

#1

Volume 4

#1

1920-1940's

COPYRIGHT - TONY MARTIN

Monday, February 2, 1920

British Columbian

GUARDS ALLOWED OFF ONE DAY IN EIGHT:

Under a new schedule of duties which goes into effect in the British Columbia Penitentiary today, the guards will be allowed one day off in eight. Instructors who formerly took Sunday duty and went off guard in the evenings pending the arrival of the night shift, will be relieved of this extra work. The outcome is the result of representations made to General Hughes, Superintendent of Penitentiaries while here on an inspection tour.

February 24, 1920

British Columbian

REDUCTION IN PENITENTIARIES PROPOSED:

There is a likelihood of steps being taken to reduce the number of Western Penitentiaries, it is stated here in Ottawa. This may mean the closing of the Alberta Penitentiary in Edmonton and the division of prisoners from that Institution between the penitentiaries at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and Stoney Mountain, Manitoba.

At the last report made, the population of the three Penitentiaries named and also the one at New Westminster, B.C. was only 477, against a population of 413 in Kingston, Ontario. Therefore, there is a feeling that some of the change could afford to be made in the West.

1920 Wardens Annual Report for the B.C. Penitentiary.

**J.C. Brown    Warden**

The steady decrease in the prison population continued up to the end of the year when only one hundred fourteen were in custody compared to one hundred forty eight when the year began.

The conduct of the prisoners generally has been good, no accidents occurred during the year and there were no escapes, their general health has been good also, several chronic cases has raised the hospital average but there has been nothing in the nature of an epidemic although influenza was prevalent during the winter and early spring.

The Chaplin and School Instructor report a year of satisfactory progress, The Protestant Chaplin reports he is completing arrangements with the prisoners aid society to enable paroled and discharged prisoners to more easily secure employment. The Salvation Army Band of Vancouver gave the prisoners a concert during the year which was greatly appreciated. The year has seen a number of improvements for the prisoners, the last of the antiquated prison cells have been torn down and every cell in the prison is now up to date in every way.

The library has received a considerable number of new books, the new kitchen has been in use for the greater part of the year, being well lighted, airy and convenient and it is an immense improvement on the old cramped and gloomy kitchen.

The liberalizing of the regulations as to letter writing and visitors has reacted beneficially on discipline.

The interests of the staff have not been neglected, the general provisions recently made for additional holiday time is a long step in making the service more attractive, thereby obtaining and keeping good officers, there is still however dissatisfaction with the rate of pay, it is true that substantial increases have been made during the last few years, particuliarly in the lower grades, but these have not kept pace with the increase in prices and rapid rise of the rates of wages for all classes of labour.

Work on the Glenbrook sewer, suspended for a time, has under the superindent been vigorously pushed, its completion will clear the way for a long contemplated improvement of the grounds which will greatly add to the appearance of that part of the reserve abuting on Columbia St. and also

add some six or seven acres to our restricted agricultural area, another piece of important work undertaken during the year is the construction of the **central** hall and dome, its completion will add to the appearance of the building architecturally speaking and will increase the security of the prison and will contribute largely to the smooth running of the prison routine.

In a recent report the superintendent recommended an improvement in dietry, not in the way of a better quality or greater quantity of food but in preparation and service of meals to avoid monotony, from a certain class of prisoners complaints will come in any case, but when well behaved and industrious men complain it is another matter and the monotony of diet is at the root of complaints, thus an appreciable part of the benefits should accrue from first class food materials is lost through the sameness from day to day of the form in which it reaches the prisoners.

End of report

Taken from the report of the superintendent of Penitentiaries.1920  
Sessional paper No.35

At an investigation held at a Penitentiary only a few years ago the sworn testimony of every blackleg in the institution was taken and published as truth, the sworn statement of an inmate who had been twenty five years continuously in an asylum was also taken and published, this inmate is still insane and the Penitentiary pays for his care and maintenance in a mental disease hospital, another inmate appeared before this commission and after telling a lamentable tale of abuse and ill treatment afforded him, removed his shirt and exhibited his back which was covered with scars and with sobs and tears explained how his poor back had been lacerated by water with which he had **been** wet when given punishment by hoseing, this story was also broadcast throughout the dominion, no doubt to impress the public with the **terribly** brutal treatment afforded inmates in the Penitentiaries, this man was serving sentences aggregating thirty six years and one of the crimes he had been convicted of was having abducted a very young girl, a school teacher, whom he waylaid on the way home after closing her school for the day and whom he forceably detained in the woods for some days until she was rescued by a vigilance party who had tracked him down. The infuriated rescuers beat the man with limbs of trees and attempts were made to lynch him, the cuts and marks on his back were scars from the whipping he had been given by these men, not with standing this, an endeavor was made to have the public believe they were the results of a hoseing given him as with all other cases with his clothing on, other such cases could be cited. Another committee has recommended the abolition of the contract labour system within the Penitentiary, the abolition of hoseing and several other **similar** recommendations. Contract labour in Canadian Penitentiary's was abolished over thirty years ago, hoseing of inmates was abolished in 1913, eight years ago, but it is used very freely as a curative measure in the healing of the sick and wounded soldier in the soldiers civil re-establishment hospitals throughout the dominion today.

The recommendation that no officer be permitted to place his hand on an inmate, other than to prevent escape or to defend himself from attack, if such a recommendation became law, the inmates employed on the farm or elsewhere could at any time refuse to go to the prison and officers

Would be powerless, and they would have less authority over convicted criminals placed in their charge, there to be maintained in custody and kept at hard labour than has the policeman over free citizens in every walk of life.

Also from Sessional Paper No. 35, an article entitled

"As the Inmate see Us." from his closing paragraph.

When I shall write finish to this I know not, some day in the future, how near or how far off that day is I cannot say, but it will be a day of gladness and rejoicing for me, but when I do leave I can honestly say without fear or favour this prison today is nearly 100% better than when I entered nearly nine years ago, out of doubt and confusion have been brought certainty and order, out of darkness and shadow have issued sunlight and substance, out of the mud and the mire of the dark ages where deceit, sneakism and hypocrisy went hand in hand, is rising manliness, straight forwardness and honesty.

Education is taking the place of ignorance, cleanliness in mind and body instead of immorality and filth, neither priest or minister is bringing about this change, but the heads of the Penitentiary who by their sympathy, sincerety and understanding of these unfortunates who are passing through the flames, are trying hard to lead them on the right road by better conditions and through the key to all reformation, Education.

Another convict about to be discharged writes;

When I came to prison I did not know anything, I was never given a chance, never was at school, could neither read nor write, I was not fitted for anything.

I am going home with a fair education, am an expert blacksmith and also a good shoemaker, having been taught these trades in the Penitentiary. I would not take \$15,000.00 for what **has been done** for me while serving my sentence.

517

June 8, 1920

British Columbia

## TWO CONVICTS MAKE ESCAPE:

Two convicts escaped from the Penitentiary this afternoon, an American named F. Hoyt and a halfbreed known as Peter Marchuk, alias Marks.

They were working on the Glenbrook sewer near 8th Avenue and slipped away, presumably when the guard's attention was withdrawn momentarily. The details of the getaway are not available because all of the outside men are out on the manhunt and as yet no inquiry has been made into the matter.

It is believed the prisoners went in the direction of Cumberland Road and they have probably taken to the bush.

Both men are described as short stature, wearing prison garb and with their heads shaved recently. They are short-term men, one having been sent up for forgery and the other for some similar offence.

The city police and those of surrounding municipalities have been notified, and steps have been taken to close all avenues of escape, if possible.



June 10, 1920

British Columbian

ONE CONVICT IS RECAPTURED:

Frank Hoyt, one of the two convicts who escaped from the Penitentiary on Tuesday afternoon was captured by prison guards about midnight on the Pitt River Bridge. His companion, Peter Marchuk, alias Marks, is believed to be in hiding in the bush in the same vicinity and it is thought to be only a question of time before he is run to earth.

It appears that the men broke into a shack in Coquitlam and got some food and clothes, for which the latter exchanged their prison garb. An inquiry into the manner of their escape will probably not be held until next week. It is reported, however, that they got away by going through the sewer pipe on the construction on which they were engaged, and breaking out a manhole.

July 12, 1920

British Columbian

TWO LIFE TERM PRISONERS ESCAPE FROM PENITENTIARY:

George Van Horst and Mario Montenarion, both serving a life term for murder escaped from the B.C. Penitentiary on Saturday night or early Sunday morning. It is supposed they went south on the Owl Train. At least they have had a good start for the escape was not observed until Sunday morning about eight o'clock.

The escape which was a carefully planned affair, is supposed to have been engineered by Van Horst and his friends, but the fact that Montenarion was recently taken ill and sent to the hospital he would probably have been languishing behind the bars still.

There are two hospital wards in the prison building, one inside and the other outside the grey wall that surrounds most of the buildings and the yard. It was in the latter that Van Horst has been under treatment for some stomach complaint, real or imaginary for a long time. In the ward there are three cells, one was occupied by Van Horst, one by Montenarion and the other by an orderly. The window which is on the second floor looking toward the river was guarded, of course, by iron bars, these were sawn through. When is not certain.

519A

Deputy Warden Carroll found the tool with which the bars were sawn, it is or appears to be a portion of a table knife, made into a saw with a file, and it is quite unlikely that any piece of cutlery in use in the institution, the bars, Mr. Carroll explains, are not solid iron but packed and would be comparatively easy to the attack of such an inferior hacksaw. The tool is badly worn and seemed to have been just about finished by the time Van Horst got through.

How this saw came into the possession of the prisoners is a mystery. It must have been smuggled in somehow, but in view of the fact that the prisoners are not allowed to receive anything from the outside and it could not have come in disguised in any way, there will probably be a very close inquiry into this phase of the matter.

One of the bed sheets is missing, and it is supposed to have been used by the escaping prisoners to lower themselves to the ground or near enough to drop to the ground. The hospital being outside the prison wall, has been no barrier to their freedom. They just simply had to walk out of the grounds, it is not certain just when the getaway was effected but it is supposed that the prisoners timed their departure so that they could catch the train south. For that reason the search for them is being mainly turned in that direction.

519B

The reason that their disappearance was not discovered until the next morning is that the beds had been camouflaged to make it appear that they were occupied, so that the officer making his rounds would not observe that his prisoners had decamped.

There is a coincidence or had a direct connection with the affair, the last of the penitentiary bloodhounds was recently poisoned.

Van Horst was brought to the penitentiary in June, 1914 and Montenario in October of the same year.

July 13, 1920

British Columbian

TWO CONVICTS STILL AT LARGE:

As yet no clue has been received as to the whereabouts of George Van Horst and Mario Montenaric, the two murderers who escaped from the Penitentiary on Sunday. The general opinion is that the convicts, aided by friends, have managed to cross the border into the United States. However, Van Horst is wanted by the American authorities to answer to several charges other than that of murder, for which he was convicted. Since he has a good knowledge of the Lower Mainland and the Gulf Islands it is possible that the convicts will make their way to some deserted spot on the coast of British Columbia.

Five hundred circulars were issued yesterday and sent to the provincial police officers, as well as to the authorities across the line. A reward of \$25.00 has been offered for each of the convicts. Both of the fugitives are considered as very dangerous men and would put up a desperate fight to avoid capture. It is believed that they have already been supplied with arms and ammunition by those who are supposed to have aided them in making their escape.

Van Horst is a Canadian and Montenaric is an Italian.

September 9, 1920

British Columbian

SEWER NEARS EIGHTH AVENUE:

The Glenbrook sewer, construction of which is still proceeding, although its very existence has all but been forgotten by the public, is now 440 feet from Eighth Avenue and freedom. That is to say, Eighth Avenue of the Penitentiary grounds and once there the further construction of the big pipe, when it is eventually proceeded with will be carried out in the usual way by hired help.

In the meantime, it is being done by the convicts from the Penitentiary. Although the distance to Eighth Avenue is comparatively small, it is not expected that the small distance can be covered by Christmas. Last month only 85 feet of the concrete pipe was built. And it was partly on account of the fact that the gang was engaged in creek diversion and other work incidental to the actual concreting. This month to date, some 40 feet has been built, but the season is now so far advanced that broken weather is bound to hamper the work. Many factors combine to make progress painfully slow.

To begin with, it is not feasible to hasten convicts very much, they have to be coddled quite a bit. Then the gang is too small.

521A

Under ordinary circumstances fifty men would be employed on a job like this, but at the present time only 18 men are available. Some little time ago the prison authorities permitted a larger number to be used, the escape of two prisoners caused them to diminish the force, using only men who can be trusted not to get foolish.

The escape also gave the work a set-back for it was completely suspended while the guards were out hunting the runaways and the suspension lasted 20 days. Another factor that is now tending to decrease the output is the fall fog, which settles down every evening and rises late in the morning. Even though the men used are fairly trustworthy, there is no use tempting them with a good pea-soup fog with freedom within a few hundred feet, so the gang does not turn out until the air is clear. There is no particular need for haste with this work, for it is after all only a trunk sewer and there is at the present time no money available to lay laterals. There is not even enough money on hand to carry the trunk up to Tenth Avenue where it is to be taken in hand by the Municipality of Burnaby. Before this can be done by City Council without having the sanction of the electorate, if it is considered a necessary enterprise for the public health, in fact, the provincial authorities have power to

521B

order the city to proceed under the health act. Apart from that consideration however, it is likely that the completion of the trunk will be undertaken as soon as possible in order that the city may claim from Burnaby its share of the cost. The work is being carried out with the city's own money, but Burnaby has undertaken to come through with its share as soon as the trunk reaches Tenth Avenue and is accumulating money for that purpose year by year.



522

December 28, 1920

British Columbian

## LEAVES STAFF OF PENITENTIARY:

Dr. W.A. deWolf Smith, Medical Health Officer of the B.C. Penitentiary, has resigned from that post and takes leave of his office on the last day of the year. His successor has not yet been appointed.

There are likely to be other changes in the personnel of the Penitentiary staff shortly. Mr. J.C. Brown, the Warden, will be superannuated, but the date that this will take effect has not been set. Speaking of the matter to the British Columbian this morning, Mr. Brown said that he is past the age and will in due course be superannuated but would not predict, with any certainty, when he would go out.

Several other members of the staff who are past the age are to be superannuated, but in no case has a date been set.

The appointment of a new Warden has not been made, but it is understood that a returned soldier who sustained severe wounds overseas may be brought from Victoria to fill the vacancy. There is also a new Deputy Warden to be appointed to succeed Mr. Carroll, who resigned some time ago. Chief Keeper Patchell has been Acting Deputy Warden since then.

Wardens Annual Report for the year ending 31st. March 1921

J.C. Brown Warden

There were one hundred fourteen prisoners in custody when the year began and one hundred forty six when it closed, the year saw the end of our eight year immunity from escapes, in June two short term prisoners at work on the Glenbrook Sewer slipped away, one of them has so far made good his escape, the other being recovered, lack of vigilance made the escape possible, carelessness allowed one to get off when the other was retaken. In July two life prisoners who were in hospital succeeded in unlocking their cell doors and cutting one window bar let themselves down by ropes made from twisted strips of bedding, one of them was retaken after seven months, the other is still at large.

The officers responsible were retired from the service or were fined. Four members of the staff who had each been in the service over thirty years retired during the year under the act for retirement and superannuation allowances.

Only one accident occurred during the year, a Japanese inmate slipping on a wet plank broke his wrist, he has completely recovered. One prisoner who had been fatally wounded before his admission was carried into the prison on a stretcher and died a few days after being received.

Work, other than the routine work of the shops and occasional repairs has been chiefly the work on hand when the year began.

Plastering cells in the East Wing was completed, one hundred thirty cells, 3,500 square yards of plaster.

Improvement of water system in the East Wing completed, seventy five cells. Kitchen closet removed and a new one put in, not quite completed at close of the year. Five hundred feet of Glenbrook sewer completed, one hundred feet of trench excavated, about one hundred fifty feet of temporary canal constructed.

The work of removing the hill which obstructed our view of the entrance road was completed, about five thousand cubic yards of earth being thrown into the ravine, where a little gradeing of the dump material will change what was an unsightly gulch into a flat of some four and a half acres level with the street.

Work on the central hall has progressed so far that its completion may be expected early in the current year. Two of the concrete girders which support the roof have a span of sixty three feet and the other two of sixty feet. The fact that they were put in with convict labour without a hitch and are entirely satisfactory shows the care and thoroughness with which the Chief Trades Instructor does his work.

Among the minor works were the getting in and manufacturing sixty cords of wood, the renewal of some one thousand feet of boundry fence, necessitating the making and replaceing of one hundred twenty, sixteen foot posts and the conversion of one of the temporary cell houses into a garage. The change in the Deputy Wardenship was taken advantage of to renovate the officers quarters.

The conduct of the prisoners was on the whole good, about half a dozen have spent a good deal of time in isolation, perhaps another dozen have been up before me, some of them more than once for minor offences, but a large majority give no trouble.

The concert given by an orchester under the leadership of the prison organist and the movie by two gentlemen from the Vancouver Y.M.C.A. were greatly enjoyed and highly appreciated by the inmates.

The Protestant Chaplin would like to see an advance in the cautious and tentative policy of the past few years in line of providing occassional intertainment for the prisoners. The R.C. Chaplin suggests a second service during the week, both are well plaeased with the general conduct of the prisoners under their charge.

The medical department was under a temporary surgeon for over two months, the present surgeon was not appointed until the last months of the fiscal year, consequently the medical report is meager, the per capita cost of drugs for the year was .83¢.

The deficit in the farm returns is hardly to be wondered at, with our small extent of poor sidehill soil it would be a difficult matter to make a farm pay under the best of conditions.

The present farmer is a practical man who evidently knows his work and attempts to do it as well as possible.

The big Kelly truck is useful in hauling from town and wharf, but will be more efficient when certain repairs or betterments have been completed.

The small Reo truck is doing more work than one team could do and doing it well.

The school has been a distinct success so far as one can judge at present, the Deputy Warden is quite satisfied that it decidedly promotes good conduct, particularly among the younger inmates.

The school master also takes a cultured mans interest in the library and is working every day towards getting it into good order and making it as useful as possible.

End of Report

J.C. Brown retired as Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary in September 1921. He died on the 18th. January 1929 at the age of 84 years, he had been Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary for 13 years.

523

February 23, 1922

British Columbian

PATCHELL IS MADE WARDEN - DATES FROM OCTOBER 1st

Mr. W.A. Patchell has been appointed Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary. Notification of the appointment, which is one made by the Civil Service Commission, reached Mr. Patchell to-day from the Inspector of Penitentiaries.

The recipient of this promotion has been 32 years in the Penitentiary Service. He served for 15 years as a Guard, was promoted to be Keeper in which position he served one year, then served three more years as Steward, 12 years as Chief Keeper, and one year as Deputy Warden, to which post he was appointed on the resignation of Deputy Warden Carroll. On the superannuation of Warden J.C. Brown, Mr. Patchell was appointed Acting Warden. His appointment as Warden is retroactive and dates back to October 1st, 1921, the date when he took over the reins of the office.

News of his appointment has created something like consternation in the ranks of the faithful, who had been regarding the Penitentiary position as one of the plums to be awarded under the old rules of political patronage. Ever since the election there has been a battle raging as to who have have this and other vacancies in the Dominion Service, there being

523A

an impression that the days of Civil Service Commission were numbered and that in the meantime that body might very well be ignored. This development has rudely jolted that belief, and now the boys are asking themselves sadly "what next?"

Annual report of Warden W.A.Patchell, 1922 B.C.Penitentiary

At the end of September 1921 we lost the esteemed and valued leadership of our Warden Mr.J.C.Brown who retired after many years of service.

I was afterwards appointed to succeed Warden Brown being promoted from Deputy Warden to date with effect from October 1st.1921

There is a steady increase in the prison population,at the beginning of the year one hundred forty six convicts were in custody and at March 31st.1922 the total reached one hundred ninety seven.

The health of the inmates generally was good,no deaths,there were no escapes from the Penitentiary,but John Lynn who was undergoing a life sentence for murder escaped from the Mental Home for the criminally insane in Saanich,Vancouver Island on 30th.November 1921 and to date has not been recaptured.

Discipline among the inmates is good,the more varied diet given without increasing the cost of maintenance and the weekly ration of tobacco issue have both greatly tended to help in this direction.

The Chaplains report that the spiritual welfare of the inmates have been attended to throughout the year and that behaviour and interest of the inmates while attending devine service leaves nothing to be desired. Each Chaplin now holds a week day meeting each week.

The Protestant Chaplin arranges for the visitors from the outside to come and give the inmates an address at the first meeting of each month. Although there is no obligation to attend these week day meetings,the fact that the Protestant attendance has already increased until it now reaches 65%,it goes to show they are well appreciated.

The last week of every second month the Protestant Chaplin also provides a movie picture exhibition for the inmates,we are indebted to several film company's in Vancouver who kindly loan us suitable films for display. The conduct at these entertainments has been excellent and such intertainment has made the inmates realize that the authorities are not indifferent to them.Our thanks are due to the Salvation Army in Vancouver which gave us a very good band concert during the summer.

The schoolmaster reports that the number of inmates attending school has increased from fourteen to forty,and besides these,there are twenty five others who receive instruction in their cells during the evening in various branches of study.

An up to date garage has now been provided and the trucks are doing useful work and proveing more serviceable than horses.

The farm tractor is also operating satisfactorely, farm operations have been fairly successful.

Eight hundred long cords of wood, four hundred fifty cedar posts, eight to sixteen feet long and a great deal of other material was salvaged from the river, this will materially reduce the fuel account account for the winter and furnish enough posts to meet all fencing requirements.

The work clearing land was energetically taken and fair progress was made, at the end of the year five acres have been thoroughly cleared which will increase the farm acreage for the future, this will consequently aid us in secureing better returns from the farm.

The Glenbrook sewer was completed to the end of the reserve, about three thousand feet from eight ave. were backfilled and graded, approximately two acres were also graded fronting on Columbia street.

All galleries, stairs and railings in the central hall were completed, the kitchen and the cells in the south side of the East Wing were painted with white enamel paint, greatly improveing the appearance besides being a great aid to cleanliness.

Towards the end of the fiscal year excavating work was commenced for the foundation of the new south wall.

Numerous other small jobs were completed, we were pleased to receive a visit of inspection from Inspector Smith when several matters were discussed regarding the prison and settled much more satisfactorily than could be done by correspondence.

End of report



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE B. C. PENITENTIARY 1923 - W.A. PATCHELL, WARDEN

---

The year commenced with 197 inmates and closed with a population of 216. A noticable feature of the convictions against inmates received during the year was the large number of offenders against the Opium and Narcotic Drug Act. Of the 33 inmates received under this heading 23 were orientals, and in accordance of Section 10B of the above Act the question of deportation has been taken up with the Department of Immigration and Colonization and in the case of all aliens convicted, even though, they may have domiciled.

The year under review has been free from unpleasantness. The health of the inmates has been good, no deaths and escapes occurred. Discipline among the Officers has also been very satisfactory. An occasional moving picture entertainment continues to provide great pleasure to the inmates and gives them an interesting break from the routine of prison life.

I am satisfied that the present Chaplins are doing everything possible to attend to the spiritual welfare of the inmates under their care, and I am confident that in consequence of the moral and religious teachings imparted many of the inmates have realized the error of their ways. Great interest was taken by the inmates in the mission field during the week of March 19th to 25th, 1923 and I feel sure that much spiritual good resulted. I must admit that when it was suggested that a mission be held here I was inclined to view same with a certain feeling of trepidation. After seeing the results accomplished I would now recommend that a mission along the lines of the one conducted be held yearly.

The School Teacher and Librarian takes a keen interest in his work as will be noted from his monthly reports forwarded. He is making good progress in attending to the requirements of the inmates as regards education and literature. Many inmates have been taught the Blacksmith, Tailoring, Shoe-

making, and carpentry trades. It would be possible to increase the number if it could be arranged to do work in these shops for other government departments.

Throughout the year construction work authorized was energetically pursued. Five hundred feet of new concrete boundary wall was completed and the work reflects great credit on the Chief Trade Instructor and inmates employed thereon. Suitable quarters were provided for the Chief Keepers Department filling a long felt necessity. Adequate storage facilities for clothing, etc and the installation of a modern bathing system has brought this department up to date. The Deputy Warden's residence was thoroughly renovated and put into first class shape. Interior decorative work was also done to the Warden's house. Other work including painting the central hall and East Wing with white gloss paint that continues to look clean and bright and is greatly admired by all. The Chief Trade Instructors report contains details of other tasks performed. We were fortunate in receiving a visit from the Superintendent, Inspector Fatt and the Structural Engineer during the summer. Many new proposals have been left in abeyance as it was not possible to deal with them by correspondence. As a result of this visit of inspection certain changes and proposals were adopted and a definite building construction program laid down which will ultimately prove of much benefit to the Institution. A high standard of quantity and quality was maintained in feeding the inmates. It seems hardly creditable that throughout the year not one complaint was made to me by an inmate regarding rations, although I am at all times willing to investigate any that may be made. This in itself goes to show that the Steward is conducting the kitchen in a capable manner.

I regret that at the time it was arranged to hold a conference of Penitentiary Wardens, the condition of my health made the long journey inadvisable. Arrangements therefore made to have MR. G.W.Trollope, Deputy Warden of this

Penitentiary attend the conference, and all matters under consideration discussed upon his return. I wish to thank the members of the staff for their unfailing support, and I beg to tender my heartfelt appreciation for the kind assistance that has always been received from the Superintendent and his staff in Ottawa.

END OF REPORT

524

August 16th, 1923

British Columbian

## SERVICE PERIOD OF 33 YEARS

The retirement of Mr. W.A. Patchell as Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, whose post is shortly to be filled by Colonel H.W. Cooper, Stoney Mountain, Manitoba, completes a service to the Dominion Government extending over 33 years. Mr. Patchell joined the B.C. Penitentiary Staff on August 18th, 1890 and held various positions in the Sapperton Institution up to August 1911 when he was made Chief Keeper. In January 1921 he was appointed Deputy Warden and was promoted to Warden on the retirement of Mr. J.C. Brown in October 1921. Mr. Patchell wished to be retired at the same time as Mr. Brown, but was persuaded by Lieutenant Colonel Hughes, Inspector of Penitentiaries to remain on the staff.

He has recently been granted four months Leave of Absence. He expects to spend considerable time in game hunting, a favourite pastime of his which has been more or less restricted during the time he was engaged at the Institution. During the entire length of time he has been a member of the staff, Mr. Patchell has been noted for his impartiality and fairness, both to the officers under him and also to the inmates of the Institution. His departure will be generally regretted by the officers of the B.C. Penitentiary.

November 13th, 1923

British Columbian

#### ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FAILS

A determined attempt to escape from the Penitentiary, late on Saturday, was frustrated by the early discovery of the absence of three convicts and by the vigilant watch kept by the guards and officials. George Van Horst, a convicted murderer, Ronald H. Smith and Herbert Burton, the two youths who were found guilty last summer of holding up and killing a Bank Clerk in Victoria, were the convicts who attempted the get away. Van Horst is a hardened and experienced criminal serving a life-term and has on record a previous successful attempt to escape from the Penitentiary. The present effort was planned with the greatest of care and skill and was undoubtedly the outcome of months of watchful planning and work. All three involved in the attempt were employed in the Shoe Repair Shop of the Institution and a large air shaft, behind the bench and which Van Horst worked, was the avenue to hope for freedom. The wire screen over this had been carefully removed, and apparently for weeks prior to the attempt, the exit had been exploited and detailed plans and arrangements carefully laid to facilitate the attempt was made.

525A

The air shaft led up to the roof and a ladder of odds and ends of rope, cloth, etc. had been prepared, evidently to facilitate getting down to the ground and scaling the outer walls. With all plans matured the fog that prevailed on Saturday was no doubt expected to further aid the attempt, and late on Saturday afternoon the three were reported missing.

While such close supervision is kept by the officials we are sure the men could not have got away from the Penitentiary premises, an alarm was immediately sent out, all the buildings and grounds were carefully searched, and guards were placed on all outlets from the city. Outgoing cars and jitneys, trains, etc. were carefully inspected and every precaution taken to prevent the missing men from getting further away. The search was kept up all day Sunday, but it was not until Monday morning upon another and closer inspection of the Penitentiary Buildings being made, that the ingeniously covered exit via the air shaft was discovered and the men found huddled in the space between the ceiling and the roof above. The watch over the grounds and buildings had been too close for the men to be able to make good a further effort to regain their complete liberty.

525B

Van Horst's former escape was made in July 1920. With another murderer, an Italian Montenarion, he got away from the Hospital, putting dummies in the beds to fool the Guard who looked into the cells periodically and thus gain time to put space between himself and the Penitentiary. Montenarion was never recaptured, but Van Horst was found about a year later running a Grocery Store in Seattle and mixed up with a Drug Ring there.

November 24th, 1923

British Columbian

EVIDENCE TAKEN IN PENITENTIARY

Convicts allege that R.C.M.P. Officers were concerned in drug deals in Vancouver. Investigations into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Force of British Columbia by J.P. Smith, K.C. Royal Commissioner, were continued within the Penitentiary walls, in New Westminster, yesterday afternoon. J.J. Wing, Chinese, serving a seven year term for trafficking in narcotics in Vancouver and alleged to be one of the ring leaders in the narcotic trade of that city, told the Court of Inquiry that he had paid F. Eccles, a former R.C.M.P. Investigator, \$300.00 to get a damaging witness against Wing out of the way and further, that he had bought 20 pounds of opium from two Mounted Police Officers for \$2,000.00. These two Officers, he said were at that moment in the room, but Wing refused to identify them.

Seven present or former Officers of the R.C.M.P. sat in the room with the barred windows, which Warden Cooper had placed at the Commissioner's disposal.

Eccles, Wing said, had asked for \$1,000.00 to spirit away Anderton, the chief witness against Wing on the Drug selling charges. He said he paid Eccles \$300.00.



526A

The column goes on to relate various details of the Inquiry at the B.C. Penitentiary. This article is just mentioned to show that evidence was taken at the B.C. Penitentiary.

February 1st, 1924

British Columbian

REVIVAL MEETINGS AT PENITENTIARY

The Ministerial Association of New Westminster, by permission of the Warden, Colonel Cooper, is arranging to hold a series of Evangelistic Meetings in the B.C. Penitentiary during the third week of March. The speaker will probably be Reverend Richmond Craig of Vancouver, and one Chairman of each service will be one of the local Ministers.

Music will be under the direction of Rev. E.A. Couldrey and Mr. Frank Paulding.

Those who have heard of the results of the Great Revival which occurred at the Stoney Mountain Penitentiary, Manitoba, will be interested to know that Colonel Cooper was the instigator of the same.

528

February 5, 1924

British Columbian

PENITENTIARY GUARD CHARGED - FAILS TO APPEAR IN POLICE  
COURT TO ANSWER CHARGE - BENCH WARRANT ISSUED

He is charged with violating the regulations to the B.C. Penitentiary and also the Federal Law in respect to transmitting letters between inmates of the prison and persons outside, J.A. MacKenzie, a Guard, failed to appear in Police Court this morning and a Bench Warrant was issued by the Magistrate.

Colonel H.W. Cooper, Warden of the Institution in Sapperton, was present to give evidence in Court.

April 1, 1924

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY - H.W. COOPER, WARDEN

---

The prison population on April 1, 1924 showed an increase of eight over the number of inmates confined on April 1, 1923. Approximately 10% of the inmates are not over twenty years of age, while 20% are Orientals. There have been no successful attempts at escape during the past year. Warden W.A. Patchell retired on the 31 December 1923 after 32 years of unblemished service.

Changes have been made in the diet with a view to providing a wider variety of food.

Occasional concerts have been given. The Vocational training has been extended and a large number of men employed to the Engineer has proved of material benefit.

The farm acreage ( $47\frac{1}{2}$ ) is so inadequate and inconveniently situated that only a negligible number of men can be employed in agriculture, so valuable in the rebuilding of men. The Penitentiary Officials are required by law to employ the inmates at hard labour, the public expects that attempts be made to rebuild character and to turn out useful citizens, yet the Penitentiaries are denied facilities for useful employment except practically for the needs of the Institution. The habit of work is the surest support of a mans moral and physical well being. It is through the lack of the will and the ability to work that many men come to the Penitentiary and were it not for structural altercations 50% of the inmates of this Penitentiary would today be condemned to idleness or the stone pile. I trust it will soon be found possible to utilize the labour of the inmates to supply the needs of other government departments.

There can be no efficient scheme of classification or segregation except by separate buildings or Institutions, until these are provided it will be helpful

if one central penitentiary could be designated to which would be transferred those men who are centres of moral infection and will remain so in spite of reformatory efforts. I must repeat my recommendation of the establishment for a central criminal asylum.

