

other. Whether any material difference in the amount of expenditure involved would result from interchanging inspectors, it is difficult for me to say offhand. A man travelling frequently throughout a small district may spend as much money as if he went occasionally on a longer journey. Probably it would be somewhat less expensive to attach one man to a particular district. For the sake of economy, however, you would lose the most substantial advantage of the plan which is projected.

Mr. EDWARDS: If you have one inspector he can inspect each of the penal institutions seven times a year and spend one week on each inspection. If you have two inspectors, fourteen visits a year can be made, of a week each. But here is another feature of it. Portsmouth and St. Vincent de Paul penitentiaries contain about as many convicts as all the rest put together. If you divide the time of two inspectors according to the convict population, one inspector would spend practically all his time in visiting these two institutions; he would virtually become another official of the penitentiaries in question, and lose his usefulness as an inspector.

That seems to be something worthy of consideration. The value of the minister's plan, as I understand it, is that this man shall be, not "the" inspector, but "an" inspector who will drop in at unstated times—to-day at Dorchester, next week at Stony Mountain, and so on—making unexpected visits. Therein will lie his value as an inspector. But if you have so many inspectors that their time is necessarily cut up, they must be practically like additional officers at one or two of those institutions.

Mr. COPP: The minister is asking for pretty large powers in requiring that every inspector of a penitentiary shall be a justice of the peace and have the powers of a justice of the peace in every city, town and parish in the Dominion of Canada. It may be perfectly right to allow him to act as a justice of the peace in connection with the business of the penitentiary which he is inspecting, but it is going too far to allow him to go into any locality and act as a justice of the peace in criminal matters.

Mr. DOHERTY: This is merely a reproduction of the existing law.

Mr. COPP: If the law is wrong, it should be changed.

Mr. DOHERTY: The section confers the powers. That is one thing. The time to go

[Mr. Doherty.]

and exercise them is another. When we appoint an inspector we shall certainly take all of his time and pay him his salary, and as our officer he will not be allowed to go devoting himself to other business. The purpose of the section is that he should have those powers simply that he may be able to exercise them when occasion arises in the performance of his duty as inspector of penitentiaries. This has been the law practically ever since we have had an inspector of penitentiaries. I am not aware of any instance in which an inspector has tried to exercise his powers except on occasions on which it may be useful for him to exercise those powers in connection with penitentiary business.

Mr. COPP: While it has never been expected that an inspector would act as a justice of the peace in different localities in which he may happen to be, and while an inspector may never have so acted, still, if it is necessary for him to have the powers of a justice of the peace in connection with his office as inspector, those powers should be limited entirely to what use he may be required to make of them in connection with the penitentiary, and not in a general way, as is left by this section.

Mr. MORPHY: Will the minister define what is meant by "district" in this section?

Mr. DOHERTY: In different parts of the country you have the country divided into districts, counties, cities, towns and so forth, and you have magistrates for such a district or for such a county. The purpose in the enumeration is that the inspector should find himself, in whatever place he may be, vested with the powers of a magistrate in that locality, whether the magistrates who are in that locality be magistrates for a district, or magistrates for a county, or magistrates for a town.

Mr. MORPHY: The only thing that occurred to my mind was that it might not apply to what is known as an unorganized district which is part of the country in which an inspector might frequently want to exercise his duties.

Mr. DOHERTY: I should be disposed to think that the mere fact that the district was unorganized does not alter the fact that it is a district. Of course, the places in which there is reason to anticipate there may be occasion to exercise those powers are practically the places in which the peniten-