2,000,000 can meet the wants of a population of 3,500,000, and continue to suffice, when the population shall have greatly exceeded the latter amount.

To flatter the public with the hope of reducing these expenses, whilst the number of individuals who have to be kept, watched, maintained and cared for, augments in proportion to a population rapidly increasing, is actually to deceive the public.

There is no doubt a difficulty in following the line between penury and profuseness, and in steering a middle course between the opinions of certain writers, who would reduce everything, without considering what is absolutely necessary; and those of specialists, who, in a zeal for carrying out objects to which they attach an exclusive importance, would hold expense as beneath their regard.

The Inspectors within the limits of their power give their best endeavors to reduce the expenditure of all the penal and benevolent institutions under their charge, as far as it can be done consistently with the proper efficiency of the institutions.

The total number of individuals who passed through the different institutions in the course of the years 1862 and 1863 is as follows:—

1862.	
Marine Hospital.....	1242
Grosse Isle Hospital.....	367
Beauport Asylum.....	486
Toronto " and Branch.....	518
Malden Asylum.....	236
Orillia ".....	128
Rockwood ".....	103
St. Johns ".....	78
Provincial Penitentiary.....	1007
Upper Canada Reformatory.....	126
Lower Canada ".....	68

Total..... 4359

1863.	
Marine Hospital.....	1638
Grosse Isle Hospital.....	44
Beauport Asylum.....	574
Toronto " and Branch.....	570
Malden Asylum.....	249
Orillia ".....	139
Rockwood ".....	110
St. Johns ".....	82
Provincial Penitentiary.....	1070
Upper Canada Reformatory.....	137
Lower Canada ".....	79

Total..... 4687

From the total of the Toronto Asylum has been deducted the number transferred to Orillia, as that number is included in the total of the last named branch. It must be

carefully observed that the numbers which give the population of the lunatic asylums are by no means to be taken as the expression of a want supplied; for our asylums are quite insufficient for the lodgement of all the insane who should, in the interests of society, find a refuge there.

Every day we meet with lamentable instances of the danger which results from the system of allowing lunatics, even of the class termed harmless, to remain at large; apart from the parricides, murders, acts of incendiarism and other crimes committed by these unfortunate persons; and, apart from the crimes committed upon them, it is well to bear in mind the sight of folly and idiocy is in itself a generative cause of folly. To allow epileptic, unmanageable, repulsive or dangerous lunatics to wander at large in society is in itself a very serious evil.

Now, this unfortunate population has been allowed to go at large in increasing numbers, and it is for this reason that, at the present time, the additions which are made to the buildings used as asylums are at once filled without at all satisfying the demands for room.

In their report of last year, the Inspectors entered at length into the question of the want which is felt in this matter, and they can do no more than repeat here the conclusion of that part of it which declared the urgent necessity of substituting, for the asylum at St. Johns, a second great asylum for Lower Canada, of completing the Rockwood Asylum at as early a period as possible, and of completing that at Toronto by successively constructing the two wings proposed in the original plans.

The number of criminals received into the Penitentiary has been much greater than last year, in fact it exceeds that of all previous years. One of the chief causes of this increase in the number of crimes and offences has been a most unfortunate species of immigration which has set in towards our shores, in consequence of the war in the United States. A host of ruffians, kidnappers or deserters from the armies of the American Union, have thrown themselves into Canada. We meet them in almost every prison; and a very large proportion of the convicts of the year, in the Penitentiary, belong to this class.

The number of imprisonments in the Common Gaols, during the year 1863, has also been greater than in 1862, but the difference is not considerable, as will appear from the following table:—

UPPER CANADA.		
	1862.	1863.
Prisoners committed for first time .....	3510	4457
Imprisonments of relapsing delinquents.....	3177	2261
Total.....	<u>6687</u>	<u>6718</u>
LOWER CANADA.		
Prisoners committed for first time .....	3693	3445
Imprisonments of relapsing delinquents.....	2584	2855
Total.....	<u>6277</u>	<u>6300</u>

The cause assigned above for the increase in the number of criminals sentenced to the Penitentiary for serious crimes, and the cause assigned in the report of last year, relative to other offences—namely, the presence of larger garrisons—explains the fact of the increase in the total number of imprisonments in the course of the last two years, and renders it quite unnecessary to seek for any other causes.

