

Mr. MARA. Nearly all in fuel.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. gentleman will find that out of an expenditure of \$46,011, only \$7,000 is for fuel. The hon. gentleman must not run away with that idea. The cost is not in fuel alone. I respectfully submit that the expenditure we are now criticising is one which calls for criticism from gentlemen on both sides of the House. It cannot be in the interest of any party or any person that extravagance should prevail in any of these penitentiaries; but it must be that extravagance will prevail unless there is criticism of the items and a close inspection of these penitentiaries. In British Columbia the expenditure was \$502 per capita, and the number of convicts 84. In Manitoba the per capita was \$620, and the number of convicts 73.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. There is no comparison at all in the wants of the two places.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) But the number of convicts is nearly the same in both cases. I am not going over the items again; we have gone over them already. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if the inspector has visited either of these penitentiaries during the past year, or even two years. I would gather from the terms of his report that he has not. He seems to judge from the reports and correspondence of the wardens, and from that concludes that certain things had better be done. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if the inspector has made personal inspection, and, if not, to ask him if he does not think there should be a personal inspection at least twice a year?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. There should be a personal inspection every year. I have already explained as regards the inspection of the Manitoba penitentiary. As regards the British Columbia penitentiary, the report laid on the Table shows that there were considerable complaints of various kinds there, including a good many complaints with regards to the management of the accounts and irregularities in the accounts, although they were not, perhaps, very serious in extent. Certainly there was a very great want of discipline there. I sent the accountant to make an examination of the books and accounts, and, while he was engaged in that work, I directed him to make an inquiry in regard to the other complaints that had been made. Some of the complaints and accusations made related to the inspector himself, and it was thought better, under these circumstances, that the inspector should not go for the purpose of making these investigations in which he himself was directly concerned. Upon the report of the accountant a commission has been issued to examine thoroughly into the affairs of the institution. The commissioner is Judge Drake.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I wish to call attention to the per capita cost for rations in

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British Columbia, \$43 as against \$87 in Manitoba.

Mr. DALY. The hon. gentleman, in making his comparison, should have gone a little further. At page 110 of the report of the Department of Justice he will see the per capita cost for British Columbia to be \$492.29. The net per capita cost per diem is \$1.35. If he will turn to the report for Manitoba he will see that the per capita cost is \$422.80, or nearly \$70 less than in the British Columbia penitentiary, while the per capita cost per diem is \$1.15%, or nearly 20 cents in favour of the Manitoba penitentiary. While I am on my feet, in justice to Colonel Irvine and the administration of the Manitoba penitentiary under him, I might call the attention of the hon. gentleman to the fact that Colonel Irvine was not appointed until the 1st November, 1892, and that his report is dated the 31st August, 1893, so that he had not been in charge of the penitentiary a year when his report was made. And, on turning to the report of the inspector, I find that that officer said:

The administration of this penitentiary was temporarily entrusted to the Accountant of Penitentiaries some time previous to the death of the former warden, Mr. S. L. Bedson. It continued in his hands for about twenty months, until the present warden, Colonel A. G. Irvine, took charge, on the 1st November, 1892.

Judging from the reports and correspondence of the new warden, and the practical, well considered and business-like way in which he presents matters for the consideration of the department, there is reason to conclude that he has gone far in affecting the reform of improvements, so much needed, and that his future administration will be a success.

Going back to the question of the per capita cost—the hon. gentleman called the attention of the committee to the per capita cost for heating. I cannot understand how any one can find out how much it costs to heat a convict.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) You can find out the average by dividing the total cost by the number of convicts.

Mr. DALY. But it would cost as much to heat that building, whether there were 150 convicts or whether there were 71. There is nothing in that to form a basis of comparison between Dorchester penitentiary and Manitoba penitentiary. As the right hon. Premier has said, the difference in the cost of fuel is very great as between Manitoba and New Brunswick.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Take British Columbia.

Mr. DALY. Or British Columbia. Fuel is much cheaper in British Columbia than in Manitoba. I am quite confident that in a year from now, under the administration of Colonel Irvine the hon. gentleman will find a considerable decrease per capita as compared with what it has been. The Min-