

neglected to expose what I then believed and what I now believe to be gross wrongs and injustice in the management of such an important institution. He also wrote to the *British Columbian* in which the charge had first been made and an investigation demanded—an investigation which would be beyond the control or influence of the Government or any person connected with the penitentiary. Four or five months afterwards, in the mildest language that I could command, I rose in my place in the Senate and stated that I believed that there were irregularities in the management of the penitentiary. The Inspector endeavors to make it appear that I stated there were abuses.

I did not make use of as strong a word as "abuses;" the word I used was "irregularities," and the publishers of this newspaper, the *British Columbian*—one of the ablest conducted dailies in this country, the only fault of the paper being that it is a Government paper, a paper that has given a general support to the Government for a number of years, but those who conduct that newspaper are men of the highest standing and reputation—uses the same language.

HON. MR. McMILLEN—It shows their good sense to support the Government.

HON. MR. MACINNES (B.C.)—It showed their good sense when they drew the attention of the Government of the Dominion to the alleged irregularities in connection with that penitentiary. I will read the reply of the publishers of the *British Columbian* to Mr. Moylan's demand for evidence of the existence of "abuses or irregularities:"—

"OFFICE OF 'THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN,'

"NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., Sept. 6th, 1889.

"SIR,—Your favor of the 5th instant is hereby acknowledged. A sufficient reply to the proposition therein contained, as well as a correction of the evident misapprehension by yourself of the position of this journal with regard to an investigation of the conduct of the British Columbia Penitentiary, may be found by a perusal of the conclusion of the article (published in this paper on the 6th of February last) from which you have been pleased to quote, and we submit the extract accordingly, beginning with the clause cited in your letter.—

"If half the stories that are told about our own provincial institutions are true, an investigation is urgently demanded. Of course these stories are told by convicts, who bring them to the light of day, on the expiration of their sentence. And the word of a convict is not to be taken? Perhaps not. But who would expose abuses in penitentiaries if convicts did not? It is not to be expected that the perpe-

trators would tell on themselves. It would be well if the Dominion authorities would investigate the penitentiaries once in a while, and to do so by means of a special commission outside the service altogether. Such a method might lend variety to the reports. Those institutions that are conducted properly would suffer no injustice, while conversely wrong if it exists, would be discovered and righted. We also cited below, Senator McInnes, immediately pertinent remarks on the subject, made in the Dominion Senate on the 24th April last, and our endorsement appended:—

"We have a penitentiary within a mile of where I live in New Westminster. It is believed that there are a great many irregularities in connection with the management of that institution. I am not going to make any charges now, but I believe the rumors are well founded, and when the proper time comes, I fear it will be my bounden duty to ask that an investigation be made and that it be placed entirely beyond the control or influence of the Inspector of Penitentiaries and the Government, and that some judge of the Supreme Court, or other thoroughly disinterested and qualified person shall take evidence and investigate all complaints, and thereby do justice to the people of the penitentiary, and if they are not guilty of what they are charged they will be exonerated; if guilty they should be punished, and the public will be satisfied. Anything short of that, in my opinion, will not give satisfaction. I think this case of the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary has not gone too far yet for a thorough and searching investigation to be made of it before some of the judges of the courts in the Province of Quebec.

"It is unnecessary to comment upon Senator McInnes' remarks with respect to the penitentiary in this Province. We have already made a similar suggestion and thoroughly endorse what the senator has said on the matter.

"The foregoing extracts will explain our attitude on the question of an investigation into provincial penitentiary matters more clearly perhaps than anything else, and it will not be necessary to give any further reasons for respectfully declining to shoulder the *onus probandi* in such an investigation as you propose. We might add that any evidence in an investigation into the matters in question should be taken on oath.

"We remain, yours respectfully,  
(Signed), KENNEDY BROS.

"J. G. MOYLAN, Esq.,

"Inspector of Penitentiaries,  
"New Westminster."

Now, here is a newspaper that made very much stronger charges than I even insinuated in my place here last year, but in the investigation that immediately followed, I will show conclusively to the House that there was not a question put by Inspector Moylan, acting as a Judge, that has the least bearing whatever on the charges made by the *British Columbian*, on the contrary every question asked has a direct reference to myself. I do not observe one solitary question that has any reference to this fly sheet and the charges made in the fly sheet; every question is put with a view to fasten something on me by which they could belittle not only myself as an individual but this Senate in the eyes of the people. The Warden of the