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DEFENDS PRISON HOSPITAL

Ottawa Visitor Says Portsmouth Penitentiary is All Right.

In a letter to the Ottawa Journal, on Sept. 3rd, Henry J. Woodside, Ottawa, says: While in Kingston recently I took occasion to pay my first visit to the celebrated Portsmouth penitentiary, and especially to the hospital, of which we have heard such harrowing accounts. I have seen something of hospitals from that crowded little sandbag one in Maple Copse, to the Endsleigh Palace Hospital, in London, also having to inspect a number of them in the South of England. I just wish to say that with some slight alterations and perhaps additions, that hospital is plenty good enough for its purpose. It is clean, airy and well lighted from end to end, with a better view from the corridors than could be expected within the walls of a penitentiary, where every provision must be made to prevent prisoners from escaping. If prisoners would not seek to escape; as a couple of them did about the time I was there; and if they were all amendable to moral law and justice, a great stride could be made in housing them and in caring for them while sick. But as the two 'trusties' secured the key of the garage, and in a moment were off, so must the officers and authorities take every precaution to ensure that their charges will be held safely during their term. These officers are held responsible to the public safety, and it is this responsibility chain which holds the criminal tighter than steel shackles or locks. Not one in a hundred of the general public know anything of the chain of responsibility and danger in dealing with those sentenced to long terms. But I have noticed on many occasions the genuine kindness shown by prison officials to their charges, some of whom did not deserve it. Much of the danger lies with the sentimentalists, whose briny organs drip tears over the wretched brute, but not a tear for the unfortunate victim, dead or alive, of the object of their superficial sorrow. From what I observed, I think that Portsmouth penitentiary is among the very best conducted on this continent, considering the interests of the public safety. Warden Ponsford, who came there recently with a fine reputation, has not yet had time to put in force many improvements in prison regulations, discipline and conduct, but he is making every effort to do so. If half of the practical and wholesome recommendations for improvement in the conduct of the penitentiaries, as are put forward in the yearly reports of the superintendent of penitentiaries (General W. P. Hughes), were taken up and put in force by the authorities at the top, there would not be any complaint from even the briny sentimentalists. But governments can never carry out within reasonable time, the best recommendations made to them by the most responsible and experienced officials. From what I saw of criminals from provincial jails wearing uniforms that have been discarded by Dominion authorities over twenty years ago, and from other reports, I do not think the Ontario prison authorities will do well to criticize the conduct of the Dominion penitentiaries.

LOCAL CANADIAN CLUB

Is Preparing for a Splendid Time During the Coming Season—Gen. Seely Coming.

The Canadian Club is soon to resume its activities. The executive had a meeting on Wednesday and planned for the opening events. It is hoped to have Bishop Bidwell, home from England, speak at an early date and a splendid summary of British events may be expected. On Sunday, Sept. 19th, Messrs. C. J. Atkinson and Taylor Statten, two leaders in work among boys, will be here to speak in the churches and at a meeting in the City Hall. The Canadian Club associated with the Board of Trade, the guest of Maj.-General Macdonell, of the Royal Military College, and he has been invited to be the guest of the club at a time suitable to the distinguished visitor. Other leaders of thought in many departments are to be invited at convenient dates. It is hoped to have luncheons at the Randolph hotel on Mondays or Fridays. Endeavors will also be made to secure additional members and the desire is that a greater number of the young men in commercial, professional and industrial life will avail themselves of the opportunity of joining and aid in making the club influential and successful in stimulating Canadian ideals and thought.

THE LATE J. J. EVA A Great War Veteran Dies Wednesday Afternoon.



John James Eva, late of the C.E.F., passed away at his parent's residence, 189 Collingwood street, on Wednesday afternoon, after an illness extending over some months. After his return from overseas he was under treatment in the Mowat hospital, and later was much improved. He was twenty-five years of age and single. Deceased was born in England but resided in Canada about thirteen years. He was a steamfitter by trade. Mr. Eva was a member of the G.W.V.A., and Sydenham Street Methodist church. A military funeral will be held under the direction of S. S. Corbett, undertaker, on Friday afternoon. Besides his parents he is survived by an only sister, Alisa Irene, at home and an aunt, Miss F. Martin, Montreal.

Fifth Largest On Continent. Montreal, Sept. 9.—The statistics compiled by the Bell Company for the new issue of the city directory, give the city of Montreal a population of 801,216, making it the fifth largest city on the continent.

All of the returning U. S. coaches and contestants criticized their treatment by the Belgians at the Olympic games. They said it appeared that there is an ill-feeling against the United States abroad.

TWICE TOLD TALES

News of Kingston

TEN YEARS AGO. The annual meeting of the Kingston Rifle Association will be held in the armories on Monday, September 12th. There is talk of a big prize meet later in the month.

Mayor Couper will lay the cornerstone of the Orphan's Home next week.

A Toronto medicine company has been giving concerts at certain points in Barriefield Hall for the past week.

A local jeweller is thinking of taking in some additional stock. He has been asked for pills, cough medicine and dog harness within the past week.

Hamilton-Kennedy Nuptials. On Wednesday afternoon, September 8th, a happy event took place, when George Earl Hamilton, son of Sylvester James Hamilton, of the township of Bedford, was united in matrimony to Miss Sarah Mary Kennedy, daughter of Alonzo Kennedy, also of Bedford. The ceremony was performed by Rev. B. Pierce. Oliver Mowat Janack, Prescott, assisted the groom, and Miss Alma May Hamilton, sister of the groom, acted as bridesmaid. After a visit to Syracuse, N.Y., and other points, the young couple will reside on a farm near Tichborne.

Kilmarnock Boy Drowned. While fishing in company with his grandmother from a bridge near his home in Kilmarnock, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hamilton, aged eight years, fell into the waters of the Rideau and was drowned. The body was recovered in less than half an hour, but all efforts at resuscitation proved unavailable.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. Henry Folger and some friends caught a forty-one pound maskinonge near Gananoque and Mr. Folger ordered the fish sent to some New York friends. The fish has disappeared and the New York people, who were notified of the sending, are rather sceptical.

Great preparations are being made for the Semi-Centennial celebration of St. James' church.

O. F. Teigmann has received a fine offer to produce his opera, "Leo, the Royal Cadet," in Watertown. He will consider it.

Extracts from the Toronto Star point to the fact that Toronto is afraid of Queen's in rugby this year.

Folks are finding many reasons for drinking INSTANT POSTUM instead of coffee, one of them being economy. Sold by grocers

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