HOUSE OF REFUGE IS ALLRIGHT.

Mr. M. K. Richardson Examines the Institution and Finds it O.K. in Every Respect.

To the Editor of The Times:

Dear Sir—The County of Grey has acquired an unrivalled notoriety during the past two weeks, not only in this province, but throughout the Dominion and farther, owing to reports of bad management of the House of Refuge. Having taken an active part in the County Council, I may say a leading part in promoting the establishment of this institution in Grey County, I feel sufficiently interested to make some personal investigation, both from outside sources and also by visiting and personal interviews with the inmates. I called and found the manager, Mr. Harness, busily engaged getting in the root crop, not simply superintending the work, but laboring as hard as his assistants at the work. I apologised for asking permission to look through the institution, as it was not visitors' day. I was invited by him to go and make all the inspection and inquiry I desired.

I went through the whole building from cellar to garret and found it perfectly clean and tidy in every part. The bed clothing was spotlessly clean, which, considering the class of occupants, was remarkable.

I visited the several day rooms occupied by the inmates, both male and female, conversed with them, questioned them freely as to their comfort and contentment. Encouraged them to be quite frank in stating to me any causes for dissatisfaction they might have, and with one exception, they all expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied and without any cause for complaint. The one exception was a reply that "things," by which I understood him to say conditions, were not so bad, but in some respects might be better." I asked for particulars of objectionable conditions, and he replied that for one thing the place was "not kept as warm as it should be." This was the only particular he could think of. At the time of my visit the House was comfortably warm. Some inmates went further than expressing contentment and spoke in terms of highest commendation of their treatment. Three had been in other institutions of similar character and volunteered the comparative statement of this House being far better. I visited the smoking room, where some eight inmates were enjoying the fragrant weed, and although I am not a smoker myself I am not a bad judge of tobacco and they had evidently, to my sense of smell, got a fairly good brand of it. In the hospital I found but one inmate, who had recently come into the institution. In one room I saw two old women afflicted with rheumatism, they had the use of their beds during the day time and both expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied with their treatment in every respect. In the woman's day room they evidently had some cause for amusement for I have seldom met a jollier or happier lot of old women.

So much for the condition of the inmates on their own evidence. Now as to their food supplies, I saw the accounts and bills for meat supplies which ran over $100 per quarter, this for an average of forty people, considering that a number of the women eat but little meat, would leave an average expenditure of over $12.00 per annum for each man for meat alone. In vegetables they have all they can use and in greater variety than most families through the country enjoy. For instance, in addition to potatoes and cabbages, they have had abundance of cauliflowers, more than the house could use. This last would be a luxury that very many houses could not afford. The inmates have all the bread they want and of the best quality from the Markdale bakery, not excelled and but rarely equalled by any baker in city or country. They have butter, generally in limited quantities, but not always, but are never without syrup and vegetables to dinner. They have also apple sauce. In addition to meat, soup alternating with pudding.

One grievance reported on is the giving of skim milk instead of new milk to their porridge. I would ask how many artizans' families get any better milk—nine-tenths do not get it as good, for fresh milk from separator has the taste and flavor of new milk, and in this case the separator is gauged to leave a proportion of cream in the milk, not so very bad after all. I did not enquire as to the supply of sugar, for I had not then read the Grand Jury's presentment nor other articles, I had only seen the scare headlines and sensational articles in Toronto papers. An article in an Owen Sound paper of October 22 speaks of old men and women being forced to sit around the corridors all day on hard benches. I will not believe that the writer would knowingly or wilfully misrepresent anything regarding the institution, but I would respectfully inform him that there are no benches in the corridors, neither hard nor soft, to sit on and I certainly would recommend him to visit the institution and write it up fairly and as ably as I know you can.

I certainly think the Council Committee might supply some lounges or softer seats for the old men, part of the women are and have long been so provided, and I think that sugar which formerly ranked as a luxury has from its cheapened cost and general use, come to be regarded as a necessity of life and should be supplied to the inmates. The bedrooms and beds are kept spotlessly clean and this condition could not be maintained if the inmates were allowed their use in the day time. The lavatories are open constantly and halls lighted all night to permit their use at any hour and the individual conveniences recommended by the Grand Jury are applied to such as need them and do not abuse the privilege by upsetting. Two cells are provided for insubordinates and in only two instances during the year has the manager had occasion to use either of them. In one instance a male inmate flatly refused compliance with a reasonable regulation and incited by words and acts to general insubordination. The other a female, who was more fit to be sent to a gaol or lunatic asylum, a foul-mouthed virago contaminating by her presence and language association with whom would be an outrage on the other female inmates.

