

been stopped and the Kingston prison is now run under the regulation with regard to forty minutes' exercise.

Is it necessary for me to deal with anything else in Mr. Nickle's letter to Canon Scott? I have tried to give a categorical denial to every important statement in it. As I pointed out, the statements are founded not on the experience or knowledge of Mr. Nickle himself, but solely upon the lurid statements of prisoners. Before I discuss that point further, however, there is one thing I missed. There is a paragraph in the letter in regard to shackling of prisoners to the bars; Mr. Nickle says that men have been shackled with their hands above their heads and left for hours until they were exhausted. That is untrue and I give a categorical denial to that statement. For two years there has been no shackling. O'Brien may have been shackled two years ago—I am not sure—and I had better not make too broad a statement. It is, however, two years since there has been shackling to the bars in Canadian penitentiaries—that system has been abolished under the present superintendent. Again I say that Mr. Nickle in these statements is not speaking of his own knowledge, but he has accepted at one hundred per cent these terrible exaggerations and misstatements made by prisoners when trying to justify the riot in 1932, in order to mitigate sentence. It was upon such evidence, given before a judge of the county court, upon which Canon Scott addressed the people of Canada in his sermons. These were the statements which were also laid before the Social Service Council in Toronto, before the Prisoners' Welfare Society in Montreal and before the John Howard Society in British Columbia, all prisoners' welfare associations. These are the statements which disturbed them and caused them to come to Ottawa last August or September to see the Prime Minister and myself and to ask for the appointment of a royal commission, and we gave a categorical denial to these statements at the time of the interview. The Prime Minister also suggested that they immediately send deputations to visit the penitentiaries and be convinced by what they saw. These societies appointed their own committees and visited every penitentiary in Canada. They were accorded the fullest liberty and exercised their rights to the fullest. They discussed matters with prisoners and with officials as well as with outsiders and have made a report generally recommending the system and the administration of Canadian penitentiaries.

[Mr. Guthrie.]

Miss MACPHAIL: I have a copy of the report—

Mr. GUTHRIE: Let me finish, please.

Miss MACPHAIL: —and I challenge the statement—

Mr. GUTHRIE: My hon. friend must not butt in until I finish. They did make certain specific recommendations and we are endeavouring as rapidly as possible to carry them out. One of the most prominent of these recommendations is in regard to the question of segregation. We have advanced in that respect in the last year and a half not only perceptibly but very satisfactorily. In each penitentiary there is a segregation board consisting of the warden, the deputy warden, two chaplains, the medical officer, the school masters and the trade instructors in the various trades. They periodically sit as a board and examine each individual prisoner and pass upon him as to his fitness to learn a trade, to carry on work that he has been put to, and as to his adaptability. They examine into his criminal record, antecedents and the like, with the idea of putting him eventually among the class which will most benefit him and at the same time of keeping what you may call the dangerous ones, the old offenders, the hardened criminals, as far as possible to themselves. That system has been in force in all the penitentiaries of Canada for some time now, except Kingston. I am sorry to say that the warden at Kingston, perhaps through pressure of other work in the difficult situation in which he was placed, had not time to institute that system in Kingston as it was instituted in other penitentiaries, but since the fifteenth of June the system has been placed in full operation in Kingston penitentiary. I think this is the system recommended by the Social Service Council and other societies so far as we have been able to carry it out up to the present time. I am aware that the superintendent himself has recommended very definitely that a psychiatrist, also a psychologist, should be attached to the staff of each penitentiary. We have competent doctors there now and I believe they are highly qualified men. The physician at Kingston has been there a long time; he is not an appointee of mine in any sense, but I believe he is performing his duty. He is not, however, what is technically known as a psychiatrist. When any mental case is under consideration it is necessary to send out and secure the opinion of some alienist who is not on the prison staff at the present time. But it has been pointed out by writers on penology in this country, the United States and Great Britain, that it is almost essential