

*Supply—Justice*

**Mr. Fulton:** Perhaps I had better read out the list of provincial chief justices. The next one is seven months, 14 days; Sir R. L. Weatherbe, chief justice of the supreme court of Nova Scotia, retired March 19, 1907, succeeded by C. J. Townshend, November 2, 1907; five months, 23 days, D. A. McDonald, chief justice of British Columbia, died April 10, 1944, succeeded by Gordon McGregor Sloan, October 3, 1944; five months, sixteen days, Theodore Davie, chief justice of British Columbia, died March 7, 1898, succeeded by A. J. McColl, August 23, 1898.

With respect to the chief justices of the trial courts the periods have run as high as four years, eight months and eighteen days, and I have on record here one of five months and two days. There are four cases in between those two periods.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** There is one other question I asked the minister about the Judges Act which he might answer now, and that was whether there was any provision for payment of the salary in case of the proclamation of the act of Newfoundland. If the minister has not the information now it can be given later. I do not want to hold up the item for that.

**Mr. Fulton:** I understand that a letter from the attorney general of Newfoundland has just been received this morning. We have not had time to study it, but it does refer to the situation and under those circumstances I would prefer not to reply until I have had a chance to look at the correspondence.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I think the minister does not remember my question. Is there any provision in the existing law for the payment of the salary? If the minister would like to answer that on another item that will be all right.

**Mr. Fulton:** I can answer it right now. No, there is not.

Item agreed to.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

150. Parole Act administration, including \$60,000 for grants to recognized prisoners' aid societies as may be approved by treasury board, \$344,531.

**Mr. Roberge:** Yesterday, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Hochelaga put some questions to the minister. I wonder if the minister is able to answer them now.

**Mr. Fulton:** As I recall the questions they were, first, whether or not a woman

would be appointed to the parole board; second, how many women are in the prisons of Canada; and third, whether there is any differentiation in treatment between men and women in federal prisons?

With regard to the first question, I may say it is true we have had a number of representations to the effect that a woman should be appointed to the parole board. As my hon. friend is aware, the National Parole Act does authorize five members for the board. Up to the present time we have appointed four members to the board, leaving one vacancy.

It is not an easy problem to decide who should be appointed to the vacancy, if and when an appointment should become desirable. The recommendations of the Fauteux committee indicated that in their opinion there should be several groups represented on the board, and not all of those groups are presently represented.

Amongst those groups not represented I could mention the women of Canada, ex-members of police forces of Canada and members of the clergy. In our efforts to achieve a representative board we have left this vacancy. We have two things to decide; first, whether a fifth member should be appointed, and if so from what group that member should come. I am not saying at the moment we are contemplating the appointment of a fifth member, because we want to see how the board will operate and we want to assess the experience of the board; then on the basis of that experience assess the question of whether or not a fifth member should be appointed and from what group that member should come. We have not at the present time, therefore, reached any decision on that point.

With regard to the number of women prisoners in the federal prison system, I am told that at the moment there are 98 women prisoners. This figure represents about the average number of women prisoners who have been in our system over the past years; that is to say, the female population of federal prisons represents less than 2 per cent of the total population.

With respect to their treatment, there is no differentiation except that they are confined in separate institutions. The general program of training and reformation, pre-release programs, all those aspects of the penitentiary program are the same in their application to female prisoners as they are with respect to male prisoners.

**Mr. Roberge:** There is another matter that I believe the minister overlooked. At the very outset of the remarks made by the hon. member for Hochelaga he said—I am