END OF REPORT

Thursday, May 22nd, 1924

British Columbian

REVEREND A.E. VERT CHAPLAIN OF PENITENTIARY RETIRES - 20  
YEARS SERVICE

After twenty years of service this Chaplain of the British Columbia Penitentiary the Reverend A.E. Vert has been superannuated. He has been officially notified from Ottawa that his retirement, effective from May 31st, has been recommended, and he will preach his final sermon in the Institution on Sunday.

Mr. Vert entered upon his duties as Chaplain on May 16th, 1904, he has served under four Wardens beginning with the late Colonel J.C. White, who was succeeded by J.C. Brown, W.A. Patchell and Colonel Cooper in the order named. Only three members of the Penitentiary Staff as it is now constituted were in the service when Mr. Vert joined. They are Patrick Devine, Chief Keeper; John Robertson, Steward; and Donald McKenzie, Storekeeper.

Prior to his appointment as Chaplain Mr. Vert was Minister of the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

September 15th, 1924

British Columbian

PENITENTIARY OFFICERS MEET

Wardens of six Canadian Penitentiaries together with other officials including Brigadier General Williams St. Pierre Hughes Superintendent of Penitentiaries, are in Convention in the New Westminster this afternoon when prison problems are under discussion. The remainder of the sessions will be held at the Hotel Vancouver.

According to General Hughes a member of the well known Hughes family which included the late Sir Sam Hughes, the meeting of the Wardens is for the purpose of discussing the Administration in the Government Institutions and to draft recommendations for the revision of the Penitentiaries Act, for submission to the Minister of Justice.

Other matters which will come up for discussion will be the classification of the inmates of the Institutions, a proposed segregation of habitual criminals, and the opening up of the mental disease hospitals for the criminally insane, and the feeble minded patients.

Another proposal will be the training of Officers before being allowed to take charge in the Institutions, the securing

529A

of more work for the Inmates, and the payment of wages to well behaved Inmates.

With the party are Miss Lewis, Secretary to General Hughes; E.R. Jackson Inspector of Penitentiaries; Major George T. Goad, Warden of Dorchester Penitentiary, Colonel E. Delagirouard, Warden of St. Vincent De Paul Penitentiary, Quebec, Major W.J. McLeod, Warden of Prince Albert Penitentiary, Saskatchewan, William Meeghan, Warden of Stoney Mountain Penitentiary, Manitoba.



31 March 1925

H. W. Cooper, Warden

The year 1924 - 1925 has been one of quiet progress at this Institution. A new laundry and change room have been completed. Footings for the new Kitchen and also for the New Administration have been poured and the South West Gate erected. Discipline has been satisfactory. There have been no escapes. Occasional entertainment has been provided by several local organizations. The tone of the Institution continues to improve due largely to the efforts of the guards and the instructors.

The school has also been of material service in this connection. The population continues to increase, having risen from 224 to 247 during the past 12 months.

Of the men received during the year 17.2% had previously served sentences in Penitentiaries and Gaols in Canada and the United States, while 3.63% had Penitentiary records only and 33.64% Gaol records.

Of the 110 new inmates, 19 were serving sentences for murder, manslaughter or crimes of violence. 28 for burglary and allied offences, 17 for sexual crimes including rape. 23 for offences under the narcotics act. 20 known drug addicts were received.

Of the 16 men received who had previously served time in the Institution, 8 were known drug addicts. 2 sexual perverts and 4 intemperate drinkers who had been discharged from the Institution 7 to 12 years previously. Of the remaining 2, one is a young man brought up under poor home conditions. I have great hopes that this will be his last term in a penal institution. Unemployment was a large factor contributing to the continued delinquency of the other.

April 4th, 1925

British Columbian

RECEIVE WATCHES FOR LONG SERVICE

Gold watches, suitably inscribed, as an appreciation of their services as members of the B.C. Penitentiary Staff, were presented to Patrick Devine, 45 Dufferin Street and to R.J. Robertson, 19 Agnes Street on Thursday evening. Mr. Devine recently retired under the Calder Act after 21 years service at the Federal Institution, while Mr. Robertson's services extended to 38 years. The presentation was made by Messrs. Emery, Craig, Mullins and Bennett, members of the staff who carried with them letters from the Warden, Colonel H.W. Cooper, expressing the esteem in which these retiring officers were held.

May 2nd, 1925

British Columbian

PENITENTIARY GUARD DIES IN HOSPITAL

Russell E. Farrell, Penitentiary Guard, who figured in a spectacular accident on December 11, last year died in the Royal Columbian Hospital this morning. He was driving a truck across the Great Northern Railway track near the entrance to the Penitentiary, when a Canadian National train smashed into him. Taken to the hospital suffering from severe injuries he made what was considered a remarkable recovery and was discharged on April 13th, but on April 21st he was again taken to the hospital suffering from pneumonia.

The late Mr. Farrell was 29 years of age and had been on the Penitentiary staff for nine months. He leaves a wife and three children, residing at 339 Cumberland Street. S. Bowell & Son have charge of funeral arrangement.

June 20th, 1925

British Columbian

TABLET SHOWING WHERE ROYAL ENGINEERS LANDED TO BE UNVEILED  
SOON

Construction and unveiling of the Table to commemorate the arrival of the Royal Engineers in New Westminster, the location of their camp, the meeting of the first Legislative Council and the establishment of a first Capital of British Columbia will take place within the next few months, according to His Honour F.W. Howay, who recently returned from an extended trip to Ottawa, Montreal, and Boston. All arrangements have been made with the Dominion Government for the Tablet to be erected on the Penitentiary grounds at the entrance of the Institution. The ground is being prepared under the direction of Colonel H.W. Cooper.

September 25th, 1925

British Columbian

NEW CHAPLAIN APPOINTED TO PENITENTIARY

Reverend J.G. Gibson, Maple Ridge, has been appointed Chaplain to the B.C. Penitentiary and will take up his duties immediately. He received Notice of his appointment while on vacation from the Methodist Pastorate on Maple Ridge.

Reverend Mr. Gibson was Ordained at Kamloops in 1914, and on the outbreak of war enlisted in No. 5 Canadian General Hospital Corp, in which he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He served in the Balkans for two years and was well known for his work in Salonika City. Returning to England, he transferred to the Imperial Forces that he might see service in France. There he was appointed Divisional Chaplain to the 36th Division, with the rank of Captain. He is an Elk and Chaplain to the B.P.O.E. 49th, acting as their representative at the Convention in Winnipeg. Captain Gibson, known as a faithful Minister and eloquent Preacher, is also popular for his genial social qualities, ever ready to aid in a worthy cause. He is also a good musician and can sing a song, sacred or secular, with much ability.

September 25, 1925

British Columbian

BANDITS IN PENITENTIARY

Heavily guarded by Provincial Constables three Nanaimo bank bandits, were each sentenced to eight years in the Penitentiary and twenty lashes, passed through the city this morning on their way to the Government Institution at Sapperton. The prisoners were Alfred Castro, Ed Gorman and T.H. Johnson.

The procession was an imposing one as it passed along Columbia Street. The Provincial authorities were taking no chances of an escape or an attempted release by the friends of the prisoners. An auto carrying armed constables preceded the new Provincial police wagon, on the front of which sat three more constables. Two motorcycle officers flanked the patrol until the Penitentiary Gate clanked behind the trio.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 31 March 1926 - H. W. Cooper, Warden

The population continues to show a small growth, having increased by 9 during the year. The average daily population was 253 against 229 during the preceeding 12 months. It is noteworthy that during the 12 months ending the 31 March 1916 the average daily population was 337.

There have been no escapes during the year, mainly due to the vigilance of guards and instructors. One death ocured during the 12 months.

The building of the Penitentiary has shown material progress, the remodeling of the North Wing has been completed with the exception of the plumbing and this was due to causes not under the control of the Penitentiary. Of the new wall approximately 560 feet was built. Of the new Kitchen and Chapel, all concrete work has been completed up to and including the Chapel floor. The structural steel framework of this building was erected by prison labor, under the supervision of the Chief Trade Instructor and the Mason Instructor.

The Engineers Department has been separated from the blacksmith shop. A re-inforced concrete garage has been erected in the grounds of the Warden's residence and the grading of the new driveway from the south entrance on Columbia Street has been proceeded with.

Folding chairs of approved pattern have been made in the prison and now replace the stools formerly used in the cells.

Over 775 cords of wood were salvaged from the river. The unsightly board fence along Columbia Street has been demolished.

The progress of the work has been greatly facilitated by the transfer to the B.C. Penitentiary from the Prince Albert Penitentiary of Chief Trade Instructor Allen. The energy and experience of this Officer has proved of great value to the Warden.

The sudden death of the Protestant Chaplin, Reverend William Robertson on 3rd July was greatly regreted.

Sunday morning bible class began during Mr. Robertson's tenure of office and has been continued with success and beneficial results by his successor, the Reverend J. Gibson.

The work of the Librarian and School Teacher has been a large factor in the work for better citizenship.

At the annual examinations by the Provincial Board of Education two high school certificates were gained by inmates of the Penitentiary.

The revision of salaries which came into effect at the beginning of the 12 months was a great disappointment and the effect upon the class of applicants has already shown itself. The vitals essential for Penitentiary employment is character. A Prison Official must be able to withstand not only the grossier forms of bibery but also the insinuating influence of flattery. The faculties of leadership and self control are important. To take over a gang of from 20 to 30 men of different nationalities and temperments, keep them steadily at work, guard against escapes and violations of the prison rules, be prepared at any moment to endanger one's life or ready to grapple with a refractory prisoner and yet bring these men back at the evening closing a little better for having been under one's supervision, demands high qualities not only of manhood but also of physique.

While the commencing net salary of \$85.00 a month plus uniform and boots may attract ordinary watchmen, a staff of guards of that type cannot maintain a clean, secure penal institution. A lower tone in the staff must inevitably result in lack of effeciency and economy and an equally lowered standard among inmates before and after release.

These remarks apply particularly to the Industrial guards or instructors. These men must not only be skilled tradesmen but also be competent in every branch of the trade. For example, the Blacksmith instructor is required not only to know general ironworking and anvil work but also farriery, sheet metal work, acetelene welding and machine shop practices and be able to read blueprints. He is responsible for the accurate bookkeeping of his shop, must act as guard and maintain discipline among inmates and above all have the faculty of imparting his knowledge and skill to inmates, many of whom have reached mature years without being able to learn any trade at all in civil life.

Kiplings "Sargent Whats his name" who made soldiers out of mud had an easy task compared to the Penitentiary Instructor charged with the duty of making skilled tradesmen out of floaters, yet the net commencing salary for this position is \$95.00 per month.

It is to be hoped that the commencing salary for any Penitentiary position will soon be raised to a minimum of \$108.00 per month, with a suitable larger rate for instructors. The percentage of young men in the Institution has shown a slight



decrease. Never the less the need of facilities for segregation of occasional criminals from those of the hardened type is just as urgent today as when years ago those responsible for the administration of the Penitentiaries first pointed out this crying need.

During the year further evidence has accumulated for a more effective form of supervision than is afforded by the present parole system. Were this system to be amended and strengthened it would be possible to show a larger percentage of inmates returned to ordinary life, fit and willing to be law abiding citizens.

The good work of the Salvation Army has been continued and many men released from the Penitentiary have benefited from the never failing help afforded by the Army.

END OF REPORT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 1927 -  
H. W. Cooper, Warden

---

The population showed a decrease of 14 during the year. It is interesting to note that of the 97 newcomers received during the year, 25 were at the time of reception unfit to perform ordinary labour or required medical attention.

I am happy to again report that there have been no escapes during the past year. Considerable progress has been made with the rebuilding of the Institution. Approximately 450 feet of wall was completed and the excavation for a temporary brick wall between the north-east tower and the new wall is in hand. The concrete work of the new Kitchen has been completed. The roof erected and the plastering of the walls has been made considerable progress. Refrigerating machinery has been installed and is in operation. A new house for the Deputy Warden has been brought to such a stage that the roof has been placed. From the cut of the new driveway approximately 6000 yards of earth have been removed and disposed of. A retaining wall has been built on the south side of the entrance of the Accountants house and a cut stone wall on Columbia Street in front of this residence has been erected. The ornamental iron fence is now being put in place.

During the year considerable repairs and renewals have been made on the roofs of the north and east wings and the central hall. Fuel to the extent of 832 and 1/2 cords of wood has been salvaged from the river. The work has been handicapped by the difficulty of obtaining and retaining good tradesmen in the service as instructors owing to the scale of pay.

The past year has again emphasized the desirability of the appointment of a parole Officer to undertake the supervision of those inmates who need a period of guidance before assuming in full the responsibilities of ordinary life. I would again stress the need of legislation to enable us to deal more effectively with recidivists and habitual criminals.

The task of bringing back to normal standards, youths or men, who have slipped through weakness, is greatly aggravated by the presence of those inmates who have deliberately adopted lives of crime, and who repeatedly decline to avail themselves of the facilities afforded for self betterment. This type is usually composed of floaters who have cut themselves adrift from the ties of normal living.

With a dry warm place to sleep and sufficient food, they are content. Upon the expiration of their sentences the Penitentiary Warden must release them knowing full well it will be only a matter of a short time before they are again incarcerated

for preying upon their fellow citizens. Misfortune may bring a man into the Penitentiary once, unusual circumstances may cause him to return again, but surely, upon the individual who enters for the third time must rest the onus of proving his fitness before he is returned to ordinary life. To deal with this class of man I would reiterate my recommendations for a central Institution where these men may receive special treatment necessary and so permit the ordinary Penitentiary to intensify its efforts for rebuilding of character. The Salvation Army continues to be a friend to the prisoner, the Vancouver Kiwanis and Gyroes have maintained their interests with beneficial results. The A.O.T.S. Club of the United Church of Canada demonstrated its willingness to help the X-Prisoner upon release.

END OF REPORT

539

July 20th, 1927

British Columbian

## FORMER PRISON OFFICIAL DIES IN ST. MARYS

Thomas Sampson of 24 Ellis Street and for twenty-one years a member of the staff of the B.C. Penitentiary died in St. Marys Hospital this morning.

Mr. Sampson came to New Westminster in 1889 and was superannuated by the prison authorities in 1921. He was the possessor of a long service medal for faithful service. Born in England on May 25th, 1859 the deceased was a member of King Solomon Lodge A.F. & A.M. and was a Past Master of the Unit and also Past Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter in the city.

The Masonic Fraternity will have charge of the funeral which probably will be held on Friday afternoon. He was a member of Sapperton United Church.

540

September 10th, 1927

British Columbian

## EXHIBIT FROM PENITENTIARY IS ATTRACTIVE

Attracting considerable attention in the Manufacturer's Building at the Provincial Exhibition is the exhibit of the British Columbia Penitentiary. This display comprises articles made by the inmates of the local institution and is in charge of Stanley Ward, Educational Instructor. There are shoes, men's clothing, specimens of woodwork, machine-shop work and many other articles. The shoes and clothing were made by men who were unskilled in the two trades prior to admission and serve as a splendid illustration of the results accomplished through the educational facilities afforded. Specimens of penmanship from Indians who were illiterate when they commenced their sentence are also shown and there are drawings done by members of the Draughtsman class which was recently organized. Book-binding is another trade which is taught and there are examples of that work, to say nothing of the collection of novelties which are made by the prisoners during their leisure time. Taken generally, the exhibit serves to illustrate the splendid results which are being achieved from the efforts of Colonel H. W. Cooper, Warden of the Penitentiary and his staff to teach the inmates a trade or profession and thus assist them in re-establishing themselves on their discharge from the institution.

541

September 30th, 1927

British Columbian

## CAIRN IS NEARING COMPLETION

For some time activities connected with the erection of a Cairn opposite the main entrance of the B.C. Penitentiary at Sapperton have been a source of interest to passers-by. The Cairn is nearing completion now, and the protecting cover of tar paper will soon be removed from the bronze tablet that is to reward the justly curious with the information that the monument is erected by the Historic Sights and Monuments Board of Canada, proclaiming New Westminster, the first capital of the colony of British Columbia 1859 - 1868.

The inscription reads in full:

Here exists "1858 - 1863" the camp of the Royal Engineers, a Detachment set out by the Imperial Government to maintain law and order and to aid in the development of the colony. Here on January 21st, 1864 the Legislative Council of British Columbia held its first meeting and continued to meet until the capital was removed. Through the cooperation of Penitentiary authorities, the Historic Sights and Monuments Board have been able to secure for the Cairn the sight actually chosen for the Royal Engineers for their camp in Sapperton.

The work is under the supervision of Captain J.M. Riddell,

541A

and material and labour are supplied by the New Westminster Penitentiary. The monument is built of granite boulders joined with black pointing, seven feet square at the base, and eleven feet in height. It is similar in design to several other Cairns erected through the same influence in other parts of Canada, to mark the scenes of great events in the history of the Dominion.

The construction of the Cairn is going on simultaneously with other improvement work in connection with the Penitentiary grounds, and when completed will add appreciatively to the appearance of the whole.

A three foot walk is to surround the Cairn, the sloping lawns behind it will be terraced, and from the circular roadway steps will lead up to the new entrance of the Administration Building.

542

February 17th, 1928

British Columbian

## WARDEN OF PENITENTIARY IS RETIRED

A sequel to the recent rumours of something sinister in the making with respect to the Penitentiary service, came this afternoon in a telegram from Ottawa to Col. Cooper, informing him that he has been retired "to promote efficiency and harmony" and to put the institution at once in the hands of his Deputy, this was done this afternoon.

Col. Cooper could not be seen in time to secure a statement this afternoon, but no doubt he will make one tomorrow. The trouble seems to have been purely personal, and to have risen from the dictatorial habits of the travelling staff of the penitentiary. Col. Cooper asked some time ago to be permitted to discuss the affair with the Minister, but this request was not granted.



543

February 18th, 1928

British Columbian

## IN IGNORANCE OF GROUNDS FOR RETIREMENT

The Minister of Justice being interviewed today with respect to the announced retirement of the Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, stated that he had issued the order after a "full investigation" on the report of Inspector Jackson. No appointment has yet been made, but Inspector Jackson is to be sent out to take charge temporarily.

Asked for a statement in connection with the order from Ottawa retiring him as Warden of the Penitentiary, Col. H.W. Cooper said the following:

I am in ignorance of the grounds on which my retirement has been recommended by the Minister of Justice. I was informed statements had been made effecting the administration of the penitentiary, but full particulars of these statements, and the identity of the persons making them, were denied. I know nothing in the record of the B.C. Penitentiary since 1923 to warrant so serious a step. This record is well known to the people of British Columbia. The B.C. Penitentiary has been free from trouble such as had occurred at some of the other institutions, escapes, riots and even murder has been known.

The report of every Inspector was satisfactory until last fall, when I was forced to protest against the Superintendent of Penitentiaries bringing personal matters into the conduct of the penitentiary.

543A

Developments following this protest led me to ask permission to communicate with the Minister of Justice as I was confident he was not informed of these matters. This request was not granted.

I have wired Hon. Ernest LaPointe for an opportunity to answer my accusers before making any further statement. This is in fairness to the Minister as otherwise he is **entirely** dependent upon reports furnished him, in this case by the very officials whose conduct I called into question.

544

February 20th, 1928

British Columbian

## CIVIL SERVICE BODY TO NAME SUCCESSOR:

Inspector E.R. Jackson of the Penitentiaries Branch is leaving Ottawa today to take temporary charge of the Penitentiary at New Westminster pending the appointment of a successor to Warden H. W. Cooper, such positions are filled by the Civil Service Commission. Considerable reticence is displayed here in regard to the Cooper case. All the Minister of Justice will say is that it is a departmental matter in respect which he has acted on the report of an investigation.

General St.Pierre Hughes, Superintendent of Penitentiaries also would not make any statement for publication. It is learned that Warden Cooper has not been dismissed but "retired". The difference is very material in that one who is dismissed cannot get any retiring allowance or pension where as retirement, even though involuntary, does not operate against the payment of a retiring allowance.

It is not a great secret that things have not been going well at the New Westminster Institution. There have been two investigations in the last three months, and these are said to have disclosed violation of the regulations and other faulty conditions, which brought very adverse reports. Upon these the department has acted by retiring Col. Cooper. There is no reason to suspect any personal animus on the part of the officials here.

545

February 27th, 1928

British Columbian

## JACKSON ARRIVES TO TAKE CHARGE AT PENITENTIARY

Inspector Jackson of the Dominion Penitentiary Staff arrived in the City on Saturday and has taken charge of the British Columbia Penitentiary pending the appointment of a Warden to succeed Col. H.W. Cooper, retired. Mr. Jackson states that he is here on the instruction of General St. Pierre Hughes, Superintendent of Penitentiaries.

He is not in a position to say what the department has in mind in the matter of appointing a new Warden, nor is he able to say when the appointment will be made.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY 31 March 1928: INSPECTOR E. R. JACKSON  
ACTING WARDEN

---

In view of recent developments at this Institution, it is somewhat difficult to make a comprehensive survey for the major part of the above period, as it was not until 25 February 1928 that I assumed control of the British Columbia Penitentiary as Acting Warden, being in actual charge for only thirty-five days out of the fiscal year 1927 - 1928.

My assumption of duty as Acting Warden was owing to the retirement of LT. COL. H. W. Cooper. On taking charge I found the discipline and esprit de corps of the institution at a low ebb. The Officers, who are as fine a type as is to be found at any of the Institutions I have inspected, appear to be totally lacking in interest in their work, and the whole routine of the Penitentiary was carried out in a desultory and lack-lustre manner. Not one tenth of the work program which could have been accomplished with the manpower at the disposal of the Institution had been completed. This state of affairs I immediately took steps to rectify, with gratifying results. On 25 February 1928 work on the new Administration Building had progressed only to the height of the windows of the lower story. By 31st March 1928 the concrete of the main driveway had been poured, and the walls carried to the total height of the building line with the roof thus leaving only the towers and the parapet to be erected. The pouring of the balance could not be proceeded with until the arrival of the necessary construction steel. The unsightly fence which had been erected around the Administration Building facing Columbia Street was demolished, and a new tower erected at the temporary gateway. The gap in the wall being closed by 40 feet of up-to-date and secure fence. The interior of the prison Administration Building was completely renovated, as far as painting, kalsomining and general brightening up of the interior decoration was concerned. The offices were thus made vastly more cheerful and habitable for the Administrative Staff.

For the previous two years the Accountants grounds have been left neglected and presented a most unsightly appearance. These were completely terraced and fenced and grass seed sown, in this connection it is interesting to note that the attractive fence which was erected was completed at negligible cost, the whole of the lumber necessary having been salvaged from the various works of construction around the institution. That portion of the Penitentiary found in the vicinity of the Memorial Cairn erected by the Historical Sites Commission, the work of excavation and terracing for the erection of the stairway entrance from Columbia Street to the New Administrative Building was commenced. This work was rendered

difficult owing to the stubborn nature of the hardpan, but not withstanding, exceptionally good progress was made.

Work on the non-climbable fence running from the corner of Columbia Street up Cumberland Street has been at a standstill. An Officer and eight men were immediately started on the continuation of this work, and made splendid progress. The steam shovel which had been secured from the Canadian National Parks, which had been repaired and put into running order prior to my arrival, I, at once instructed should be manned and put to work in the old brick yard. The crew operating the shovel consisted of five men and an officer, with two obsolete Reo Trucks. During the 35 days, this gang excavated about 1500 cubic yards of earth. They also erected a heavy scaffolding overhanging the ravine onto which the trucks could back and dump the earth over a thirty foot drop into the ravine. Construction in connection with the Deputy Warden's new house, which had been hanging fire for a long time, was immediately speeded up, and is now fast nearing completion. A general review of the situation at the conclusion of the year ended 31 March 1928, showed a marked improvement of moral in this Institution both as regards Officers and inmates. Apart from the increased activity on the part of the latter, the inmates displayed a distinct interest in their work, and a much more cheerful attitude generally. Encouragement given to the Officers to exercise their initiative in connection with their work which they claim was never before afforded has had its effect in greatly increased efficiency.

A factor which in the past impeded progress to no small degree was the custom of ceasing work of keeping the inmates confined at the least sign of fog or rain. These weather conditions, while naturally necessitating increased care and vigilance, can and did, assume exaggerated proportions which diminished greatly the amount of work preformed. This excessive care made it practically impossible for the Chief Trade Instructor to effectively carry on the work outside the walls during most of the winter months. All operations being held up on the flimsiest pretext. I immediately increased the outside gangs from around thirty men to at some times over 100. In conclusion I wish to tender my warmest thanks to the Officers of this Institution for their loyalty and active cooperation, and for the assistance they have rendered me generally in the management of this Institution. I would also like to thank the members of your staff and yourself for the proud manner in which you have afforded your support to my endeavours to increase efficiency during a particularly trying period.

END OF REPORT

546

April 26th, 1928

British Columbian

## THREE JOBS TO BE FILLED AT PENITENTIARY

Three important posts are to be filled at the British Columbia Penitentiary in the near future, according to a notice which appears in the Canada Gazette on April 18th.

The most important is a Warden to succeed Col. H.W. Cooper, who recently vacated the position. The time limit for receiving applications for the Wardens post has been set for May 14th.

A Trades Instructor in Carpentry and one in Masonry are also required in the institution.

The qualifications required for the above positions, although specified in the classification of the Civil Service of Canada, and further particulars regarding same may be obtained from the Civil Service Commission, Ottawa

547

April 30th, 1928

British Columbian

## CHINESE MAKES ESCAPE FROM PENITENTIARY

Wo Sing, Chinese convict at the New Westminster Penitentiary, escaped from the institution at 9:30 this morning.

The Oriental, together with several inmates, was employed at the Warden's residence doing domestic duties, when he made his get-away.

None of the others, however, left the institution. A wide search is on for the missing Chinese. According to a report made to the city police, the Chinese was dressed in civilian clothes and was wearing an overcoat.

Inspector Jackson who is acting Warden at the Penitentiary, states that it has not been definitely ascertained that he was wearing a civilian suit, although it is possible that he may have been dressed in a civilian overcoat. The Oriental's number is 3305.



548

May 3rd, 1928

British Columbian

## MORE CHANGES TAKE PLACE AT PENITENTIARY

George Walter Trollope, Deputy Warden at the B.C. Penitentiary has resigned. R.M. Allen, Chief Trade Instructor has been appointed Deputy Warden. John Clark, Guard, has been suspended. These developments in Penitentiary circles while more or less coincident, are not inter-related.

Mr. Trollope has resigned on account of ill health. Last summer he had a nervous breakdown from which he recovered temporarily, but his health has again given him trouble and he has decided to retire from the service. He is at present on sick leave and the date when his resignation will take effect is uncertain.

The appointment of Mr. Allen as acting Deputy is temporary for the time Mr. Trollope remains on sick leave. In due course applications for the position will be advertised and a permanent appointment made in the ordinary way. The suspension of Guard Clark is the outcome of Wo Sing, a convict who got away from the Penitentiary last Monday morning.

An inquiry into the circumstances of the escapt was held by Inspector Jackson, acting Warden, and suspension of Clark followed. Clark was in charge of four convicts who were engaged in renovating the Warden's official residence, unoccupied, since Col. Cooper, former Warden, vacated it.

549

May 17th, 1928

British Columbian

JOHN SQUIRES, COLLECTING LOGS ON RIVER, GOES ASHORE, ENTERS BUSH, FAILS TO RETURN

John Squires, 50 years old, inmate of the British Columbia Penitentiary, escaped from the custody of Guard Bennett about eleven o'clock this morning and remained at large until re-captured by the same official shortly before two o'clock this afternoon.

As soon as the Penitentiary Officials were notified of the escape all convicts were called inside the prison walls and guards were dispatched to take up the search for Squires.

This is the second dash for liberty of a penitentiary prisoner in a little more than two weeks.

On April 30th, Wo Sing, a Chinaman, gained his freedom by walking away from the former Warden's residence, where he was engaged in cleaning out the building. He is still at large.

550

May 29th, 1928

British Columbian

COOPER SAYS PETTICOAT RULE AND PATRONAGE AT ROOT OF  
PENITENTIARY TROUBLE.

Petticoat rule and patronage were at the root of the trouble which resulted in Col. H.W. Cooper being retired from the position of Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary, reading in a dispatch from Ottawa the answers returned by Mr. LaPointe, Minister of Justice to questions asked by W.G. McQuarrie, member for New Westminster in the House of Commons, Col. Cooper today issued the following statement:

Facts speak for themselves and disprove the camouflage of the Ottawa Officials.

When transferring me to the B.C. Penitentiary in September 1923, conditions were such that Hughes described the buildings as a "junk pile".

They deserved the name, one convict had been in the isolation cells for over three years. For four years following the transfer, the B.C. Penitentiary was the only Canadian Penitentiary whose records show a combination of no successful escapes, riots, or any matter which required other than a routine visit from the Inspector, to the expressed satisfaction of Superintendent Hughes.

In September 1928 I was driven to protest the interjection of petticoat rule into the administration of the Penitentiary

550A

and the discussion of Penitentiary business in the drawing rooms of subordinates instead of the Warden's office.

Shortly afterwards I refused a request from an officer of the local political association regarding the appointment of penitentiary employees.

The reply to my protest was to send Inspector of Industries Jackson to the Penitentiary, the two senior Inspectors were not attacked, being passed over, then followed a so-called investigation in which I was refused the right to be represented by counsel, to examine or cross-examine witnesses or even to be present at the taking of evidence, the very officials against whose accusations my protests were made, were thus constituted Prosecutor, Judge, Jury and Executioner.

The Deputy Warden to whom I was instructed to hand over the institution has since resigned on the grounds of ill health and under the administration of Inspector Jackson as acting Warden, two prisoners escaped within eighteen days and one is still at liberty. The penitentiary had previously for seven years a record of no successful escapes.

June 6th, 1928

British Columbian

RETIREMENT OF WARDEN OF PENITENTIARY BECOMES AN ISSUE IN  
THE SENATE

The retirement of Col. Cooper, Warden of the New Westminster Penitentiary, became an issue in the Senate, when Hon. J.D. Taylor read a series of letters that passed between Col. Cooper and General Hughes, Superintendent of Penitentiaries. These disclosed that friction between Col. Cooper's wife and Mrs. Trollope, wife of the Deputy Warden, arising out of a social function at which both were present and in which General Hughes was himself a guest, was one of the reasons for retirement.

The Superintendent ordered Col. Cooper to smooth matters over, but this the Warden declined to do on the score that he was too busy with penitentiary duties to embroil himself in women's feuds.

General Hughes thereupon ordered an enquiry into the state of the British Columbia Penitentiary, and the result was the retirement of Col. Cooper. Senator Taylor then said there was nothing to justify an enquiry except this social function, an afternoon tea, where Mrs. Cooper had refused to accept a piece of cake from Mrs. Trollope.

Senator Taylor charged that officials were threatened and intimidated to induce them to give evidence against Col. Cooper.

551A

Senator Dandurand, government leader in the senate declared that he would place the matter before the government.

Col. Cooper who had a good military record and had served overseas under General Hughes, Superintendent of Penitentiaries, joined the penitentiary staff as a guard in 1920 at St. Vincent De Paul, the Senator said. After one years service he became Warden of Manitoba Penitentiary, and after two years service there was transferred to British Columbia where he served until last December.

General Hughes letter to Col. Cooper drew attention to the friction that existed between Col. Cooper's wife and Mrs. Trollope. According to General Hughes letter, this friction was demonstrated through Mrs. Cooper's refusing to take a piece of cake from Mrs. Trollope at an afternoon tea at which he was present.

In his letter General Hughes strongly condemned this ill-feeling between the women and said that it was not good for discipline of the staff. He ordered Col. Cooper to speak to his wife about it but he was not to let Mrs. Cooper know that he had issued such instructions.

Col. Cooper in his reply pointed out that he was too busy with the work of the Penitentiary to become involved in women's gossip or feuds. He called attention to General

551B

Hughes description of the incident at the five o'clock tea. At this tea, Mrs. Cooper refused to take the cake by shaking her head but afterwards took a piece from the same plate when offered it by another person.

Col. Cooper was refused any information as to the charges levied against him, Senator Taylor said. He also claimed that the answers given to questions in the House of Commons in this affair were misleading in some instances and untrue in others.

This story is told by Warden Cooper's daughter

During a Church service in the penitentiary, a mixed choir was in attendance, Warden Cooper's wife was seated in the gallery.

The Warden stood up and announced that the next hymn would be "Abide With Me"; he looked toward his wife who was trying to suppress her laughter, when asked later by the Warden what she found so amusing she said, "You announced the Hymn, Abide with Me and you know darn well that they will!"



