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No doubt favorable conditions, such as increased accommodation, will account for the admission of exceptionally large numbers in some years, but the fact remains that there has been a steady increase in admissions and resident patients proportionately greater with the lapse of years. The relative proportion of these classes to the whole population of the Province also shows a marked increase during each decade, as follows:—

| Year | Population of the Province | No. of Insane in Asylums | Percentage |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1867 | 1,523,898 | 951 | .062 |
| 1871 | 1,620,851 | 1,356 | .084 |
| 1881 | 1,926,922 | 2,403 | .124 |
| 1891 | 2,114,321 | 3,468 | .164 |

These figures, however, while correctly exhibiting the number of patients in charge in the Province, are incomplete as an evidence of the relative proportion of the defective classes to the whole population, and the census returns must be relied upon for information in that regard.

Mr. Christie continues with a reference to the bulletin issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture in May last, compiled from the census of 1891, in which the number of the insane (and presumably also of idiots and feeble-minded) in the Dominion is given as 13,355, of which Ontario is credited with 5,855, and, as stated, 3,468 were resident in the Provincial institutions on September 30, 1891, so that the remaining 2,387, or 40 per cent., remained outside of asylum care.

The inspector continues with some interesting suggestions and considerations on the subject dealt with.

HOUSES OF REFUGE.

The 24th annual report of the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities, on the Houses of Refuge and Orphan and Magdalen Asylums, shows as follows:—There has been no increase in the number of these institutions during the past year. Application has been made to place on the list for Government aid the following homes, shelters, etc., which are under the management of the Salvation Army and situated in London, Toronto and Kingston, viz., Women's Rescue Homes, Children's and Men's Shelters, Prison Gate Homes.

The orphans' department of the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Windsor, has been discontinued during the past year, and the management have not yet decided whether it will be again taken up or not.

The usual information obtained from each refuge in respect of sex, religious denominations, nationalities and previous residences of the inmates has been summarized as follows:—

| Sex. | |
|--|-------|
| Male | 1,370 |
| Female | 2,113 |
| | 3,483 |
| Religious Denominations. | |
| Roman Catholic | 1,912 |
| Protestant | 1,551 |
| Other religions, or not known | 17 |
| | 3,483 |
| Nationalities. | |
| Canadian | 1,157 |
| English | 709 |
| Irish | 1,257 |
| Scotch | 187 |
| United States | 66 |
| Other countries | 107 |
| | 3,483 |
| Previous Residence. | |
| Received from cities or towns in which the refuges are located | 2,174 |
| Received from counties in which the refuges are located | 423 |
| Received from other counties in the Province | 156 |
| Immigrants and foreigners | 725 |
| | 3,483 |

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The twenty-fourth annual report of the Entomological Society of Ontario is addressed to the Minister of Agriculture by Mr. W. E. Saunders, Secretary, who refers, in a few introductory remarks, to the society's world-wide reputation as one of the leaders in economic entomology. The local interest and membership of the society shows a decided increase, proving that the methods adopted by it for the attainment of its ends are well suited to the purpose. The report contains an engraving of the Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, M.A., D.C.L., F.R.C.S., past President of the society and editor of The Entomologist.

NEGLECTED CHILDREN REPORT.

The first report of the Superintendent of neglected and dependent children of Ontario gave a summary of the five or six months' work since this office was established, and included 50 pages of interesting reading. Ten children's aid societies have already been organized, and so far 22 visiting committees have been appointed to aid in the work of finding homes for

the little ones committed to the care of the aid societies. Mr. Kelso presents a strong plea for family home life for dependent children, and urges the co-operation of all friends of children to this desirable end. As Ontario has in the past provided good homes for many English children there is no reason why this work on behalf of native children should not prosper. Importation of juveniles is referred to in the report, but not in any tone of condemnation, the position taken being that the good is greater than the evil. Several cases of children dealt with are spoken of, and a short report given of each of the societies.

INSURANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The report of the Inspector of Insurance comprises three divisions, viz., A, on registered Dominion licensees, being insurance corporations, companies or underwriters operating under the Insurance Act of Canada and registered by the Province for transaction of insurance in Ontario; B, Provincial licensees, being insurance companies licensed, inspected and registered by the Province for the transaction of insurance therein; and C, friendly societies, being societies registered by the Province of Ontario, for the transaction of insurance therein. The second division is the most important, comprising the following:—Detailed statements of joint stock life insurance companies, do. of joint stock fire insurance companies, and detailed statements of synoptical tables of cash; mutual fire insurance companies, do. of strictly mutual fire insurance companies, comparative summary of assets and premium notes of mutual fire insurance companies of all classes and fire tables showing (a) localities, months of occurrence, and total claims paid, and (b) localities, causes and number of losses. From the fire table it is learned that there were during 1892 1,481 fires, which concerned companies coming under the classification of B, and the total amount of loss was \$455,848 30.

PROVINCIAL LANDS UNSOLD.

The remainder of a return presented in part at a previous session was laid on the table yesterday, showing the amount remaining unpaid on December 31 last on lands sold, of (1) Crown lands, (2) Common School lands, (3) Grammar School lands, (4) railway lands, and the aggregate amount due in respect of each of the said classes of lands, distinguishing the amounts due for principal and interest respectively. The totals are as follows:—

| | T'tl prin. | T'tl int. |
|-------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Crown lands | \$143,646 | \$185,533 |
| Common School lands | 112,842 | 223,407 |
| Grammar School lands | 25,072 | 40,515 |
| Clergy lands | 40,719 | 65,489 |
| Railway lands | 66 | |
| Total | \$322,346 | \$514,936 |
| Grand total, \$837,342. | | |

REEVES AND DEPUTIES.

A return was presented to the House showing that the total number of Reeves and Deputies comprised in the various counties of Ontario in 1892 numbered 1,149, as against 1,093 in 1887. The amount paid as indemnity in 1892 was \$55,456, as compared with \$54,235 in 1887. The total amount of the assessment in the different counties for 1892 was \$601,457,158, as against \$591,816,006 in 1887. The rate on the dollar in 1892 averaged 1.38 for both the years named. Simcoe has the largest number of Reeves, with 53.

ONTARIO'S BLIND POPULATION.

Dr. T. F. Chamberlain, the Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities, reports upon the Ontario institution for the education of the blind at Brantford, the report being the 22nd sent in on that institution. In the Dominion of Canada in 1891 there were 3,368 blind people, 1,839 males and 1,529 females. In Ontario there are, unmarried blind, males 310, females 184; married, males 293, females 141; widowed, males 110, females 188; unknown, 1; total, 1,227. By birthplaces, 580 were born in Ontario, 72 in Quebec, 4 in Nova Scotia, 2 in New Brunswick, 1 in the Northwest, 131 in England, 1 in Wales, 117 in Scotland, 232 in Ireland, 5 in other British possessions, 43 in the United States, 32 in Germany, 1 in Russia, 1 in France, 2 in other countries, 1 at sea, and 2 unknown. Ontario's average per 10,000 is 5.8, as against 6.2 in 1871. While the foreign-born constitute 13.4 per cent. of the population of the blind of foreign-born parentage are 37.3 per cent. of the total blind population. One-seventh of the population contributes more than one-third of the blind. The working of the Brantford Institute is pronounced to be satisfactory and complete.