It will not be devoid of interest to contrast, here, the figures exhibiting the total number of imprisonments for each of the last five years:—

1858.....	Number of Imprisonments .....	10,483
1859.....	“ “ .....	11,131
1860.....	“ “ .....	11,268
1861.....	“ “ .....	10,872
1862.....	“ “ .....	12,964
1863.....	“ “ .....	13,088

The cities of Montreal and Toronto exhibit, both relatively and absolutely, a positively enormous total of imprisonments. Montreal alone furnishes more than *two-thirds* of the imprisonments for the whole of Lower Canada during the year 1863; Toronto, a little *more than a fourth* of all the imprisonments in Upper Canada.

The considerations suggested by these facts, and more especially by the figures exhibiting the number of repeated convictions for each year, again lead to the question of *Central Gaols*, to which the Inspectors once more deem it their duty to call attention, with redoubled earnestness, and as a matter of urgent necessity.

The usual reply to their representations in this matter is, that the expense will be very great. The cost, certainly, must be great; but does it cost nothing to maintain at large a host of pickpockets, sharpers, thieves, and murderers. To build proper prisons for such persons may be costly, but not to build them is much more costly. Nothing costs the state so much as unchecked crime and vice.

The Inspectors reiterate their opinions on this important subject of *Central Gaols*, in another part of this report.

## II.

### CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

#### HOSPITAL AT GROSSE ISLE.

The quarantine, re-established last year in accordance with the recommendations of the Inspectors, has been organized on a much more economical footing than formerly.

The immigration of the year 1863 did not fetch along with it contagious diseases, as was the case with that of the two previous years, and thus the number of sick received into hospital at Grosse Isle fell to 44 from 368, the number in 1862, and the number of deaths on the Island itself was but *one*, whereas there had been 58 the previous year.

From the very nature of quarantine hospitals it must be expected that the number of inmates will fluctuate from one extreme to another; a lull of one year, or even of a series of years, as followed by years of calamitous visitation, and the experience acquired in this country as well as in others, ought to put us on our guard, and induce us to be prepared for every eventuality.

The local authorities, in pursuance of the instructions issued by Government, and with the assistance furnished them, have availed themselves of the tranquillity enjoyed by the hospital this year, to effect some absolutely essential repairs to the buildings, furniture and linen of the institution.

The male officials worked at the repairs of the wharf, sheds, storehouses, &c., &c., in the healthy division; the buildings of the central division, occupied by the officers and servants, have been repaired by the same employés, who have also, with the aid afforded them by Government, effected improvements and repairs in the hospitals of the eastern division.

Whilst the male officials were thus occupied, to the female officials was assigned, during a portion of the summer, the task of repairing and putting in the most perfect order, the vast stock of linen belonging to the institution.

The medical superintendent at Grosse Isle confirms the opinion expressed last year by the Board, attributing to the immigration the contagious diseases which rendered the past two years so unhealthy in Canada.

Doctor Nelson called attention, on this point, to the negligence exhibited by the managers of the Ocean Steamship Companies who, abusing the privileges they enjoy with reference to quarantine, do not comply with that part of the law which specially concerns them, and deposit the seeds of disease in the midst of our population, by permitting free access to persons affected with contagious diseases; in fact the bodies of passengers, who died of such diseases, have been placed in the railway station.

## MARINE HOSPITAL.

The Marine Hospital continues to be ably administered under the skilful control of the Trustees, to whose care this highly important establishment is entrusted.

This institution, which was at first exclusively intended for sick seamen and newly-arrived immigrants, now serves also as a general hospital, thanks to the addition made to the special fund for its foundation, of sums analogous to those voted yearly for the various hospitals of the other cities of Upper and Lower Canada.

