

discharge of those duties. Some went so far as to say they did not think a better man could be secured, from his experience, knowledge of the business and honesty, and that he was a man who would do what was right in the interests of the Province in the position in which he was placed. Now, the result of the purchase of meat in that way was shown before that Committee on sworn evidence to have been less than of meat purchased by contract at some other institutions, one of which has been referred to by my hon. friend from West York (Mr. St. John), who has just taken his seat. Then we have another column of goods manufactured by the institutions themselves. In the Central Prison, as you know, there are a number of articles manufactured, and it has been the aim of the Government, as far as possible, to manufacture those articles by prison labor which are required for use in the different institutions of the Province. That, I believe hon. gentlemen opposite admit is a very commendable and a very desirable thing. The prison labor does not compete with outside labor as it would if employed in some other ways, and the prisoners manufacture a large amount of goods. The amount of goods of that class is \$62,824 for the year to which I am now referring. Hon. gentlemen would say that those goods should be purchased by tender. That would simply be absurd under the circumstances. So that disposes of another considerable sum of money which has been expended in this way.

Then we have another list which we consider it to be impracticable to purchase by tender, and in all the institutions throughout the province that amounts to the sum of \$145,613. Now perhaps it would only be a fair thing to give, and the House have a right to have, some information as to what constitutes that amount. There may be room for some difference of opinion as to whether some of these articles should be purchased by tender or not. I believe with reference to many of the articles the hon. gentlemen opposite would perhaps almost unanimously admit that it would not be of advantage, but almost impossible, to purchase them by tender. I will not trouble the House by reading them all, although I think it would be of great advantage to the House:—Medicine and medical comforts, \$6,515. This covers all the institutions of the Province. Hon. gentlemen would hardly consider it practical to ask tenders for these services. Gas and light, \$15,714. No member of this House will consider that you could arrange that by tender to advantage. Water supply, \$12,475. Now this House knows the best arrangement is made that can be made, considering the conditions where these institutions are situated,