

quoting figures from the Auditor General's Report or the Public Accounts. We are doing nothing of the kind. We are quoting comparisons made in the Minister's own report. This is no party matter, as the hon. gentleman seems to think. We are talking of the management of the public institution, and we say that the comparisons made by the officials themselves are such as to call for investigation and criticism, not from the Opposition side of the House alone, but from all sides. The comparisons we made at first were made with Dorchester, St. Vincent de Paul, Kingston, and other penitentiaries. Then it was suggested that Manitoba was a more expensive place to live in than these, and that some allowance must be made on that account. Then we compared it with British Columbia, and after it is credited with \$10,000 for the keep of the insane, it appears that Manitoba costs less than British Columbia. That does not answer anything. The cost of \$60 per head for rations requires explanation; every member of the committee knows that it requires explanation; but up to this moment we have not got the explanation. We followed that up with this criticism, that it appears that the Inspector of Penitentiaries has not visited this penitentiary at all. We have no report from him. The hon. gentleman may choose, because he sits on the Government side of the House, to say that everything is right, and that he does not care whether the expenditures have increased or not; but I think that in his mature judgment he will not find that this is his desire or the desire of the country at large. I think it ought to be the desire of every member of this committee to see that no extravagance exists in any of these penitentiaries, and if there is any that the inspector should find it out, and let him understand that if he does not, this committee will criticise his conduct.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. No one objects to the strictest and closest criticism; but it is a little singular to find, after the criticism of past years, and after the expenditure has been reduced 33 per cent, that the criticism is wilder and more extravagant than ever: and when we compare Manitoba penitentiary with the only other penitentiary with which it should be compared, we find that the cost of maintenance there is less than at British Columbia.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The hon. gentleman is not asking for less.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I beg to remind the hon. Minister of Justice that he is wrong in intimating that the cost per capita has been reduced. If he turns to his report he will find that the cost has increased in the past year.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. I am not speaking of the past year at all.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) And the cost in the past year was an increase upon the cost of the year before that. The hon. gentleman's demands may be perfectly right, but he has not yet deigned to give any answer to the statements made as to the want of inspection on the part of the officer from whom we have a right to expect a full and thorough report on this matter. I must say I am dissatisfied on that ground. I did expect that the hon. gentleman would have given us reasons why such an inspection was not made, or would have stated that he would see that it should be made this year.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. If the inspector had been at the penitentiary all the year he would not have made any inspection of the accounts. That is the duty of the acting warden. The inspector would have been able to go into the matter of discipline or management; but the question of accounts was not under his ordinary charge, but under the charge of the accountant; and under the circumstances, I thought it was not necessary to send him to Stony Mountain, the accountant being there. But of course every year he is expected to visit each of these prisons, and the nearer ones even more often.

British Columbia Penitentiary..... \$52,368 35

Mr. McMULLEN. There is an increase here of \$3,000.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. In the heating we asked for an increase last year of \$1,850; this year there is an increase of \$725. For maintenance of the building we are compelled to ask for \$1,142.20. The lower part of the building is in a bad condition, the floors being rotten and requiring to be entirely replaced. There is a slight increase in the kitchen appliances. The total increase under the head of working expenses is \$1,903.45. The other increases are in the cost of provisions, \$1,400, and for discharge allowances and gratuities, clothing, bedding, and so forth, \$1,500. Part of the increase in maintenance in British Columbia and Kingston includes an allowance for the dinner of the guards and keepers. Under the old system they had to disperse to their homes for the mid-day meal, and the prisoners had to be locked up. We find it better to allow the officers a mess-room and to provide them with their dinner. For the prison chaplain at British Columbia the allowance is \$1,433.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) Does the Protestant chaplain at Manitoba reside in the penitentiary?

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. He does.

Committee rose, and reported resolutions.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON moved the adjournment of the House.

Motion agreed to; and the House adjourned at 12.15 a.m. (Wednesday).