552

June 13th, 1928

British Columbian

## LEGION ROUSED OVER CLARK DISMISSAL

The Dominion convention of the Canadian Legion, now in session at St. John N.B. will be requested to demand a searching enquiry into the circumstances of the escape of an Oriental prisoner from the B.C. Penitentiary and the subsequent dismissal of one of the guards according to a decision reached at a meeting of the Royal City Branch of the Legion last night.

Details of the affair which led to the dismissal of Guard J. Clark, were laid bare at last night's meeting and the attitude of Inspector Jackson, in charge of the Sapperton Institution since the retirement of Col. H.W. Cooper came in for criticism.

Clark is a veteran of the South African War and the Great War and has served thirteen years with the Imperial Forces and four years with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. He has a record of ten years service with the B.C. Penitentiary.

Clark was suspended by Inspector Jackson and was sent home. Some days afterward he obtained an interview with the Inspector and asked as to the disposition of his case. Inspector Jackson is said to have opened a drawer and produced a wire from Ottawa to the effect that Clark had been dismissed.

It is further alleged by the Veterans that the letter of recommendation from Inspector Jackson derogatory to Clark and contained phrases that could well have been omitted. On the other hand, W.A. Patchell, a former Warden gives Clark the

552A

highest recommendation possible.

February 7th, 1929

British Columbian

WARDEN'S RESIDENCE AT PENITENTIARY, ONCE GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
WIPED OUT BY MYSTERIOUS FIRE, NO WATER ON GROUNDS.

A landmark which dates back to 1864 and had historical associations with the early days of New Westminster and the mainland of British Columbia, was destroyed by a mysterious fire early this morning, and the Warden's residence at the B.C. Penitentiary was burned to the ground. The loss is estimated at \$4000.00.

The fire department was called to the scene at two o'clock. Attaching the hose to the fire hydrants inside the penitentiary grounds, it was discovered that the water had been turned off during the construction work which is going on outside the walls of the institution. By the time the hose was transferred to the hydrants on Columbia Street, the flames had such a hold on the building that it was decided by the firemen that it would be useless to waste water on the job, and cause unnecessary depletion of the city's supply to switch on the booster pump and transfer the flow in the mains.

The building was unoccupied and there was no furniture in it. A fire had been maintained in the basement, it is stated by the authorities.

Inspector Jackson lives in Vancouver and reached the scene of the fire within half an hour of being notified.

553A

It is considered possible that a new Warden's residence will be built on a different location. At the city hall this morning it was reported that a suggestion will be advanced to Ottawa to have the high cement wall torn down, the earth taken away and thus allow a widening of Columbia Street at this point which has been the scene of many accidents on account of the narrow right of way and the close proximity of the street car tracks.

The work of leveling the grounds of the penitentiary north of the scene of the fire has been conducted under a plan which will allow the street to be widened in event of the city and the federal authorities coming to some agreement, it is also planned to eliminate the power and trolley poles on the west side of the street in front of the cairn which was erected two years ago in memory of the Sappers and Miners in the early days.

The residence had a historical connection with New Westminster. It was built in 1864 and was originally intended for a home for the late Col. Moody, Officer Commanding the Company of Royal Engineers, on the arrival of Sir Fredrick William Seymour on April 20th, 1864, to become governor of the mainland colony of British Columbia, the residence became government house.

On transfer of the seat of government to Victoria in 1869, the house became the residence of the Warden of the Penitentiary. The first Warden was A. H. McBride, father of the late Sir Richard McBride, other wardens were William Moresby, Col. Jack Whyte, J.C. Brown, William Patchell and Lt. Col. H.W. Cooper.

553B

Since the retirement of Col. Cooper the penitentiary has been in charge of Inspector E.R. Jackson. The old Deputy Warden's Residence, located on Columbia Street and north of the new entrance of the institution, was torn down about two weeks ago. The upper portion of the structure was taken away and the remainder burned. A new Deputy Warden's residence was completed last year but has not been occupied as following the resignation of Major George Trollope, no Deputy Warden or Warden has been appointed.

To the British Columbian this morning Inspector Jackson emphatically repudiated that the building had been burned down as part of the general plan to improvements at the penitentiary.

31 March 1929

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY INSPECTOR E. R. JACKSON, ACTING WARDEN

---

The past year has been one of the most successful in the history of the British Columbia Penitentiary in so far as the amount of work accomplished by the inmates and officers is concerned. Since my last report there has been a vast change for the better in the respect shown by the inmates for the officers of the Institution. The officers have made marked progress in the study of the inmate, the outcome of which has been very little disobedience or regulations within the Institution.

The esprit de corps and good fellowship among the officers is all that could be desired. This has been attained by showing no favouritism and the non-use of stool pigeons within the reserve.

The following has been accomplished during the past year: construction of the balance of the boundry wall at the north end of the New Administration Building , which was the danger point of the Institution, has been completed. This means that the yard is now entirely enclosed with a concrete wall 27 feet high. Of the Administration Building, reinforced concrete walls of this building has been completely poured and the towers completed. The concrete floors and roof slab are also completely poured. The main gateway has been finished. The large exterior doors at the entrance to the gateway were completely manufactured in the institution. These are constructed of boiler plate with two thickness of oak which is paneled and one thickness of fir.. The same are hung on ball bearing hinges, each door weighs over 1800 pounds, it can be opened and closed with the greatest of ease. The interior entrance to the gateway is protected by a roller steel curtain. This curtain can either be operated by hand or electricially controlled. The partitions in the Administrative Building are poured and the placing of hollow tile on the inside of the exterior walls has been started. The Deputy Warden's residence has been completed with the exception of papering and electrical fixtures. The water and steam lines have still to be connected. The non-climbable fence to be used on the boundry of the reserve is now completed along Cumberland Street to a point opposite Richmond Street. This fence is ten feet high and is mounted on a concrete base wall three feet above ground. The most remarkable change at the institution has been the wonderful progress made by the inmates and officers in beautifying the front of the institution.

The steam shovel was removed from the brick yard where it has been operating and

placed in the cut for the new ornamental roadway in the rear of the Warden's grounds. This shovel, operated solely by inmates in charge of an officer removed in the neighbourhood of 35,000 cubic yards of dirt. This dirt was taken to the ravine by dump trucks where terracing was done. Concrete has been poured on the ornamental roadway from the Columbia Street south entrance for a distance of 250 feet. Sidewalks are also completed up to this point and three flower beds have been located in the centre of the roadway. In front of the Administration Building concrete has been completely poured the full length of the Administration building on the roadway and one half the width of the road has been laid to a point 300 feet south of the Administration building. Excavation has been completed and concrete poured with the sidewalk leading from the main stairway to Columbia Street.

An ornamental wall, approximately 10 feet back from the sidewalk has been erected with concrete posts about 2 feet square similiar to those bordering the driveway. This wall, which joins up with the retaining wall at the Warden's grounds, has been completed around the cairn driveway and up the ornamental stairway to the new Administration Building. On every fourth post in this wall there is erected a pebbled concrete light standard, the wiring has been completed and connected up The whole making a very effective lighting system at night.

Between the sidewalk on Columbia Street and the concrete block fence and wall a boulevard has been made; the steps and landings of the stairway which is fifteen feet wide, are made with terrazzo face. All steps were cast and polished in the yard before setting. The stairway consists of 5 flights of 12 steps each with landings between. The whole presenting a very imposing appearance.

The area bordered by Columbia Street, New Driveway, Ornamental stairway and Warden's grounds, has been graded and terraced with 4 rolling terraces. This area was seeded and we were fortunate in having one of the finest lawns in the Vancouver district. This piece of property which a year ago was a sad looking dumping ground has been changed into a place of beauty as flower beds have been located at intervals on the various terraces. The whole area terraced and seeded is approximately 350 feet by 150 feet. An excellent design of pebble dash concrete flower vase, about 2 feet high and 20 ins from lip to lip was manufactured in the yard and placed on ornamental posts. With the cooperation of the Mental Hospital Authorities it was possible to connect up a flow of storm water from their property, which has in the past caused great inconvenience to the Penitentiary. A storm catch basin was installed immediately behind the Accountants residence and connected with the Glenbrook Sewer by an 18 inch drain. The Asylum authorities connected up to our catch basin.

They also eliminated the very unsightly dump which they had been accumulating in the ravine. An 18 inch pipe was also installed to take care of the drainage from the new concrete driveway. The work of excavating the brickyard was continued until June 1st when I had the steam shovel removed to continue the excavating of the cut for the new driveway immediately in the rear of the Warden's grounds. An excellent trestle was constructed in connection with this undertaking in the ravine. This trestle projected into the ravine 70 feet and at the highest point was 47 feet long, it was constructed out of square timbers 8 inches by 16 inches by 30 feet long. All squared timber was salvaged from the Fraser River. Two excellent clay dump cars were manufactured in the Institution for use on a light gauge railway.

From March until June the Steam Shovel excavated in this area approximately 8000 cubic yards of earth. It was entirely handled by inmates, who, previous to their imprisonment had no experience or conception of this work.

Considerable improvements were made in the vicinity of the wharf. Squared timbers measuring 24 inches by 30 inches by 50 feet long were salvaged from the Fraser River and used for rip-wrapping along the area 50 feet by 50 feet. The intervening space was then filled with sand and gives the Institution an excellent piling ground for logs salvaged for fire wood. The old fishery wharf and shed were demolished and preliminary work was started. The five double houses occupied by Officers which had not been painted for 18 years, were given two coats of cream paint and brown trim, and the roofs of all these houses, which were in very bad shape, were resingled and shingle stained. The old sheds which were at the rear of the sheds were removed and the present wood sheds repaired. New sidewalks were put around every house, the material used on these sidewalks was cedar salvaged from the Fraser River. Owing to the condition of the boat which was used for salvaging logs from the Fraser, it was considered unwise to continue using it. The hull had become so decayed that the least jar by a floating log was apt to sink it. A boat 26 feet long with 8 feet 2inch beam was built. The hull being entirely of oak, and the 15 horse power motor being taken from the old boat and installed in the new one. A new boat house was built to contain the boat most of the material from the old boat house was used in the new one, which had to be built considerably larger. This new boat house was built in five days. As a pile foundation was necessary for the new wharf we built a pile driver and frame and the trip hammer weighing 2,400 pounds which was given to us by Prince Albert Penitentiary, was erected.

We now have a very complet pile driver. Almost all the lumber used in this construction was salvaged from the river. The Deputy Warden's residence



was demolished and owing to the age of the house and the bad condition therein there was very little salvage.

I regret to report that the Warden's Residence was burned. A full report covering the fire has already been forwarded. In November we started the removal of the old brick boundry wall, and early in January the last of it was demolished. Approximately 90% of the bricks have been removed and used in various undertakings, such as under structure for roadways, etc. About 4,000 bricks have been cleaned, these being used for the construction of a new hotbed for the farm. The wall removed was 1100 feet long, 25 feet high by 2 feet thick with two towers and a gateway.

A new roadway was laid out following the direction from the New Administration building entrance towards the north east tower where it turns along the north wall to a point near the old laundry building thence along the line of the old brick wall up past the old Administration Building. A branch road from this main road has been continued along the north wall and leads to the wood yard, and thence to the shops. The internal roadway has been paved with concrete from a point near the old Administration entrance in an easterly direction, curving around and running north to the south end of the boiler room.

The ground east of the completed road has been terraced, and when sown with grass seed will make a wonderful improvement. Proper drainage has been provided in the laying of the concrete roads. The excavation of the duct from the boiler house to the new Administration Building which was started in 1924, has been completed, and the erection of the forms commenced. A new 6 inch high pressure line has been laid from the new administration north to the Warden's grounds. This will be connected as soon as duct in yard is completed.

The new Kitchen was completed and occupied in May and is most satisfactory in every detail, in fact it is one of the most up to date kitchens in any of our institutions. The farm, which has been in very poor condition has, after strenuous work been steadily improved, but it will take considerable time before the land is cleared of weeds and scotch grass. The bush in the ravine was cut down for a distance of 1000 feet west from Columbia Street. This is the first piece of work done on this ground since Warden Patchell resigned, and the dense growth was a continued menace to the safety of the Institution.

The orchard, which resembled a jungle, was cleared up and the old trees removed. There are now 75 good apple trees. The land was plowed and sown in oats. About four acres of land were cleared west of 6th Avenue. A large ditch 500 feet long

by 5 feet deep by 5 feet wide was excavated to drain the field west of 6th Avenue. This field was previously too wet to permit it being worked. A vast improvement is noticed at the piggery. Several of the old sheds have been removed and the place cleaned up. The number of sows has increased until we have 13 good brood sows.

There has been considerable work carried on by the wood gang. When they were not busy cutting wood they were put at casting cement blocks, electric light standards, vases and 15 inch concrete tile. The Engineers Department was removed to where the garage previously was, and the shop vacated by the Engineer remodelled into an excellent Garage and Machine Shop.

Scaffolding was erected in the central hall and a start made to redecorate the ceiling of the Dome which has been in an unsightly appearance for a number of years.

Inmates marked by the surgeon for light duty have been working in the North Wing removing paint and polishing cell barriers. The shops have been operating very efficiently. A large number of articles which were previously requisitioned are now being made in the Institution. For example: gears, bushings, etc. are being turned out in the Machine Shop while the Blacksmith Shop are making scrapers, dump cars and any similiar articles required by the Institution.

The work of the Officers in this Institution, with little exception, has been excellent. I feel that this is due to being given proper direction and support. In the past the records show that on the least pretense of fog or rain the prison was closed. I am pleased to report that during the past year, although we have had just as much fog as in previous years, they shops were never closed, and the outside gangs did not lose any more than 8 or 10 hours. If it was too foggy to allow men outside the walls, their **labour was used within the walls.**

I regret to report that early in the year an inmate, Woo Sing, made a successful escape from the Warden's residence. About a month later another inmate, Squires, who was working with guard Bennett on the boat salvaging lumber from the river, made a dash for liberty when the boat was close to a boom of logs. Guard Bennett pursued him and brought him back to the prison. In conclusion I desire to tender my warmest appreciation to the Officers of the Institution for the excellent manner in which they carried out their duties during the past year.

END OF REPORT

554

April 15th, 1929

British Columbian

## EXAMINATION FOR WARDEN TO BE HELD.

Applications for the position of Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary at New Westminster are being called for by the Civil Service Commission, Ottawa, according to a notice received this morning by postmaster J.W.C. Lord and displayed at the Post Office.

The notice, which is dated April 8th, 1929 states that an open competitive examination for the position will be held, and stipulates that the time for filing applications closes on May 2nd, 1929. The position carries an initial salary of \$3,660.00 a year, less allowances for house, fuel, light, water and uniform, amounting to \$840.00 a year.

The salary will be increased upon recommendation for efficient service at the rate of \$120.00 a year until a maximum of \$4,440.00 a year is reached. Five percent of the gross salary will be deducted annually for the superannuation fund.

Qualifications required from the applicants, the notice advises, are education equivalent to high school education graduation and preferably university training, five years of prison experience of similar character and standard, a familiarity with penology and prison problems and administrative ability.

554A

To those who qualify an oral examination will be given, if necessary in the opinion of the commission.

An eligible list valid for one year, may be established.

555

June 1st, 1929

British Columbian

## ENQUIRY INTO COOPER'S CASE IS REFUSED

No good purpose would be served by a new enquiry into the dismissal of Col. H.W. Cooper as Warden of New Westminster Penitentiary, Rt. Hon. George P. Graham, government spokesman told the senate yesterday. On the resumption of the debate on this question, Senator T.E. Tanner, conservative, Halifax, made a new plea for Col. Cooper.

He was a decent citizen, he said, who had been hounded out of the service by a superior officer, and he thought should have a fair and judicial trial.

This would be granted if the Justice Department were seized of the facts. Col. Cooper had an excellent war record, also a good record in civil life and was Warden of the Penitentiary, he declared.

Shortly before his dismissal, he added, Superintendent Hughes had recognized him in an official report as an ideal Warden.

Senator Tanner said from the evidence it was apparent that Col. Cooper fell from grace with Superintendent Hughes owing to his refusal to become a party to a social squabble among the wives of the officials of the Penitentiary.

556

August 7th, 1929

British Columbian

## WARDEN NOW IN CHARGE OF PENITENTIARY

Col. E.D. Edgett, B.C., D.S.O. of Vernon arrived in the city last night to take over his duties as Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary.

He will be sworn in some time today, and will then take charge of the institution. Inspector E.R. Jackson, who has been acting Warden for some time past, relinquishes the post as soon as Col. Edgett is sworn in, but will probably remain here for a week while the new Warden is making himself familiar with the conditions.

He will then go back East to attend a convention of the American Prison Association, to be held in Toronto in September.

At the close of prison hours yesterday a presentation was made to Inspector Jackson in the form of a handsome silver cigarette case, suitably inscribed. F.D. Emery, principal accounts clerk, the oldest employee of the Penitentiary, made the presentation on behalf of the disciplinary and administrative staff.

557

September 25th, 1929

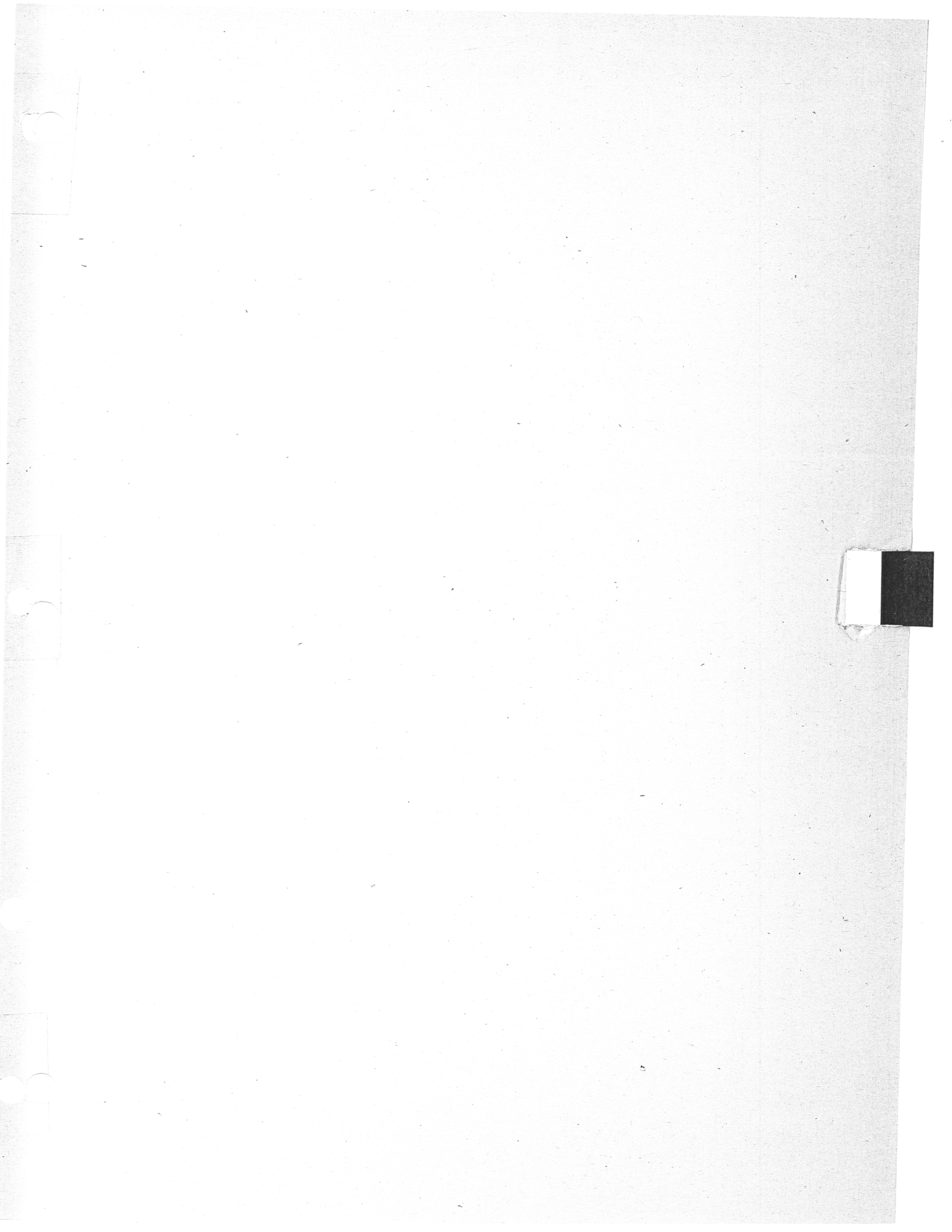
British Columbian

## GUARD SUFFERS INJURY DURING RIFLE PRACTICE.

Accidentally struck in the neck by a splinter of steel at the B.C. Penitentiary shooting butts yesterday, Harry Field, guard, is today at the Royal Columbian Hospital, recovering from painful injuries.

The splinter lodged in the back of his neck and it was necessary for Dr. T.B. Green to take an x-ray last night and then operate. It is reported that the splinter nearly severed the main nerve to the right arm.

A rifle match was in progress at the butts and Field was marking the 300 yard target. One of the bullets struck the edge of the steel sheet that protects the marking pit, breaking off a splinter which struck Field.





558

February 19th, 1930

British Columbian

## GUARDS SUFFER FOR ESCAPE OF CONVICT FROM PENITENTIARY

Two guards and a trade instructor, members of the staff of the B.C. Penitentiary, have been dismissed on the grounds of negligence in connection with the escape from the institution last July.

Written notice of their dismissal was handed to the men by Col. E. D. Edgett, Warden, acting on instructions from Ottawa.

Interviewed by the British Columbian today, Col. Edgett said he is prohibited by penitentiary regulations from giving any information as to the investigation which led to the action taken at Ottawa, either as to when it was held or by whom.

Two of the men were permanent officers of the penitentiary and one was on probation. One of the former had been on the staff for over eighteen years, being appointed in October 1911, the others were appointed in 1926 and 1928 respectively.

Dismissal means that these men loose their claims to superannuation, which in the case of a veteran member of the staff is a little short of disaster.

These events took place while Col. Edgett was in the East, before he had taken over his duties here. The investigation was also held during the reign of Inspector Jackson.

Nothing concerning the investigation was ever made public, and it has taken the wheels of the Justice Department seven months

558A

to revolve to the point now reached.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PENITENTIARY  
FISCAL YEAR ENDING 31 March 1930, Warden C.E. EDGETT  
-----

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report for the B.C. Penitentiary for the fiscal year ended 31st March 1930.

On 7th August 1929, I assumed duty as Warden of this Institution, taking over from Inspector E. R. Jackson who had been acting Warden during the earlier part of the fiscal year. This report covers the entire year but great credit for the splendid work accomplished is due to Inspector Jackson and the efficient cooperation of the staff under his able guidance.

At the close of prison 31st March 1929, our inmate population was 298, an increase over the previous year of six, 142 inmates were received and one who escaped earlier in the year recaptured during the fiscal year covered in this report. Discharged totalled 107. Two insane inmates were maintained in provincial institutions as of 31 March 1930.

LIBRARY: This department has been efficiently conducted as usual under the supervision of the schoolmaster. During the year 350 silhouettes were made, many thousand departmental forms printed and all necessary bookbinding done.

SCHOOL: There had been an average attendance of 47 inmates. Special attention has been given to illiterates with good results. A number of men have been encouraged to take more advanced work, it is felt that more advantage should be taken of the splendid school facilities. It is the intention to double class during the coming year.

CHAPLAINCY: Chaplin Services, Protestant: During the year a vacancy occurred in the Chaplaincy. Since that time the services have been carried on by selected Salvation Army and clergymen. Throughout the year the Salvation Army has rendered efficient and valuable service and the work of Brigadier Gosling in this connection is worthy of special mention and the best thanks of the department.

Chaplin Services: Roman Catholic: The Rev. Father Lardon continues to devote himself whole heartedly to the spiritual welfare of the inmates. Of the inmates under his charge with excellent results, I cannot speak too highly of the fine work he is doing and the manner in which he is cooperating.

HOSPITAL: The Health of the inmates throughout the year has been very good, sanitary conditions have been carefully supervised by the prison Surgeon Doctor T. B. Green.

STEWARDS: This department is functioning efficiently and well. The food is of excellent quality and is very well prepared. The north end refrigeration

has been re-insultated, the addition of air canopys over the steam kettles and kitchen stoves is a real improvement.

NEW CONSTRUCTION: New Boler House, excavation of foundation made by steam shovel in granite and hardpan causing difficult and slow work, all concrete has been brought up to ground level and boiler foundations poured.

DEPUTY WARDEN'S NEW HOUSE: Steam lines, electric light conncted and fixtures installed. The new house was occupied by the Deputy Warden on 25 February 1930.

NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING: Water, steam and electric light connected and fixtures installed. New Offices occupied on 2 October 1929. Outside driveway and ornamental fence - 1200 feet of 35 feet wide slab has been poured during the year, the concrete roadway with flower beds has been completed and the ornamental block wall with electric light fixtures continued from the cairn, along Columbia Street to north driveway thence along driveway back to new administration building and from north driveway entrance to corner of Columbia and Cumberland Streets.

During the year 1073 feet of this wall was built with most of the fabricated iron fence set in. The entire driveway from north to south is now in use. The old Kitchen has been remodeled and now houses the Shoe Shop which has been increased in size, the space formerly occupied by this gang in the old workshops building has been added to the Tailor Shop which was formerly very crowded. This gang has also been increased.

North side grounds, inside walls have been terraced and seeded to lawn and a large vegetable garden 115 feet by 187 feet has been set up with brick retaining wall 18 inches high near number 4 tower. This conforms to the garden on the south side of the inside grounds.

Three hundred feet of new cement roadway was poured during the year around the inside yard, a beautiful rockery has been set up at left of main entrance inside the walls, this has produced a very pleasing effect.

The duct from the Boiler House to new Administration Building was completed, length 240 feet, 150 feet of protective non-climable fence has been built along Cumberland Street. Interior of old Administration building has been remodeled. The new arrangement of offices now accomodates the Deputy Warden in Warden's old office, Chief Keeper in accountants old office, Protestant Chaplin in old waiting room near Warden's old office, Roman Catholic Chapel in old court room, New court rooms in Secretary's Old Office and Committee room in old visitor's cage. These changes have facilitated administrating very materially.

Foundations for the new warehouse and wharf have been completed with cement piers carried on piles. This has a 6 inch slab on top of the reinforced concrete and is now ready for the superstructure. Most of the piles for supporting the outer wharf have been driven. All these piles and heavy lumber were secured from drift-

wood from the Fraser River. The boat built by inmate labour has proved a success, we have succeeded in salvaging sufficient quantities of logs for firewood, many timbers and other material used in construction work have also been salvaged.

The farm land here shows evidence of serious neglect during the past years but is gradually being brought back into tillable condition through the efforts of our former farm instructor and our present farm instructor. The crop raised last year was very creditable indeed. In fact we had more than sufficient vegetables to supply institutional needs and were able to sell the surplus. The same applies to the pigs, we are now not only able to reduce our weekly beef supply by substituting our own pork, but are able to sell the surplus also for revenue.

A portion of the land south of 8th Street was cleared during the hard winter weather and this will be under cultivation during the coming summer, considerable manure and fertilizer will have to be incorporated into the soil from year to year in order to make a real farm.

ENGINEERS DEPARTMENT: Plumbing, electric light and telephone systems were installed in the new administration building and the Deputy Wardens' residence through the same duct. Sewers and manhole construction has been considerable owing to the new building and the necessity for draining the hardpan soil impregnated with springs. The steam shovel has been kept in repair and we were able to excavate 10,700 yards of earth, much of this was in hardpan, a great deal of alteration and repair work was necessary owing to reconstruction. This department has been very efficiently managed and a lot of good work accomplished.

RECONSTRUCTION: Blacksmith Shop: This department has been kept working at high pressure throughout the year and has accomplished much valuable work. 800 feet of ornamental fence was fabricated, cage barrier for inside main entrance was also made. Together with heavy manhole covers, barrier doors and windows, 45 screen barriers for new administration building windows besides the carrying on of general repairs and revenue work of the institution. A very important point in connection with the work of this shop is that a number of inmates have been successfully trained in the work of blacksmithing and have on discharge been placed with outside metal working contracting firms.

CARPENTER SHOP: A great deal of new work has been turned out by this department and the institutional work maintained. It is gratifying to note that since the change in the management of this shop, the work has gone ahead with far greater efficiency and speed. The inmates are more contented, they receive better supervision and much more closer attention is given to their instructions. I have great hopes that this department will prove a valuable asset in connection

with the training of inmates so that they may leave the institution with a useful trade in their hands.

SHOE SHOP: In addition to extensive institutional work, this shop has undertaken the repair of harness and saddlery for the militia department and the manufacture of leather buttons or dolys for the various police forces.

TAILOR SHOP: This is one of the best managed and most efficient departments in the institution. A very creditable type of work has been turned out with a small gang working under adverse conditions. 429 articles of uniform have been cleaned pressed and repaired for the militia department besides a large amount of revenue work for officers in addition to the making of uniforms and other institutional clothing. With the increased floor space now available we will be able to add materially to the size of the gang in this department.

LAUNDRY: This department has been able to put through 3,433 garments per week.

MAIL BAG REPAIR: This department has done well and has turned out very satisfactory work to the repair of bags for the Post Office Department, the manufacture of walking sticks and silhouettes for revenue have been added.

GARAGE: This department which includes the Machine Shop has rendered very fine service throughout the year. Besides handling all repairs to trucks and gas engines a large number of machined articles in brass have been turned out for revenue. This shop has been particularly successful in training several inmates in Machine Shop and Garage Work. A number of the men who served their time in this shop left the institution equipped with a good trade and are now successfully established in the outside world. Credit for this is largely due to the instructor who is a first class mechanic and devotes his efforts painstakingly to the instruction of the men under his care.

HEADQUARTERS STAFF : The personnel of this department which includes Warden's, Accountants and Stores staff has functioned smoothly and efficiently throughout the year. Improved facilities provided by the transfer of the offices to the new administration building have assisted administration materially.

GENERAL: The Wood gang cut 1,731 cords of wood from salvaged logs into four foot lengths, 11,000 concrete blocks were also manufactured by this gang. Besides electric light standards, vases and tile work, the lighting arrangement of the dome has been changed to four hanging lamps resulting in economy of light and replacement costs.

Fog and rain interfered to a certain extent with construction work but never the less a great deal has been accomplished. At the close of the year from 60 to 75 men were working daily outside the walls.

I regret to report that during the month of August 1925, inmate number 3432 R. LAY escaped while working with the wharf gang. Efforts to secure his recapture however, were continued unremittingly and he was retaken on 28th March 1930 and

returned to the Penitentiary.

Certain changes were made in the personnel during the year to promote efficiency, and I am please to report that the officers, with very few exceptions, have conducted themselves well and have been instrumental in maintaining the hight standard which was reached during the tenure of office of Inspector Jackson. There is one important observation I wish to make in closing this report, I feel that the remuneration of the prison guards is not sufficient to attract the type of men so desirable for this important position. I am strongly of the opinion that the best interests of the service by an increase in the salaries sufficient to take care of the point I have mentioned and to prevent a possible tendency to augment income by questionable methods.

I am very grateful to you Sir, and to the Officers under your command at Headquarters for the splendid cooperation and helpful advice received at all times. This assistance I assure you, has been a great advantage to me as Warden of this Institution.

END OF REPORT

559

May 16th, 1930

British Columbian

REVEREND H.A. IRELAND NAMED CHAPLAIN OF B.C. PENITENTIARY

Reverend H.A. Ireland, formerly Pastor of Sixth Avenue Methodist Church, in New Westminster, has been appointed Chaplain of the British Columbia Penitentiary, succeeding Reverend J.G. Gibson, whose retirement was announced some-weeks ago. Word of the appointment reached Colonel C.E. Edgett, Warden of the Penitentiary, from Ottawa last night. Mr. Ireland was in charge of the Sixth Avenue Church and from there transferred to the Wilkinson Road United Church, Victoria, where he was officiating when appointed to the Penitentiary position.



July 15th, 1930

British Columbian

#### NO EIGHT HOUR DAY FOR GUARDS IN PENITENTIARY

Treatment of Penitentiary Guards, Dredge employees and others of the lower ranks of the government service was condemned in strong terms by Senator J.D. Taylor and W.G. McQuarrie, Conservative Candidate, speaking on Monday evening at a meeting in the Agricultural Hall, Burquitlam. Both speakers were critical of Reeve Tom Reid, of Surrey, Liberal Candidate and Champion of Labour, for his support of a government whose attitude to labour is reflected in the refusal to shorten hours and increase wages of its own employees.