The cells are quite as well warmed and ventilated as are the gaol cells and are not constructed with a view to luxurious comfort. In advocating the construction of this institution I did not take the hopeful view that some did that the products of the farm would in time pay cost of its maintenance, but I did expect that the institution, if managed with thrift and economy, would produce sufficient to materially reduce cost of maintenance to the county and still afford all reasonable comfortable requirements to the inmates. But I did not think the county would be called on to provide luxuries in food and upholstered easy chairs, not only for the deserving poor but for every improvident character to whom the final gaol of the poor house with all its comforts would offer a premium for unthrift and indolence and, that at the cost of taxpayers, many of whom have a hard struggle to maintain their families in honest independence. I might add more but will leave it for the Government Inspector to say what he thinks of it and I do hope you will publish his report.

One word in conclusion, if as the article referred to insinuates, Mr. Harness, the Manager, has dishonestly appropriated to his own use any monies received from sales of products of the farm, I have no apology to make for him, but I would, if in his place, call upon the author of that article to make good his statements or insinuations of dishonesty or retract with an apology.

Thanking you in anticipation for space and for your courtesy.

I am yours respectfully,
M. K. RICHARDSON.

LINGERING COLD

Withstood other Treatment, But Quickly Cured by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

"Last winter I caught a very severe cold which lingered for weeks," says J. Urquhart, of Zephy, Ontario. "My cough was very dry and harsh. The local dealer recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and guaranteed it, so I gave it a trial. One small bottle of it cured me. I believe Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to be the best I have ever used." This remedy is for sale by R. L. Stephen.

Markdale photo gallery re-opens November 18th.

EUGENIA

Winter seems to be creeping along slow but sure.

Fine weather for our local sportsmen. Mr. P. Munshaw went to the wilds of Muskoka whilst others at home report good sport. Messrs. D. Roberts, K Clark and Ike Smith each bagged a fine deer. Mr. Wilfred Plantt caught a fine fox in a strange manner. His dog started it and Wilfred followed and finally caught it in his arms and choked it. Mr. Reynard was not so sly that time as he gets credit for. It was a fine large animal and the boy is very proud of his success as a hunter.

Times are very dull at Eugenia. Our young men are thinking of getting up a scrub hunt. The young people are now practising for their annual tea-meeting.

Mr. Robert Meldrum is around collecting taxes. He is so cheery and good natured about it that the people dispense with their usual growl and hand out their share of the township's claim quite willingly.

Miss Ettie Latimer, who is attending high school at Meaford was home on a visit to her parents.

Mr. R. D. Purvis, of Toronto, was up visiting friends for a few days at Thanksgiving.

Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson and Mr. and Mrs. Proutt, of Toronto Junction, were visitors at Mr. Henry William's.

Miss Ada Willams has gone back to city for the winter.

Master Albert Sloan of Owen Sound Collegiate was home for a few days.

Mr. Geo. Gorden, of Toronto, is now visiting his son at the old home. Mr. Gorden prefers country life to the city.

Mr. John Beecroft is seriously ill at present.

Miss Sarah Pahl, who has been very sick, is some better.

A great many people are suffering from colds which are epidemic at present.

WODEHOUSE

Mr. Wm. Morwood from Texas, U.S., son of Mr. James Morwood, Markdale, has returned to this part and is renewing old acquaintances, after an absence of about 35 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Bowes spent Sunday at the home of the latter's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, of Weston, spent Thanksgiving holidays with friends in this locality.

The sports of our neighborhood held their annual shooting match on Thanksgiving day with fowl supper at night. The shooting commenced about two o'clock when every man in turn directed his fire upon the target with as much determination as if it had been one of a regiment of Boers in the South African war. The shooting, though not as good as former years, was never the less of a high class quality which adds to the sportsmanlikeship of those who took part.

Sorry to report Mr. Jos. Abercrombie on the sick list at present.

PRICEVILLE

Fine November weather. A good deal of plowing has been done.

A large number of rate payers are grumbling at the higher school taxes this year authorized by the new Provincial Act; it is particularly irritating to some of the old bachelors.

The latest sensation is caused by the late Grand Jury's Report on the House of Refuge, Markdale, and the people are anxiously waiting for the final report of the investigation. We have talked with inmates of the institution and also with members of the County Council and we cannot see where the Jury had ground for such a report. If the Grand Jury's report turns out to be a grand mistake, or incorrect in the main, then Grey County will never rest quiet under a scandal, and if heavy damages resulted, it would likely be a check to that kind of wire pulling.

Railroad constructing is still advancing, the steel is laid seven or eight miles west of Priceville.

Mrs. (Rev.) Berry visited her sons in Toronto last week.

Mrs. J. C. and Miss McInnis, of Cheboygan, Mich., and Miss M. Ferguson, of Priceville, spent Thanksgiving with Shelburne friends.

Mrs. McInnis and Mrs T. A. Ferguson are visiting their brother, G. L. Watson, at Walters Falls, and other friends in North Grey this week.

