

tion should be given of these things. An attempt has been made to cut down this estimate by omitting another which generally appears and should appear, that of gratuities, for which no vote is taken this year. Something of this kind is always expected to take place, and it is not a reasonable way of forcing a less unfavorable balance to omit a vote which experience indicates to us must be used in the course of the year. Even when that course is taken and the working expenses, as they are called, are attempted to be reduced by a considerable amount, you find the total expenditure nearly the same. Though there is a slight reduction of one-eighth in the number of convicts, 350 as against 400, it does not appear that this any more than Kingston—indeed, I may say with reference to the maintenance, this much less than Kingston—is a satisfactory estimate for the maintenance of this penitentiary.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is true the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary has always been more expensive, comparatively, than that at Kingston. That, however, to a certain extent, must be the case, because a certain amount of staff and organization must be kept up whether the number of convicts is large or small; that is, in the smaller penitentiaries, there is a greater amount of comparative expenses than in the larger. It is true there has been, in years past, a considerable amount of extravagance, but that is now in the process of being remedied. The new warden, under the new arrangement—he has not been long in office—has caused very considerable improvement and economy. I see, in the Inspector's report, there is a reduction of \$2,025 made in the seven months of his administration, and that great economy is being exercised. The expenditure on food, of course, varies greatly according to current prices, and there may be local circumstances and causes to account for the difference. I can well understand that the price of food and clothing in Manitoba is larger than at Kingston or at St. Vincent de Paul, and in consequence of the rise in the price of wages and the value of labor generally, it was found necessary to increase the salaries of the keepers and guards in order to have good men. Wages have increased all over the country, and the people pressed for increases of salary, which the responsible officers thought it expedient to give them.

Mr. BLAKE. If the result of the successful administration of the last two or three years of St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, and that improved condition which the hon. gentleman says now exists, as compared with its previous condition, are to be proved by these Estimates, I am afraid they belie his assertions. If that economy and improved arrangements involve an increase of \$10 per head in the maintenance of the convicts, I would rather have a little extravagance and mismanagement. We find that a certain increase in Kingston has been followed by an increase of more than double the amount in St. Vincent de Paul, on maintenance alone. The hon. gentleman says the smaller the penitentiary the greater the *per capita* cost. I referred to that when I made an estimate of the whole cost, including the cost of the officials; but if it does not apply to the cost of rations, fuel, light, &c., how imperfect an answer that is, is proved by simply referring to the Dorchester Penitentiary, which has 130 convicts, as against 350 in St. Vincent de Paul. Yet the cost there is but \$67.50 per head, as against \$93.10 in the latter, so that the smaller the penitentiary the smaller the cost. In the matter of rations, clothes, &c., in a penitentiary the size of St. Vincent de Paul, there is very little economy *per capita* to be obtained by increasing the number, for 350 or 400 convicts can be maintained, as regards fuel, clothing, lights, medical attendance, &c., as economically *per capita* as if you had 1,000. There is really no explanation why this increase should be so great. It is true the Inspector criticises in a somewhat humorous manner in his report the statement of this Warden,

and administers to him a slight snub with reference to his statement that the expenditure will be greater for 1882-83, owing to the fact that the supplies contracted for are dearer, though awarded to the lowest tendering parties. If that be the case, the price of supplies ought not to raise very much more in the neighborhood of St. Vincent de Paul than in the neighborhood of Kingston, but we find a ratio of increase for the St. Vincent de Paul, more than double per head the increase over Kingston, and that piled up upon a considerable increase over the year before. With reference to the salaries of employes, it must be remembered that they have certain other advantages; several of them have houses at St. Vincent de Paul, and I do not think that even if their present salaries were retained, they could be induced to quit their situations.

29. Dorchester Penitentiary..... \$15,856.00

Mr. BLAKE. In this case also we find an increase in expenditures on the staff. The accountant has an increase of \$100; there is an increase of \$100 for the chaplains, of \$50 for the steward, of \$40 for the hospital keeper, \$150 for the guard shoemaker, \$50 each for three keepers, \$50 each for eighteen guards, \$50 for the messenger, \$600 for the farmer, \$300 for the teamster. In this case also we find the matrons and deputy-matrons reappearing. It was stated last year on Concurrence that the Government would take into consideration a plan for the removal of female prisoners to some other point; Kingston was the point suggested. At that time a matron, receiving a salary of \$500, and a deputy-matron receiving a salary of \$300, each of them enjoying quarters in the prison, with other incidental advantages, were employed to take charge of two other women, convicts. Since that time, I believe, three more have come in, so at the time of the report there were five female convicts. It was deemed absurd to keep up a separate organization for so few convicts, and that as the female convicts of Quebec were sent to Kingston, there was no reason why the female convicts of the Maritime Provinces should not also be sent to Kingston. The Government conceded the view that a change ought to take place. No change, however, has taken place, and I call for explanations on that subject; and I also ask for the reasons why these other increases have been made. I find the rate of maintenance last year to be a little under 67½ cts., and therefore a very low rate relatively to St. Vincent de Paul, and low relatively to Kingston, a rate which evidences how very cheap the Province of New Brunswick is to live in, or how very extravagant the affairs of the other penitentiaries are conducted in this regard.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. As regards the small increase of salaries I will be able, on Concurrence, to give fuller information. The hon. gentleman wants the female convicts to be sent away to other penitentiaries; he, however, admits that it is cheaper to maintain convicts at Dorchester than it is at Kingston, therefore, it is economy to keep them at Dorchester. Besides, the number of women convicts will likely increase. These women servants are more valuable at Dorchester than at Kingston; I suppose they do work in the wash-room. However, I will read the report of the Inspector on that subject:

"The Matron states that the conduct of the female prisoners 'has been very satisfactory.' They have been employed at prison house work, making their own clothing and mending for male prisoners. The number has increased from two to five since my last report. This would warrant the Department to continue the female convicts here, as the work they perform is very necessary, and its assessed value makes a favorable offset to the expense of their maintenance. Neither the revenue nor the administration of the penitentiary is in any worse condition now, as regards the female convicts being at Dorchester, than when they were at Halifax and St. John. Then, two matrons and two deputy matrons were employed to look after, during most of the time, from 1872 till 1880, a comparatively smaller number of convicts, than are at the present time taken care of by a Matron and her deputy. When the expense of transfer and the value of the female prisoners' work to Dorchester Penitentiary are taken into account, the gain or advantage