Mr. McQuarrie said the government is taking great credit for having instituted the eight hour day and the six day week. As a matter of fact it was Sir Robert Borden who urged this at the Geneva Conference, and moreover the government is not living up to it. There is for instance no eight hour day for Penitentiary Guards. These men work eleven hours on day duty and thirteen hours at night. The six day week is not enforced on government grudges.

Senator Taylor said he feels keenly about the inadequate remuneration of men in the government service. When he was a member of the Commons, he took up their case and secured

560A

some consideration for Penitentiary Guards. They had been receiving a beggarly pittance of sixty-five dollars a month. That was increased to ninety dollars with certain bonuses. In those days money had a much greater purchasing power. Any slight increases that had been made are entirely incommensurate with the shrinkage in the value of the dollar.

Working eleven hours a day, a Penitentiary Guard is virtually a stranger to his family. During most of the year he leaves his home before daylight. He is not permitted to go home for the midday meal. He returns after dark. Yet this is in a country which has subscribed to the eight hour day, six day week, off the Geneva Pact.

Senator Taylor recalled that the lady member of Parliament, who had heard something about Penitentiaries, had made an impassioned plea, and had been accorded a sympathetic attention from the government benches. Unfortunately, the lady's plea was not for the guards but for the prisoners. The government had promised to do something for the prisoners to pay them for their labour and allow them money to accumulate as a nest egg against their release. That promise was made just before the government secured the lady members vote in a division in which it had a majority of one. Incidentally, the promise has not been kept. But the government, ready to listen

560B

sympathetically to a plea for prisoners, is still obdurate in its attitude towards the guards. And the man whose heart bleeds for all the oppressed in the ranks of labour is blind to this.

561

September 20th, 1930

British Columbian

## ABSENCE OF DISCIPLINE IN HOME SCORED

Canadian Penitentiaries, by discipline tampered with consideration, are making good citizens out of many of the convicts within their walls declared Brigadeer General W. St. Pierre Hughes, addressing a meeting of the Law Enforcement Association of the Lower Mainland on Friday, General Hughes, who has been Superintendent of Penitentiaries since 1913, and for twenty years before that attached to Kingston Penitentiary in various capacities contrasted modern treatment with those used in the past. It had been discovered that a large percentage of persons imprisoned for criminal offences reacted to humane treatment and had the material to make decent citizens when properly trained. This is the key note of the prison system today.

Nevertheless, discipline is still an essential factor in the process of reclaiming those capable of responding.

Brigadeer General Hughes pointed out that when he entered the Penitentiary Service, the average age of prisoners was forty-two years; now it is twenty-eight years. There are a great many convicts as young as twenty years. Absence of home discipline is the cause of youthful delinquency, he said.

561A

He laid the blame also to some extent at the door of the schools, where there is a lack of discipline; but the principal cause was the disappearance of the old tradition of discipline within the family.

562

September 20th, 1930

British Columbian

PENITENTIARY DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO SPEND \$7,500.00 IN  
IMPROVEMENT OF STREET IN FRONT OF INSTITUTION

Nearly two hundred leading businessmen, members of the Services Clubs and the Board of Trade, honoured Brigadier General W. St. Pierre Hughes at a special dinner in Allan's Cafe last night. General Hughes, Dominion Superintendent of Penitentiaries, introduced by Mayor A. Wells Gray as one of the leading authorities on prison reform, gave an address on the remarkable strides in prison reform in recent years. Alderman Archie Hogg, President of the New Westminster Board of Trade, presided at the luncheon.

Mayor Gray pointed out the distinguished visitor had an important announcement directly effecting New Westminster. General Hughes immediately stated that in connection with the improvements being made at the B.C. Penitentiary, the Institution has \$7,500.00 in cash available for improving Columbia Street in front of the building as soon as the B.C. Electric Railway undertook its share in finishing the rail part of the street. It was indicated that this work may proceed very soon.

How education and useful work and trades conducted in prisons had been responsible for reforming innumerable criminals was

562A

told by General Hughes. He declared that next to England the Canadian Institutions were the best conducted in the world. The much lauded United States prisons, General Hughes declared, had little to brag about and a lot to be ashamed of. The speaker remarked he could say this as he was vice-president of the American Penitentiaries Association.

The old system of making prisoners break stones was a crime in itself. Our objective now is to release the men in better shape than they came in. Hard labour and useful labour and trades that fit them for earning a living form the best method of dealing with the men that has been devised.

General Hughes deplored a number of young men admitted to prisons in recent years. He said many were under twenty-two and most of the inmates were under twenty-eight. In these cases education and useful training can help them on their feet time and again.

Canada was the first to devise a proper instructive and labour system for prisoners of a preferred class in 1895. A model institution was started at Kingston, but was incompleted and scrapped in 1909. It was not until 1928 that the Government made grants for rebuilding these modern prisons.

The prisons were also improved, the inmates building and beautifying the sites instead of splitting rocks as under the old system. He declared the prisons were clean and that

562B

no sickness was caused in them, General Hughes remarked that in his numerous interviews requested by inmates on personal matters, none had complained of prison conditions.

Dr. W.S. Reed moved and T.V. Green seconded the sincere vote of appreciation of the gathering for the speaker's address. After the function the entire official party moved to the auditorium for the opening ceremonies there. Colonel C.D. Edgett, Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, Miss Eileen Gilley and Mrs. Walter Bews contributed musical numbers to the dinner programme.



563

November 17th, 1930

British Columbian

## PENITENTIARY BLACKSMITH FOUND DEAD

With his wrist slashed and a razor blade beside him, the body of Henry James Cooper, age 54, 733 Armstrong Avenue, Burnaby, was found in his home early on Sunday morning. Police indicate Cooper took his own life.

Cooper was a War Veteran and for the past three years was Blacksmith Instructor at the B.C. Penitentiary. He had been ill lately.

The deceased is survived by a wife and five children. Following service of three years in the Great War, Cooper worked for a time at the Noble Five Mine, Sandon. He became a guard and instructor at the Penitentiary in March, 1927.

Annual report of the B.C. Penitentiary for the Fiscal year ending 31st.

March 1931, C.E. Edgett, Warden.

Prison population 31st. March, 1930.....334

Prison population 31st March, 1931.....338

The total of 338 inmates includes 3 inmates maintained in the provincial Mental Hospital, Essondale on 31st. March 1931

Library; This department has been efficiently conducted under the supervisor of the schoolmaster.

School; There has been an average of 78 pupils in the school, thus doubling last years attendance. Special attention has been directed towards the illiterates. Discipline has been good.

Chaplain Services (Protestant); The Rev. H. A. Ireland assumed duty as Protestant chaplain on July 1, 1930 and has performed his duties throughout the year in a very satisfactory manner. Brigadier Gosling of the Salvation Army, continued his Wednesday noon classes, and also rendered valuable service prior to the appointment of the present chaplain. His assistance is deserving of the special thanks of the department.

Chaplain Services (Roman Catholic); The Rev. Father Lardon, O.M.I. has continued his excellent work, and his influence on the inmates has had a good effect on discipline generally.

Hospital; Health of the inmates has been exceptionally good throughout the year, and the sanitary conditions of the institution have been carefully by the prison Surgeon, Dr. T. B. Green.

Steward; The excellent quality of the food, and the low cost of same reflects great credit on the steward and his assistant.

Blacksmith Shop; I regret to report the loss by death of our very efficient Blacksmith Instructor, Mr. H. J. Cooper, on November 16th. 1930, since that time this department has been without a qualified instructor, until the appointment of Mr. C. Cocroft on March 17th. 1931. During the year considerable

ornamental fence was fabricated, also barrier doors and windows, besides the general carrying out of repair work and revenue work. A number of men trained in this shop are now successfully established in Vancouver.

Carpenter Shop; This shop has had a very busy year, and, under the able guidance of the carpenter instructor, a large quantity of work has been turned out. I cannot speak too highly of this department.

Shoe Shop; This department has been carrying out the usual institutional work, which has materially increased as our population has grown.

Tailor Shop; This department has maintained its high state of efficiency, both in discipline and the quality of work turned out. Beside the regular institutional work, which has increased, we have done a great deal of revenue work for the Department of Militia.

Engineers Department; New six-inch water lines have been laid to the hydrant at the Deputy Wardens residence and to the wall hydrant in front of the Administration Building. Storm sewer was completed to North of Administration Building, and pipe laid for irrigation to Deputy Wardens lawns, for the use of waste water. New drains have been laid from the piggery to the main sewer. Necessary repairs to machinery were carried out. Interior wall lighting has been completed. Telephone and electric light systems have been kept in good shape throughout the year. This department has rendered splendid service, and has co-operated in every way with the other departments.

Garage; This shop has been very busy during the year with maintenance of trucks and other institutional work. Considerable revenue work has been done. A quantity of old shell cases and scrap brass was received from the Department of National Defence.

Mail Bag Department; This shop has been kept well employed throughout the year, 16,263 mail bags being repaired, 1,200 silhouettes made for revenue requirements, besides mattresses and other institutional work.

Wood Department; Large quantities of wood were salvaged from the river Fraser, some of which was used for institutional wood work and making of cedar chests, etc., besides 1,629 cords, which were cut and delivered to the boiler house for use as fuel.

Steam Shovel; During the year, the steam shovel moved 10,775 yards of earth.

Cement Products; Cement products turned out during the year were as follows.

White-faced cement bricks	40,000
12 inch duct for steam pipe	150
24 inch flower vases	10
Caps for posts	21
Brushed lamp posts	6
Building blocks 8"x 24"	1,000

Farm; This farm is gradually being brought into a good state of cultivation, with the result that a much heavier average tonnage was grown this year. During the winter, all that portion of land lying south of Eight Avenue was cleared, from Cumberland St. to edge of ravine. A portion of this land will be under cultivation during the coming summer. Most of the land is well suited to farm work. Our farm is a credit to the institution.

General Maintenance; Work during the year included general maintenance of the prison buildings, alterations, etc., demolition of old No. 3 tower, and general roofing and painting. During the summer, owing to the increasing extent of the ornamental grounds, a great deal of grass cutting and gardening was done.

Laundry; This department has functioned very efficiently, and is one of the best organized and most capably handled departments in the institution.

Headquarters Staff; The personnel of this department, which includes the Wardens staff, accountants office and stores, has functioned efficiently and smoothly during the year.

## New Construction

New Boiler house; The new boiler house is nearing completion, the wood vault being completed some months ago. Excavation is now under way for the foundations of the water tank at the rear of this building. Walls are built up to the level of the roof; first floor and roof slab have been poured. On the ground floor and boiler room the lining of the wall with white-faced brick is nearly finished. The window casings and mesh barrier are all in place. On the rear side of the boiler house a large wood vault was completed last fall. This will hold nearly 400 cords of firewood.

Warehouse at Wharf; This building of steel and concrete is now in daily use for the storage of coal and cement. The outside wharf of timber is completed. The wharf now has a depth of 12 feet at low tide.

Deputy Wardens Grounds; The non-climbable fence has been completed at the rear of the Deputy Wardens grounds, connecting Cumberland street fence with the main prison walls. This fence is fitted with electric lights. Brick garage at Deputy Wardens residence has been completed, also driveway from garage to rear of deputy warden's house, and from garage to main driveway. The stairway with ornamental railing, up to deputy warden's house has been completed. Side wall, consisting of concrete blocks has been completed from the garage, along the driveway, to Columbia St. This wall is nearly 150 feet long.

Deputy warden's grounds north and south of the deputy warden's residence have been graded and sown to grass, and a rockery put in.

Farm; Concrete drain 20 inches in diameter and 150 feet long has been built in small ravine running from Cumberland st. to ravine. It is the intention to make a fill here, and reclaim this portion for farm use.

New Driveway; During the year, considerable work has been done towards the completion of this part of the front.

New Greenhouse; Foundations and side walls of concrete blocks have been build and timbered for the superstructure. This greenhouse will be completed and ready for plants this coming fall.

Grounds adjacent Accountants Residence; The embankment between the accountants residence and the tenements has been graded down, and a dry wall built at the foot of the slope. This grading has been carried on as far as the mental hospital ravine, where considerable filling has been done during the year. With regard to the main ravine at the rear of the accountant's residence, this has been completed to grade and will be laid out and a portion sown to grass during the summer.

West Wing; Cell gates and barriers have been erected on the third floor, with travelling bars in place, cells and walls painted and kalsomined. This will provide additional accomodation for 37 men.

General; Fog and rain, interfered as usual, during the fall and early spring with construction work. However, I feel that a great deal has been accomplished. At the close of the fiscal year upwards of 90 men had been engaged on work outside the walls. Certain changes were made in the personnel during the year, in order to promote efficiency, and I am pleased to report that the officers, with very few exceptions, have maintained the high standard that you have always demanded of them.

In bginging this report to a close, I must express my gratitude to you, sir, and to the officers under your command at headquarters, for the splendid co-operation and helpful advice received at all times. This spirit, I feel, has made itself felt among the officers of this institution, resulting in much good work being accomplished during the year just closed.

Notes from the report of the Superintendent of Penitentiaries, 31st.  
March 1931.

The number of inmates confined in Canadian Penitentiaries was 3,714

The average daily population of inmates was 3,434

The per capita cost was \$ 1.49

There were 162 serving life sentences

The Earl of Bessborough was the Governor General

H. Guthrie was the Minister of Justice

Superintendent of Penitentiaries, W.S. Hughes

572

March 31st, 1931

British Columbian

## CONVICT FREED RECENTLY AGAIN UNDER ARREST

An attempt to "plant" cigarette papers in the Penitentiary grounds was frustrated in dramatic fashion at the witching hour of midnight. One of the guards observed a figure stealing across the field behind the Penitentiary building. He threw the beam from his flashlight on the approaching figure, trained the revolver on the same spot and commanded the intruder to elevate his manual extremities. The midnight visitor dropped his parcel, put his hands up and was marched to the guard room.

On investigation the man was found to be James Smith, an ex-convict, released from the Penitentiary on March 27th and supposed to be on his way to Calgary. His parcel contained about a dozen packages of cigarette papers. Convicts in the Penitentiary are allowed to smoke; in fact, a tobacco ration is issued to them. But for some reason known only to the compounders of prison regulations, they are not allowed cigarette papers. Their smoking has to be done in a pipe.

Smith was charged in the Police Court with trespassing on the Penitentiary grounds contrary to the Act, and another charge will be laid against him, that of leaving the article in question in the grounds, which is also contrary to the Act.



573

June 27th, 1931

British Columbian

## LASH FEARED BY CRIMINALS, SAYS WARDEN

Use of the lash "changed the criminals grin to a frown of despair" and is one of the most effective weapons to use against criminals, as a lash is feared more than a prison term. Colonel C.E. Edgett, Warden of the Canadian Penitentiary at New Westminster told the Washington State Sherriffs' and Peace Officers' in Convention here, on Friday.

He said that stories of brutal lashings at the prison were exaggerated, and admitted that prisoners sometimes fainted, but insisted that fainting was the result of natural pain and terror inflicted by the lash.

Colonel Edgett traced the history of the whipping post. He also spoke on education for criminals in the Penitentiary and said the plan was endorsed as beneficial in all cases.

A demonstration of the use of the teletypewriter in the police work was given when "printers" at Seattle. Vancouver and Bellingham were hooked up for the handling of reports and messages.

574

August 18th, 1931

British Columbian

TWO MEN ESCAPE FROM PENITENTIARY:

ONE RECAPTURED.

Lief Lund and Robert Watson break for liberty while being returned to prison at close of day's work. Capture is made in Queens Park. Lund apprehended soon after get-away by Deputy Warden, but Watson is still fugitive - terms nearly completed.

City police were informed today that about nine o'clock last night a man came to the back door of a resident on 19th Avenue and Douglas Road, asked for a glass of water and then asked that the back verandah light be turned off, as it hurt his eyes. He then inquired the best way to Vancouver by unlighted thoroughfares, again explaining that his eyes were sensitive to light. He is described as being young, short and dark, a description which tallies with that of Watson. He was carrying what appeared to be a suit of overalls, rolled up, in his hand.

Lief Lund and Robert Watson, convicts imprisoned in the B.C. Penitentiary, escaped late on Monday afternoon. Lund was captured shortly afterwards, but Watson is still at large.

The dash for freedom was made about ten minutes after five o'clock, just as the outside gangs were being brought back to the prison. Lund and Watson were members of a gang of sixteen convicts, engaged in breaking up the huge concrete

574A

blocks that remained after the demolition of the concrete wall on the Columbia Street side of the Penitentiary grounds. These chunks of concrete are being broken up for removal.

## OBSERVED BY GUARD

As the gang was being lined up for the march back to the buildings, Lund and Watson were observed by the sentinel in No. 1 Tower, at the corner of the wall, making their way up the side of the ravine. He fired one shot at them before they disappeared from view, but evidently missed.

## LOCATED IN PARK

The alarm was raised and a manhunt started. Guards were called out and the surrounding territory searched. Shortly after the break, Lund was taken in Queens Park, near the picnic ground, by Deputy Warden R.S. Douglas. He made no fight. Search for Watson continued until dark set in, but without success. The city police were notified and Deputy Chief Sid Bass with a detail took part in the hunt.

## IS SCANTILY CLOTHED

Today all avenues of escape are watched. It is supposed that Watson is still hiding in the bush and that he will be forced to emerge, sooner or later, for food. He had had nothing to eat so far as is known, since noon on Monday. Also, he is only about half clothed. His hat, coat and a part of his shirt were found in Queens Park, and about all he had left was a suit of overalls, shoes and socks.

574B

## SIX WEEKS TO SERVE

The escape appears not to have been a preconcerted affair, and for this reason it is thought that Watson will be easily taken, lacking friends to provide him with food, clothing and transportation.

## WATSON HAD ONLY SIX WEEKS OF HIS TERM TO SERVE.

He was sentenced at Victoria in April, 1929, to three years in the Penitentiary for breaking and entering, and with time off for good conduct would have been released in six weeks. He had been working on the inside gang for the past six or seven months, and was regarded as a safe prisoner.

## SENTENCED IN CITY

Lund was sentenced at New Westminster in May, 1930, to two years and had eight months to go. He was imprisoned for a series of offences in this city and district. In company with Enrico Giovanora alias John Firmo and a juvenile, he stole an automobile belonging to the Davies' Greenhouses in March, abandoned it at Haney, attempted to holdup a chinaman there, and stole his car, drove to Mission and held up another chinaman there.

Colonel C.E. Edgett, Warden of the Penitentiary today posted a reward of \$100.00 for information leading to the capture of Watson.

This is the first escape at the New Westminster Penitentiary since Ronald Lay made his get-away during the regime of Inspector Jackson.

575

August 20th, 1931

British Columbian

## CONVICT IS RECAPTURED IN BURNABY

Robert Watson, fugitive from Penitentiary, apprehended by police in bush - stolen razor found in his possession.

Robert Watson, who escaped from the Penitentiary on Monday evening, was arrested by Burnaby Police about ten o'clock last night, in the bush east of Douglas Road and near Campbell Avenue. The capture was made by officers who responded to a call to the home of R.H. Marshall, 681 Campbell Avenue. Occupants of the house, returning after an absence, surprised an intruder who fled. They telephoned the police who proceeded to make a search of the bush nearby, and came upon Watson. The escaped man, suffering from hunger and exposure, surrendered without attempting resistance. In his possession was found a razor, which was later identified by Mr. Marshall.

Watson was still wearing prison overalls, but he had somehow obtained a shirt to replace that worn when he made his escape and which was badly torn in scaling a high fence. He appeared to have had nothing to eat since he fled, with Lief Lund, a fellow prisoner, who was recaptured within the hour.

576

August 25th, 1931

British Columbian

## STIFF TERMS IMPOSED FOR JAILBREAK

Lief Lund, who admits instigating attempt to escape from Penitentiary with Robert Watson, gets eighteen months, has mentality of seven years. Salvation Army Officer claims Watson, medically examined at Victoria, is not fully responsible for his actions.

Robert Watson, said to have the mentality of a seven year old child, was sentenced to one year with hard labour for escaping from the B.C. Penitentiary, and Lief Lund, his companion in the break, to eighteen months with hard labour by Magistrate H.L. Edmonds, K.C., in the police court today. Lund admitted being the instigator of the attempt.

## Had Fifty-two Days to Serve

When Watson broke away with Lund from one of the outside gangs on August 17th, he had fifty-two days of a three-year sentence to serve. Lund, on a two-year sentence, had eight months to go.

Lund and Watson consented to Magistrate Edmonds disposing of the case and pleaded guilty. A plea for leniency was presented by Captain Ede of the Salvation Army, on behalf of Watson's mother in Victoria. Captain Ede said that Watson had been mentally examined prior to being sentenced at Victoria, and a medical certificate had been obtained

576A

stating that he has the mentality of a child of seven years. Through some oversight this certificate had not been presented to the Judge before sentence was pronounced. No better proof of Watson's mentality could have been provided then the fact that with his release only six weeks away he had made a break for freedom, Captain Ede suggested.

Colonel C.E. Edgett, Warden addressed the Court. He realized the feeling of Watson's mother but he suggested that it would be in the best interest of all concerned that Watson should remain in the Institution. Colonel Edgett asked the Magistrate to view the matter from the standpoint of the Penitentiary. When a prisoner escapes, all other prisoners are locked up and are confined to their cells night and day. They are thrown into a ferment and the effect on their nerves is bad. The Penitentiary is largely a reformatory institution and the effect of a jailbreak is to undo much of the work done in bringing the convicts to a proper view of things. Just at the moment when they may be forming good resolutions for their future conduct, they are subject to an experience which may act to break down these resolutions.

Colonel Edgett expressed the opinion that to impose only a light sentence on men caught after making an escape may act as an encouragement to others to make the attempt. He therefore thinks it is in the best interest of all concerned that an example should be made in such cases. He added

576B

that according to his information, the attempt was instigated by Lund, who took advantage of Watson's weakness to lead him into it.

"I wish to take the blame," Lund said.

The Magistrate imposed a sentence to begin at the expiration of the term now being served by the prisoners.



593

September 19th, 1931

The Columbian

## DR. W.A. CLARKE NAMED PHYSICIAN AT PENITENTIARY

Dr. W.A. Clarke, 411 Queens Avenue, has been appointed official Physician at the B.C. Penitentiary here. Notice of the appointment was received from the Civil Service Commission, Ottawa, by Colonel C.E. Edgett, Warden of the Penitentiary, on Friday. The appointment takes effect immediately and Dr. Clarke, who succeeds the late T.B. Green, has already assumed his duties.

552

November 17th, 1931

The Columbian

## MEETING WITH PENITENTIARY HEAD PLANNED.

Mayor Gray informed the City Council, that he would meet Brig-Gen. St. Pierre Hughes, Superintendent of Penitentiaries. The major matter to be discussed is the widening of Columbia Street in front of the Penitentiary and putting electric lights, telephone and power wires underground. This project has been under consideration for sometime, and it is anticipated that if the two companies concerned are prepared to do their fair share, the Penitentiary authorities will do likewise and a great improvement will be effected.

The meeting is scheduled also to discuss an exchange of properties within the city which will enable the Penitentiary to consolidate its holding and will permit the city widening McBride Boulevard. The drainage of Sixth Avenue at the rear of the Penitentiary grounds is also on the agenda.

553

November 24th, 1931

The Columbian

COL. C.E. EDGETT, WARDEN OF B.C. PENITENTIARY, APPOINTED  
POLICE CHIEF OF VANCOUVER

Colonel C.E. Edgett, D.S.O., V.D., Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary, is the new Chief of Police in Vancouver. He was appointed to this post on Monday afternoon by the unanimous vote of the Vancouver Police Commissioners and will take over his new duties on December 15th.

Colonel Edgett was not an applicant for the post but it was offered to him by the Commissioners, and he accepted it on the condition that the appointment was made unanimously. This was done, and in addition the approval of Mayor L.D. Taylor, ill in hospital was secured. A Commission fixed the salary at seven thousand five hundred dollars a year. The former Chief W.J. Bingham, was paid six thousand dollars.

In 1923 Colonel Edgett entered the Penitentiary Service and was appointed Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary at New Westminster.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PENITENTIARIES

D. M. ORMOND FOR THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PENITENTIARY, 31 March 1932

---

A new boiler house with a 120 foot smoke stack was completed. A rearrangement and remodeling of the older portions of the Penitentiary permitted an increase in the size of the schoolroom. The ground in the vicinity of Columbia Street was graded and terraced to conform with the landscape and architectural scheme.

END OF REPORT.

564

May 28th, 1932

British Columbian

## GENERAL ORMOND PENITENTIARIE'S SUPERINTENDENT

Brigadeer General D.M. Ormond C.M.G., D.S.O., has been appointed Superintendent of Penitentiaries in Canada by the Department of Justice to succeed General St. Pierre Hughes, D.S.O., superannuated.

General Ormond is District Officer commanding military district No. 13, which comprises the Province of Alberta. His headquarters are at Calgary, Alberta.

He was called to the Bar of Manitoba and practised law from 1908, until 1914 when he went to France as a Major in the C.E.F. He commanded the Canadian troops at Ripon, 1919, and after demobilization served as superintendent of the R. C. M. P. seven months, 1920.

565

May 31st, 1932

British Columbian

## AGAIN WARDEN

Former Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary, Colonel Cooper has again been appointed Warden succeeding Colonel C.E. Edgett, who resigned from the Service to be Chief Constable of Vancouver. Official advice that the appointment has been made was received from Ottawa today by Deputy Warden R.S. Douglass, who has been acting Warden during the interim.

Colonel Cooper served in France from the spring of 1915 until the Armistice being twice decorated in action and being awarded the Croix De Guerre with palm. Returning to Canada in November 1919, after demobilization, he joined the Penitentiary Service. He was at St. Vincent de Paul Quebec, in 1920, was appointed Warden of Stoney Mountain Penitentiary, Manitoba, in 1921 and was transferred to British Columbia in 1923.

Leaving the service in 1928, he took charge of the Relief Department, of the City of Vancouver in 1930, and is now holding that post.

566

August 11th, 1932

British Columbian

## TWENTY DOUKHOBOR PRISONERS TAKEN TO PIER'S ISLAND

Twenty Doukhobors were taken from Oakalla jail this morning under a Provincial Police escort to Pier's Island, the new prison colony near Sidney, established by the Dominion Government to house them. All are under sentence of three years on nudity charges.

It is expected that the remainder of the three hundred and sixty-eight who have been in Oakalla for some weeks will be moved as accomodation of the Island permits.

Colonel H.W. Cooper, Warden of New Westminster Penitentiary, accompanied the party this morning to inspect the quarters which have been provided.

571

December 31st, 1932

British Columbian

## PENITENTIARY REGULATIONS ARE MODIFIED

Greater Freedom for Inmates of Canadian Penitentiaries is Provided in New Prison Regulations.

The changes will come into effect on Sunday.

More leeway in conversation, installation of electric lights in cells and dormitories - for reading purposes.

Close cropping of hair on incarceration is to give way to military or short hair cuts.

Greater use of tobacco, cigarette papers and smoking are stipulated.

Extended visiting privileges are contained in regulations.

Punishment by flogging or forfeiture of privileges will only be imposed after investigation by the Warden and with full concurrence of General T.M. Ormond, Dominion Superintendent of Penitentiaries at Ottawa.

Cigarette papers are to be provided with the one-eleventh of a pound of tobacco weekly.

Pipes and chewing tobacco are also to be issued to prisoners.

Prisoners are not to be made to attend church services if they are non christians.



554

March 9th, 1933

The Columbian

## WORK PROCEEDS AT PENITENTIARY SAYS WARDEN

Everything is quiet and work is continuing, Colonel H.W. Cooper Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary informed the British Columbian today when asked regarding reports published in Vancouver newspapers to the effect that there had been a disturbance in the Penitentiary on Tuesday. For any information regarding the matter, Colonel Cooper said, he could only refer the questioners to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa.

The Ottawa dispatch published in Vancouver, under date of March 8th said; A slight disturbance occurred yesterday in the New Westminster Penitentiary, Honourable Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice, told the House of Commons today. He gave no particulars.

Subsequently Mr. Guthrie stated to the Canadian Press that twelve convicts at the Penitentiary went on strike on Tuesday and refused to work. They were taken in hand by the Warden, H.W. Cooper, and dealt with.

There was no further disturbance and the work at the Penitentiary is proceeding normally.

REPORT OF WARDEN W. H. COOPER

Report for the fiscal year ending 31 March 1933. Convicts remaining midnight March 31, 1933: 439 - a decrease of 21 during the year: 126 convicts were received. 197 released.

Work was carried out throughout the year with the usual energy enlarging the prison yard. Work was commenced on the new cell block and the foundations run preparatory to the erection of the walls. Satisfactory progress was made with the lowering of the Dome Floor. All the shops and departments were busily engaged manufacturing articles for the Penitentiary. 123,920 days of convict labor being put into the various departments and work. The general health of the convicts was good.

101 convicts attended the Roman Catholic Chapel. 281 were under the care of the Protestant Chaplin and 57 were Buddhists.

At the beginning of May 1932 it became evident that a considerable number of persons charged with parading nude would be received in the Penitentiary. This was eventually confirmed and preparations were put under way to receive 84 males and 34 females all charged with the same offence. It became obvious that it was not practical to transfer the females to Kingston Penitentiary and as British Columbia Penitentiary was overcrowded steps were immediately taken to cast about for a location for a temporary penitentiary into which could be segregated all those persons from British Columbia who were committed for parading in the nude. The reconnaissance was energetically taken in hand by the Department of Public Works, Piers Island was eventually selected as this Island was uninhabited. Piers Island just north of the Saanich Peninsula on Vancouver Island and located on inland waters away from the sweep of the heavy seas with easy access to the mainland and with a government telegraph line already crossing it. The owners of the Island asked a rental which was established to be excessive with the result that the Island was taken under the provisions of the Expropriations Act. The matter is still in litigation. It was also decided that the temporary penitentiary, to be called Piers Island Penitentiary should be under the wardenship of the Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, the clerical and accounting work being preformed at the B.C. Penitentiary, thus eliminating the expense of providing salaries and quarters for a large overhead. While this added very considerable responsibility to the Warden of the British Columbia Penitentiary the results have been satisfactory and warranted making the experiment, an Acting Deputy Warden was put in charge.

In common with other Penitentiaries in Canada a spirit of unrest was noticed in British Columbia Penitentiary becoming very evident following the riots in Kingston, St. Vincent de Paul and Dorchester Penitentiaries, the Warden had the situation well in hand and while the convicts on several occasions attempted to revolt each situation was dealt with as it arose and was handled in a very satisfactory manner. A certain number of the more dangerous type of convict attempted to stir up trouble, attempting to incite the younger and well balanced convict, stating that they were not living up to the accepted code of convict if they did not riot and otherwise misbehave after the manner of the convicts in the other penitentiaries referred to.

END OF REPORT ON THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

ANNUAL REPORT ON PIERS ISLAND 31 March 1933

Annual report of the Piers Island Penitentiary for the year ending 31 March 1933, under the wardenship of H.W. Cooper, Warden for the B.C. Penitentiary. The administration and executive officers being detailed for duty from the B.C. Penitentiary (TEMP) at Piers Island Penitentiary.

The policy having been decided in May of 1932 to segregate the persons committed to the Penitentiary for parading in the nude to a separate and temporary Penitentiary, Piers Island was selected for the reason above stated. It is an Island of approximately 242 acres from which the commercial timber was removed some years ago. It was reported to have a good fresh water supply, and above all, good communication with Vancouver Island under almost any weather condition, the decision to occupy Piers Island was made on June 16, 1932 and arrangements were made with the Department of Public Works to take over the erection of the necessary wharf and buildings.

The North West corner of the Island was cleared and two compounds, one for the male convicts and one for female convicts were prepared. The mens compound being 600 feet square, enclosed by a barbed wire fence, the following buildings were erected, "A" Stores, Custodial Officers Mess, Guard Room and Office Building. "B" convict Kitchen and dining room. "C" Hospital Ward, "D" Dormitories, "E" Laundry Building, store room and bathroom. The compound for the women convicts is a quadrangle surrounded by barbed wire being approximately 360 feet by 450 feet which encloses the following buildings: "A" Stores, guard room and offices, "B" convicts Kitchen and dining room, "C" Hospital Ward, "D" four dormitories, "E" building containing Laundry, Dry Room and Bathroom.

The two compounds are situated a little over 100 yards apart. North of the mens' compound is the Dormitory Building containing the male officers quarters, the Matrons quarters are located North of the Compound for females. A 25,000 gallon tank for fresh water has been erected and fresh water mains laid, the water from the wells being pumped to the tank by gasoline driven pumps. It was found that the fresh water supply consisted principally if not entirely of surface water collected in pockets at a depth of 90 to 150 feet. It, therefore became necessary to install a salt water supply for firefighting and toilet purposes. One force pump has been install on the wharf and also a mobile fire pump has been supplied in addition to hand fire extinguishers of various types.

