

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA

BILL 9.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

1. The object of this section is to give jurisdiction to the grand jury to visit these institutions and to examine into complaints made, and make presentments without expense to the country. These institutions are managed by the Crown, and it is the intention of the Bill to afford the people some reliable and definite knowledge of the conditions that prevail in them. The practice recommended here is intended to serve the public interest, and in no way to be deemed as a criticism of the existing system of official inspection. On the contrary the object is to assist in satisfactory administration.

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2. This section is intended to meet the cases which occasionally arise of urgent requests of relations of prisoners for permission to visit dying parents or dependents. A recent case evoked wide sympathy.

3. There are many youths of sixteen and seventeen years of age confined in the penitentiaries, and the object of this amendment is to prevent this by fixing the lowest age at nineteen in all cases. Very strong representations have been made in this regard by some of the judges.