

Collins Bay. Other individual cases have come to my notice of prisoners who, finding their names set down for transfer, have asked to be retained at Kingston. Many untrue and nonsensical stories have been published in the newspapers with regard to the easy work and the good times enjoyed by the brokers and other prisoners at Collins Bay. Such tales were absolutely unwarranted. There may have been lapses; I do not say that I am fully satisfied with the result of the inquiries I have made in respect of the treatment of the brokers and their families by the then acting warden of the prison, and I came to the conclusion that it would be better for the penitentiary service if I asked acting warden Jackson to retire, and I did so.

When the estimates come up I will have all the papers before me and can go more fully into any questions that may be asked. I did not think these questions would arise on this bill, but perhaps it is just as well that these matters should be brought up now; it may save time later.

Now I should like to say just a word with regard to juvenile offenders. If I understood my hon. friend from Kingston aright he said there was a fifteen year old boy in knee breeches, a first offender, who had been sentenced to Kingston. That must have been done by one of the judges or magistrates of this country; it was not done by the superintendent of penitentiaries or the minister. If the boy was a first offender he should not have been sent to Kingston at all; our law provides otherwise. If he was sent there as a first offender he should have been removed at once on complaint to the attorney general at Toronto, who has available prisons, homes and reformatories for the purpose of looking after youths under sixteen years of age. I must say, however, that after a lad is sixteen and has been sent to a reformatory or a provincial prison and associates with the ordinary run of prisoners, he very often gets into serious crime before he is eighteen years of age, so he may be sent to Kingston for a fairly long term. We have lads at Portsmouth now who are serving their fourth and fifth terms but who are not yet twenty years of age. It is not safe to put them in ordinary reformatories; they escape at once, and at a very early age they become what are called hardened criminals.

It is a very difficult problem to deal with boys of that kind. The idea behind the construction of the new prisons at Collins Bay and St. Vincent de Paul is that when they are completed we will be able to segregate, so far as possible, the youthful prisoners from the

old offenders. However, one great difficulty will be that many of the youthful prisoners are themselves old offenders. In the prosecutions which are to take place at Kingston in connection with the recent riots it is quite true, as my hon. friend from Kingston says, that a large proportion of the offenders are juvenile prisoners; I do not mean youths, but men under thirty years of age. There are to be twenty-nine prisoners prosecuted in connection with that riot. They will come up in June at the court of general session of the peace. That is done because one of the terms of capitulation, as it is called, when the riot was at its height and Warden Smith's life was actually threatened, was the promise, in reply to the question whether they would get a fair trial if they went back to work and stopped the row, that they would receive such a trial; and acting warden Smith's idea of their language was that they meant a trial by the courts of the country and not a trial by the warden's court in the penitentiary. It is for that reason in particular that we are having the men prosecuted in the courts of the land at the general sessions of the peace.

I may observe how similar the conditions were in the riots in Dartmoor in England and in Kingston here. In Dartmoor the same disturbance seems to have arisen, the same actions were taken by the prisoners, with the same results so far as damage is concerned; in each case one man was injured and there was a property damage of about \$3,000. In Dartmoor there were thirty-one prosecutions of ringleaders and thirty convictions. I do not know how the cases will proceed here, but there are twenty-nine to be prosecuted in Kingston in June next. In St. Vincent de Paul the situation, from the point of view of damage, was much more serious than in Kingston, the loss being estimated at about \$50,000, whereas in Kingston it is about \$3,000. In St. Vincent de Paul there were fewer convicts engaged in the disturbance, but some elements of the trouble were more serious than in Kingston; they set fire to the premises, using gasoline, and deliberately cut the hose to prevent anyone putting out the fire, and they waved the red flag, calling upon the convicts to follow the revolution. There are only twelve prosecutions before the criminal courts in Quebec. In Dorchester, where the affair was minor as compared with the other two, there are only four or five prosecutions, and the property damage there was slight. Without any loss of life we have come through these three affairs and while the property damage in Montreal has been serious, in the other two places it was negligible. Considering the over-