The Penitentiary is lighted by coal oil lanterns and gasoline pressure lamps, a

satisfactory sewage system has been installed, roads and sidewalks have been completed in addition.

The construction of the buildings under the supervision of the Department of Public Works Department has been rendered by the District Officer of the Public Works Department and this is much appreciated.

The reception of the convicts commenced in August and as accomodation was made available they continued to be received until December 1932 when the total convict population amounted to 292 males and 278 females. Of this number 164 males and 175 females were born in Russia, the remainder being born in Canada.

These convicts have been extremely difficult to manage. They will not acknowledge any authority other than that of God and without compulsion will do no work in the Penitentiary. On numerous occasions they have refused to work and numbers of them have attempted to disrobe, the utmost tact has been required on the part of the Deputy Warden and Staff. These convicts profess to be pacifist's and while not actually striking an officer will crowd around him, pressing so closely against him that he cannot move. They do not consider it to be an act of aggression to trip an Officer or poke him with their elbows when crowded about him. It is necessary for the Penitentiary staff to keep this matter in mind when passing among them. These convicts are all vegetarians while their provisionings is not expensive, it is difficult to provide the necessary vegetables at all times.

All convicts are committed for a period of three years, as these convicts all belong to the same religious sect and keep no records of births, etc, those convicts who are over 70 years of age do not appear to have any ideal of their exact age. The health of these convicts has been fair but on the whole they were in a very unsatisfactory physical condition on reception and the average convict suffers from stomach disorders. The condition of the teeth of these convicts leaves much to be desired, this matter is being given attention and the expense will be considerable.

The staff of Officers at Piers Island consists of 47 males and 12 Matrons, a part time physician being in attendance, no Chaplains are required as these convicts do not believe in specially ordained clergymen.

Expenditures for the period 16 June 1932 to 31 March 1933 totaled \$170,783.00  
The average daily population of the Penitentiary was 570, the average number of

days of incarceration during 1932 - 1933 including period held by the Province of British Columbia per convict 290 days. Net cost per convict per annum \$299.62. Net cost per convict per day \$1.03, which indicates that, notwithstanding the expenditure for building etc, which are included in the above figures these convicts have been maintained at a less cost per day than in the other Penitentiaries. Much of the material used in equipping the Penitentiary is salvagable and will be removed from the Island when it ceases to be used as a Penitentiary, as no further building is contemplated the cost of maintaining these convicts during the remainder of their confinement will be much reduced.

END OF REPORT.

555

September 1st, 1933

The Columbian

## PRISON GUARD HURT AS CYCLE STRIKES AUTO

James A. Huff, guard in the B.C. Penitentiary was taken to the Royal Columbian Hospital about 7:30 o'clock this morning with fractures of the left shoulder and left ankle. The injuries were sustained in a collision between Huff's motorcycle and an automobile driven by Robert Thompson, East Pender Street Vancouver.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY AND PIERS ISLAND PENITENTIARY  
31 March 1934 - LT. COL. H. W. COOPER, WARDEN

---

The British Columbia Penitentiary Report; The remodeling and construction carried out embodies the work performed on the installation of control cages and hand operated elevator in the administration building. Progress on the new cell block excavation for the covered passageway between the central hall and the new cell block, progress with the stucco on the outside of the administration building, commencement on the new residence to be occupied by the Deputy Warden and erection of 27 panels of iron railing on top of the ornamental wall. The Mail Department Tailor Shop, Shoe Shop, Carpenter Shop, Machine Shop and Blacksmith Shop functioned satisfactorily.

A backward spring detrimentally effected the farm crops. The general health of the inmates was good considering the condition of many of those at the time of reception into the institution.

Rev. H. A. Ireland, Protestant Chaplain reports the revival of the bible class with an enrollment of 40 convicts whose interests have been well sustained throughout the year, he reports himself to be favourable disposed towards volunteer church attendance.

Rev. Father J. Kane succeeded Rev. Father Kennedy as Roman Catholic Chaplain on 20 April 1933 and has preformed his duties and functions to the satisfaction of the Warden.

Exercise has been carried out in compliance with regulations. Some difficulty was experienced upon the introduction of systematic exercises, certain incorrigible and anti-social convicts spreading the propoganda that this type of exercise was of militaristic nature. The Warden reports the introduction of group exercises to have a most salutary effect upon the mental attitude of the convicts as a whole and that already a diminuation in the number and influence of ill disposed convicts is noted.

Volley Ball was introduced as a free movement exercise, being considered most suitable as it does not require early training in youth and as being particularly suitable for convicts. The majority of who have never taken part in sports during their youth and have been unaccustomed to organized exercise.



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PIERS ISLAND PENITENTIARY

31 March 1934 - LT. COL. COOPER, WARDEN

---

This Penitentiary is nearing the close of its second year of its existence a marked change is noticeable in the attitude of these convicts. There are indications of a slight change in their habit of life and their resistance to rules and regulations has been partially overcome. A great change in attitude has taken place during the past six months. There is no longer the marked aversion to wearing of leather boots. The women have commenced to cooperate and are manufacturing their own discharge dresses as well as knitting socks and mitts for the male convicts. They are also performing work of a certain nature which they had first collectively refused to perform.

Following the example of the female convicts certain of the male convicts have voluntarily performed certain work such as blacksmithing, shoe making and book binding. On the whole the health of these convicts has not been good.

END OF REPORT

594

June 26th, 1934

The Columbian

DOUK PRISON AT PIERS ISLAND COSTS ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY.

It costs approximately one hundred and seventy thousand dollars a year to confine the Doukhobor prisoners serving time for parading in the nude in a special penitentiary on Piers Island, British Columbia.

Honourable Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice, told the House of Commons. The cost of Piers Island in 1932-33 was \$170,783.00 and in 1933-34 \$170,461.00.

About five hundred and seven prisoners are now on the Island.

595

July 17th, 1934

The Columbian

## RIOT OF BEES IS QUELLED AT PENITENTIARY

Disturbances within the walls of Canadian Penitentiaries do not always become public knowledge immediately and so it is quite in character that the story of a vast turmoil in the British Columbia Penal Establishment only came to light last night although it is several weeks since it broke out. Short lived but intense while it lasted, the turmoil was quelled single handed by a citizen not even remotely connected with the Penitentiary.

It is a favourite newspaper simile, in telling about breaks in big prisons, to say that the place hummed like a hive of angry bees. This particular demonstration not only sounded like a swarm of bees, it was a swarm of bees. Whence they came, why they chose to light on government property, no one knows. But there they were, performing all the usual apiarian exercises and completely disrupting the routine in that part of the Institution. The convicts, nervously apprehensive of stings, could not get on with their work, guards were helpless in face of the situation for which the manual prescribes no measures.

In this impasse some one thought of the local bee master, Alderman J. Lewis Sangster was summoned. He loaded the equipment required for the practise of his mysterious

595 A

craft plunged into the turmoil, passified the disturbers of the peace,herded . them into his car and removed them from the sacred precincts.

July 19th, 1934

The Columbian

#### PENITENTIARY AND CITY WILL EXCHANGE LAND

A deal by which the city and the Dominion Government will exchange properties is about to be completed after negotiations lasting more than a year. The transaction will involve several bylaws, including one to close certain portions of two streets. They are, however, streets on the map only, never having been opened. In fact it is probable that one of them is already under cultivation as part of the Penitentiary farm lands.

The purpose is to consolidate Penitentiary holdings in the city. To this end the Dominion will convey to the city a block bounded by Colborne Street, Eighth Avenue, McBride Boulevard, and Seventh Avenue; and a sixty-six foot strip on the east side of McBride Boulevard which will widen that thoroughfare to one hundred and thirty-two feet between Sixth and Eighth Avenues. In return the city will convey to the Dominion, Seventh Avenue from McBride to Cumberland, Portland Street from Sixth to Eighth Avenue, and an irregularly shaped parcel lying to the east of Cumberland and to the south of Seventh Avenue. About ten acres of land are involved in each exchange.

597

September 7th, 1934

The Columbian

## FATAL ACCIDENT AT PENITENTIARY

Two convicts were killed and a third is not expected to live, following an accident in the main building of the British Columbia Penitentiary this morning. Surnames of the dead men are MacDonald and Ross. Another man, whose name is Hyslop, is not expected to live beyond the day.

Exactly how the accident happened cannot be ascertained. Penitentiary regulations prohibit information being given out by anyone but the Minister of Justice at Ottawa, according to Colonel H. W. Cooper, Warden.

From information gleaned from unofficial sources it is understood that the three men were working on high scaffold inside the main building of the Penitentiary, in what is known as the cell courtyard. The scaffolding had two platforms and the men were on the upper platform, about fifty feet from the concrete floor of the yard. Without any warning the scaffolding collapsed, hurling the three men to the ground.

They were rushed to the Royal Columbian Hospital. MacDonald died soon after his arrival at the Institution and Ross succumbed to his injuries early this afternoon. An inquest into the fatality will be held by Dr. E.H. McEwen, Coroner, at the parlour of the Columbia Funeral Service at 10:30 a.m. to-morrow.

September 8th, 1934

598

The Columbian

CORONER'S JURY PROBES ACCIDENT AT PENITENTIARY.

INQUEST IN DEATH OF TWO PRISONERS OPENS, BUT IS ADJOURNED UNTIL WARDEN OBTAINS RULING FROM JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

Inquest on John D. MacDonald and Herbert Ross, fatally injured in the crash of a scaffolding in the British Columbia Penitentiary on Friday, has been postponed until Monday afternoon. It opened this morning at the Columbia Funeral Service Parlours but after some evidence had been taken, was adjourned until Monday at 1:15 p.m. Adjournment was asked by Inspector S.W. Bass of the City Police, who is conducting the Inquest, and was granted by Dr. E.H. McEwen, Coroner. The purpose of the adjournment is to obtain a ruling from Ottawa as to whether the Inquest shall be a Public Inquiry or shall be held in secret behind the Penitentiary Walls. This question arose when an uncle and cousin of MacDonald appeared, accompanied by legal representative, and intimated their intention to attend the Inquest. Arrangements had been made to hold the Inquest in the Penitentiary because it is proposed to call as witnesses several convicts and members of the prison staff. Penitentiary regulations do not give the public access to the prison. Colonel H.W. Cooper, Warden, has wired the Department of Justice, setting forth the circumstances and asking for a ruling

Evidence was given today by Colonel Cooper and Dr. S. McEwen.

598 A

Colonel Cooper merely identified the bodies of those of two inmates of the prison. Dr. McEwen who performed the autopsy, described the injuries. Jack Hyslop, third victim of the accident, is reported today resting more easily and is believed to have a fair chance of recovery. The three convicts were engaged replacing windows in the uppermost tier of cells that had been removed in spring for ventilation and were being put back for the winter. It is unofficially reported that they had themselves erected the staging on which they were working. Thirty feet above the concrete floor of the cell courtyard. The official statement authorized by the Department of Justice, states that the scaffolding was seen to sway and then crashed. The injured men were taken to the prison hospital where they were attended by Dr. D.A. Clarke, and were then taken to the Royal Columbian Hospital. The City Ambulance was sent out when the call came and the infectious diseases ambulance was pressed into service.

MacDonald known as Blackjack, was serving a term of five years for mail robbery at Port Moody. He entered the Penitentiary in November, 1931. Ross a Vancouver store clerk, 24 years of age, was sentenced to the Penitentiary for two years for retaining stolen property. He entered the Penitentiary in June, 1932. Hyslop is serving a two year term for robbery with violence in Vancouver. He was sentenced earlier last year.



September 10th, 1934

The Columbian

INQUEST AT PENITENTIARY ADJOURNED

Inquest on two convicts fatally injured last Friday, was again adjourned this afternoon. Colonel H.W. Cooper, Warden, asked for the adjournment for one week. He said circumstances, unconnected with the fatality or the inquest had developed which made it in the public interest that the proceedings should be postponed. The Coroner thereupon adjourned the inquest until next Monday at 10:00 a.m. Reports from the Royal Columbian Hospital today are that Jack Hyslop, third victim of the accident, is still in critical condition. He is conscious only at intervals.

600

September 11th, 1934

The Columbian

## PRISONERS STRIKE AT PENITENTIARY

WAGES DEMANDED BY CONVICTS, TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY REMAIN AT WORK.

Convicts at British Columbia Penitentiary are on strike, demanding wages for their work and the privilege of appointing a committee to discuss conditions with the authorities. The strike is far from being one hundred per cent effective. In fact, only about a third of the number has joined. Strikers are confined to the cells, while the work at the Institution is being carried on with reduced gangs. Rumours of trouble at the big Penal Institution have been circulated in the city. Colonel H.W. Cooper, Warden, issued an official statement to the following effect.

On Saturday, September 1st, a gang of seven convicts refused to work. No support was given to them at that time by the other convicts. However, during the week there was evidence of agitation.

On Sunday, September 9th, the Warden sent for some of the principal agitators. The men who appeared to be the leaders stated that they had no complaint to make as to treatment or food, but the convicts wanted a number of concessions. The concessions asked for included payment of wages for work and permission to organize a convicts standing committee,

600 A

consisting of a delegation from each department, to hold meeting and then discuss matters with the authorities.

On Monday, September 10th, eighty-seven of the convicts refused to work. They were returned to the cells. During the day these men joined in concerted shouts of wages, wages, and in remarks against the two hundred and twenty-eight convicts still working.

This morning a few more men refused to work but the outside gangs were working and every department is running, although with reduced numbers. There has been no violence as yet.

601

September 13th, 1934

The Columbian

## BEDS SMASHED BY CONVICTS IN PRISON STRIKE

Although no one in authority at the British Columbia Penitentiary can be reached by telephone, it is understood that the strike of convicts is still in progress. The prisoners are demanding that they be paid for work and that the authorities recognize a grievance committee of convicts.

It is understood that the striking prisoners, who are confined to their cells, kept practically everyone in the Institution awake last night. One rumour is the effect that, besides creating a noisy disturbance, the convicts smashed their beds.

602

September 14th, 1934

The Columbian

## ALL QUIET AT PENITENTIARY WARDEN SAYS.

All continues quiet was the answer today of Colonel H.W. Cooper, Warden of the Penitentiary, in response to a request for a statement as to the strike situation.

Unofficially it is learned that the convicts who refused to work are now desirous of returning to their jobs, and they are being permitted to do so as arrangements can be made to accommodate them.

No confirmation can be obtained of rumours as some of them smashed beds and toilets in their cells and kept a terrific din, shouting and rattling pieces of beds against the cell bars.

603

September 21st, 1934

The Columbian

JURY CONDEMNS PRISONS SCAFFOLDING  
ACCIDENT AT PENITENTIARY INVESTIGATED  
PRISON OFFICIALS ARE EXONERATED

A Coroner's Jury today inquired into the death of John D. MacDonald and Herbert Ross, convicts in the British Columbia Penitentiary, and returned a verdict of accident. No blame was attached to anyone connected with the prison staff. The jury found, however, that faulty construction of years ago was a contributing factor. It was recommended that in future the type of scaffolding in use when the convicts fell to their death be no longer used, but in future any scaffolding erected be inspected by the construction superintendent, and that all railing joints in the Penitentiary be inspected and adjustments made where necessary. The accident in which MacDonald and Ross were fatally injured occurred about 10:20 a.m. on September 7th. Jack Hyslop, another convict, is still in Royal Columbian Hospital with skull fractures and other injuries. His condition is such that he could not be brought to the Inquest.

Evidence shows that the three men were engaged in replacing a leaded window, one of several that had been taken out early in the summer for ventilation. These windows are the top row in a high wall. The scaffolding, so called,

603 A

consisted of a platform of loose planks resting on two stringers which projected from the walk outside the cells. These stringers were inserted at one end between the bars of a cell door four feet from that end, the stringers rested on the top rail of a railing which runs along side the outside edge of the walk. The stringers then project out over the space between the cell tier and the other wall. The platform thus overhung a drop of thirty-one feet with nothing to support its outer edge. In short it was the cantilever principle. The three men were putting in place a window weighing about one hundred twenty-five pounds. Their weight and that of the window totals something over five hundred pounds. Chief Trade Instructor John Wardrop who gave evidence, said he had calculated that when they were at the extreme end of the projecting platform they were equivalent to a pressure of about sixteen hundred pounds on the rail or fulcrum. The railing on the outside of the walk is made of pipe. It consists of a top rail inch and one quarter pipe at intervals of about six feet. The tremendous weight bent the top pipe and then it pulled out of the stanchion. Examination later showed that this pipe had been screwed into the stanchion only two threads. This was the faulty construction to which the jury referred. It dates back to about 1904 as the top rail pulled out dropping the weight, the second and third rail went down beneath the blow. The platform of loose planks and the men were shot off as from a chute. The

603 B

stringers did not fall but hung from the cell door bars. The top rail became entangled in the cord used for opening and closing the windows, and hung there.

This was the story that emerged from evidence of the new witnesses including Colonel H.W. Cooper, Warden, Albert North, Keeper in charge of the North Wing, Ernest Smale, Guard, Assistant to North, R. Davidson and Benjamin Moore, convicts. Moore gave a graphic eye witness account of the crash. He was standing on the tier from which the platform projected.

There was evidence that scaffolding or platforms of this type of construction had been used in the Penitentiary for many years. They are used for washing windows, calcimining, or any other job that calls for reaching any point on the wall opposite the cell tiers. MacDonald, it appeared, had asked for this particular job saying that he was a high-rigger. Hyslop also claimed to be a high-rigger. Ross had had considerable experience in working on platforms of this construction. They were considered quite safe.



604

January 2nd, 1935

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARY INMATES WILL RECEIVE PAY

Convicts in Canadian Penitentiaries will receive small pay as from January, General Ormond, Superintendent of Penitentiaries, has announced.

They will be paid at the rate of five cents a day for each day they work, provided the conduct and diligence is satisfactory to the Warden and provided they are not undergoing punishment or deprivation of any privilege or offences against the rules and regulations.

605

January 26th, 1935

The Columbian

## DOUK PRISON ON PIERS ISLAND MAY CLOSE ON JUNE 30th

The Honourable Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice, explained to Tom Reid, M. P. in answering a question of the Doukabor special prison on Piers Island will be closed probably on June 30th. The released prisoners, the Minister said, are provided transportation to the place where they were convicted plus an allowance of ten dollars. The Federal Government will take no further responsibility for them.

February 1st, 1935

The Columbian

DOUK PARADE FROM PRISON TO END ON JULY 1ST

The drama of Thrums, which started when angry Doukhobor men and women paraded nude before outraged British Columbia authorities and theologic protest against civil law, will end by July 1st, Federal officials said today.

The last of the five hundred and seventy-eight members of the peculiar Russian religious sect will leave prison for homes in the Interior, well clothed and well warned of statutes covering parades. Right of assembly and indecent exposure.

Penitentiary officials already have released two hundred and four devout prisoners. Each received ten dollars, transportation home and the hope that they would not again be guilty of the offences for which they were imprisoned.

The mass conviction and prison sentence came in May, 1932, after a long series of clashes between Government and the Doukhobors. Police drove one hundred eighteen men and women into an orchard at Thrums, sprayed their naked bodies with itch powder and arrested them. Others were jailed at various villages, each got a three year prison sentence. While spiratually non violent, the Doukhobors religion sanctions stripping in mass protest.

## 606 A

One winter day two officers trudges through the snow to a Doukhobor village to arrest a man charged with violating the school law. A hundred men and women, stark naked, met them, and launched a snow ball attack. The law retreated in disorder.

Attorney General R.H. Pooley of British Columbia tries remonstrances with the Doukhobor leaders, pleading with them to obey the laws. As he spoke, several women stepped gracefully out of their dark clothes.

The Doukhobors, translated spirit wrestlers, originated in Russia in 1785, descending from the Russian Orthodox Church. After a century of persecution, approximately six thousand migrated to Saskatchewan in 1899.

607

February 28th, 1935

The Columbian

## COLONEL COOPER IS MOVED TO PRINCE ALBERT

Colonel William Meighen now stationed in Manitoba will take charge of city prison in three way move.

Colonel H.W. Cooper, Warden of British Columbia Penitentiary, is transferred to the Penitentiary at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, the Penitentiary which serves the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Colonel McLeod, Warden at Prince Albert, is transferred to Stony Mountain, Manitoba, and Colonel William Meighen, Warden of Stony Mountain, comes to the Penitentiary here. Announcement of these transfers was made at Ottawa today. Colonel Cooper was Deputy Warden of St. Vincent de Paul in 1920-21, and Warden of Stony Mountain in 1921-23, he was appointed to the New Westminster post in 1923, was retired in 1928 and after investigation was reinstated in 1932.

March 29th, 1935

The Columbian

COLONEL H.W. COOPER HONOURED BY STAFF OF PENITENTIARY

Colonel H.W. Cooper and Mrs. Cooper left New Westminster on Thursday for Prince Albert, where Colonel Cooper will take over his new duties as Warden of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary. Before his departure Colonel Cooper was honoured at a ceremony in the Warden's office at the Penitentiary when he was presented with a silver serving tray by Deputy Warden Douglass, on behalf of the staff, who expressed regret at his departure from New Westminster and thanked him for his leadership since 1923. Colonel William Meighen, Warden of Stony Mountain, Manitoba, will succeed Colonel Cooper here. He is expected to reach this city on the Monday.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1935 - H. W. COOPER, WARDEN

---

The principle works of construction performed during the year, other than the repair and maintenance of buildings was the construction of a new residence for the Deputy Warden and work on the new cell block.

The Rev. Father Joseph P. Kane was called to other work by his Grace, the Archbishop of the Diocese, and was succeeded on 22 July 1934 by the Rev. Father A. T. Griffith as Roman Catholic Chaplain, who has carried on his work energetically throughout the year. Rev. Father Griffith reports that he has been hampered by the lack of a Roman Catholic Chapel. The erection of which has been under consideration for many years, and will be commenced at the earliest possible moment. At the end of the year there were 96 convicts in attendance at the Roman Catholic Chapel. Their conduct was satisfactory through the year, with the exception of a small number of discontents. A class for instruction in religion, ethics as well as the law of social morality has been instituted by the Chaplain.

The Rev. Father H. A. Ireland, Protestant Chaplain, reports the most satisfactory year during his service with the institution. A mission was held from 24 April to 29 April with the assistance of the Rev. E. F. Church of Victoria, B.C.

The Salvation Army held regular services, which was augmented by the attendance of the Salvation Army Band and Singers.

On 7 September 1934 a most unfortunate accident occurred in the Penitentiary, resulting in the death of two convicts and the permanent disablement of a third. The accident was caused by the giving away of a gallery rail, due to a concealed defect in the pipe connection. An inquest was held, and the coroners jury found that the deceased came to their deaths through accident, and that no blame could be attached to anyone connected with the staff of the Penitentiary as constituted at the time of the accident, but recorded the opinion that faulty construction at the time of the building of the wing was a contributory factor, and further recommended that the type of scaffolding used at the time of the accident should be discontinued. All recommendations made by the jury were immediately put into effect. Unrest was in evidence in the Institution throughout the year, culminating in an emeute on 1st September 1934 when seven convicts employed in the Mail Bag Department refused to proceed to work and had to be returned to their cells. No further overt act or revolt occurred until 10 September, when 73 convicts refused to go to work and were returned to their cells. All other convicts carried on in a more or less satisfactory manner. During the afternoon the convicts locked up

in their cells disturbed the good order of the Institution by occasional howls and yells. Immediately after the evening meal was served a large number of convicts commenced to create a major disturbance by scraping their food trays across their cell barriers, yelling, shouting, smashing beds, toilets and cell furniture. The convicts ascertained to be the leaders in this demonstration were removed to isolation. The noise was somewhat abated, but was recommenced on the 11th, but with less vigor. The disturbance by those remaining in their cells died out on the evening of the 11th.

The Warden commenced an investigation into the cause of the emute on 12 September and returned a large number of convicts to the shops. On the 13th the only disorder was an occasional shout or howl on the part of some of the convicts held in isolation. The revilements being directed principally against those convicts who were working. The investigation disclosed that the emeute was brought about through the persistent efforts of a small group of agitators, who desired that prison conditions should be made more comfortable. The damage caused by this emeute consisted of six toilets broken, 182 panes of glass shattered, and the breakage of parts to cell tables, chairs and beds, the total loss due to the damage not exceeding \$150.00. Since 13 September 1934 the behaviour of the convicts has been satisfactory.

PIERS ISLAND PENITENTIARY 31 March 1935

LT. COL. H. W. COOPER, WARDEN

A marked improvement was noted during the year in the general attitude and conduct of the convicts, both male and female. Of the total 534 incarcerated, 468 were awarded no punishment, as compared to the fiscal year 1933-34 when, out of a total of 531 convicts, 274 were awarded no punishment and 257 convicts received one or more. No punishments were awarded to female convicts during the year. With the exception of a small minority of the more fanatical element, the Doukhobors responded well to the diplomatic handling of them by matrons and officers. This change in attitude was in direct contrast to the general opposition and resistance to authority by both male and female convicts on their admission to the Penitentiary, which continued for some time, particularly during their early months of confinement. In many cases as their fear and collective passive resistance to authority waned or disappeared, work of a varying nature was performed by Doukhobors of both sexes. Some of the duties being particularly adapted to the the Doukhobors advantage being taken of their knowledge of several handicrafts.

In the Shoe Shop for example a large number of serviceable shoes for convicts were made from waste material. The uppers and soles being woven from waste string and



soles waterproofed with the residue from paint pots. Shoe lasts for both male and female convict shoes were shaped from wood which was found on the island. Books and magazines were kept in repair, the material for this work being cardboard from old packing boxes, sugar bags and other waste material.

In the female compound convicts were engaged in making male discharge shirts and altering discharge suits. In addition minor repairs were carried out on Matrons and Officers uniforms.

As the date for expiration of sentences drew near, it was anticipated that some difficulty might arise in the discharge of convicts from the Penitentiary. A number of male and female convicts refused to leave without their relatives whose sentences had not yet expired. In order to facilitate the discharge and rehabilitation of the Doukhobors into civil life the policy was adopted of discharging them in as closely related groups as possible. Such releases taking place at the expiration of the sentence of the convict who was required to remain for the longer period. During the months of December 1934 and January and February 1935 the sentences of a large number of male and female convicts expired, but they remained as inmates of the Penitentiary until March 1935, under terms of the Penitentiary Act, Section 72 (1), during these months discharges continued as follows:

December 1934:	Male: 17	Female: 27
January 1935 :	Male: 26	Female: 33
February 1935:	Male: 46	Female: 58
March 1935:	Male: 72	Female: 98

As 39 male convicts would still have remained at the end of the month, this number was transferred to B.C. Penitentiary to serve the remaining portion of their sentences. The evacuation of convicts from Piers Island Penitentiary being completed on the 28 March 1935. As convict discharges were effected the staff was proportionately reduced. At 31 March there were remaining ten officers including the acting Deputy Warden to complete the checking, packing of stores and equipment and the dismantling and removal from the Penitentiary of buildings, erections and fixtures.

END OF REPORT

April 24th, 1935

The Columbian

NEW WARDEN IN CHARGE AT PENITENTIARY

Colonel William Meighen, formerly Warden of Stony Mountain Penitentiary in Manitoba, now transferred to the British Columbia Penitentiary as Warden, arrived in the city this morning and has taken over his duties in succession to Colonel H.W. Cooper, transferred to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

The new Warden is the brother of the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, former Premier of Canada. He was Warden of Stony Mountain for nearly twelve years.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1936: Arthur W. Meighen, Warden

---

The routine maintenance and repair of buildings was carried out. The principle construction carried on was the continuation of work on the 1933 Cell Block, the erection of a woven wire fence along the northernly boundary of the Penitentiary Reserve.

Religious services were conducted regularly without interuption in both chapels throughout the year.

The Rev. H. A. Ireland, Protestant Chaplain reports that he has been greatly encouraged in his work.

The volunteer attendance of convicts at church is much larger than a year ago, although the prison population is smaller. A mission was held from May 20 to May 26 1935. The Missionary was the Very Reverend C.S. Quinton, Dean of the Cathedral, Victoria, B.C. who grapped the attention of those attending throughout the whole period. A second short mission was held in December. The Chaplain was assisted in the conducting of Bible studies by the Rev. A. E. Stephenson, G. H. Dowker, W. H. L. West, W. B. Willan and A. E. Whitehouse and the Rev. J. D. Hobden, Secretary of the John Howard Society, Vancouver.

The Choirs of Queens Avenue and 6th Avenue United Churchs and of the Olivet Baptist Church provided religious music on several Sunday afternoons. Their contribution was appreciated by the Warden and the staff of the Penitentiary and apparently by the prisoners.

The Rev. A. T. Griffiths, Roman Catholic Chaplain reports that there has been a definite improvement in those men placed under his spiritual charge, with the exception of the few recidivists and weaklings who have been corrupted by association with persistent offenders.

The average attendance at school was 25, with an average of 50 convicits pursuing approved studies of various kinds in their cells, under the supervision of the school teacher, an average of 8000 text books and magazines were distributed by the library each month.

END OF REPORT

649

October 3rd, 1936

The Columbian

## CONVICTS WILL BE HEARD IN PRISON PROBE:

The Penitentiary Commission plans to find out what is going on inside the Penitentiaries, and, to that end, it proposes to hear whatever convicts want to be heard as well as officials and guards.

Officials will not be present when prisoners are heard, nor will prisoners be there when the latter testify. The evidence is to be treated as confidential. The theory is that this is the only way to get at the bottom of the situation and that convicts would feel themselves under restraint if they thought that what they said would get back to their keepers.

This is the reason given for the proposal to have such a part of the enquiry as is in the Penitentiaries made in camera.

Public sittings will be heard in principle cities of the country when public organizations or individuals with ideas respecting the reformation or rehabilitation of criminals or the penal system generally will be heard.

The commission will have its first sitting at Dorchester Penitentiary in New Brunswick, Wednesday, and afterwards will visit Charlottetown, Halifax, St. John and Fredericton. The west will likely be visited next.

On October 7th, the Royal Commission investigating Penitentiaries heard the first group of one hundred fifteen prisoners in Dorchester Penitentiary who asked for the hearing before the commissioners.

649 A

The prisoners were brought individually before Mr. Justice Joseph Archambault of the Quebec Supreme Court, and R.W. Craig, K.C. former Attorney General of Manitoba. Their testimony was given in private. Not even a guard was within hearing in the little room of the grey stone prison in which the two commissioners sat, if the prisoners had any idea they were not speaking confidently they would not say a word, Mr. Justice Archambault explained.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B. C. PENITENTIARY  
31 March 1937 - Arthur W. Meighen, Warden

---

The routine maintenance of buildings was carried out. The projects under construction made progress. Work was commenced on the remodelling of the West Wing to provide a Roman Catholic Chapel.

Religious services were conducted regularly throughout the year without interruption. The following missions were held in the Protestant Chapel from the 30 March to 3rd April. The Chaplain being assisted by the Very Reverend C. S. Quinton, Dean of Victoria, the Reverend G. H. Doker of Christ Church Cathedral, New Westminster, and from April 27 to May 1st with the assistance of Reverend A. E. Whitehouse of Crown United Church, Vancouver.

The school functioned in accordance with regulations and instructions and with 31 convicts in regular attendance and approximately 100 convicts pursuing a variety of studies in their cells.

The Warden instituted a convicts entertainment fund during the Fall of 1935. Over 95% of the convicts being permitted to divert 1 and 1/2 cents per week. From the funds accumulated the Warden purchased a radio and an amplifier and eight loud speakers and a microphone as well as other accessories at a total cost of \$277.05. Radio programs being permitted during authorized hours, the new communique being disseminated to convicts through the medium of the radio. The Warden reports the conduct and industry of the convicts to be satisfactory.

END OF REPORT

680

April 1st, 1937

The Columbian

## COMMISSION TO HEAR INMATES OF B.C. PENITENTIARY

The Royal Commission investigating the administration of Canadian Penitentiaries will be in Victoria the latter part of April, it has been announced.

Attorney General Gordon Sloan will be interviewed by Mr. Justice J.A. Archambault, the Quebec Superior Court Chairman, and Commissioner R.W. Craig, Winnipeg, and James C. McRuer, Toronto, on his attitude towards the question of prison reform. Public sittings at either Victoria or Vancouver will be held, at which organizations or individuals interested in the subject will be heard, while inmates and officials at the New Westminster Penitentiary will be called to give evidence.

681

April 23rd, 1937

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARY SHOTS CAPTURE CUP, MEDALS.

