

NO CRIMINAL CASES WERE HEARD AT THE GENERAL SESSIONS

Grand Jury Inspected Public Institutions and Gave Presentment. COURT HOUSE AND JAIL ANTIQUATED

Recommend That Jail Become a Prison Farm Separate From Court House.

The General Sessions of the Peace were opened Tuesday before His Honor Judge Stone, and concluded yesterday afternoon. There were no criminal cases on the list.

Two constables, Albert Little and George T. Bowers, were confirmed in their appointments, and 79 applications for naturalization were presented and approved.

The Grand Jury was addressed by Judge Stone, and later inspected the various public institutions of the city. Following is their presentment:—

To His Honor, Frederick Stone,
Judge of the District Court of Algoma,

In the discharge of our duties, we, the Grand Jurors of the General Sessions of the Peace of the District of Algoma, beg leave to present as follows:—

We visited the Children's Shelter or Home and found the Home complete in so far as the buildings were concerned and the grounds being put in order. The Matron kindly showed us through the building and grounds and we found everything clean and in first class condition. There were 22 children in the Shelter and all have the appearance of being happy and well cared for. We think the public should generously give to this worthy cause.

Some of us inspected the site of the House of Refuge now in course of construction and found the location suitable. The buildings are being speedily constructed. We are glad to record our opinion that the Children's Shelter and the House of Refuge are we consider a great benefit and credit to the city of Sault Ste. Marie, and the whole District of Algoma in general.

We inspected the General hospital, and there found 37 patients. We found everything so far as we were able to judge clean, well kept and in good condition. The Operating Rooms and Wards appeared well equipped and the attendance and ventilation were good. The plaster which was mentioned by the last Grand Jury, as being in a bad state of repair is still unrepaired and this should have immediate attention. Improvements could be made in the fire escapes. The appliances in this respect are poor and out of date and we think that the latest and most up-to-date appliances should be installed without delay. In our opinion able bodied people could hardly make use of these fire escapes let alone patients who might be crippled or nervous. We are of the opinion that the above defects in the hospital as to plaster and fire escapes are caused by lack of funds. We believe that the general public do not appreciate the splendid work which is being done by the hospital and we think that the general public, and especially the business community should give more generous monetary support to a worthy institution of this kind.

We visited the Court House and Gaol and found things there generally in fair condition and as well as can be expected in an antiquated and ill-ventilated building. We think, however that the ventilation of the cells of the prisoners on the second floor of the Gaol could be remedied by at once taking off the storm windows.

We are glad that the repeated requests of previous Grand Juries and others have been acceded to by the authorities and that an up-to-date Court House and Gaol will we understand be constructed. We understand that the Court House and Gaol are to be two separate buildings and if so we strongly recommend that the Gaol be built outside of the City limits and in the nature of a prison farm. We think that there should be ade

quate and commodious detention cells in the Court House for prisoners awaiting trial.

We wish to record our appreciation of the efforts of the Parks Commission in endeavoring to beautify the boulevards and parks of the city, which are quite noticeable to us.

We are glad to notice that again, as for the past several years no criminal business has been placed before us for our attention. This reflects credit on the part of the presiding Judge and officials in speedily administering justice in the District Court, Judges Criminal Court.

We are very much obliged to your Honor for your instructive address and we trust that you may long be spared to discharge the duties of your high office with the ability and integrity which has characterized you in the past. We thank the Court officials for the courtesy and assistance extended to us in the discharge of our duties.

Dated at Sault Ste. Marie this 10th day of June, 1914.

Respectfully submitted,

D. J. Sandie,

Foreman.

We further submit that the fees for Grand Jurors are entirely inadequate for this District as the fees now allowed do not begin to cover expenses, the cost of hotel fees now allowed do not begin to cover expenses, the cost of hotel accommodation and other expenses having greatly increased of late and being higher in New Ontario than the rest of the Province.

D. J. Sandie.

The jury comprised: Chris Becking, Wm. J. Barkley, Henry G. Becking, Alfred Burnett, Thos Gamey, Wm. McLean, A McEwan, John McCrea, Chas Sharp, D. J. Sandie, Chas. Somea, Moses Aubin and Richard Leslie. Mr. Sandie was foreman.