

that any honourable gentleman in the House should read the passages I have omitted, but they are purely personal paragraphs, affecting people not in the story. With that reservation I will read the letters.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Do I understand that the honourable gentleman is reading letters written by Colonel Cooper, the ex-Warden?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: Yes, sir.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And not letters from the Superintendent, marked confidential?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: I intend to read a letter from the Superintendent marked confidential, subject to the permission of the Senate, on the ground, as I have said just now, that these letters have been specifically released by the person to whom they were addressed, and whose right, as I see it, is to treat them as confidential or not to treat them as confidential, because they were really intimidations received from his superior officer, as to which he had a right to complain to the Minister upon receipt of them.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: But there are two parties to the correspondence.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: Surely, and the Minister, who is the superior of the Superintendent, has written to Colonel Cooper a letter, which I have here, saying that there is no objection to Colonel Cooper sending them directly to the Minister so that they may become official. And I may say that a motion has been made in another place—I think it has been ordered, although as to that I am not sure, but I know the motion has been made—that this very correspondence be produced. Here is the first of the letters:

Secret and Confidential.

September 17, 1927.

The Superintendent of Penitentiaries,
Ottawa.

Sir,

Referring to the discussions between us during your recent visit, I yesterday called at the residence of the Deputy Warden Trollope and found him to be sufficiently recovered to discuss business.

I told the Deputy Warden that you had informed me that requests had been made to Ottawa for my removal on the grounds of lack of harmony existing between us.

There is a passage that I omit.

The Deputy Warden asserted that when questioned by you during the luncheon of yourself and party at his house on the 12th, he had replied emphatically that there was no trouble whatsoever between us and he could make no complaint of my treatment of him. He also said that at no time had he ever made any statements which could warrant such misrepresentations being made.

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR.

I omit the rest of that letter. Any honourable gentleman who desires to see it is quite welcome to it.

That is on September 17th. On October 1 Warden Cooper again addressed the Superintendent:

Secret and Confidential.

October 1, 1927.

Sir,

Referring to my letter of September 17, as the Deputy Warden continued to be absent on sick leave, I quietly looked into the situation in the community. So far from there being any feeling of resentment at the alleged lack of harmony between the Deputy Warden and myself, there is absolutely no suspicion of it except in a small circle, and there, only from the statements of the Deputy Warden's wife herself. In this circle, her complaints have hitherto been considered a matter for mild amusement, but have now become boring.

The words of one husband were "I am sick and tired of these continual complaints; I hate to see her come into the house. My wife has advised her to forget this rankling bitterness as she is only hurting herself".

I am sure that you yourself are becoming tired of these repeated complaints to you, apparently repeated and reiterated on each of your annual visits, and equally denied each time by her husband.

Under these circumstances, I have come to the conclusion that for me to take any action, legal or otherwise, would be to give the complaints the notoriety the lady is evidently seeking. I do, however, resent her attempt to introduce "petticoat rule" into the administration of the Penitentiary.

I do not know if the untruthful statement regarding the Assistant Auditor General emanates from the same source, but would again assure you it has no foundation in fact.

This campaign of calumny will continue until the lady is definitely told that her attempted interference in Penitentiary affairs will not be tolerated. This action would support the Warden's authority and certainly make his position more tolerable.

I would respectfully ask that should my removal or transfer be under consideration by the Honourable the Minister, that he would afford me an opportunity of being heard before arriving at a decision.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. W. Cooper.

Warden.

The Superintendent of Penitentiaries,
Ottawa.

The last paragraph of this letter seems to have accomplished the undoing of the unfortunate warden. The Superintendent of Penitentiaries makes the regulations governing the institution. I think I am correct in paraphrasing as the first and most important of the Penitentiary regulations this one: "I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt have none other Gods before me." Here was an appeal from a warden that he should be permitted to talk to a Deputy Minister or to a Minister. But about the time this appeal was made, I have been informed in Ottawa, some foolish