The Number I team from the B.C. Penitentiary won the Provincial Title in a competition against fourteen other squads in the first round of the shooting for the Chief Constable's trophy, competed for annually by revolver shots all across Canada.

The victory gives the New Westminster Marksmen individual medals in addition to the cup emblematic of the British Columbia Title.

Provincial winners take part in a second competition to decide the Canadian Championship. The local team will shoot at Queens Park Range during the week from May 3rd to May 8th.

The Penitentiary Squad, in winning Provincial Honours, made a score of 1411 out of a possible 1500. This was the highest total registered by any of the forty-six competitors in the Dominion.

The competition is open to members of any police force in Canada and in the preliminary round the teams represented twenty units.

The Montreal city police came closest to the B.C. Penitentiary shots, winning the Quebec title with a score of 1408.



681 A

The members of the Penitentiary Team and their scores follow:

B. Enefer 289

S. Fraser 282

T.W. Hall 283

A.T. North 279

G. Unwin 278

693

March 24th, 1938

The Columbian

PENITENTIARY PROBE HAS COST \$88,800.00.

Just what the Royal Commission on Penitentiaries has found during its year of investigation, remains to be revealed, with its report expected soon.

In the meantime it is already pretty well known what the Commission has cost, a matter of \$88,810.00 according to a return tabled in the House.

Living allowances to members of the Commission have been paid as follows:

Mr. Justice Archambault, Chairman,	@ \$25.00 per day	\$8,762.00
Commissioner R.W. Craig, K.C.	@ \$15.00 per day	\$5,171.00
Commissioner J.C. McRuer, K.C.	@ \$35.00 per day	\$5,547.00

Travelling expenses totalled \$1,551.00 for the Chairman.

Mr. Craig, \$1,827.00 and \$1,189.00 for Mr. McRuer.

Mr. Craig was the only one to receive remuneration, being paid at the rate of \$50.00 per day, a total of \$18,625.00.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1938 - W. Meighen, Warden

---

Balance of statistics usually forwarded in the past are not included in accordance with circular letter #113-36 para. 6.

I am again glad to report no escapes or major disturbances during the year, during the latter part of July 1937 there was a combined refusal to take meals in which 127 convicts were involved. This action was fermented by a few agitators and in reality complaints against the quality and quantity of food were without a sound basis, prompt and firm disciplinary measures prevented from what might have become a major disturbance. Since then a re-arrangement of work gangs involving the segregation of the worst agitators has eliminated the influence of these disturbing elements on the population and offences against Penitentiary rules of conduct during the remainder of the year were of a minor nature only.

The Protestant Chaplain, Reverend H. A. Ireland, and the Roman Catholic Chaplain Monsignor A. T. Biffith retired from the service to be succeeded by Reverend J. B. Ridlan and Reverend Father P. Moreau who capably continued the religious instruction of the convicts.

The Officers generally have performed their duties satisfactorily, the course of lectures and training instituted during the winter months resulted in a marked increase in the efficiency of the staff as a whole and a keener interest in all details of the administration.

The usual maintenance and repair of buildings was carried out amongst other construction projects work was commenced on the remodelling of the West Wing to provide for the new Roman Catholic Chapel. Work on cell Block B-7 progressed satisfactorily and a portion was completed to enable the segregated confinement there of yourn convicts on one side and incorrigibles on the other.

END OF REPORT

694

June 16th, 1938

The Columbian

DISCIPLINE IN THE PENITENTIARY HERE IS GOOD.

The Archambault Commission on Penitentiaries reports on the British Columbia Penitentiary as follows:

"The site does not permit enlargement. Discipline is above the average of Canadian Penitentiaries and the Warden's Court is conducted with proper dignity. The staff is one of the best trained in the Penitentiary Service, the Classification Board is in operation but not yet satisfactory."

The report commends the Deputy Warden for his individual study of prisoners, and adds: " The Warden appears to have the confidence of the staff and inmates."

The Kitchen and Storeroom are satisfactory the report states, and the Medical Officer is engaged on a part-time basis. As a result it is less institutionalized. Serious cases are satisfactorily treated in the neighbouring Municipal Hospital.

The critical part of the report of this institution lies in the finding that the censorship of magazines have been reduced to an absurdity and the entire educational system requires complete reorganization.

The Commission also finds that the Teacher-Librarian is lacking in personality or judgment to fill his duties satisfactorily.

(The Teacher mentioned in the report left the penitentiary

694 A

service some time ago.)

695

June 29th, 1938

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARIES BILL BLOCKED BY BENNETT.

Making a vehement two hour attack on the Archambault Commissions' report on Canada's Penal System, Rt. Hon. R.B. Bennett last night blocked progress in the House of Commons of the Government's Bill to appoint a three man Commission to administer Canadian Penitentiaries. He said the Commission's report condemning General Ormond, Superintendent of Penitentiaries, and Inspector Craig and Dawson as "dishonest men", was unjustifiable, and did not give them an opportunity to defend themselves. He contended that the report should not be used as a basis for changing Canada's penal system.

Mr. Bennett also objected to the introduction of the measure on the grounds that it was too late in the session to allow the House to consider such highly contentious legislation adequately, and H.J. Barber, Fraser Valley Conservative, supported his contention.

Miss Agnes MacPhail, ardent crusader for prison reform commended the bill. She said, "something is very wrong with our penal system", and the management of the penitentiaries is "filled with intrigue and vindictiveness".

696

August 8th, 1938

The Columbian

## PRISONERS WILL GET CONCESSIONS FOR GOOD CONDUCT.

Concessions to convicts who have conducted themselves properly in the Penitentiaries are contemplated by Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice. In an announcement made here the Minister set forth certain changes in prison regulations dealing chiefly with remission of sentence.

Under the new rules, remission shall start to be computed from the date of the reception of a convict in a penitentiary whereas formerly remission could be earned only on working days; under new rules seven days a week shall count.

Whereas formerly no remission could be earned by a sick prisoner, under new rules a convict shall be awarded remission of five sixths of the number of days that may be awarded to him.

Under new rules consecutive sentences shall count, for the purpose of remission, as one sentence.

697

January 27th, 1939

The Columbian

## THREE MAN PRISON BOARD PROPOSED

Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice, gave notice today the Bill empowering the Government to name a Commission of three to administer all Penitentiaries in Canada.

The Bill results from a recent investigation of a Royal Commission into the workings and administrations of Penitentiaries.



698

March 16th, 1939

The Columbian

## GUARD BEATEN BY CONVICTS IN ESCAPE ATTEMPT

Three convicts in the British Columbia Penitentiary made a desperate break for liberty recently, slugging a guard in the process.

Col. William Meighen, Warden, asked about the report, replied that the regulations prohibit him from saying anything.

According to the story, the convicts involved were John Wasylenchuk, one of two brothers, serving sentences for the Langley Prairie bank robbery of January, 1937. John Godbold, in prison for his share in the armed robbery attempt on Spurgeon's Jewelry, and a third convict known as Frenchy.

It is said that they had sawn through the bars of their cells and got into a passageway when the guard, whose name has not been revealed, tackled them but was knocked down and tied.

In the meantime, however, another guard saw what was going on and turned in the general alarm. Guards flocked from all directions and the desperadoes were overpowered.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B. C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1939 - Arthur H. Meighen, Warden

---

I am again glad to be able to report no escapes or major disturbances during the year. At approximately 8:00 P.M. during the evening of Sunday, March 5, 1939 three convicts made an unsuccessful attempt to escape after breaking out of their cells by means of a hack saw illegally manufactured in the Machine Shop, a stilson wrench, pliers and keys all of which were smuggled into their cells. One convict managed to saw his way out of his cell, unlock the barrier gate of his tier and release the other two convicts. Guard J. Ewan was on his hourly tour of duty, was attacked and locked in one of the open cells, Guard Ewan suffered cracked ribs and contusions. The convicts then attempted to escape from the Dome but owing to the prompt action of the Night Keeper, W. Davies, in obtaining a revolver, they were forced to gain entry into the yard by breaking into the chamber under the Dome, crossing under it and emerging through gates leading from the Dome into the yard. By this time the alarm had been given and the Warden and Deputy Warden arrived at the prison.

Their prompt arrival on the scene facilitated the capture of the convicts in the yard all of whom were placed under control by the Deputy Warden himself. The convicts were all punished under the Penitentiary Regulations. As a result of this attempt to escape, one officer was retired to promote efficiency, one officer was fined the sum of \$25.00 and the Night Keeper was commended for the way in which he had handled the situation.

The Protestant Chaplain and the Roman Catholic Chaplain have capably continued the religious instruction of the convicts.

The officers generally have performed their duties satisfactorily. The permanent appointment of a number of temporary officers was greatly appreciated and had a beneficial effect upon the staff.

Usual maintenance and repair of buildings was carried out, the visitors waiting room and the visiting cage were remodelled and redecorated.

The new Roman Catholic Chapel is 74% completed. The Officers mess is 70% completed, cell block B-7 with the exception of some cell equipment has been completed. A miniature rifle and revolver range was constructed in duct K-6.

Extensive clearing of land at the rear of the reserve particularly in field J-2 has been carried on with a view to increasing the farm acreage.

During the year the Detex patrol clock system was installed and it is working satisfactorily.

The population showed a slight decrease from that of the previous year. 330 convicts were on the Penitentiary Registry at the closing of the prison on March 31, 1939 against 338 on the same date in the previous year.

SCHOOL:

The school master and librarian reports as follows:

During the nine months of my employment in the year ending 31 March 1939 a considerable portion of the time was taken up with the reorganization and development of the education program, making use of the facilities offered by the provincial department of Education and the extension department of the University of British Columbia. The following program was developed and steps taken to put it into operation: (a) for attendance at school convicts are classified upon reception according to results of intelligence and achievement tests, taking into consideration as well their age and history of recidivism.

(b) correspondence instruction from the Provincial Department of Education

(c) lectures, visual aids and study groups are arranged for through the Extension Department of the University of British Columbia.

With regard to (a) intelligent achievement tests were given to nearly 100 convicts results of which have been included in the various monthly reports. 61 of the above mentioned were declared eligible for school attendance and these were divided into three groups for class instruction. School opened on the first day of November and since that time has been in session 88 forenoons with a total attendance of 1,345 and an average attendance of a little better than 15. Teaching methods were concentrated on mathematics and English and steady progress has been shown throughout. With regard to (b) arrangements were completed with the Provincial Education Department to provide correspondence free to the convicts and a sincere desire was shown by the officials of that department to cooperate in any way towards the establishment of a sound educational program. With regards to (c), through the cooperation of Dr. Schrum, Director of the University Extension Department a series of nine lectures, three of which were illustrated was arranged and it proved very popular. These lectures were attended by an average of 221 convicts, it is to be hoped that further use of this Department of the University will be made towards the organization of study groups and the use of materials for visual instruction. Two lectures on Psychology by Dr. J. M. Ewing, Instructor at the Vancouver Provincial Normal School for the officers was arranged. These lectures were very popular and many requests for more were received. Other special features of the program included a geology class for prospective prospectors conducted by Mr. H. Sargent Provincial Mining Engineer for Vancouver; and a drawing class conducted by Guard Stevens. Twelve convicts attended each of the geology

classess, nineteen divided into three classes made up the music class and fifteen attended the drawing calsses held each Tuesday and Thursday morning for one and one half hours.

Two moving picture shows were held and were much appreciated by all. The Library issues showed a monthly average of nearly 10,000 copies.

END OF REPORT.

729

June 14th, 1939

The Columbian

## AMNESTY FOR PRISONERS IN ROYAL VISIT

The Canadian Government announced today that an amnesty reducing the sentence of all inmates of prisons and jails throughout the country by at least one month would be granted in honour of the visit to Canada of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

The Order, signed by Sir Lyman Duff, Chief Justice and Acting Governor General, was announced by Hon. Ernest Lapointe, Minister of Justice.

The amnesty order will be effective June 15th, the day the King and Queen sail from Halifax for England. Short term prisoners, who, with the month's amnesty will be eligible for immediate release, will not be freed until June 20th, to allow prison authorities to make the necessary arrangements.

The announcement said in the case of long term convicts who have good conduct records, the Government will consider giving "additional considerations". The last, it was expected, will take the form of larger reductions in sentences.

It has been a traditional practice of sovereigns to mark celebrations of this great importance by an act of grace.

In these circumstances it appears appropriate in keeping with Their Majesties special and constant regard for the sick, the needy and the unfortunate, to extend a measure of clemency to prisoners through Canada without discrimination of any kind.

730

August 16th, 1939

The Columbian

POLICE OFFICER HAS NARROW ESCAPE AS TWO CONVICTS MAKE A DESPERATE  
BREAK FOR LIBERTY

Sgt. W. Gallagher, in charge of New Westminster Unit, Provincial Police, had a close call when two Vancouver robbers, on their way to the Penitentiary, made a desperate attempt to escape from custody on Tuesday afternoon. (August 15th)

Elmer Almquist, 22, sentenced to five years in the Penitentiary, and Harold Erickson, 22, sentenced to three years, were being taken from Oakalla prison to the Penitentiary by Sgt. Gallagher and Constable Douglas Chamberlain. Precautions taken appeared to preclude a possibility of a break. Almquist's right wrist was handcuffed to Erickson's left, and his right leg ironed to Erickson's left. They sat on the left hand side of the rear seat with Sgt. Gallagher on their right, Constable Chamberlain driving, was alone in the front seat.

Obviously the attempt had been pre-arranged. As the car was on Royal Oak Avenue, about half way to Kingsway, Almquist said, "lets go". As he spoke he leaned back and thrust his left foot violently against the back of Chamberlain's neck. The Officers head was shot forward and his face struck the steering wheel. Simultaneously with this move, Erickson with a rapid backward movement slammed his right elbow into the Sgt's face. A wild struggle ensued, the car, going up hill,

730 A

slowed as soon as the constable's foot was removed from the accelerator and came to a stop as the engine stalled.

Erickson shouted "get his gun", as Almquist hurled himself on top of Chamberlain while Sgt. Gallagher struck Erickson in the jaw and tried to fasten a hammerlock on him.

Almquist had succeeded in seizing the butt of Chamberlain's 30 calibre revolver but Chamberlain had the barrel and was swinging the muzzle away from him in case it went off.

Almquist came up with Chamberlain's gun in his hand and Chamberlain holding the barrel came up with him. The revolver discharged and the bullet, passing through the space the Sgt. had occupied a second previously, struck the right hand side of the car just above the seat.

The Sgt. got out of the car, ran around and covered the convicts with his revolver, when the prisoners saw this they gave in.

During the struggle the ignition key had been struck and bent, and when Constable Chamberlain tried to turn it, it twisted off in the lock. There were no houses near so the officers temporarily abandoned the car and marched the prisoners back toward Oakalla with their manacles chafing at every step. They were then taken to the Penitentiary in the prison van.

731

December 14th, 1939

The Columbian

## TOTEM POLE GIVEN CITY BY TWO CONVICTS

Moody Park this week acquired an impressive eighteen foot Indian Totem Pole through an unusual channel.

The pole was carved by two Indians who are at present inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary. Col. W. Meighen, Warden, was impressed with their work and donated the pole to the Kiwanis Club. Kiwanis officials got in touch with the Parks Board, Commissioners H.L. Hutton and D.K. McKenzie viewed the totem pole and agreed to accept it for the parks, giving permission for its erection at Moody Park.

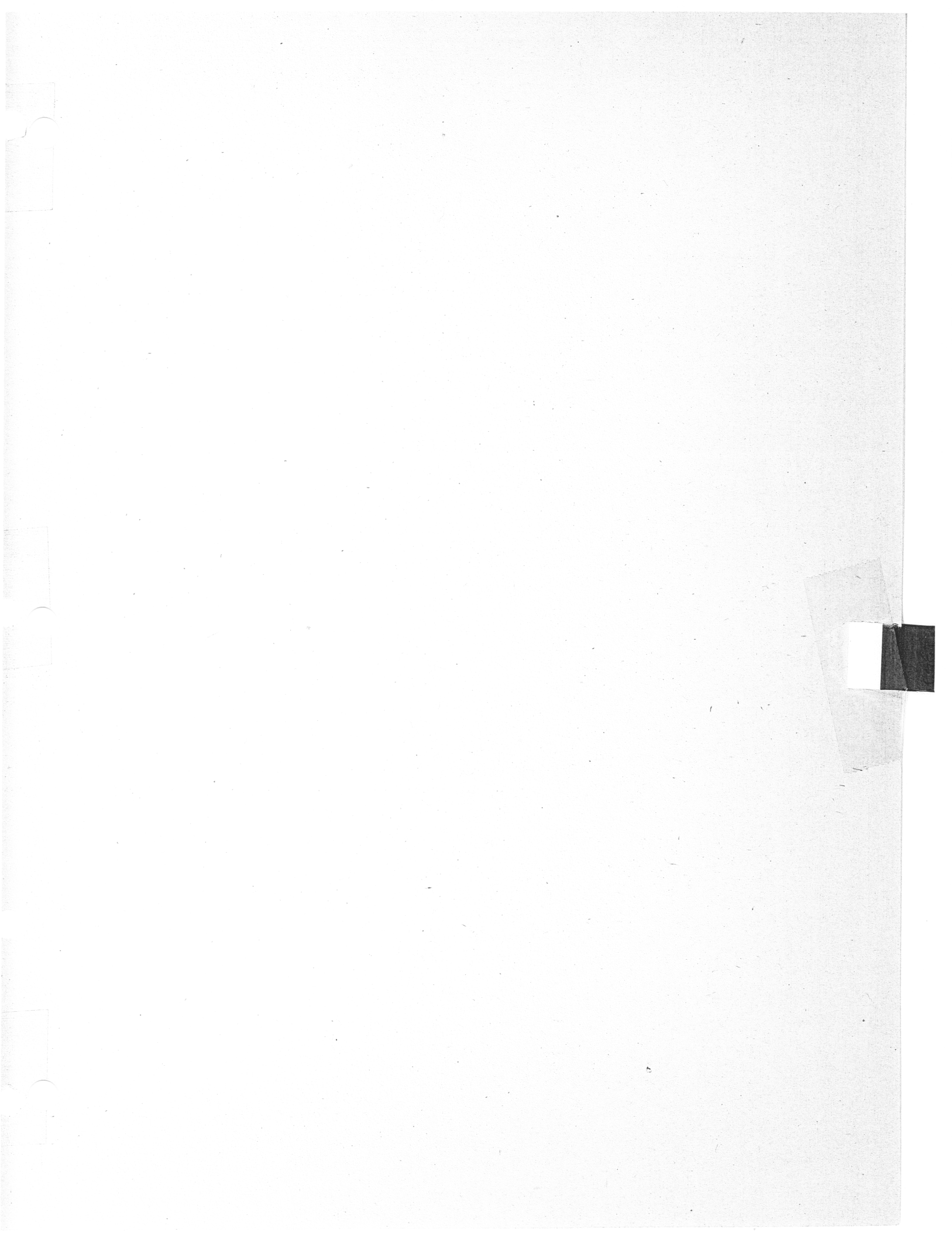
"We are pleased to get this example of Indian art for the city. Old totems are costly and practically impossible to obtain", said Mr. Hutton. "We understand the Indians are working on a second and even larger pole which the city may receive in a few months time."

Col. Meighen was unable to give the identity of the Indian artists who lavished such patience and skill on the totem pole. Their effort commenced early this year when a penitentiary crew was salvaging some logs from the river. One log was cedar, and two Indian convicts from the Interior of B.C. asked permission to carve a totem pole out of it. Col. Meighen gave his consent and the Indians put in many hours of toil producing their example of the ancient B.C. art.



731 A

The totem has been erected in the front and to the left of the Kiwanis club house. A light pole will be shifted from 8th Street to clear the view.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1940 - Arthur H. Meighen, Warden

---

I am again glad to report no escapes or major disturbances have occurred during the past year. The prison population showed a slight decrease from the previous year. The discipline on the whole has been satisfactory and the offence reports recorded against convicts were mainly of a minor nature. All departments have done well during the year, good progress was made on the construction program and maintenance work was carried out satisfactorily.

The interior of cell block B-7 was completed and has been fully occupied for a good part of the year. More than half the exterior stucco work on this building was also completed. The fine appearance of the building is a credit to the instructors and officers of the Penitentiary who supervised its construction. The lowering of the floor in the central hall, B-1, was commenced during the year and the remodelling of the West Wing to provide for the new Catholic Chapel and the Officers mess was completed. Much needed repairs to the officers tenements were made, the houses were repainted, windows and doors repaired, concrete sidewalks laid, lawns sown and new fences commenced. As a result of the work the general appearance of this part of the reserve shows a decided improvement.

The removal of the Officers Mess from its former position, adjoining the convict kitchen permitted rearrangement of the Stewards Department. A dishwashing machine was installed and other sanitary improvements have increased the cleanliness and efficiency of this department. Increasing attention is being paid to the calorie and vitamin content of the food stuffs served, both to the convict and in the officers mess. The food supplied has been wholesome, varied and well prepared and few complaints have been made by the convicts.

On the farm additional acreage was cleared and made ready for cultivation this spring, as a result we hope to be able to produce a year's supply of potatoes. The crop return of staple vegetables during the past year showed improvement over the previous period, except for the carrot crop which was below average.

The Protestant Chaplain and the Roman Catholic Chaplain have capably continued the religious instruction of the convicts. In October 1939 the Rev. Father P. Moreau was succeeded by the Rev. Father F. Nash as Roman Catholic Chaplain.

The officers generally have been energetic and efficient in the performance of their duties.

END OF REPORT

732

March 1st, 1941

The Columbian

CANADA'S PENAL COMMISSION WHICH WAS SUGGESTED TWO YEARS AGO AND HAS SINCE BEEN HANGING FIRE PROBABLY WILL NOT BE APPOINTED UNTIL THE END OF THE WAR, Justice Minister Ernest Lapointe indicated in the House of Commons on Thursday.

As the House resolved itself into committee of supply to discuss the appropriations for the Justice Department, Conservative Leader R.B. Hanson attacked what he called the policy of procrastination.

The recommendation two years ago was that a three man board should be appointed to review the Penitentiary situation in the Dominion and salaries were set at a total of \$24,000.00.

Hanson said that prompt action should have been taken in setting up the commission but proposed that in view of the war the matter be abandoned.

Justice Minister replied that the right men for the job could not be found and added that two who had been considered were now doing "important war work".

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1941 - Arthur H. Meighen

---

The prison population showed a slight increase during the year, on March 31st, 1940 - 315 convicts were on register including 5 at the asylum and two females retained at Oakalla Prison Farm awaiting transfer. On March 31st, 1941 - 329 convicts were on register including four in the asylum and one in outside hospital on a temporary ticket of leave licence. Of the 140 male convicts received during the year it is regrettable to note that over half of them were 35 years of age and under. Most of these men could well have been of service to their country and contributed to the national welfare instead of becoming public charges. This fact however is somewhat offset by the patriotism shown by a large number of the convicts and ex-convicts. Many of the later have, to my knowledge, enlisted in the armed forces for active service overseas, others from within the Penitentiary have contributed generously from their personal funds for the purchase of war savings certificates. In several cases paying the maximum permitted. A large number not so fortunate in the way of funds offered their services to the country in any capacity. While a war period tends to create a great deal of nervous tension, especially within prisons, discipline has been well maintained here and I am glad to say we have had no escapes or major disturbances during the year.

The spiritual welfare of the convicts has been faithfully ministered to by the Protestant Chaplain and Roman Catholic Chaplain. Each Chaplain arranged an annual mission for his congregation, the Roman Catholic mission being held for one week in the Spring and the Protestant Mission held for the same period in the fall. The missions were well attended and the Chaplains report them as being very helpful and encouraging to the men. The outside choirs arranged by both Chaplains were helpful factors in the church services throughout the year. As usual the the Salvation Army continued its good work here for the spiritual and material welfare of the men. Major H. J. Martin arranged for a Sunday service each month and came to the Penitentiary frequently to interview those who wished his assistance. The Rev. J. Dinnage Hobden Executive Secretary of the John Howard Society in Vancouver and his associates were most helpful throughout the year. Mr. Hobden interviewed convicts who were seeking aid on their release and he helped many of them to obtain employment. The John Howard Society also rendered valuable assistance to the Classification Board here by furnishing copies of case histories and other personnel data on convicts previously contacted by their organization in the Industrial schools and jails. Such information was particularly useful to the Board when dealing with the cases of the younger convicts.

The program of University extension work was again **in force during the winter** months. This was made possible by the continued cooperation by the Department of University extension of the University of B.C. and the members of the various faculties who so generously gave of their time to present their subjects to the convicts. During the season nine lectures and six educational motion pictures were presented with an average attendance of 223. Those convicts who were in the quasi literate or illiterate groups and considered teachable attended school classes for elementary studies under the personal supervision and instruction of the school teacher, in spite of the difficulties often encountered with such men of usually low intelligence. There were a few who by hard work and perseverance improved considerably.

Last year weather conditions were very favourable and the farm produced a bumper crop of vegetables, besides supplying the institutions needs we were able to transfer a considerable quantity of vegetables to the local military authorities who welcomed the quality and variety. The Tomato crop was unusually good and 3/4 of an acre yielded 11 1/2 tons. Through an arrangement with a local cannery 112 cases of tomatoes were canned and this represented a considerable savings to the Stewards Department. The use of the cold storage plant in the city enable us to keep vegetables in good condition and the Stewards Department has been supplied with our own potatoes and carrots the year around. During the next crop year we hope to be able to put into cold storage sufficient staple vegetables until fresh ones are again available.

When the need of the conservation of public funds became so urgent for prosecution of the war steps were taken to keep expenditures to a minimum the officers co-operated faithfully to that end. Among other economies effected only such construction work and repairs which were essential were done, yet the appearance and normal function of the institution have been maintained at a high standard.

Naturally work in the shops has been greatly reduced and the opportunities for teaching trades to convicts are not as numerous as before. But a larger number of men have been assigned to healthful outdoor work on the farm and to land clearing operations with a view to increasing the production of food stuffs.

On March 31st 1941 more than a quarter of the population of 88 convicts were assigned to work outside the walls. Those who are now assigned to the trade shops have been carefully selected by the Classification Board as the most promising and deserving among the convicts. The policy adopted regarding work assignments has kept the men well occupied to their own and the institutions benefit, and I believe it has prevented the unrest and deterioration of morals

which partial of complete idleness would inevitably produce.

It is to be hoped that our Penitentiaries may be able to supply more of the manufactured articles in increased demand by the fighting forces. I am sure that any work done within the institutions would compare favourably with that of commercial firms. Besides enabling more convicts to learn trades useful and necessary for their rehabilitation, such work would provide them with an outlet for their patriotic sympathies and give them tangible evidence that even though they were in prison they were contributing something towards their country's war effort.

While there have been many demands for salaries from other sources the officers have responded well to the appeals that have been made for the purchase of war savings certificates and stamps and for contributions to the various war services. During the year thirteen officers applied for and were granted leave of absence without pay for enlistment in the air, military and naval forces. A total of fourteen officers from the Penitentiary are now on authorized leave of absence for war duties.

END OF REPORT

895

Saturday, January 17th, 1942

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARY INMATE HANGS SELF IN CELL

Frank Fitzgerald, 24, was found this morning hanging by the neck from the grating of his cell door. The first aid man of the prison attempted to revive him and the inhalator squad from No. 1 Fire Hall made a similar attempt but without success.

The Coroner was notified and an inquest will be held on Monday. Fitzgerald was serving a two year sentence for burglary, he was locked in his cell at 4:30 on Friday afternoon, and visited by the guard hourly. At 8:30 this morning everything was normal but at 9:30 a guard found him hanging. He had taken a cloth belt, part of the prison uniform, put his head in the noose and attached the belt to the bars of the grating. The convicts on either side of him heard nothing.



Annual report of the British Columbia Penitentiary for the year  
ending March 31st.1942 W.Meighen. Warden

The prison population showed a decrease during the year. One hundred and thirty-two convicts were discharged, two died and two females on our strength were transferred to Kingston. Seventy-seven male convicts were received and two female convicts taken on strength during the year. Thus, at March 31, 1942 two hundred and seventy-two convicts were on register, which included four convicts in the provincial mental hospital at Essondale, B. C. The conduct of the convicts on the whole has been good, their interest in war news helps keep their mind from developing imaginary grievances. We allow them to hear war news daily over the radio, which they look forward to with deep interest. Several convicts invested what money they had to their credit in Victory Bonds, as they did the year previous.

The spiritual welfare of the convicts has been under the direction of the Protestant and Roman Catholic chaplains respectively, and assistance has been given by visits from Reverend Father A. F. Carlyle and Reverend J. D. Hobden, who are associated with the John Howard Society in Vancouver. Both have assisted many convicts in securing work and enlistment in the army after their discharge. They have also kept in touch and been of assistance to the families of several while incarcerated. The Salvation Army also conducts a service for Protestants once a month and have assisted many families of prisoners as well as discharged prisoners in their usual thorough and practical way.

I regret to say that Major Martin, who has been in charge of this work for the past two or three years, is being removed shortly to other work. He has been very efficient and has cooperated splendidly in all cases where he thought he could be of assistance. The farm and structures report show the result of his efforts the past year. We are gradually getting more land under cultivation and I feel our farm looks and is in better condition than for many years past. I am advised by the Superintendent of the experimental farm at Agassiz, B. C. that what I have said is correct. We are starting in a small way the keeping of bees with a view to producing honey for our own use. When we have more experience, we hope, if we find it pays, to secure more hives. We are also making an experiment with poultry hoping to produce our own requirements in eggs. The raising of poultry is quite a big industry in this province and, I understand, not always a paying one; however, I feel it is worth trying here and I think we can within a few months make a saving in the cost of eggs for the institution.

We have started the construction of an addition to our piggery and if lumber necessary can be procured we can complete it within two or three months. We have secured work for the army ordinance for our shoe department and for some of the carpentry, blacksmith and mailbag departments, and hope to secure more from time to time.

I wish to express my thanks to you, to the chief penitentiary's engineer and other members of your staff for their co-operation and help throughout the year just past.

896

Thursday, June 18th, 1942

The Columbian

## PRISONERS MAY BE EMPLOYED ON OUTSIDE WORK

Short term prisoners in jails and reformatories may soon be used on extra-mural work, according to Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Minister of Justice, who says "the objective seems to be a very worthy one".

The idea originated with the Ontario Government which asked to use prisoners on outside work to offset the manpower shortage. Law officers are examining the plan.

(Prisoners have been used for outside work at the B.C. Penitentiary from the Penitentiary's inception.)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1943 - Arthur H. Meighen, Warden

---

The convict population showed a decrease during the year, 133 convicts were discharged, one transferred to Prince Albert Penitentiary, one female on our strength was transferred to Kingston, 101 convicts were received and one female taken on our strength during the year. Therefore at 31st March 1943, 239 convicts were on register which included five convicts in the Provincial Mental Hospital at Essondale, B.C.

No undue disturbances occurred during the year among the convict population, their conduct being very good, they showed a continued interest in the war news broadcast daily over the radio, especially so since the landing of the allies in North Africa. Also in the victory loan drive some of them contributed funds they had to their credit.

There has been nothing in the nature of an epidemic. The general health has been very good, no deaths have occurred.

The two Chaplains, Protestant and Roman Catholic contributed much to the spiritual welfare of the convicts during the year, and I believe were very helpful to them. Also, the usual assistance, from the visits of the Rev. J. D. Hobden of the John Howard Society in Vancouver and the Rev. A. F. Carlyle were much appreciated and proved to be of value to the rehabilitation of the convicts by facilitating their enlistment in the army and procuring work after their discharge. Adjutant J. W. Habkirk, the new Salvation Army representative continued to carry on the good work previously handled by Major Martin in conducting the services for Protestants once a month and doing many favours for the families of convicts who are in need of help, beside contributing to the spiritual welfare of those incarcerated. The valuable work of this organization is much appreciated.

Our school and library has functioned splendidly during the year, administering the educational program.

Our shops have contributed to the war effort by manufacturing and repairing articles for the armed forces, sizable contracts having been turned out in the Carpentry Shop, Tailor Shop, Shoe Shop, Blacksmith Shop and Machine Shop. Bee keeping and poultry raising for egg production were added to our farm department and a continued effort to put into production all possible land for growing of food. The new system of shortened hours for staff was put into operation and was received with much enthusiasm by officers.

This year we were honoured by the visit and inspection from Major W.S. Lawson, the Acting Superintendent of Penitentiaries, and a visit from Mr. J. A. McLaughlin, Acting Inspector who investigated the possibility of increased war contracts for the Institution. Although we were sorry to see Mr. G.L. Sauvant leave the service for military duty we are pleased at the appointment of his successor, Mr. Lawson and are confident in the success of his carrying out a difficult mission.

