

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes, a small farm, but they do not raise much.

Mr. MILLS. I suppose the First Minister is better pleased with the condition of things at St. Vincent de Paul than at Kingston. I think he has usually contended in this House that it is a great misfortune to a country where very much is done, and where labour is successfully employed, in penitentiaries, that these scamps, by being confined there at work, come into unfair competition with the honest industries of the country, and there is not the same opportunity of protecting honest labour outside from the competition of those who are thus in the public service, as there is of protecting them against foreign competition. That is a feature of the commercial policy of the Finance Minister that has not yet been fairly worked out. But there is no doubt the condition of things at St. Vincent de Paul, according to the theory hitherto laid down by the First Minister, is much more satisfactory than at Kingston, because there they cost a great deal and do very little. Unless the hon. gentleman has very greatly changed his views in the past two or three years, he must be very much better satisfied with the condition of things at St. Vincent de Paul than at Kingston, and perhaps with a little exertion he might produce the same state of things at Kingston as at the other place.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is an old war between the hon. gentleman and myself. But, Sir, without going into the economical question, it is of great consequence, I think, to the honest workman outside the penitentiary, that he should not feel that he is being injured. Now, the hon. gentleman knows that, rightly or wrongly, the working classes, especially those employed in industries which have usually been introduced into penitentiaries, have constantly protested against convict labour, and it is of considerable importance that they should be satisfied that they were not interfered with, or interfered with as little as possible. I think it is worth while, on higher grounds than mere political economy, that these men should feel that their special trades were not interfered with. At the Kingston Penitentiary there is only one contract given, that for making locks and keys, and as there are but few and very small manufactories of locks and keys in Canada, that contract does not interfere to any considerable extent with the industry of the working classes. But where the convicts make boots and shoes, or furniture, or woollen goods, or anything of that kind, industries in which large numbers of people are employed, there is likely to be a great deal of dissatisfaction. At Kingston, the convicts are employed in farm labour and in raising their own food, and there seems to be no objection to that—at all events, the farming population do not complain of it.

Mr. MILLS. The hon. gentleman is trying to shift his opinions upon the shoulders of the artisans. That is not fair to the artisans. If those fellows in the penitentiaries were labouring outside, their labour would come into competition with that of people outside, but because they happen to be labouring inside the penitentiary, the hon. gentleman's contention is that they cannot possibly do great mischief. If their labour comes into competition with that of the agriculturist, the agriculturist has as much reason to complain, and upon the same grounds, as any other class of the population. The hon. gentleman has laid down the rule that, instead of it being in the interest of the public to make these institutions self-sustaining the more expensive they become the better the people will be satisfied. The hon. gentleman will not find many artisans disposed to support his views.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. With respect to St. Vincent de Paul, a large number of escapes, or attempts to escape, were reported. Was this fact brought specially to the notice of the First Minister?

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It was, last year. These attempts to escape were accounted for by the fact that there was no external wall. The external wall has, indeed, not yet been finished, and it is due to greater precaution being exercised and to good fortune that we have had no escapes lately.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Are the works completed?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. They are not completed. We ask a vote of \$30,000 to proceed with them. I will give the details when we come to that item.

29. Dorchester Penitentiary. \$44,962 00

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The salaries are the same. Retiring gratuities, \$500—that may not be required. Under the head of uniforms, there is an increase of \$1,151; that is in consequence of winter dress being required for a greater number of persons during 1884-85. On maintenance, there is an increase of \$1,086, in consequence of the increased number of inmates. Working expenses show a decrease of \$381. Industries—\$300, to provide tools for the workshop.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I observe there is a matron and also a deputy matron. How many female convicts are there?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. On 30th June, 1883, there were 120 male and 5 female convicts.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The fact is, I suppose, that these matrons represent the two separate penitentiaries of St John and Halifax.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes; it was thought unfair to dismiss them; they are both very good officers.

Mr. WELDON. Is the external wall round the penitentiary finished? There was an escape last year.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. It is not a stone wall, but palisades. We are going on with the work of constructing the external wall; \$30,000 were voted last year, and we ask for \$25,000 more.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I call the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that Dorchester Penitentiary seems to be very considerably over-officed. There are 42 officers for 140 convicts, as against 59 officers for 325 convicts at St. Vincent de Paul, and 69 officers for 500 convicts at Kingston. I do not know what the peculiar circumstances of the Dorchester Penitentiary may be, but it does seem a very large expenditure for salaries, and a large number of men for the number of convicts.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The disproportion is very great. No doubt the attention of the hon. Minister of Justice will be called to this debate, and the remarks of the hon. gentleman. I may say, however, that I am told that the farm at Dorchester is some 600 acres, as against about 150 acres at Kingston, which would require, of course, more guards if the men are scattered over so large a farm. Notwithstanding that, however, I should say that the institution was, to say the least of it, fully officered.

Mr. WELDON. Are there any occupations carried on there other than the making of brooms and brushes?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think that is the sole industry.

30. Manitoba Penitentiary \$44,874 26

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Here there is a very large increase, as to which I would be glad to hear somewhat fully from the First Minister. In former times, of course, it was necessary to incur very large expense in Manitoba, but as the hon. gentleman knows, that has been considerably altered of late years. The maintenance of the