McInnis and Stothard have bought and shipped a large amount of farm stock to Toronto this season and are becoming quite popular with the farmers.

We understand that a new Hardware store will be opened soon in our village. We should also have a drug store in this town.

Stomach troubles, Heart and Kidney ailments, can be quickly corrected with a prescription known to druggists everywhere as Dr. Shoop's Restorative The prompt and surprising relief which this remedy immediately brings is entirely due to its Restorative action upon the controlling nerves of the Stomach, etc. Sold by W. Turner & Co.

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MARKDALE.

GREY COUNTY'S BIGGEST AND CHEAPEST STORE.

If You Want

Style, Quality, Value, and All-round Satisfaction

In New Furs, Dress Goods, Ready-to-wear Skirts! Mens' Ready-to-wear Clothing, Mantles, Golf Jackets, etc., it will pay you to see what we can do for you.

Here Are Some Clearing Lines That Should Interest You:

75c. Dress Goods and Tweeds for 38c.

About 800 yards consisting of Fancy and Plain Dress Goods and Tweeds, all of which are in good shades, etc., and suitable for Fall and Winter Wear. These goods have been selling freely at 50c, 65c and 75c. per yard, and there are not many yards of any one cloth left; the balance of about 800 yards must be sold quickly, hence we have placed them all together on bargain table, your choice this week per yard.. 38c.

85c. Kid Gloves for 45c.

37 pair Ladies Dress Kid Gloves, in assorted shades of grey, two dome fasteners. These Gloves have been selling at 75 and 85c. a pair, sale price for the week per pair 45c.

50c. Velveteens for 28c.

Our stock of Velveteens is too heavy, and in order to reduce same we will put on sale this week about 275 yards, regular 40 and 50c., silk finished velveteens in rich shades of green, mauve, garnet, wine, fawn, etc., at your choice per yard 28c.

12½ and 14c Flannelettes for 9½c.

This week we have on bargain counter a big assortment of Flannelettes in stripes—light, medium and dark fancy. Full 36 inches wide which is sold in regular way at 12½ and 14c a yard. Sale price per yard 9½c.

$2.25 and $3.00 Ladies and Misses Dongola Kid Boots for 90c.

68 pairs consisting of Ladies and Misses fine quality kid boots. Lace and button styles. Size. 12½ to 3½ only. Sold in regular way at $2.25 to $3.00 per pair. We have'nt room for odd lines, so have decided to put them on sale at per pair 90c.

$3.00 Mens Fine Boots for $1.58.

43 pair only, Mens fine quality Dongola and Box Calf boots that are odd lines. Not more than two pair of a kind and sold in regular way at $2.25 to $3.50 per pair. For quick selling we have put them on sale at per pair $1.58.

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C. P. R. TIME TABLE

MARKDALE STATION

Going South	7.50 a.m.	4.14 p.m
Going North	12.04 p.m.	9.10 p.m

ENTER ANY DAY

for a Business or Shorthand course. Positions assured to graduates. Six months will fit you. We provide 24 teachers and best facilities. Write us.

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When you need a good reliable liniment try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It has no superior for sprains and swellings. A piece of flannel slightly dampened with Pain Balm is superior to a plaster for lame back or pains in the side or chest. It also relieves rheumatic pains and makes sleep and rest possible. For sale by R. L. Stephen.

HARRY HEDLEY'S Tin Shop.

For Good Hand-made

TINWARE

call and see HARRY HEDLEY. He keeps the best of goods

Wash Boilers, copper bottoms $2
Galvanized Iron Wash Tubs, large size, 90 cents.
Galv. Iron Pails 25c to 30c
Tin Pails 15 to 40c
Bread Dishes 35c.
Bread Pans 20c.
Bread Knives 15c.
Bread Boxes 75c to 85c.

A full line of Graniteware.

Granite Preserving Kettles
" Tea Pots
" Sauce Pans
" Pudding Dishes
" Children's Sets

We are always in the lead for EAVE TROUGHING. A large assortment of Cistern Pumps and Sink Tanks on hand.

Don't forget the place.

Harry Hedley, Markdale.

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Is what you want when sickness happens at night. Can you possibly find the equal of Nerviline? No, for it stands unequalled in curing pain, internal or local. Earache, toothache, and neuralgia disappear in a jiffy. Rub it on and away flies the pain. For cramps, vomiting or indigestion all you need is ten drops in sweetened water. Sick or well you'll find Polson's Nerviline invaluable in your house. Get a large 25c. bottle to-day.

LOOK OUT FOR THIS MAN.

If he offers something "better" than Putnam's Extractor, it's the additional profit or inferior goods that tempts him: Putnam's is the one sure and painless cure. Use no other.

The photo gallery will be closed from the 28th of October until the 8th of November; then be ready for your Xmas. photos. We will have the very latest styles of cards and something fancy to offer you. J. C. Kentner, photo artist Markdale.