

ister has referred to the fact that for twenty months the penitentiary was under the control of the accountant, so that discipline was not what it should be. Colonel Bedson was acknowledged to be one of the best disciplinarians in any penitentiary in Canada, so that if Colonel Irvine found a want of discipline when he assumed control, it was occasioned, as the hon. gentleman has said, by the jealousies that existed amongst the subordinate officers under the administration of the accountant, he not being vested with the authority of the regular warden. It was not possible, therefore, for the accountant to show as good discipline as that which existed under Colonel Bedson, or as will be carried out, I am sure, under Colonel Irvine.

Mr. McMULLEN. Mr. Chairman, ever since I became a member of this House time has been taken up every year in the effort to find out why the enormous expense existed in Manitoba penitentiary as compared with others. The Minister of the Interior may try to lead us to hope that better things may be looked for in the future. The remarks of the inspector show that there has been extravagance in the past, and that the present incumbent in the wardenship is expected to make changes in the direction desired. Take, for instance, the question of rations. I am sure the Minister of Justice or the Minister of the Interior will not pretend that the ordinary items that compose the every day rations of the convict should be dearer at Manitoba penitentiary than at Dorchester. Take, for instance, flour; that certainly should be cheaper in Manitoba, for wheat is cheaper there than at Dorchester. Beef, also, should be cheaper. Potatoes and all kinds of vegetables should be equally cheap. Altogether rations should be cheaper in the Manitoba penitentiary than in the Dorchester penitentiary; but we find that in Manitoba the rations cost \$87.56 a head, while in Dorchester the cost is \$33.37, or less than half. When we look over the other penitentiaries we find the same thing. Now, there is no reasoning that can be presented to this committee sufficient to convince us that it is necessary that a man in a penitentiary in Manitoba should cost two and a half times as much for rations as a man in a penitentiary in any other province of this Dominion. These things show that looseness has existed in the past, it exists now, and we are afraid it will continue, notwithstanding the criticisms that have been made in the House, session after session. Now, I think that the inspector should be called upon to give a clear and distinct reason for these high prices with regard to fuel, light and rations, because nothing has ever been submitted to a committee of this House since I have sat in Parliament that would justify the gross extravagance that exists in connection with the management of this Manitoba penitentiary. Although we have tried to press upon

the Minister of Justice the necessity of cutting down into the iniquity that exists, it appears we have not succeeded in inducing him to act with vigour. I have no doubt the Minister of Justice is very anxious to conduct the penitentiaries economically, but I believe he will have to probe more determinedly than he has yet done, before he gets to the bottom of the iniquity.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The Minister of the Interior called attention to a paragraph in the inspector's report, which I had very carefully read before, in which the inspector of penitentiaries draws a certain conclusion from reading the reports and correspondence of the new warden. Well, I am inclined to agree with the conclusion the inspector drew from reading those reports and that correspondence, but the members of the House are just as capable of drawing that conclusion as he is. I am complaining that his conclusion is drawn, not from actual inspection of the buildings, and the convicts, but from reading the report of the warden, and I say that is not the kind of a report which this House or the country expects to have from an inspector of penitentiaries. That is the point I was trying to make. If there exists any reason at all why the inspector should not personally make an inspection—and I venture with some degree of modesty to differ from the First Minister on that point—not once a year, but twice a year, I would be glad to hear it; but, in the absence of any reason, I think I am in the judgment of this committee when I state that it is right and proper that we should have a report from the inspector of what he saw when he made a personal inspection, and not a report in which he draws such and such a conclusion from the report of the warden. We can draw those conclusions as well as he does. I was careful to say that so far as I could judge from reading the report of Colonel Irvine—and I judge him to be a plucky man, a bold man, having the courage and manliness to state what he found when he went there—the discipline entirely gone, both among the officials and the convicts, and the buildings were in a dilapidated condition. But I can draw my conclusions from that as well as the inspector of penitentiaries can, and the criticism that is being made is that we have not a report from the inspector as to what he found when he made an inspection; in other words, that he made no inspection at all. Now, the hon. gentleman states that the per capita cost of the Manitoba penitentiary has been reduced from \$620 to \$422. Well, that is true, but the per capita cost of the inmates is exactly as I put it. Now, the hon. gentleman will see, on the page that he quotes from, that this \$620 is the per capita cost of the inmates of the institution; but the institution received \$10,000 from the Department of the Interior on