It may not be unprofitable to contrast here the figures exhibiting the total number of patients of each category, received into the Marine Hospital during the course of each of the last four years:—

In-door patients received in 1860:

Seamen .....	611
Immigrants.....	28
Residents.....	189
	— 828

In-door patients received in 1861:

Seamen.....	749
Immigrants.....	94
Residents.....	325
	— 1168

In-door patients received in 1862:

Seamen.....	931
Immigrants.....	153
Residents.....	549
	— 1633

In addition to the in-door patients, the Marine Hospital distributes medicines very largely to out-door patients, who numbered 1153 in 1863.

It will be seen from the above figures that the number of patients in both categories has been much greater than in the two previous years, this is accounted for by the number and importance of the vessels arriving at the port of Quebec during the past year, and by the marked insalubrity which characterized the medical aspect of the past year, during which sickness prevailed, nearly throughout the whole of Canada, to double the extent of ordinary years.

The mortality, owing to general causes of the same nature, has also been proportionably greater.

The expenses of the Marine Hospital have naturally and inevitably been augmented in consequence of this increase; but the relative cost of each patient has been diminished; the proportionate cost of each patient has been only \$13.83 against \$15.70 in 1862.

Of the resident patients, a small number are paying-patients; the amount collected from this class, in the course of the year 1863, is \$332.05; the corresponding sum for the year 1862, was only \$198.87.

This institution renders immense service to the poorer classes of Quebec, and of the surrounding localities; and with a comparatively small expenditure of money, for the very simple reason that, inasmuch as the establishment possesses its appointed staff of physicians and officials, which must, in any case, be maintained in view of the object for which it was first founded, it is in a position to enlarge its sphere of action without being compelled thereby to augment its expenditure in like proportion with the increase of its patients. It is well to state that amongst the patients entered under the name of *residents*, in the general statistics forming part of the Report of the Trustees, is a number of persons belonging to various localities in Upper and Lower Canada, and forming part of the many thousands attracted to Quebec by the lumber trade, during the summer season. The number of outsiders thus brought to the city, at certain periods of the year, reaches a very high figure; they are, moreover, by the nature of their occupations and of their habits, greatly exposed; and almost daily, in the course of the season of navigation, they furnish patients to the Marine Hospital. The word *residents*, in the statistics of the Marine Hospital, simply means those who are not seamen from abroad, nor immigrants arrived during the course of the current year,

The report of the trustees and that of the house-surgeon, contain all detailed information, which it would be useless to repeat here.

#### ASYLUM AT BEAUPORT.

The only two points upon which the inspectors have ever expressed their regret, with reference to the well-conducted asylum at Beauport, were the excessive over-crowding and the absence of a resident physician. The enterprising and able proprietors of this asylum—themselves physicians of distinction—have undertaken, within the course of last year, to remedy both these matters.

The Beauport Asylum now possesses a resident physician. There are now, also, rapidly approaching completion, a new main building and two large wards, which will form an addition to the whole establishment, of a cubic space equal to about one-third of the old buildings.

The over-crowding has been extreme during the course of the year, inasmuch as it has been necessary, during the progress of the works, to accommodate within a limited space rendered still more contracted by the demolition necessitated by the works, a number of lunatics for whom the previous accommodation was insufficient.

There is, however, the consolation in this instance of knowing that this excessive over-crowding is to be only temporary.

The report of the proprietors, hereunto annexed, will be found to contain a description of the additional buildings erected. It is estimated that these additions, when completed, with the apparatus for cold and hot water, heat, light, gas, and the other contingent expenditure, will cost about \$40,000. In addition to this practical utility, which is, no doubt, the most important feature of these new buildings, they impart to the edifice which they complete an aspect more imposing to the eye; a matter, too, which should never be entirely overlooked in such structures.

So urgent has been the necessity of providing accommodations for the insane in Lower Canada, that notwithstanding the already over-crowded state of the institution, the embarrassment caused by the carrying on of the works, and the temporary curtailment of space resulting from the demolitions, it has been necessary to increase the number of patients admitted into this asylum.

