

The Chairman having frequently called the attention of the Committee to the fact that the minutes had not been extended regularly for some time at the commencement of their sittings in consequence of the frequent changes of the clerk, and having stated the importance of having the proceedings of that period duly read and approved, the Committee ordered the minutes from the first day of their sittings to be read.

The notes of the minutes of the 4th April having been read,

Mr. Macdonald called the attention of the Committee to the omission of the following extracts laid before them by Mr. Vankoughnet as his Council on that day:

PRINTED REPORT, PAGE 218.

*Evidence of Convict McNair, alias
McKeener.*

“Witness, when under punishment, has had full rations, notwithstanding very often witness is on the punishment list now, and had only bread and water at dinner to-day, but he has no doubt, a full dinner ration is waiting for him; if the Commissioners will allow him to go for it, he has no doubt he can bring it and show to them he speaks truth; any convict can manage to get full rations, notwithstanding the Prison Rules, that when under punishment they shall get nothing but bread and water. Witness always managed some way or other to get full rations, except when closely confined to his cell.”

MS. MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,
PAGE 528.

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“Mr. Frank Smith never on any occasion knew of witness getting full rations, while under punishment.”

PAGE 532.

“When on punishment witness gets more food than the bread and water allowance; convicts fetch it out to witness, and the food they give him is part of their diet rations, none of the officers ever gave witness any extra food, except Mr. Whitt who was so once or twice, was not under punishment those days.”

Mr. Brown objected to the insertion of the said extracts as he had received from the Clerk a copy of the minutes of that day in which these extracts did not appear, and he therefore supposed that any charge founded on such extracts had been abandoned.

Mr. Macdonald having stated that he had not abandoned such charge, the Committee do order that the said extracts from portions of to-day's proceedings, be considered to stand as part of the proceedings of April 4th last.

Mr. Brown desires to state that he is at a loss to comprehend what charge can be founded on the omission from the Report of the Commissioners of the words in question. He calls the attention of the Committee to the fact that by the draft