

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO VISIT THE GAOLS AND ROYAL HOSPITAL.

Mr. Speaker.

Your Committee beg to report that, taking into consideration the limited room and the number of prisoners, the Gaol premises are in very good order.

It is impossible to suppose that there can be sufficient fresh air in a cell 12 by 6, 8 feet high, when occupied by five prisoners; and therefore, from a sanitary point of view, it is strongly recommended that new buildings should be erected as soon as possible. Notwithstanding the overcrowding, the prisoners were found to be in a cleanly state.

The debtors' room, being used as a drying-room for newly washed clothing, and having no ventilation, is unhealthy. It is therefore urged that some alteration should be made in this ward. It is also the place where religious services are held.

Your Committee are pleased to be able to report, that under the present Administration the affairs of this institution have been carried on in a much more economical manner than heretofore, as will appear on examination of the books.

The total expenditure for food and clothing during the quarter ending 31st December, 1877, three months, was.....	\$1,287 64
During the quarter ending December, 1878, three months, was...	\$484 85
Average number of prisoners during quarter ending 31st December, 1877.....	59
Average number of prisoners during quarter ending 31st December, 1878.....	45 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cost per man for quarter, 1877.....	\$21 83
Do. do. 1878.....	\$10 61 $\frac{3}{4}$
Daily cost per man, 1877.....	23 $\frac{3}{4}$
Do. do. 1878.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$

All of which is respectfully submitted to your honourable body.

J. S. DRUMMOND,
Chairman.

Your Committee, also, have the honour to report as follows:—

Your Committee consider the Royal Hospital to be in a state of thorough order and cleanliness, and that the patients appear to be very well cared for.

The Committee visited the Hospital on the 27th February, 1879, and beg to make the following remarks:—

1st. That the amounts heretofore placed upon the Estimates would be sufficient to maintain the Hospital, *provided* due diligence be shown in obtaining such further public aid as so worthy an institution is entitled to.

2nd. That the Government subsidy has—under the Committee system, and with Government appointees on the Hospital Board—been very judiciously expended.

3rd. Your Committee further recommend the necessity of a separate building for infectious diseases, such as fevers, erysipelas, diphtheria, &c., being erected when the finances of the Province will permit, isolation of patients being the best known remedy against the spread of diseases of the above character.

4th. We are glad to report that a separate ward has been provided for females.

Your Committee would further recommend that the chain-gang be occasionally utilized in making walks and clearing up the Hospital grounds. A good roadway and approach to the premises are absolutely necessary. The present rocky and almost impassable condition of the road to the approach is the cause of inflicting great suffering on patients while being conveyed to the Hospital.

All of which is respectfully submitted to your honourable body.

J. S. DRUMMOND,
Chairman.

REPORT

OF THE

CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER:

Your Committee beg leave to report—

That they have inspected the Public Offices, and find them in good working order:

That in some of the offices the time-register is well kept.

The Committee recommend—

That an effort should be made by the Lands and Works Department to ascertain, through the Assessors, and any other available sources, what pre-emptions are occupied, and what amounts are due thereon, so that the information can be laid before the House next Session :

That assistance be granted the Registrar-General of Titles, as the work in his office is somewhat in arrear :

That security should be required from every person holding moneys for which the Province is liable:

That the attention of the Attorney-General be called to the small remuneration of the Sheriff of Victoria, and the different custom here in serving writs to that practised in the Eastern Provinces:

That the time-register for the Public Offices, other than Printing Department, be kept in the Treasury under the charge of the Auditor, and be closed between quarter past 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.; also between quarter past 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

WM. WILSON,

Chairman.

19th March, 1879.