

they came in their heads were literally alive with lice. I want to state the facts to the House, and see whether it is right that a rule which is considered essential to cleanliness in the case of the white man should not be applied to every prisoner coming within the walls of the penitentiary. Whilst white men's hair is cut short on the ground of cleanliness, we ought to know why Chinamen, who come into the institution in a filthy condition, and are allowed to mingle with the other prisoners, should not be subject to the same rule. Now, I think it is very unfair, and to my mind it appears useless, to apply the rule to one portion of the prisoners and not to apply it to the whole, seeing that they all mingle together. My object in moving for these papers is to find out the real reasons assigned by the Department for the suspension of this rule. I am informed that this same class of people, when they violate the laws of their own country and are sent to gaol, have to submit to this rule, and why they should not in a strange country, when they violate our laws and are imprisoned, be subjected to the same rule, I fail to comprehend. I trust that the papers will be brought down, so that we may ascertain the reason why such a rule has been suspended.

Mr. BAKER (Victoria). In seconding this motion, I may say that I concur with my hon. friend in believing that whatever regulations there are—though I do not know these regulations particularly—should apply equally to the Chinese and to the white men. My hon. friend and colleague has had a much more intimate acquaintance with the Chinese than I have, I confess, and his knowledge of the interior of a prison may also be greater than mine; but apart from that, I think what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. If John Chinaman is gander enough to get himself inside our prison walls, I think the same rule should be applied to him that applies to the white man who gets himself into that predicament. It strikes me that the rule is one which is particularly hard in the case of men from vessels of Her Majesty's navy, who are sentenced to periods of from six weeks to three months for misconduct on board ship. The only place available is the city or county gaol, where Chinamen, Indians and all other prisoners are confined. Now I know these men complain bitterly that they should be compelled to have their hair cut while John Chinaman should go free; and therefore I hope the Minister of Justice, or such other member of the Government in this House having that particular matter in charge, will see whether there has been a digression from the ordinary regulations or not, and will enquire if instructions have been given to vary the customary regulations. I hope that the correspondence will be brought down.

Mr. CHAPLEAU. In relation to the question put by the mover of this resolution, I think it is but due that I should render testimony to the exceedingly well kept condition of the institution in question. It is a pleasure for me to say that I have seldom seen a penitentiary so well kept in every part and in every detail as that of New Westminister, which I had occasion to examine. My hon. friend, the mover of the resolution, has decidedly gone into more details than I had time to go into when I visited the penitentiary; but let me tell him that I think his informant was badly informed. I was much surprised to hear that it was one of the officers of the penitentiary who complained of the breaking of the rule, or the exemption from the rule, which was alluded to. I am still more surprised that an officer of that establishment would have complained of the special uncleanness of the Chinese as compared with the other prisoners. I am disposed to disbelieve the statement. I made special enquiry from the warden as to the conduct, the health, and the cleanliness of the different prisoners, mentioning the different classes of prisoners, and particularising the Chinese,

Mr. SHAKESPEARE.

whose condition we were then enquiring into. The answer of the warden was that the Chinese prisoners were generally very orderly, and rather more so than the generality of prisoners; and he added, it is a calculation with them, because good behavior gives them a little less time, and they are so accustomed to calculate small profits that they behave well in order to shorten their imprisonment by a few days. Mention was also made of their keeping their pigtails, and the answer which was given is, I suppose, what has prompted the authorities in not enforcing the rule to the extent my hon. friend desires. When he says that no exemption should be given to Chinamen, with regard to the rule that criminals must have their heads shorn, I agree with him that those whose term of sentence for grave crimes would subject them to that punishment would be punished like others. It is one of the ordinary rules of the penitentiary that the prisoners shall have their hair cut certain dimensions and at certain times, and I understand that the Chinese are not subjected to that rule as the ordinary prisoners, on account of the infamy and the humiliation which they are supposed to be subjected to by having their hair cut short. The Chinaman is punished like the other prisoners, only he is not subjected to something which is considered to be a humiliation, and some say a kind of breach of religious custom. That would be unfair, in ordinary cases, to inflict on them what would be considered an additional punishment to that imposed by law. With regard to the state of cleanliness of the Chinese prisoners and their pigtails, I have enquired into that, and the information I have from the warden is, that, as a rule, they are known and distinguished for their cleanliness in the penitentiary and for their orderly conduct and submission.

Mr. SHAKESPEARE. I desire to say a word in explanation. The hon. Secretary of State referred to the remark I made as to what the warden had said with regard to the condition of the Chinese. What I said was, that I had seen one of our gaolers. That was not one of the gaolers of the penitentiary, but the gaoler of the Victoria gaol, who told me just exactly what I have stated. Now, it appears to me that it is equally degrading to a white man to have his hair cut short. There are numbers of white men who wear their hair very long, who have nice curly hair. Unfortunately they sometimes get into the penitentiary, and if they do, they have, without exception, to have their hair cut short. Now, I fail to see why a distinction should be made. I think it is no business of ours whether it is a degradation or not to a Chinaman to have his hair cut. If it is a rule of the penitentiary that every prisoner's hair shall be cut short, I think no exception should be made whatever. The Chinese are subjected to the same rule in their own country; and on coming into our country and violating the laws of the land, and being convicted and sent to the penitentiary, why they should not be subjected to the same rule as the white man—I fail to see the consistency or justice of it.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There can be no objection to the motion being carried and the papers being brought down, showing the regulations which obtain in the penitentiary at New Westminister. I quite agree with my hon. friend that the same punishment should be meted out to the Chinaman, to the Indian, and to the white man, for the same crime, and that is the intention of the law. But I fancy, from the explanation made by my hon. friend the Secretary of State, that the cutting off of the pigtail appendage is to the Chinese an additional punishment, not shared either by the white man or the Indian. We all get our hair cut; some wear it a little longer than others. But the hair grows quickly, and when a man comes out of prison, in a short time, if he had a good head of hair when he went in, he will soon have a good head of hair again. But the Chinaman, with his long pigtail, if he is marked and humiliated