END OF REPORT

947

Thursday, April 15th, 1943

The Columbian

## GUARD HURT IN ACCIDENT AT PENITENTIARY

Frank Stevens, 48, guard at the B.C. Penitentiary, was severely injured on Wednesday afternoon when he was crushed between a truck and the wall of the garage. He was taken to Royal Columbian Hospital with a fractured leg, a fracture of the pelvis, and internal injuries.

The accident occurred as work for the day was being ended, a number of trucks had been hauling coal from the wharf during the day and having completed the job were lined up to be cleaned and put in the garage. As the last of them, driven by a convict, was entering the garage, Stevens was coming out. He was in charge of the gang that had been working in the garage. Apparently both Stevens and the convict were uncertain which side to turn in order to avoid an accident. Stevens went to his left and the driver at the same time swung to his right, with the result that the guard was jammed against the wall in the entrance.

Via Army Wireless

June 14th 1943

The Superintendent of Penitentiaries,  
Ottawa, Ont

40 YOUR 24 AND 33 GOOSE ISLAND PROCLAIMED PART OF  
PENITENTIARY MARCH 7, 1903 STOP NO RECORD OF VALUE SHOWN  
IN OUR BOOKS STOP TO ESTABLISH PRESENT VALUE SHOULD HAVE  
EXAMINATION BY TIMBER CRUISER OR REAL ESTATE VALUATOR STOP  
SEARCH AT LAND REGISTRY REVEALS THAT NO SURVEY OR REGISTRATION  
HAS EVER BEEN MADE OR DEED RECORDED. WILL INSPECT LETTER  
FOLLOWING.

*W. McLaughlin*  
WARDEN.

AIR MAIL

6-48

8-5-2

Superintendent of Penitentiaries.

Re: Wright or Goose Island.

1. Further to my radiogram "40" of June 14, 1948 in answer to your "34" of the same date, I am attaching report of the Deputy Warden who inspected the island.
2. Acting Accountant BLACK, knowing the Game Commissioner for this district arranged for transportation up to the island in the Commission's speed boat. And as it was large enough, I contacted Mr. W.A. PATCHELL, a former Warden of this penitentiary, and previous to that an officer on the staff for a great many years, and asked him if he would like to make the trip. He was delighted to be of service and together with the Deputy Warden and the Acting Accountant made the visit to the island.
3. As Mr. PATCHELL had worked on the island as a penitentiary officer when the wood cutting and rock cutting operations were going on, I believed his advice would be valuable. His opinion is that it should not be recommended that convicts be taken from the Penitentiary for the purpose of logging this island, as he stated they had considerable trouble with them when they tried it years ago. Also as it would necessitate employing more officers, which is rather difficult with the shortage of men, I do not believe myself that it would prove to be profitable. Then again, to get the timber down to the penitentiary a larger and more powerful boat than the one we are presently using for log salvage would be necessary.
4. Wright or Penitentiary Island, and sometimes Convict Island, were the names commonly used for this island, but I find that in the original proclamation it was referred to as Goose Island. I am attaching a copy of this proclamation which I have turned up in the files, which shows that it was declared a part of the penitentiary reserve on March 7, 1903.
5. As near as I can gather from the meagre data on file for the period, it was used by convicts for quarrying stone and cutting wood, from around June, 1906 to late 1908. Work seems to have been discontinued then. In August 1919 notices were put up on the island forbidding trespassing. I understand that when the island was being used, communication with the island and the penitentiary was carried on by use of carrier pigeons.
6. The island consists of about 150 odd acres and the distance from the penitentiary is approximately 15 miles. It is situated in Pitt Lake about one mile east of the shore, and is in section 25, township 5, range 5, west of 7th meridian, British Columbia. There is no plan on file here showing the island's position with respect to the penitentiary, or no plan of the island itself.





948

Tuesday, July 27th, 1943

The Columbian

## WILL DISCUSS REMOVAL OF PENITENTIARY

Does New Westminster want to get rid of the B.C. Penitentiary?

The question was raised at City Council meeting on Monday evening when Alderman S.L. Smith referred to newspaper reports that Tom Reid, M.P., had urged the Government to consider removal of the Penal Institution to some other site.

Alderman Smith's suggestion was that if the Council approves it might be well to advise Mr. Reid of its support. The Chairman of reverted lands views Penitentiary property as potential home sites.

Alderman J.A. Courtney, who was in the chair in the absence of Mayor W.M. Mott, agreed that if the council is representing the citizens at large supports the project it would be well to let that be known at Ottawa because he has no doubt the Government would never move the Penitentiary without local approval. He remarked, however, that there was a time when the Penitentiary was considered an asset to the city.

Employees were required to live within a three-mile radius and the merchants appreciated their business. Perhaps times have changed but this is a matter that calls for careful consideration.

As it was not a full meeting discussion was postponed.

949

Saturday, August 7th, 1943

The Columbian

## POPULATION OF PENITENTIARIES SHRINKING

Canada's Federal Prison population is working on the industrial war front but there are fewer inmates of such Institutions than for many years, about three thousand of whom less than fifty are women.

In prison shops across Canada convicts are turning out many articles needed for war machines and weapons, as well as producing normal farm commodities and making and repairing mail bags which have been a convict product for many years.

In addition they have repaired thousands of pairs of shoes for the army and for contribution to needy allies.

Justice Minister St. Laurent recently told the House of Commons that the value of convict labour has doubled in the past two years, reaching three hundred and thirty-two thousand dollars for the year ended last March 31st.

He said he was not satisfied with this result and that a revolving fund of two hundred thousand dollars had been made available to provide raw materials for convict workers.

950

Friday, February 25th, 1944

The Columbian

## CHINESE PRISONER DIES SUDDENLY

An inquest was held today on Chang Sing Jung, who died suddenly in his cell in the B.C. Penitentiary on the evening of February 22nd. Chang had been apparently in normal health. He worked in the tailor shop that day. At 7:00 o'clock the guard on his rounds spoke to the prisoner, who was of a cheerful disposition and a general favourite in the Institution. At 8:00 o'clock the guard found Chang dead. Medical evidence attributed death to a hemorrhage at the base of the brain.

The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

Report of the British Columbia Penitentiary for the fiscal year ending  
31st. March 1944 W. Meighen, Warden

Our population showed a steady increase during the year. One hundred and seven convicts were discharged, which includes one by death and two returned to the provincial authorities on reduction of their sentences to less than two years on the Crown's appeal from sentence. One hundred and seventy-one convicts were received during the fiscal year. Therefore, at March 31, 1944, three hundred and three convicts were on register, which includes three convicts in the provincial mental hospital at Essondale, B. C., two on temporary ticket of leave license while undergoing treatment in outside hospital and one at Headingly, Manitoba provincial gaol, while serving a concurrent term.

The conduct of the convicts during the year was very good, no disturbances of any kind having occurred. There was nothing in the nature of an epidemic to endanger their health, which was very good.

Spiritual guidance was capably taken care of by the Protestant chaplain, Reverend G. B. Ridland, and the Roman Catholic chaplain, Reverend Father F. J. Nash, with the assistance of monthly visits from Reverend J. D. Hobden and Father A. F. Carlyle of the John Howard Society. In addition, Major J. W. Habkirk of the Salvation Army welfare department contributed his valued services in an endeavour to assist the rehabilitation of those confined.

Our various shops were generally kept busy during the year manufacturing and repairing articles for the armed forces and other governmental departments. Our log salvage operations from the Fraser River realized over nine hundred cords of wood for the institution with the resultant saving of a considerable amount on our fuel cost. Also, this operation has given us work for the convicts at a time when there were no institutional construction projects and was work that was very profitable from an economic point of view.

The physician reports that there has been nothing in the nature of an epidemic, the general health of the inmates being very good, although there were more than the usual admissions to hospital. There were twelve minor accidents and twenty hospital cases during the year. Treatments to the number of 4,359 were given in the dispensary.

The school teacher and librarian reports that during the year school classes were carried on with an average attendance of 1,421 pupils. In addition, 83 convicts were registered in correspondence courses as at March 31, 1944. Issues of books, religious, educational, and fictional, along with magazines, were active, there being 116,890 issues from the library for the year, or a monthly average of 9,740.

The steward reports that 281,715 meals were served, of which 18,753 were duty meals to officers, while the bakery produced

134,366 lbs. of bread, 36,780 lbs. of cake; 17,350 lbs. of pastry, and 3,990 lbs of pudding.

The Chief Trade Instructor reports that for armed forces work and other government departments included the manufacture of tent poles, mattress covers, tire covers, boots and shoes, arm bands, pillow slips and the repair of folding forms and benches, chairs folding and common, beds, boots, battledress uniforms and mailbags.

951

Wednesday, April 26th, 1944

The Columbian

## PLANT POTATOES IN PENITENTIARY LAWN

The potato crop at the B.C. Penitentiary is going to be augmented this year with the planting of tubers on the southwest frontage which was plowed last fall. The lawn has fallen into a bad state and in the view of the demand for foodstuffs, it was decided to cultivate this section. The lawn will be re-established at the conclusion of the war, it is expected.

952

Saturday, June 10th, 1944

The Columbian

## "DOUK" HANGS SELF IN CELL IN PENITENTIARY

Louis Popoff, 45, Doukhobor from the Nelson District, hanged himself in his cell about 1:00 o'clock this morning in the B.C. Penitentiary.

The guard on duty, whose desk is about twenty-five feet from Popoff's cell heard the sound of a chair falling. Investigating, he saw Popoff hanging from the grill work of a ventilator which he had tied his rawhide shoelaces, the other end came around his neck. The guard called the Keeper who has charge of the keys, and the Penitentiary nurse.

Popoff was cut down and artificial respiration applied. Inhalator crew from No. 1. Firehall was also called and worked for half an hour. An inquest will be held, probably on Monday.

Popoff was sentenced at Nelson on April 22nd, to two years in the Penitentiary for appearing in the nude in a public place. He was admitted to the Penitentiary on May 11th.



953

Tuesday, June 13th, 1944

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARY STAFF COMMENDED FOR SPEEDY AID TO DOUK

A coroner's jury on Monday found that Louis Popoff, Nelson Doukhobor, came to his death by his own hand in the B.C. Penitentiary on Saturday morning and commended the prison staff on the promptitude with which efforts were made to save the man's life. It took only eight minutes to get the cell door open and cut him down and to apply artificial respiration. This is considered fast work in view of the system under which cell keys are kept in a key safe as a security measure in the event of an attempted jail break.

897

Thursday, March 29th, 1945

The Columbian

## QUARTER CENTURY AS PEN WARDEN

On April 1st, 1920, William Meighen was appointed Warden of Edmonton Penitentiary. On Saturday he completes a quarter of a century as Warden, the only man in Canada who has occupied that post for that length of time. His nearest competitor in that direction has but twenty years of service to his credit. Mr. Meighen is also sole possessor of the distinction of having served on the staff of five Penitentiaries and having been Warden of four of them.

Before being appointed Warden at Edmonton, Mr. Meighen had been for six years on the staff of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary at Prince Albert, first as accountant and later as Deputy Warden. When the old Edmonton "Pen" was dismantled, within a year of his appointment, he was given a similar post at Dorchester, N.B. There he remained three years. He was then transferred to Stoney Mountain, Manitoba, where he served until appointed to the British Columbia Penitentiary in 1935.

In his twenty-five years as Warden, there has not been a riot or even a major disturbance in any Penitentiary of which he was Warden and in the past twenty-three years no prisoner has escaped from an Institution of which he was the Head. One escape, spoiling a twenty-five year perfect score, took place while he was on holiday.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1945 - W. Meighen, Warden

---

Our population continues to rise as it has during the past two years. 130 convicts were discharged, which includes 15 females transferred to Kingston Penitentiary, 1 by death and 2 by court leave. 189 convicts were received during the fiscal year, therefore at March 31st, 1945, 362 convicts were on register which includes three convicts in the Provincial Mental Hospital at Essondale, B.C. 2 on temporary ticket of leave licence while undergoin treatment in outside hospital and one on bail pending appeal (released by order of the Supreme Court of British Columbia). The health of the convict population has been very good during the year, no undue disturbances have occured.

Excellent cooperation was received from the two Chaplains in their administration of spiritual guidance, and capable help was given by the Catholic and Protestant representatives of the John Howard Society, the Rev. J. D. Hobden and Father A. F. Carlyle in their monthly visits. Also considerable thanks are due to Brigadier Cummins and Major Habkirk of the Salvation Army welfare department, contributing their valued services in their weekly visits in a sincere effort to assist in the rehabilitation of those confined.

Our log salvage operations from the Fraser River continued successfully providing needed work for the convicts and a savings in our fuel costs. There were 1,024 cords of wood slaviged during the fiscal year. As in the previous year considerable work was done in the various departments manufacturing and repairing articles for the armed forces and other governmental departments, for the Post Office Department - 82 letter boxes (4 condemned and monograms removed). 41 parcel receptacles (37 condemned and monograms removed) were manufactured and repaired and 15,918 mail bags. A considerable number of articles were manufactured for the department of Veterans Affairs.

END OF REPORT

898

Monday, October 22nd, 1945

The Columbian

## ACQUIRE PEN PROPERTY FOR SIXTH AVENUE EXTENSION

Extension of Sixth Avenue beyond the new fill to join York and Devoy Streets is planned by City Council for the immediate future.

The Mayor said the Council has received the assent for the Federal Government to the transfer of two more strips of land from Penitentiary property for the new roadways and formal representations to the authorities for obtaining the land would probably be made soon.

899

Friday, November 16th, 1945

The Columbian

## LOOK OVER NEW SITES FOR B.C. PENITENTIARY

G.L. Sauvant, Acting Superintendent of Penitentiaries, on Thursday inspected Sea Bird Island near Agassiz, one of a number of sites suggested as a new location of the B.C. Penitentiary when it comes to be moved from New Westminster. Another suggested site is the Dominion Experimental Farm at Agassiz. Mr. Sauvant was accompanied by Warden W. Meighen.

No decision has been made at Ottawa as to when the Penitentiary will be moved nor as to the new location. The Justice Department at Ottawa is favourably disposed towards the desire of New Westminster to have the Federal prison moved away from the city and use the site for residential and other purposes. Removal is a big job and it may be a considerable time before this development takes place.

Sea Bird Island in the Fraser River is some four thousand acres in area at present used only as pasturage. It would afford excellent opportunity for the agricultural activities of the Penitentiary.

It may be years before the project comes to fruition, after a site is chosen a new prison will have to be built before the present one is demolished involving the taking apart of tons of reinforced concrete.

900

Saturday, January 19th, 1946

The Columbian

## DENIES RIFLES TURNED ON MEN

Reports that guns were used to quell a riot of prisoners in the B.C. Penitentiary was branded as untrue by Col. W. Meighen, Warden, today.

"These stories are false", said Col. Meighen. "There was no riot or violence or quelling with rifles, there was merely minor grumbling which occurs occasionally".

The show of sullenness and grumbling was dealt with swiftly by the Warden and the guards.

Certain prisoners responsible for the disturbances of normal discipline were heard in the Warden's Court in the Penitentiary.

"Everything is absolutely under control and always was" stated Col. Meighen, necessary disciplinary measures were taken".

The Warden was unable to give out details of the complaints or phases of the incident.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1946 - R.S. Douglass, Acting Warden

---

I assumed duty as Acting Warden on 25th April 1946 upon the retirement of Warden William Meighen after 32 years of Penitentiary Service. There was little change in the total inmate population of this institution during the past year. A total of 160 convicts were admitted which included two females taken on strength and subsequently transferred to Kingston Penitentiary, eight convicts sentenced to penal servitude by military court martials for offences under the Army Act. A total of 164 convicts were discharged during the fiscal year, which includes two females transferred to Kingston, 2 by death. One convict, a Doukhobour, was released by order of the Supreme Court of Canada, four of the ex-soldiers undergoing court martial sentences were released by order of National Defence Headquarters, Ottawa who remitted the balance of their sentences. Thus the population which had been 362 at the commencement of the fiscal year attained 365 as of 31 March 1946. This later figure included the three convicts at the Provincial Mental Hospital, Essondale, B.C. and two on temporary ticket of leave licences while undergoing treatment for physical maladies.

A minor disturbance broke out during the night of January 16 - 17th 1946. Prompt action was taken to punish the ring leaders resulted in the disturbance being quelled before it caused serious damage to government property, or endanger life.

Due to this immediate action there was only slight damage. The total which amounted to \$76.49 which was recovered from the remuneration of the convicts responsible.

Excellent cooperation was received from the two Chaplains in their administration of spiritual guidance and capable help was given by the Catholic and Protestant representatives of the John Howard Society.

Our log salvage operations from the Fraser River were once more continued with success, providing employment for convicts and a considerable savings in fuel costs. About 640 cords of wood was salvaged during the period under review.

As in previous years a great deal of work was done in the various departments manufacturing and repairing articles for the armed forces and other government departments. For the Post Office: 16, 927 mail bags were repaired, also 113 letter boxes and 84 parcel boxes were repaired. For the Indian Department (Indian School at Kamloops, B.C.) 594 pairs of pants were made, 270 shirts and 36 overalls. A considerable number of articles were manufactured and repaired for the armed services.

901

Friday, April 12th, 1946

The Columbian

## WILLIAM MEIGHEN, PEN WARDEN ENDS SERVICE

William Meighen, Warden of B.C. Penitentiary, will retire from the service on April 24th. R.S. (Bob) Douglass, Deputy Warden, will take charge of the Institution with the rank of Acting Warden pending a permanent appointment.

Retirement of Mr. Meighen closes a career in which he has hung up two Canadian records. He has been a Penitentiary Warden for twenty-six years and he has been Warden of Four Penitentiaries and has served on the staff of five, the only man in the Dominion with these distinctions. He entered the service as an Accountant of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary at Prince Albert and later became the Warden there.

On April 1st, 1920, he was appointed Warden at Edmonton, within a year of his appointment the old Pen was dismantled and he went to Dorchester, N.B., as Warden, remaining for three years, from there he went to Stony Mountain, Manitoba, and finally in 1935 came to the B.C. Penitentiary.

Throughout his twenty-six years service, Mr. Meighen has never had a prison riot on his hands and only once in that time has a prisoner escaped from an Institution of which he was in charge.

Mr. Douglass joined the staff of the B.C. Penitentiary as a guard in 1913. During the first Great War he served overseas with the 72nd Seaforth Highlanders returning to his duties



901 A

here, he was appointed Deputy Warden in 1930 and has held that post since then. Last year, for three months, he was Acting Warden of the Saskatchewan Penitentiary during the illness of the Warden.

902

Tuesday, July 2nd, 1946

The Columbian

TRYING TO GET CANDY INTO PEN, EX-CONVICT SPOTTED BY GUARD

The law took a kindly view of the actions of William Larson, no fixed abode, who violated the Penitentiary Act by attempting to smuggle tobacco and candy to inmates of the Penitentiary, only a few hours after he had been released from there himself.

Larson appeared before stipendiary Magistrate Harry Jonson, K.C., in police court this morning and pleaded that he had only "tried to help some of the boys" by providing a few extra luxuries.

He told the court that he had been released Friday after serving three years for break and enter "I came downtown and had a few drinks", pleaded Larson, "and I guess I was not used to the stuff. I thought I would give the boys I left behind a treat".

Larson was seen by Penitentiary guards caching a large bundle near the railway tracks in front of the prison grounds. A call to city police brought about his speedy arrest.

The ex-convict pleaded that he was about to leave for the Queen Charlotte Islands, and if the court would release him he would leave town immediately.

Magistrate Jonson granted the request and handed down sentence of one months hard labour, suspended for two hours.

903

Monday, August 12th, 1946

The Columbian

W.A. PATCHELL HITS 85th MILE

Mr. W. A. Patchell, 406 Fifth Street is receiving congratulations on his 84th birthday, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Parker Bonney, Nanaimo.

Born in Fredrickton, N.B. on August 12th, 1862, Mr. Patchell came to New Westminster nearly sixty years ago. He was engaged in the logging industry before he joined the staff of the Penitentiary in 1890. He became Chief Keeper in 1911 and was made Deputy Warden in January, 1921. He was appointed Warden of the Institution in October of the same year.

Mr. Patchell established a record in Canada as the only man to work up from a guard to the position of Warden of a Penitentiary.

For a number of years after his superannuation in 1923 he operated a mink farm at the rear of Queens Park.

904

Monday, September 9th, 1946

The Columbian

## "PEN" OFFICIAL VISITING HERE

On his first Western tour since he was appointed Commissioner for Canadian Penitentiaries, Major General T.G. Gibson, D.S.O., is on the coast and is spending some time at the B.C. Penitentiary. General Gibson was in command of a brigade of Canadians in the occupation of Germany following the collapse of the Nazis in 1945. He assumed his new duties in the spring.

It is presumed that Gen. Gibson will make a report on the successor as Warden of the Institution following the retirement of Co. William Meighen. At the present time the official in charge is Robert S. Douglass, Deputy Warden, who has been recommended to the head position.

There has been no mention made, in connection with the official visit, of the plans to move the Penitentiary to some new site, possibly to an island in the Fraser River in the Upper Valley.

905

Tuesday, December 17th, 1946

The Columbian

## PEN GUARD FIRES ON "SMUGGLER" PAIR

Night Patrol Guards at the B.C. Penitentiary fired two shots at men who cached contraband on the prison wharf late Monday night, but the smugglers made good their escape.

A Penitentiary Patrol guarding the area surrounding the prison spotted the two men on the wharf and when they failed to halt on order, two shots were fired. The officer later discovered the men had cached a quantity of cigarettes and candy beneath a donkey engine on the wharf.

Prison authorities believe the cache was made by former inmates of the prison or friends of present inmates attempting to smuggle luxuries to certain prisoners.

Warden R.S. Douglass said today that prison authorities take a serious view of contraband in any form being smuggled into prisoners, and the offence is punishable by a fine or imprisonment.

"This time it was candy and cigarettes; the next time it might be a gun".

As a preliminary to the smuggling attempt city constables Joe Makepeace and Perry MacDonald parolling on Columbia Street in a police car spotted a Vancouver taxi parked near Brunette and Columbia Street. The cab was occupied by a woman and the driver.

905 A

Later the same cab was checked by the officers and found to contain a woman and two men. It was ten minutes later the officers were called to the Penitentiary to help investigate the smuggling attempt.

906

Friday, January 3rd, 1947

The Columbian

## DOUGLASS MADE WARDEN AT "PEN"

Appointment of Robert Samuel Douglass as Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary was confirmed by the Department of Justice, Ottawa. Mr. Douglass has been Acting Warden since the retirement of W. Meighen on November 15th, 1946.

Warden Douglass has been with the B.C. Penitentiary for the past thirty-three years. Born in New Brunswick in 1893, he came West in 1913 and joined the staff as a guard. He was on leave of absence in 1915 to enlist in the 72nd Seaforths for service overseas in World War One. He returned to the staff in 1919. In 1923 he was promoted to Keeper and in 1930 was appointed Deputy Warden.

He has served under five Wardens: J.C. Brown, W.A. Patchell, H.W. Cooper, C.E. Edgett and W. Meighen.

Appointment of a Deputy Warden under Warden Douglass will be announced shortly, it is expected.

The Department confirmed the appointment of George Catheralle as plant Engineer as from November 23rd, 1946. He succeeds J.G. Drinkwater who retired on superannuation.

907

Saturday, January 4th, 1947

The Columbian

## PEN LAND RELEASED TO CITY

The release of more than ten acres of Penitentiary reserve East of Cumberland to the city has been authorized by the Department of Justice, Tom Reid, M.P. informed Mayor W. Mott today. The city is to make a suitable nominal offer for the property and further details are now being discussed.

Development of more than one hundred and seventy-five lots for home sites will be made possible by the acquisition of this unused tract of Penitentiary acreage.

Extension of Sixth Avenue and other streets will also result to open up the new proposed sub-division Mayor Mott revealed today.

Extension of Sixth Avenue and connections to several other Streets will also make possible the installation of a proper sewer system to the Glen Gulley. Up to the present lack of sewer outfall has prevented the development of more than one hundred and forty lots in the region of Essex and York Streets and Munday Street. These and Devoy and Alberta Streets come to dead ends at present. Lot 4 covers one and one half acres east of Cumberland and York and will provide sub-division for about thirty-five new lots.

Lot 12 between Cumberland and York and north of Sixth Avenue will remain in Penitentiary ownership for the present.



908

Thursday, January 9th, 1947

The Columbian

## FORMER WARDEN EDGETT, 64, DIES

Col. Charles Edgar Edgett, D.S.O., V.D., 64, former Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary died suddenly at his home, 3890 Osler Avenue, Vancouver, ending a career which began with the R.N.W.M.P. in 1900.

Col. Edgett was well known in the Royal City from 1929 to 1931 as Warden of the Penitentiary. Retired from the Army as a Lieutenant-Colonel with the D.S.O. and other decorations, he settled in the Okanagan.

With the retirement of H.W. Cooper as Warden of the Penitentiary the administration was carried on for nearly a year by Inspector Jackson from Ottawa until Col. Edgett was appointed in August 1929. He remained Warden until December 1931 when he accepted the post of Chief of Police in Vancouver. Lt. Col. Cooper was recalled to take over the Penitentiary.

Appointment of Col. Edgett at the time was regarded as an experiment by the Department of Justice in selecting distinguished army men, outside the Civil Service. Most Penitentiary appointments have been from the veterans of the Penitentiary Service. Col. Edgett was born at Moncton, N.B. September 25th, 1882 and married Cora Estella, daughter of Samuel Milton, of Albert Mines, New Brunswick.

From 1900 to 1912 he served with the R.N.W.M.P., ending his service as Inspector. He joined the Canadian Militia in 1906.

908 A

When war broke out in 1914, Col. Edgett enlisted for active service. He won the D.S.O. for distinguished service at Vimy in 1917.

After the war he moved to Vernon and engaged in orcharding, taking an active part in various enterprises related to the fruit growing industry.

Burial will be in the Returned Soldiers' Plot, Mountain View Cemetery.

909

Saturday, February 22nd, 1947

The Columbian

## DR. DeWOLF SMITH PASSES IN HOSPITAL

Dr. William Andrew DeWolf-Smith, a pioneer physician of New Westminster, died on Friday in Melrose Park Hospital where he had been a patient since February 11th. He was 86 years of age.

Born in St. John, New Brunswick, of a United Empire Loyalist family, he came to the city in 1886. For many years he was medical officer of the B.C. Penitentiary, retiring about thirty-two years ago. He was Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of B.C., AF and Am for thirty-four years, a post he held until an illness he suffered in 1938. He had long been connected with the Masonic Order. As early as 1896 he was Master of Union Lodge. He was also a member of the Royal Arch Chapter, RAM and of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rites of B.C. He was a charter member of DeWolf Lodge, Port Coquitlam, which was named after him.

In musical circles he was known as an organist and a president of the New Westminster Operatic Society. Interment will be in the Church of England cemetery.

910

Saturday, March 15th, 1947

The Columbian

## ENDS LONG SERVICE AS GUARD

St. Patrick's Day will mark the end of twenty-one years service with the B.C. Penitentiary for Scotsman William McHardy, 53 Columbia Street, East.

The Irishman's day will also mark Mr. McHardy's 65th birthday. He joined the staff of the Penitentiary in 1926 as Hospital Officer under Warden William Cooper, and served in that capacity continuously. He saw service overseas in World War I with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.

Today at a special luncheon held at the Penitentiary the staff of the Institution presented Mr. McHardy with a gold pocket watch as a token of his long service. The presentation was made by Warden R.S. Douglass. McHardy's superannuation will commence following a five month leave period.

\*\*\*\*\*

Report of the Superintendent of Penitentiaries, British  
Columbia Penitentiary, Mr. R. S. Douglas, Warden, for the  
year 1946-47.

The population had an increase of fifty-one in the last fiscal year. Total register as of March 31, 1947 was four hundred and sixteen, of whom four hundred and seven were actually confined in the penitentiary; the remaining nine included seven in the provincial mental hospital and two on temporary ticket of leave licence while undergoing treatment in outside hospital. This compares with a total register of 365 as of March 31st, 1946, which included three in the asylum and two on temporary ticket of leave licence.

Health and medical services were good, the general health of the convicts was good during the year with only one death occurring from pulmonary tuberculosis, while advantage was taken of the facilities afforded by the local T.B. clinic for the examination of convicts suspected of tuberculosis. For all the ailments the penitentiary dispensary made 6,672 treatments during the year.

The food, a most important factor in convicts' life, and good

food properly prepared and served is an important factor toward good order and discipline. The food served was nutritional and the standard very high. There were very few complaints about the food during the year past.

The Roman Catholic chaplain reports one hundred and five registered as Catholics as of March 31, 1947, the larger proportion were regular attendants at mass. The Protestant chaplain has been diligent in attending to the spiritual problems which are inherent in the Christmas service among the convicts. The welfare of their departments has been of special concern. As in previous years, many fine choirs from churches in the district gave their talents freely, the special Christmas concerts being arranged by the Salvation Army band.

The educational problem in operation at the end of the year included school classes for those capable of being taught and those who have not attained Grade 8 standing as well as correspondence courses for elementary, high school, senior matric, technical and vocational students. Instructors from the shops were kept abreast with the latest development teaching techniques, arrangements made with the superintendent of Canadian vocational training in Vancouver for these officers to attend the various schools in that city as observers. Industrial clinics are held by prominent firms and instructors are encouraged to attend. In February of this year our new exercise

yard was completed. This is located in the bright southwest area adjacent to the eastern cell block. The yard embodies three handball courts, horseshoe pitch, wooden bowls court, and checkerboards. Adequate facilities are thus provided for both young and old convicts to take part in various forms of exercise or recreation. With two exercise yards now available it is possible to allow convicts one full hour of exercise on Sundays and holidays, weather permitting.

Penitentiary regulations provide for the showing of entertainment films once a month during the winter months. Picture films have been arranged for and specifically the sports such as Hundred Years of Baseball, World Series of '46, through the cooperation of Mr. Pat Slattery of The Vancouver Sun newspaper.

Farming operations continue with the limited arable land within the reserve being used to good advantage throughout the year producing foodstuffs and fodder. The piggery and poultry operations return a good yield of prime pork, lard, and fresh eggs for the steward's department.

The engineer's department is providing telephone, lighting, heating, plumbing, and steam services. Boilers and furnaces are in good condition and were given their annual inspection by the provincial boiler inspector. When the plant engineer considers a convict qualified to take the fourth class engineer's examination for this province the provincial examiner examines

the candidate here. During the year four convicts sat for this examination with three of them obtaining their fourth class certificates and the other being required to sit again in a later date.

Since April 1946 a new schedule of training for every new officer has been in effect, whether he be guard, instructor, or clerk. Assignments to various posts throughout the institution are made for the first nine days an officer is employed, regulations, duties, etc. explained in interviews with the Warden, Deputy Warden, Chief Keeper, and other senior officers. He becomes acquainted with orders, rules and regulations and various other sources of information he is required to know. Thus, after this indoctrination period is finished, the new officer is competent to be assigned to a duty post and encouraged to continue his training to the point where he is an experienced and qualified member of the staff. His competency in the use of firearms is carefully checked and if further instruction is required that is given.

During the year inspections of the facilities were made by The Honourable Joseph Jean, Solicitor General of Canada, Major-General R. B. Gibson, Commissioner of Penitentiaries, and Mr. J. A. McLoughlin, Inspector of Penitentiaries.

\*\*\*\*\*



911

Friday, June 20th, 1947

The Columbian

## CITY VETERANS TO GET MEDALS

Canadian Efficiency Medal with Clasp has been awarded to a New Westminster Soldier for long service with the reserve forces and with the Medical Service Overseas.

One recipient (of interest to this story) is Corporal R.J. Hetherington, R.C.A.M.C., now Assistant Hospital Officer at the B.C. Penitentiary.

Corporal Hetherington enlisted with the C.C.O.R. (a B.C. Regiment) in June 1940, and in October 1941 going overseas with the Canadian General Hospital Unit in 1942. He served with a Field Surgical Unit in North West Europe from July 8th 1944, until the end of the hostilities. He took part in a British Commando raid on Walcheron Island, Holland on November 10th, 1944. He assumed his peace time duties in February, 1946.

912

Wednesday, July 9th, 1947

The Columbian

## SPANKINGS MOST FEARED BY CONVICTS - MEIGHEN

It is the paddle that convicts fear most of all as a disciplinary measure in Penitentiaries, William Meighen, former Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, declared in an address on his life-time experience at the Kiwanis Club luncheon on Tuesday.

Mr. Meighen frankly defended the paddle as the best cure for obstructive prisoners, agitators or would-be rioters. He pointed out that it was not used except as a last resort.