The report of Dr. Catellier, house-surgeon to the establishment, shews that the total number of insane under treatment, in the course of the year, has been 576; the average for the year has been 468—a number far too great in proportion to the space available. Nevertheless, the general health has remained good; and the mortality, though high, has not reached the proportionate figure which it often attains in similar institutions. In fact the proportionate number of deaths in these establishments appears to vary in a most extraordinary manner, from one year to another.

The reports of the Asylum at Beauport, and the table already given, which contains a summary of the leading figures, will be found to embody full detailed information, and an account of the state of this institution.

The asylum at Beauport continues to be administered with a degree of care, cleanliness and ability, which reflect much honor on its proprietors, and on its manager, Mr. Wakeham.

#### LUNATIC ASYLUM, TORONTO.

The inspectors have invariably found this asylum in the best possible order, and they are happy once more to pay a just tribute to the devotedness and zeal of Dr. Workman and his assistants.

The principal improvement effected in the material appliances of this establishment, has been the construction of draught-chimneys for the immediate ventilation of the water closets, and consequently for the immediate ventilation of the adjoining rooms. The inspectors, at all of their visits, were impressed with the necessity of this improvement, and the medical superintendent was requested by them to prepare a report on the subject. The plan adopted by Dr. Workman has been almost fully carried out during the year, by means of savings effected in the ordinary expenditure, from the legislative grant. The

inspectors have no doubt whatever as to the result of this measure. It must, to a great extent, remove the offensive air, with which some of the rooms in the asylum were at times infected, and which the inspectors themselves have frequently found. This was more especially the case during a night visit, to which the superintendent had specially invited them, in order to make them fully aware of the lack of ventilation, and thereby convince them of the absolute necessity of providing at least a partial remedy for the evil.

Apart from this notable improvement, the material appliances of this asylum remain as stated in previous reports. For detailed information relative to the events of 1863, the inspectors cannot do better than refer to the report hereunto annexed of the medical superintendent of the institution.

Dr. Workman, looking at matters from the extreme point of view of a lunacapist, and of a lunacist who makes the interest of his institution take precedence of all other interests, expresses himself very strongly against the Board of Inspectors for recommending that the maximum population of the Toronto Asylum should be raised to 400.

The Medical Superintendent of this institution seems to wish to reserve his asylum for curable cases of mental aberration, and to receive, even of these, only the limited number of 350,—limited, that is to say, in proportion to the cubic space of the vast edifice.

In support of his argument, Dr. Workman accumulates statistics and opinions, which might, indeed, be met by other statistics and other opinions. But the Board of Inspectors are not called upon at present to discuss the controverted question respecting dormitories in common, and separate rooms, and the best mode of classification. They appreciate entirely the warm feelings which they know Dr. Workman to entertain for the good of the unfortunate class of whom he has the care, but the Inspectors have to consider also at the same time the interests of society in general, and the best manner of promoting those interests with the material aid afforded by Parliament for that purpose.

The Board of Inspectors might, indeed, admit all that the medical superintendent has said, without, in the slightest degree, affecting the position at which they look. Admitting that this addition of patients to the number admitted into the Toronto Asylum must be attended with serious inconvenience, the question would still remain,—whether it is not better to expose the 350 patients who are already in the institution to these inconveniences, rather than expose families, and society itself, to the dangers attendant on allowing lunatics—curable or incurable—to go at large, in view of the frequent and dreadful occurrences of which they are the cause, in addition to being a subject of alarm in their neighborhoods?

Every year, murders and other crimes are committed, by or upon lunatics; the newspapers are filled with tragic stories of lunatic mothers immolating their children, and of attempts against person and property. As to the lunatics themselves, and more especially the female lunatics, to what filthy brutalities are they not exposed when at large? Almost every year, some of these unhappy beings, after several years of neglect, are brought to the asylums or prisons in a state of pregnancy.

