

attributable to the Act, but to the mode in which the provisions of the Act have been worked. I am not now objecting to the original rules or the original tariff, neither of which I have seen; but I think it is very natural that they should have been framed in a manner which subsequent experience might prove was imperfect. But I think it is very much to be regretted that small claims, such as those of which my hon. friend has spoken, should continue to be tried, as I know they have been tried, by a procedure quite too cumbrous and expensive for the claim. I agree altogether in his view, that for those claims which do not exceed, at any rate, \$100, we ought to have the very cheapest and simplest form possible, something analogous to our Division Court form; and beyond that there ought to be a very low scale of costs, if not a fixed scale. These are cases which have always been deemed the subject of expeditious decision, in consequence of the needs and circumstances surrounding sailors, who cannot wait long at one port without danger of losing their season's voyage. It is, therefore, I think of the last consequence that an enquiry should be made, not into the Act, but into the rules and regulations and the tariff adopted under the Act, which may have gone very far to interfere with its operation, which but for them would be a great blessing, and which, in cases involving larger sums, has been found of great advantage.

Motion agreed to.

DORCHESTER PENITENTIARY.

Mr. BLAKE, in moving that it is expedient to discontinue the arrangements for keeping female convicts at Dorchester Penitentiary, and to provide for their transfer to Kingston, as is done in the case of the Quebec female convicts, said: When the estimates for Dorchester Penitentiary were before the House, on the occasion of the inauguration of that institution, I ventured to point out that it was an impolitic and expensive thing to provide for a female prison there. It was obvious, from the experience we had already had of the number of female relative to male convicts, that there would not be enough prisoners to render it fitting to have a separate staff. In the case of the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary it was resolved not to have any female branch, but to send the female prisoners to Kingston; and unless extraordinary circumstances arose, there would still be a fewer number among the population of 800,000 people who inhabit the Maritime Provinces than there are among the population of Quebec, which is about half as large again. However, the Government decided that they were restricted by the plan which they had chalked out, and that they would organize the institution with the necessary apparatus for keeping female convicts there. I observe by the returns in the report of the Penitentiaries from the office of the Minister of Justice, that the matron and deputy-matron had nothing at all to do for some months after they got there; that then there were transferred two female convicts and one short-term prisoner—how they came to be transferred from Halifax to Dorchester I do not know—that two were discharged, and one convict was brought from St. John on the 14th January, leaving, on the 30th June, two convicts for the matron and deputy-matron to look after. In the larger institution of Kingston, receiving, as I have said, female convicts from the two Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, with a population by the Census of over three millions and a quarter, or about four times the population of the Maritime Provinces, the number of female convicts on the 1st July, 1880, was twenty-one; on the 30th June last it was but twenty-four, making an average of about twenty-two. For that branch of the institution there is a matron, deputy-matron, and assistant matron, who certainly would form a quite sufficient staff to take care also of the two convicts who now receive the sole benefit of the matron and deputy-matron at St. John. The extra expenditure occasioned by

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the transfer from St. John to Kingston would be merely the railway travel of the necessary guard attending the prisoner, and that expense, as far as Quebec, would be *nil*, as they would pass over a Government railway, and therefore we would have only to deal with the railway fare from Quebec to Kingston. Against that amount is to be set the fact that \$500, salary of matron, and \$300, salary of deputy-matron, are sums paid regularly at Dorchester, besides which, if I am rightly informed, those officials have free house, light, and fuel; and besides that, there is, of course, a certain portion of the penitentiary which, though now set apart for female convicts, is wanted for male convicts. I think, therefore, that all considerations of economy indicate that this change ought to be made; the salaries alone are \$800, and the extra payments, allowance and use of apartments may fairly be placed at \$700 or \$800 more, making an extra cost to the country of about \$1,500 for keeping two convicts in one place rather than in another. I believe, further, that there will be a better opportunity for the exercise of proper discipline and greater variety of employment, and of reformatory and penitentiary influences, where there are some twenty or twenty-five persons under a more organized system, than is possible to obtain in an institution where there are but two convicts. It is for these reasons I move the resolution.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is a good deal in what the hon. gentlemen has said on this subject, but the Government is not prepared at this moment to accept this resolution. Parliament has provided a penitentiary system for the Maritime Provinces, and the subject was discussed before and oft, that there should be a female prison as well as a male prison there. The House is aware that before the Penitentiaries were united there was a matron for the New Brunswick institution and another for the Nova Scotia institution, and that, for purposes of economy, the two prisons were united, making the Penitentiary of Dorchester the convict prison for the two Provinces. The parties are now appointed and hold office, and proper notice must be given them before they could be dismissed. I take it that the hon. gentleman having brought the matter before the House and expressed his views on it, has no intention of pressing it. The Government will take the matter into consideration; they are not, however, prepared, under the circumstances, to accede to his motion at present, and I hope he will not press it.

Mr. BLAKE. I am afraid I could not carry it.

Motion negatived on a division.

GRINDING IN BOND.

Mr. BLAKE moved for copies of all correspondence, Orders in Council and regulations, on the subject of grinding in bond; a statement of all bonds given under the regulations with dates and names; a statement of the action thereon, and of the present condition of things in respect of each such bond; a statement in detail of the duties paid under or other satisfaction of each such bond, with the dates of payment or satisfaction; copies of all correspondence with, and demands made by Government on each person who has given such bonds; copies of instructions given to inspectors or other departmental officers, to investigate matters connected with grinding in bond, and of correspondence with, and reports from them; a list of the cases so far as ascertained in which wheat belonging to others has been improperly exported in the name of a grinder in bond to evade the duty, and in which wheat has been sold by a grinder in bond a trifle under market rates, on condition that it should be improperly credited in the export to the seller in order to evade the duty, and all correspondence and Governmental action thereon. He said: As far as I can understand the position of the question, it is this: it was disputed across the House