Nearly ninety per cent of the prisoners cause no trouble. A few, however, are agitators or refuse to adhere to discipline or obey any orders. We try every measure possible, take away privileges and remission. There is nothing left except the paddle. It hurts the convicts' dignity - and he does not like it.

Mr. Meighen praised the experienced Wardens and Officers in the Penitentiary Service and condemned some of the interference the Service had suffered from so-called outside Penologists and experts. He said that there were no riots or agitations in a prison administered by a firm experienced officer. Wardens who had succeeded best have those who have been firm and just, some often receive letters from released convicts who bear no rancor for just treatment.

Canada's first Penitentiary was established at Kingston in

912 A

1834. The Penitentiary population in 1881 was nine hundred and seventy-two and in 1941 had grown to three thousand six hundred and eighty-eight. About the same ratio as the population.

Mr. Meighen declared the Canadian prison system was of a high order and has been much admired by the United States. There have been few escapes. Several riots in Canadian prisons could have been avoided by prompt and firm handling of prisoners, he added, "Spank the ring-leaders in time".

Convicts often cause trouble because they resent what they think are unfair sentences by the Judges. Agitators are frequently habitual criminals who wish to show off.

A special guest at the luncheon was Warden Bob Douglass, who succeeded Mr. Meighen on his retirement.

913

Tuesday, October 28th, 1947

The Columbian

## HERE TO STUDY PEN METHODS

Joseph McCulley, Deputy Commissioner of Penitentiaries, is now visiting the B.C. Penitentiary to make a study of reformative methods. Mr. McCulley will also confer with various rehabilitation groups, such as the John Howard Society.

Mr. McCulley was formerly head-master at Newmarket College, Pickering, Ontario, and during the war was one of the four advisors who organized Kahaki University for Canadian Veterans Overseas. He received his new appointment on September 1st.

914

Friday, November 14th, 1947

The Columbian

## HABITUAL CRIMINAL WAS ACTIVE HERE

The first conviction under Canada's new Habitual Criminal charge was obtained in Vancouver County Court Thursday, when William Munavish was sentenced to an indeterminate time in the B.C. Penitentiary.

The new charge was brought under an 1947 ammendment to the criminal code. The indeterminate sentence can mean life in prison but the case will be reviewed from time to time.

During the hotly-contested three day hearing, Deputy Chief Jack Allen, of the New Westminster Police Force, gave evidence of three charges of breaking and entering and possession of stolen property.

Munavish's police record reveals that he was sentenced to one year in 1934; 18 months in 1935; 2 years in 1936; 2 years in 1938; 6 months in 1940; 4 years in 1942.

915

Tuesday, January 20th, 1948

The Columbian

## WILLIAM A. PATCHELL, FORMER WARDEN DIES

William A. Patchell, former Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, and a resident of New Westminster for sixty years, died this morning in Royal Columbian Hospital where he had been a patient for a short period. For a long time he was a resident at 121 Third Avenue, but of late years he had been staying with his son, Wilson D. Patchell, Assistant Fire Chief. While on Third Avenue Mr. Patchell operated a successful mink farm on property leased from the Provincial Government off McBride Boulevard.

Mr. Patchell was born in Fredericton, N.B. eighty-five years ago. He came to New Westminster in 1888 to engage in the logging business and later was with Brunette Sawmills.

Mr. Patchell joined the staff of the B.C. Penitentiary as a guard in 1890 and is the only known person in Canada to rise from the lower ranks to the position of Warden which he attained in 1921.

The funeral will be held from St. Mary's Anglican Church on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. Rev. J.A.G. Wilson and Canon Frank Plaskett will officiate. Interment will be in the Church of England cemetery.

916

Thursday, January 29th, 1948

The Columbian

## "PEN" TRAINING AT ROCKCLIFFE FOR CITY MEN

Three members of the B.C. Penitentiary Staff have been selected to attend the Penitentiary Officers Training Course opening at Rockcliffe in February, Warden R. Douglass announced today. The men selected are: Keeper Gordon Foulkes, R.C.F. and R.C.A.F. veteran and Provost Marshall in World War Two. He joined the Penitentiary service sixteen years ago and was formerly an officer in the Westminster Regiment, N.P.A.M.

Instructor D.M. McLean, veteran of the Penitentiary Service for sixteen years.

Guard G.M. Laporte, who has been here for the past ten years.

The candidates will leave next month to start the two month course on February 8th. Walter Johnstone has already left for Ottawa to be an Instructor at the school.

917

Wednesday, March 3rd, 1948

The Columbian

## CLEARING STARTS ON PENITENTIARY AREA

City Works Department has started clearing brush from the ten acre Penitentiary residential sub-division acquired by the city last year east of Sixth Avenue. The brush is being removed in order to complete detailed surveying of the area. Actual grading of roads and serviceing will late approval of a development scheme by council.

More than one hundred residential lots will be opened up by the new development when it gets under way. The city plans a self-liquidating scheme which will be paid for by the sale of the lots.



918

Monday, March 8th, 1948

The Columbian

## CHOIR SINGS FOR PRISONERS

The choir of Queens Avenue United Church gave a recital of sacred music in the B.C. Penitentiary on Sunday afternoon. This is an annual event which has been on the choir schedule for many years. The programs consisted of anthems and solos, and was a representative selection from its repertoire.

After the recital, which was given in the assembly hall of the Institution members of the audience thanked the choir expressing deep appreciation of the music.

Thursday, March 11th, 1948

The Columbian

#### NEW METHODS STUDIED FOR AIDING CONVICTS

"No man is born a convict". That is the slogan of the new course officers of the B.C. Penitentiary and other Canadian Penitentiaries are now taking at Rockcliffe, Ottawa. The twenty-five candidates are halfway through and will graduate in mid-March, W.F. Johnstone, New Westminster, who took a special course in England, is one of the Instructors at Rockcliffe, Royal City Officers taking the course are Gordon Foulkes, D. McLean and G. Laporte.

Besides the subjects previously mentioned in another article the officers also take physical training, military drill, Judo, First Aid and the use of firearms. "A historical perspective is also necessary", said Mr. Johnstone, Instructor from New Westminster. "In the old days they tried to deter crime by brutality and they made public hangings. The futility of this was soon apparent. The habit of branding criminals was also abandoned.

Branding a man made certain he stayed in crime because there was nothing else for him to do.

Working in a Penitentiary is exhausting for the officers and often disappointing after the efforts made to help the inmates. "But sometimes a prisoner is discharged and makes a fine job

919 A

of rehabilitation", says the New Westminster Instructor.

On the same page of the paper are two photos, one showing W.H. Johnstone and the Commissioners and another one showing Dave McLean and Bill Laporte in a Judo class.

920

Tuesday, March 30th, 1948

The Columbian

## JAILED DOUKS JEER AT PASSING WOMEN

Residents of Cumberland Street, opposite the B.C. Penitentiary, are currently observing, from front row seats, the difficulties confronting the Department of Justice in the imprisonment of Doukhobors.

The residents daily see gangs of men being marched up and down outside the prison walls, apparently for no useful purpose.

It is reported now that the men are Doukhobors, serving time for arson and riotous damage. Rules of the Justice Department hold that prison officials must recognize the religious beliefs of prisoners, and since the Doukhobor creed is against the raising of any animals for human consumption the Douk prisoners have refused to work in the prison piggery, there outside labors are thus confined to gardening.

At the present time the gardens offer little employment, so the Doukhobors are being exercised through "restricted walking tours".

Some women pedestrians on Cumberland Street have reported that the marching men have jeered at them as they walked by.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1948 - R. S. Douglass, Warden

---

The population showed an increase of 44 in the last fiscal year. The register as of 31 March 1948 was 460, of whom 448 were actually confined in the Penitentiary, the remaining 12 included 9 in the Provincial Mental Hospital, 2 on temporary ticket of leave while undergoing treatment for T.B. in outside hospital and 1 temporary release under Penitentiary escort for outside hospital treatment. All receptions for the year totaled 216, among them were 45 Doukhobours sentenced from 5 to 12 years for arson and riotous tumultuous destruction of property in the Kootenay area of this province. Females taken on strength and later transferred to the Women's Prison at Kingston Penitentiary totaled 15 of whom 11 were Doukhobours sentenced to terms of from 3 to 8 years for the same offences as were the male Doukhobours. Of convicts discharged by expiration of sentence, ticket of leave and other reasons totaled 172.

The first convict in Canada sentenced under the Habitual Criminal Act was received at this Penitentiary.

The general health of the convicts was good during the year with only one death occurring from heart disease. The incidence of venereal disease among the prison population was approximately 5% , all of which are receiving treatment. The total number of treatments was 420. There was a mild epidemic of influenza during February 1948 all who were ill recovered without complications. Forty-five patients were admitted to the Prison Hospital during the year of which 7 were admitted to outside hospitals for special treatment or operations. Four patients were committed to the Provincial Mental Hospital at Essondale, B.C. 241 convicts received dental treatment and 106 cases required attention by the oculist. Sixty convicts received medication and prescribed medicine daily, in the morning and evening from Hospital Officers. The total number of such treatments for the year would be approximately 4000.

Father Patrick O'Sullivan assumed duties here on 22nd March 1948 as Roman Catholic Chaplain and reports a total of slightly more than 100 convicts registered as Roman Catholic as of 31st March 1948. Systematic interviews of Roman Catholic convicts take place daily. During the past year there have been an estimated 2,548 interviews made by the Chaplain. The Catholic Library facilities are available to the convicts and distribution of literature is made each Saturday afternoon. The Rev. V. H. Wallace, Protestant Chaplain reports that during the year he has systematically visited all the shops and farm to obtain a clearer view of what is

being done, to show an interest in the skills and crafts being taught and to make himself more familiar with the men employed. Daily visits to the Hospital were also made and suitable books and other literature distributed. Monthly visits to the Mental Hospital were also made to keep in touch with the men there. Periodic visits were made to other hospitals where men were being treated. On request he occasionally visits to the homes of a number of the men and feels that this personal touch has been of help, especially to the young convicts. In addition to the regular Sunday Service which was well maintained the Bible class and Choir were also carried on. Fine musical entertainment was provided throughout the year by church choirs from the Olivete Baptist Church and the Queen's Avenue United Church, both of New Westminster, The Vancouver Choristers of the Salvation Army, the New Westminster Men's Vocal Club, the New Veterans Band of Vancouver, the Canadian Legion Band and the Salvation Army Band.

Fifty young convicts were on register as of 31st March 1948, approximately 90% of these young men were employed in departments where an opportunity was afforded to learn such trades as Blacksmithing, tinsmithing, steam engineering, electrical motor mechanics, farming and animal husbandry, plastering, cooking, shoe making, and repairing, carpentry, cabinet making, tailoring, baking and machine shop practice. Throughout the year the association of young convicts out of their cells after the close of prison was continued.

The school program for the year included regular classes for those who had not attained a grade 8 standing and correspondence courses for high school, vocational and technical students who studied in their spare time. With an increasing demand for social studies and general science. With the exception of very few, all marks for vocational and high school courses exceed 90%. The introduction of D.V.A. courses made little difference to this institution because of the excellent cooperation we are receiving from the Provincial Department of Education. A program of lectures arranged with the extension department of the University of British Columbia was held through the Winter months and proved very instructive and helpful. Classes were given in minerology and arrangements made for students to write tests to qualify for the government grub-stake when they are released. A program of vocational training films was continued this year, a total of 93 films being shown. They dealt with farming, construction, machine shop practices, motor mechanics, heating and lighting, service refrigeration, blacksmithing and welding, shoe making and repairing, cooking and meal preparation, textile manufacture, dyeing and the manufacture of clothing. Four of our assistant engineers attended a course dealing with accident prevention sponsored by the Compensation Board in Vancouver and covered every phase of industrial accident prevention.

Instructors were engaged in a wide variety of manufacture, maintenance and construction projects.

MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS IN VARIOUS SHOPS:

Mail boxes were repaired and painted, boots and shoes made in the Shoe Shop. The garage overhauled nine cars and two ambulances and repainted them. Also the boat employed on the Fraser River, was busy salvaging logs for fuel and two gangs were kept employed, one at the wharf, averaging six men, taking logs from the river boom and loading. A gang averaging 15 men worked in the yard cutting, splitting and piling the wood for use in the boilers and cake ovens, during the year there were 586 cords of wood salvaged at a value of \$4,344.00. The engineering department is very gratified to report that six students who had completed the earlier course in steam engineering wrote the provincial examination for a fourth class certificate during October 1947 and all six were successful. The boiler inspector supervised the examination, stated that the knowledge of the candidates was exceptionally high in comparison with that of the average candidate throughout the province.

The Penitentiary farm had another successful year, the main portion of the produce being used by the Stewards Department for consumption in the Penitentiary. The total value of produce which came from the farm approximately \$20,000.00 Surplus sold to officers totaled \$239.86, foodstuffs supplied the Stewards Department totaled almost \$13,000.00 consisting of 50,000 pounds of pork as well as eggs, honey, fruits and vegetables. The purchase of a new tractor in June 1947 made it possible to mechanize all the major work in our farm operations with the resulting increase in efficiency and a substantial saving in purchased feed costs for horses since the limited acreage we have made it impossible to grow sufficient fodder. In October 1947 we sold two of our horses, leaving only one here for such work as could not be done conveniently with the tractor.

The Classification Officer has conducted from August 1947 to March 1948 414 interviews with convicts, there were an average of 34 convicts employed in the main Kitchen. On October 27 1947 we were pleased to receive our first visit from the Deputy Commissioner of Penitentiaries Mr. Joseph McCulley. Other visits from Headquarters Officials were those of the Supervisor of Farms, Mr. C.C. Coutts, and the Supervisor of Stewards, Mr. R. Burton. All new officers coming on the staff during the year have received approved ten days training which acquaints them with their basic duties on all posts. At the same time this training gives them a sound understanding of the policies and the functions of each department. During the Fall and early Winter months weekly lectures on various phases of prison administration and duties were given to the staff. This program was

This program was suspended with the inauguration of the Penitentiary Officers Training Course at Rockcliffe, Ontario in January 1948.

A group of three officers from this institution, a Keeper, an Instructor and a Guard Grade 2 attended the first course at Rockcliffe.

I was pleased to note that all those attending from the seven Penitentiaries rated good or better on the final assessment on the course.

END OF REPORT



921

Saturday, April 24th, 1948

The Columbian

## PEN OFFICERS RETIRE, THIRTY-FIVE YEARS IN SERVICE

After thirty-five years of service at the B.C. Penitentiary, two officers of the staff, William A. Bennett and Albert T. North, retire at the end of this month. They are looking forward, they say, to doing the things they have wanted to do and to enjoy their favorite hobby, gardening, and favourite sport, trout fishing.

Both are from the old land. Mr. Bennett came to Canada as a youth in 1903 and lived in Manitoba and Saskatchewan for six years before coming to New Westminster. Before joining the staff of the Penitentiary he was employed at Fraser Mills. A veteran of the first world war, he served overseas from 1915 to 1919 as corporal with the Second Canadian Mounted Rifles.

Mr. North, a Londoner, came direct from England to Vancouver in 1911 and shortly afterwards to New Westminster. He joined the staff of the Penitentiary in 1913. He is an excellent marksman and is proud of the fact he was a member of the Penitentiary Revolver Team that won the trophy in British Columbia competition. He is also a keen gardener and fisherman.

922

Friday, October 15th, 1948

The Columbian

## CONVICTS OFFERED COURSES

An insite on new developments in Canadian Penitentiaries leading to an improvement in rehabilitating the inmates was given New Westminster Rotarians on Thursday by Rev. Bryse Wallace, Protestant Chaplain at the "big house" in the Sapperton area.

The era has come about as a result of the Judge Archambeault report of 1938, which was laid away during the war years. The main portions of it are now being put into practice.

Included in the new program is a new school for Penitentiary Officers at Rockcliffe, Ontario, segregation and classification of inmates, school for the younger element and extension courses for those who seek them.

There is an increase in recreation during the off hours.

"Utopia has not been reached, but the situation is much improved", Mr. Wallace declared.

Curbing crime in Canada is an expensive proposition. Cost of operating the seven Penitentiaries runs around three and one-half million dollars and the cost per day per inmate is two dollars and eighty-three cents.

923

Wednesday, January 12th, 1949

The Columbian

## THREE OFFICERS OF PENITENTIARY TO TAKE COURSE

Three B.C. Penitentiary Officers are leaving today for Ottawa to take the seven weeks penology course at Rockcliffe, R.C.M.P. barracks.

The local officers are Chief Trade Instructor Frank Beasley, Secretary F.C.B. Cummins and Clerk J. Auton.

Walter Johnstone, former officer here, has been promoted to the post of Supervisor of Training at the Rockcliffe Penology School. The course for the Penitentiary officers covers a wide range of advanced subjects, including crime problems, sociology, psychology, criminal law, officers' duties and physical training.

924

Thursday, March 10th, 1949

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARY OFFICERS FINISH COURSE AT OTTAWA

Fifteen officers of the B.C. Penitentiary Staff here have now completed a special course in advanced penology conducted at R.C.M.P. barracks, Rockcliffe, Ottawa, Warden J. Douglass revealed today.

Three Officers have just returned from the January Course of six weeks are Secretary F.C.B. Cummins, Clerk J. Auton and Chief Trade Instructor F. Beasley. Three others left Wednesday for the course starting this month. They are Guards G. Grozier, W.T. Kellett and P. Ludbrook.

The City Officers have made excellent showings at the Courses, said Warden Douglass and are bringing back valuable new knowledge in penology. Subjects studies include sociology, psychology, rehabilitation, crime detection, law procedure and administration.

The Justice Department has been developing a new approach to rehabilitation of inmates. Various educational courses are being provided for prisoners and they are given aid in learning useful vocations. The standard of Instructional and Administrative Staffs of the Institutions is being raised throughout Canada by means of the Ottawa courses.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PENITENTIARIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 31st  
MARCH 1949  
S. GARSON, Minister of Finance

---

In this report the salaries of Penitentiary Officers are listed, the following are examples of maximum salaries for the following positions:

Accountant Grade I	\$3,180.00
Assistant Accountant	\$2,700.00
Farm Instructor	\$2,580.00
Storekeeper	\$2,880.00
Assistant Storekeeper	\$2,580.00
Chief Keeper	\$3,480.00
Chief Trade Instructor	\$3,480.00
Class. Officer #1	\$3,060.00
Engineer, Grade 2	\$3,360.00
Fireman	\$2,400.00
Guard Grade I	\$2,280.00
Guard Grade II	\$2,460.00
Hospital Officer	\$2,760.00
Instructor	\$2,880.00
Keeper	\$2,760.00
School Teacher	\$2,880.00
Steward Grade III	\$3,180.00
Warden Grade I	\$5,640.00
Warden Grade II	\$6,300.00

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY

31 March 1949 - R.S. Douglass, Warden

---

Our population showed an increase of 18 during the last fiscal year. The total register as of 31st March 1949 was 478 of whom 461 were actually confined in the Penitentiary. The remaining 17 included 13 in the Provincial Mental Hospital, 3 on temporary ticket of leave for medical reasons, and 1 female held at the provincial gaol waiting transfer to Kingston Penitentiary. There were 185 male and 2 female receptions during the year. One of the males received was sentenced to three years and six months for rape. He was also declared a criminal sexual psychopath with the meaning of section 1054 (a) of the Criminal Code, and was sentenced to be detained for an indeterminate period upon the expiration of the three and one half year term. This is the first occasion on which a convict has been admitted to this Penitentiary to serve indeterminate sentence as a criminal sexual psychopath. There is one other convict in the institution who was received in March 1948 sentenced to an indeterminate period as a habitual criminal. There are two convicts in the British Columbia Penitentiary serving indeterminate sentences. Male convicts discharged by expiration of sentence, ticket of leave and for other reasons total 169.

The general health of the convicts has been good during the year. Three deaths occurred in outside hospital. One from post operative appendectomy and one from brain abscess and one died in tuberculosis hospital while on temporary ticket of leave licence. Incidence of venereal disease among the prison population was approximately 3%, all of which are receiving treatment. The Mobile Clinic of the division of tuberculosis control of the province Board of Health visited the Penitentiary on two occasions during the year, June 8th and 9th, 1948 and March 28th and 29th, 1949. This clinic x-rayed the chests of all the convict population and also the officers of the Penitentiary on each occasion. 341 convicts received dental treatment and 135 cases required attention by the Eye, Ear and Throat Specialist.

Renovation of the Penitentiary Hospital was commenced during the year and as this involves structural alterations will continue during the coming year, when it is hoped it will be completed and occupied.

The Reverend O'Sullivan reports that the present Catholic population is approximately 130. Reverend H. Wallace, Protestant Chaplain reports that he has periodically visited all the shops and gangs employed in the Institution as well as the farm and hospital. Where, indicated he has visited the homes of the prisoners

with a view to the rehabilitation of respective inmates. With the consent of the Commissioner, Mr. Wallace delivered lectures to a number of Rotary Clubs and Church groups. During the Fall and Winter months various church groups, the Salvation Army and the Canadian Legion Band held services or given concerts for which the convicts have expressed their appreciation.

The addition to the staff of the Assistant School Teacher - Librarian, the school program has been maintained more consistently throughout the year. Thereby allowing the school teacher-librarian more time for organization, administration and convict interviewing. The Assistant School Teacher carried on the actual teaching and the school program included regular classes for those convicts who did attain a standard grade. Emphasis was placed on English Arithmetic and Social Studies, the school was equipped with a set of maps, globe, sets of industrial pictures and other teaching aids.

The correspondence course program with the Provincial Department of Education has maintained its popularity throughout the year with excellent results, at the end of the year 92 convicts were studying 246 courses in 70 different grade subjects. Five convicts were registered with the Industrial First Aid Attendants association in first aid and time keeping. Two of them completed the course and received their Provincial Government Certificates qualifying them to hold positions in the province as Industrial First Aid Attendants. One of these two has been released and is employed in this capacity. Special classes in minerology was organized and Dr. H. Warren of the University of British Columbia and his associates operated the class. Ten of the nineteen registered for the course passed and certificates have been received for those ten qualifying them for the Provincial Government grub stake allowance. In October the book binding department employing one experienced prisoner was transferred from the Canvas Working Department to the Library. This improved the supervision of and increased the production of magazines repaired or bound for the library.

The program of vocational films continued throughout the year, fifty-two films being shown to men employed in the various shops and occupations in the Penitentiary. The Penitentiary acquired its own projection machine and was put into operation in October 1948.

The usual manufacturing operations for the Department of Veterans Affairs Department of Mines and Resources, National Parks, National Harbours Board of Vancouver, Post Office Department of Vancouver, Penitentiary Service for Manitoba Penitentiary and the Department of National Defence.

A vocational training classroom in the Engineers Department has been a great assistance to candidates for private study and theoretical instruction between shifts of duty. Presentation of certificates was made by the Warden to successful candidates in the Engineering Department in October 1948, in the presence of the Engineering Department and they were complemented on the extremely fine work they had accomplished. Letters are still being received during the year from convicts who have passed these examinations and re-established themselves in civilian life stating their appreciation for the opportunity given them and enlarging how they have now become gainfully employed.

Total value of produce which came from the farm \$19,887.00, surplus sold to officers \$195.00, foodstuffs supplied the Stewards Department amounted to \$10,359.61, consisting of nearly 46,000 pounds of pork as well as eggs, fruits and vegetables.

Our two colonies of bees failed to survive the winter. New fences have been erected along the Columbia Street side of plot 6 and around the area near the tenements where the Doukhobour group are farming. Kardex control system was installed in the Stores during the year to provide a much closer control of stock. The office used by the Assistant Storekeeper was renovated and painted during the year. The manufacture and installation of new steel shelving and the redecorating the remainder of the Stores Department is proposed for the coming year.

There were 36 convicts employed on an average in the main Kitchen. Vocational training was commenced in the kitchen in September 1948 after arrangements had been made with the Supervisor of Stewards regarding the training program and a number of convicts who would be students in this initial trial.

The Commissioner of Penitentiaries Major General R.B. Gibson, Joseph McCulley, J. A. McLaughlin and N. R. McLean, Supervisor of Stewards, R. Burton, Supervisor of Farms, C.C. Coutts and Architect H. Coyles visited the Penitentiary.

The policy of giving all new officers 10 days training to acquaint them with the basic studies of all posts and the functions of Departments within the Institutions was continued during the year.

Commencing November 18th, 1948, a series of lectures was given by Officers who had attended the Penitentiary Officers Training Course at Rockcliffe. Attendance was on a voluntary basis and the interest shown by the large number of officers who attended regularly. These were continued twice weekly until the end of February 1949.



Effective October 1st, 1948 Senior Clerk Stenographer W. F. Johnson of this Penitentiary was promoted to the position of Supervisor of Training at the Office of the Commissioner of Penitentiaries. He had been seconded to this duty since the training courses commenced early in the year. During the year a total of 15 officers attended Penitentiary Officers Training Courses #2 to #6 at Rockcliffe barracks, Ottawa. The Officers have made excellent showings on the courses and are bringing back valuable knowledge in penology.

This Institution takes pride in the contribution of the staff to the public welfare in the worse flood emergency to occur in the Fraser Valley since 1894. The treat of dangerously flooding Fraser River in June 1948 was such that in this emergency Senior Clerk C. B. Cummins, Storekeeper, E.B. Welsford, Guard J. Kennedy and Assistant Hospital Officer R.S. Perkins were excused from the Penitentiary work to perform flood duties with the Reserve Army. The work carried out in the New Westminster Area received both public and official commendation. This flood condition was a grave threat to the economic life of the lower Fraser Valley to which the Federal Government voted hug sums for rehabilitation and relief purposes.

END OF REPORT

925

Wednesday, August 3rd, 1949

The Columbian

## FREEDOM POLE CARVED IN PENITENTIARY

A new Totem Pole, emblematic of power and freedom, carved within the grey confines of the B.C. Penitentiary will soon stand at historic Fort Langley.

The Totem Pole was carved for New Westminster M.P. Tom Reid, by a half-breed Indian serving a life sentence for manslaughter. Mr. Reid, in turn, will present the sixteen foot, solid fir carving to the Native Sons and Daughters Museum at Fort Langley.

The Federal Member first met the sixty-three old breed while inspecting the prison many years ago. Although as worlds apart as any two men could be, the inmate offered to carve Mr. Reid a Totem Pole.

It took a long time, since the part-native son was only allowed to work on the carving while not engaged in his prison duties. Then, before the work was completed, the native artist received a parole, and was allowed to return to his home in the Kelowna district.

But the rebellious spirit had not been quelled. He violated his parole and was returned to the Royal City Prison, probably for the rest of his life.

To Warden R.S. Douglass he described the Pole as being symbolic of power and freedom. Each animal depicted on the Pole, a killer whale, a black bear, the owl and the thunder-

925 A

bird represent the most powerful animal in their group.

The Totem, he said, should stand outside the house of the chief, thus proclaiming to all the location of the seat of power in the tribe, colors and animal arrangement usually identify the tribe.

The Pole was carved by hand from a piece of solid fir and was designed by the prisoner-artist. He learned the art as a young lad, but never carved one of his own until after his imprisonment.

The art, I'm afraid, is dying, said Mr. Reid, "and I wanted this pole preserved in a place where all could enjoy it. What better place, than the spot where our mainland modern civilization began".

The bagpipe-playing Scottish Politician couldn't explain why the inmate first made the offer to carve the Totem Pole. But then he didn't know that the artist's mother was a full blooded Indian and his father was a Scot.

926

Tuesday, August 16th, 1949

The Columbian

## PENITENTIARY REJECTS DRILL HALL SITE

A site for the proposed new armouries on B.C. Penitentiary property is out of the question, according to a letter from Hon. Stuart Garson, Minister of Justice.

The population at the Institution is such as to require all the present property for farm purposes and to keep the convicts employed. Another thing, explained the Minister, the presence of firearms in such a proposed building would constitute a serious risk in case of trouble.

The city hoped to obtain a tract between Sixth and Eighth Avenue near Cumberland Street.

This impasse now leaves the city with the plan to build the drill hall at the lower end of Queens Park. The Department of Defence is prepared to spend \$600,000.00 on a drill hall and community centre if a site can be agreed on.

927

Saturday, December 24th, 1949

The Columbian

## PRISONERS GIVE TO BLOOD BANK

One hundred and sixty-one inmates of the B.C. Penitentiary gave their Christmas present to the people "beyond the walls" this week.

The prisoners, almost half the population of the Institution, answered the plea, of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service and donated one hundred and sixty-one pints of blood. It was the first time the clinic had visited the prison, although similar visits had been made in Eastern Penitentiaries.

The clinic, made up of seven nurses, the first women some of the men have seen in years, and two Doctors were "in the Pen" from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Previously the inmates had been shown a short film on the need of blood, and when the volunteers were called, the response was extraordinary.

A treat for the prisoners accompanied the clinic, after making the donation each man was given cookies and a coke.

The large donation came at an opportune time for the Red Cross, Christmas traffic accidents have already started to spot the highways, and the need for blood in hospitals grows each day.

659

February 22nd, 1950

The Columbian

## DEPUTY WARDEN RETIRES

Terminating a career of thirty-six years in the B.C. Penitentiary and Department of Justice Service, John Lewis Goss, Deputy Warden, on Thursday commences six months retirement leave, Warden R.S. Douglass announced today.

Mr. Goss joined the service in 1914 and served in World War I, returning to the Penitentiary Service after the war.

He was in charge of the Piers Island "Pen Camp" set up for the Doukhobors from 1932 to 1934. He was appointed Chief Keeper at New Westminster in 1925 and appointed Deputy Warden in 1946.

F.C.B. Cummins is now acting as Deputy Warden. On the 24th of February 1950, Lt. Col. Fred C.B. Cummins, Officer Commanding Westminster Regiment has been appointed Acting Deputy Warden at the B.C. Penitentiary. Col. Cummins, former Chief Clerk at the Penitentiary, will succeed Lewis J. Goss, who has retired. Cummins has been seventeen years in the Penitentiary Service, he has a distinguished military record with the Westminsters during the Second World War.

March 2nd, 1950

The Columbian

CITY MAN TO BE INSTRUCTOR AT ROCKCLIFFE

C.A. Williamson, Head Schoolmaster and Librarian at the B.C. Penitentiary has been summoned to Ottawa on loan as Instructor at the Penitentiary Officers Training Course at Rockcliff, Warden R. Douglass announced today.

Mr. Williamson leaves for the east on Friday. The next course starts around March 13th.

The Chief Supervisor of the Rockcliffe School, Walter Johnstone, is also from the New Westminster Institution.

During the past two years the Department of Justice has been giving courses in all branches of penology to staff officers.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 31 st  
MARCH 1950. R.S. DOUGLASS, WARDEN

---

The population showed an increase of nine during the last fiscal year. The total stood at 487 as of 31st March 1950 of which 452 were actually in prison of the remaining 35, 15 were in provincial mental hospital 4 on temporary ticket of leave for medical reasons and 16 Doukhobours were at Nelson, B.C. in charge of B.C. Provincial Police, where they were appearing as witnesses for the Crown Counsel. There were 168 males and 4 female convicts received during the year. One of these was sentenced to an indeterminate sentence as a habitual criminal This makes a total of three convicts serving indeterminate sentences. 150 male convicts were discharged from the institution by reasons of expiration of sentence, ticket of leave licence, pardoned and other reasons.

No deaths occurred during the year in the convict population. The incidence of venereal disease dropped to approximately 1% of the total population, all received the necessary treatment. On December 22, 1949 160 pints of blood were donated by convicts to the Red Cross Clinic for blood transfusions. Prior to this Col. M D. Robertson Provincial Doner Panel Organizer addressed the population over the public address system and later an educational film was shown. The response from the convict population was gratifying.

Rev. Father J. M. Barry replaced Rev. Father O'Sullivan as Roman Catholic Chaplain on September 1st, 1949. He reported an average attendance at Sunday Service to be 125. An effort is being made to have those convicts who are **excused** church attendance return for regular religious instruction. The well equipped library is not being used by the convicts as much as it might. The weekly papers and periodicals appear more popular. The Rev. B. H. Wallace, Protestant Chaplain, reports good attendance at the church at the regular services throughout the year. Bible instruction classes were continued with good results. 12 inmates were taking correspondence courses in Bible study and the Christain way of life. Several of these courses were completed and proved of value. From the Salvation Army, under Major Martain and later Major Wagner, visited monthly. The Gideons held four services during the year. Classes were held in 174 noon sessions with an average attendance of 18 and a total attendance of 68 convicts.

Those above grade six standing or registered for correspondence courses were assisted during the school periods. Those with less than grade six were taught in classes.

The first aid certificates were granted to two successful candidates. One