The Inspectors cannot persuade themselves that wretchedness of this nature is of less importance than rendering somewhat less comfortable the lot of the lunatics already confined in the asylums, nearly all of whom are much better off than they have ever been in their own families. It is in this light the Inspectors view the question, while on the other hand, they have, without ceasing, represented to the Government that the space allotted to lunatics in our asylums is insufficient.

But with respect to the Toronto Asylum (the principal asylum only is in question here), is a population of 400 lunatics excessive, and would the attaining of that total be attended with danger? The Inspectors think not, and rest their opinion upon the statistics of the establishment itself, which, under the excellent management of Dr. Workman, prove that the keeping up of the number of lunatics from 350 to 400 has never produced any increase in the amount of mortality, nor any proportionate diminution in the number of discharges which, relatively and to a certain point, indicate the number of cures.

The following table shews the number of lunatics at the end of the year, the number of deaths and the number of discharges for each year, since 1857. The table applies to principal asylum only:—

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Discharges.
1857.....	397 .....	34 .....	94 .....
1858.....	400 .....	18 .....	57 .....
1859.....	316 .....	38 .....	39 .....
1860.....	345 .....	36 .....	69 .....
1861.....	348 .....	45 .....	91 .....
1862.....	347 .....	25 .....	78 .....
1863.....	380 .....	25 .....	87 .....

By this table it will be seen that the Toronto asylum was neither more deadly nor less curative at the time when its population was raised to 400, or nearly, than when the number was much smaller. It is an extraordinary fact even, that the smallest total of mortality and the highest total of discharges correspond with one of the highest totals of population. The average mortality, during the four years in which the population remained less than 350, was rather less than one in nine, and it amounted to but a little less than one in 15 during the year in which the population exceeded that number, and ranged between it and 400.

The relative proportionate number of discharges in each series is nearly similar.

Thus then, when the Inspectors recommended that the total population of the Toronto Asylum should be increased to 400, they made a recommendation which was useful to society, and prompted by what they deemed a wise economy, while they in nowise compromised the interests defended, to the exclusion of all others, by Dr. Workman.

The Inspectors, for their part, have to deal with the families who exclaim against the practice of allowing lunatics to wander at large,—with the municipal and prison authorities, who protest against the sending of the lunatics to the gaols,—with political men, who consider the expenditure of the public institutions enormous,—and with lunacists of high standing, who are unwilling to crowd their asylums. The public may thus judge of the difficulty of the situation.

As the question stands, however, the Inspectors are of opinion that the least evil is the crowding of asylums we already have to their full extent, until the Government see fit to relieve them and the out-door lunatic population, by erecting new ones.

#### UNIVERSITY BRANCH ASYLUM.

There is nothing particular to be observed about this small branch, except that the number of lunatics which it contains, amounting in all to 67, at the end of the year 1862, was increased to 78 at the end of the year 1863, and that that increase was attended by no evil result, as is proved by the statistics furnished by the medical superintendent.

The increase effected in the total population of the principal asylum and of its branch at Toronto, has thus been 44,—a number which, considering the insufficiency of the space provided for the accommodation of lunatics, is an important one. The Inspectors, however, are of opinion that this number can be increased, without danger, to a total of 64, thus completing the number of 400, assigned by them to the principal asylum.

#### ORILLIA BRANCH ASYLUM.

The population of the Orillia asylum was increased from 123, the total at the end of the year 1862, to 132 at the end of the year 1863, by the transfer of 12 lunatics from the Toronto asylum and the direct admission of four from the outside. Only four cases of mortality occurred in the course of the year, and, by the details furnished by Dr. Ardagh, it will be seen that the general health of the lunatics has been excellent.

Several internal improvements have been carried out, in great part by the labor of the lunatics themselves, whom the medical superintendent endeavors, very wisely, to keep busy, so far as that is possible.

A very necessary addition—alluded to by Dr. Ardagh in his report—will have to be made to the Orillia Asylum; this consists in the purchase of an adjacent lot of land for the purpose of enlarging the small (by far too small) grounds attached to the institution. The Inspectors, however, have not thought it their duty to apply to the Government this year







