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## REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE PROVINCIAL GAOL.

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MR. SPEAKER :

Your Committee appointed to visit the Provincial Gaol beg to report as follows :—

That they visited the Gaol on Saturday, the 30th ult., and found the buildings, grounds, and cells in a clean and orderly condition.

We found the number of prisoners at present 50. The building can accommodate 120. The number of prisoners admitted during the year has been 219. One prisoner made his escape in September last, and has not since been recaptured. The male prisoners were paraded for inspection in the gaol yard, and asked if they had any complaints to make. They complained of lack of reading matter, with which to beguile the time when not at work, and your Committee are of opinion that a sufficient amount of good literature for the use of these unfortunates would not only be an act of humanity, but, from its reforming tendency, would be money well expended. One of the prisoners complained of being punished without cause, and one complained of insufficient food while incapacitated for work. These complaints were enquired into by your Committee, and the management exonerated.

One of the cells was occupied by a debtor. There seems to be no difference in the cell accommodations of debtors and criminals.

The gaol is supplied with the various articles necessary, by contract. Upon comparing the samples with the supplies on hand, the supplies were found quite up to the samples.

Your Committee were pleased to learn that all vegetables used since harvest were grown in the garden belonging to the gaol, and were informed by the Warden that last year the garden had supplied 12,000 pounds of vegetables. There is still some land to be cleared and brought into cultivation, as an addition to the garden, and a great deal of rock might be blasted out at the end of the gaol, which could doubtless be sold to the city for metalling the streets. The prison authorities complain of an insufficient supply of water. While speaking of the orderly condition of the building and yard, we wish to impress upon the proper authorities the damp and unwholesome condition of the gaol-yard proper.

The spiritual condition of the prisoners is looked after by the young men of the Christian Association.

Your Committee recommend that the prisoners be employed upon the gaol property, in place of work outside of the gaol precincts.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. ALLEN,  
*Chairman.*

*April 2nd, 1889.*