

person had suggested in the presence of the Superintendent that this Warden Cooper, of British Columbia, was a rather superior man, who might in time be found very well fitted to be Superintendent of Penitentiaries. Those of us who remember the creation of the office will recall that in finding a Superintendent of Penitentiaries there was very great difficulty, quite unparalleled, I think, in the history of the Canadian Civil Service. Parliament had created an office with a large salary and very great responsibility, an office very attractive in every respect, and there was no person at hand to fill it. So notorious was the gap that the Government of the day—I am speaking from memory now—appointed a committee of citizens outside the Civil Service to examine into the qualifications of the fifty-two applicants for the office of Superintendent of Penitentiaries, and the committee found that none of the fifty-two applicants had the qualifications required by the letter of reference to them. So this is a very important office indeed. A man might be excused, in a sense, for feeling very important when holding it, though he filled it simply by promotion in the Department, there being no one having the special qualifications. However, the Superintendent seems to have taken great umbrage at the suggestion, particularly from a man qualified to be Superintendent himself, that he should be allowed to talk to the Deputy or the Minister, and this is what he wrote back:

Office of Superintendent of Penitentiaries,
Ottawa, Oct. 8, 1927.

Private, Secret and Confidential and
not to be placed on file.

Dear Sir:

I note you have written officially—

Let me interrupt here to call attention to the fact that, while this letter is marked "private and confidential and not to be placed on file", it purports to be the answer to an official communication, and therefore in a sense becomes official itself, notwithstanding the injunction as to secrecy.

I note you have written officially, as well as secret and confidentially, regarding a subject that should not have been put on your file, nor should any officer of the Penitentiary have been permitted to write for you such a letter. I hope you wrote it yourself.

To digress again, this scolding letter was not written by the Superintendent himself, but bore the initials of the stenographer to whom he dictated it:

I note you have been discussing this matter with a man outside the penitentiary—

That, I may say, is against the penitentiary rules; you must not mention anything about the penitentiary to any one unless you are superintendent, and then there are no rules.

I note you have been discussing this matter with a man outside of the penitentiary and quote what he is supposed to have said to you and the advice he gave to his wife. Now, may I advise you, once and for all, the great bulk of evidence and the consensus of the opinion of every person who has mentioned the matter to me, has been that Mrs. Cooper is to blame; in fact, she has not confined her activities to New Westminster or Vancouver, but has come far east of there in her remarks regarding Mrs. Trollope and not only Mrs. Trollope, but has told people much nearer here than your place that the Trollope's were supporting a motor car which they could not afford and a number of other statements concerning them. Now, it is none of Mrs. Cooper's business what they do and it is very peculiar that all three of the officers from the Branch who were at Mrs. Emery's little tea given for us, remarked after leaving, of how Mrs. Trollope endeavoured to show to those present that there was no trouble existing, but in each case was repelled by Mrs. Cooper. We all saw Mrs. Trollope pass a plate of cake to her, and she refused it by shaking her head.

This is the official correspondence from the man with the power of life and death over the recipient of it:

But almost immediately after took a piece of the same cake from the same plate when offered by another person.

That is, the lady changed her mind.

Right Hon. Mr. GRAHAM: It could not have been in the cake.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: The letter proceeds:

I have told you before, and I repeat it, that Mrs. Trollope has never spoken one disrespectful word of Mrs. Cooper to me, and I am assured by the other officers from this Branch that what I have said in this respect applies also to them.

Now we cannot allow the esprit de corps of the institution to be broken up by any person. The individual does not count in the matter, and I have repeatedly warned you that this kind of thing must stop. I am given information since leaving your institution, of a positive case of where Mrs. Cooper made disparaging remarks of Mrs. Trollope and not only of Mrs. Trollope but about their inability to afford what they were doing. I have never known a case of this kind before in the Penitentiary service. I warned you a year ago of this very matter, but you disclaimed any knowledge of such goings on or any act on behalf of Mrs. Cooper against Mrs. Trollope.

It seems to me I have heard the phrase "goings-on." I think that old ladies use the term a good deal. He goes on:

I am responsible for both your appointment and that of Trollope. I am interested in you both and I put it up to you to see that this undignified, unladylike squabble stops.

Now I do not wish to hear any more on this subject. This letter is written to you not so much as a penitentiary officer, but as that of a friend. I put you where you are, I want to stay behind you, I want to see things succeed, but I want to see that my efforts are not going to be frustrated. I will not hesitate to act if a concrete case comes before me in connection