

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. So nothing remains but the locks ?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. How many are employed on that, roughly? Do you know?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I think I must refer the hon. gentleman to the Report attached to the Report of the Minister of Justice. He will find all that there. I cannot turn it up in a minute.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I thought you had the details in your hand there. Then, practically speaking, with the exception of the lock industry, the bulk of the convicts are employed either at quarry or farm?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Quarry or farm.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Do you know whether the quarry is paying; that is, whether it is possible to cut stone and sell it at a profit just now?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Before Concurrence, I will read the warden's report, and save the hon. gentleman the trouble of doing so.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Well, you are paid for doing it, and I am not. However, I am glad to find you have reduced the industries. There is another point, however, which I suppose is stated in the brief in the hands of the hon. First Minister. These accounts, I suppose, are really the surplus cost, after deducting the proceeds of the produce of the farm which go to the maintenance of the convicts. Apparently the total sum you require for these 500 convicts is very little over \$60 per man. I should doubt whether \$60 per man would feed the convicts and provide for them, unless a considerable portion of their maintenance is derived, in some shape or other, from the farm.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. That is the whole cost.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Including vegetables and everything?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Not the uniform, not the clothing.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. That would include the clothing of the convicts, apparently.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The receipts go to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, to the Receiver-General.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. So the real cost of this is not quite as great as it appears?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Oh, no.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It is a matter of some moment in comparing the relative cost, and I suggest that it would be no harm if a little memorandum were in future put at the bottom of the Estimates, stating the amount that had been received for the farm products or other earnings of the convicts during each year.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am sure that will be in the report, but it would be well to put it as the hon. gentleman suggests.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It would be convenient to have it here. I am not in the least degree blaming the hon. gentleman for not having it, but it would be convenient for the whole House, because it is a matter of some little moment, in comparing these expenditures, to see how nearly each penitentiary is going towards supporting itself.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I will see that is done in the future.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. There are three items which the hon. gentleman can take up in their order—capital account, industries, and miscellaneous, which did

not appear last year, apparently. What are these for? Before you go to that, I may just enquire whether there is any intention of going on with the walls enclosing that field at the rear of the penitentiary. Immediately behind the Warden's house, there is a large property belonging to the penitentiary, and a wall was begun some years ago. Is it intended to enclose that?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. I cannot answer the hon. gentleman now, but I will answer him when my own estimates come down.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The reason I asked was that I notice the wall is only half built. Would the First Minister just mention what the capital account, industries, and miscellaneous items are?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The capital account is \$400; the Warden states this amount may not be required. As regards industries, \$168, that is for tools in the workshops, and may not be required. Then miscellaneous, \$840, is for postage, freight charges, and unforeseen expenses, formerly charged to contingencies.

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Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. There is a decrease of \$700. The amount is about the same as last year, with this exception, which is in consequence of the Clerk of Works being transferred from the Justice to the Public Works Department, as well as all the other officers who were under the Department of Justice.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I would call attention to the fact, that although St. Vincent de Paul has only 325 convicts as against 500 in the other, the relative expense is very much greater. Here we pay \$80,768 for 325 convicts, as against \$98,000 for 500 in Kingston. When you come to the head of maintenance you find the 325 cost nearly \$100 apiece, whereas at Kingston they cost about \$65. I should be glad to know what is the cause of this extreme difference. Of course, one understands that you may require a few more officers in proportion for the 325.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It so happens, the expense of maintenance, as of all the other expenses there, has been out of proportion to those in Kingston. However, the hon. gentleman will see that a very considerable change has been made in the right direction. We know that the contracts are given for supplies at St. Vincent de Paul the same as elsewhere, but for some reason or other they cannot get food so cheaply as at Kingston. One reason may be that the Kingston Penitentiary is close to a town, and for many years there has been a great deal of competition among the people for furnishing supplies, and contractors have frequently lost money. As perhaps the hon. gentleman knows, contractors have suffered severely from the unwholesome competition. St. Vincent de Paul is more isolated than Kingston, and I suppose that the penitentiary is furnished with supplies by contractors from Montreal. However, the Government cannot help that. All they can do is to give the contract to the lowest tenderer. It is certainly a remarkable difference.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Is the hon. gentleman quite sure that he has given the whole cause of this difference? I suggested just now that the Kingston people feed themselves to a great extent. The difference seems altogether too great to be accounted for on a mere supposition of extra prices. It amounts to quite 50 per cent.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes. As I understand there is a valuation at Kingston of the products of the farm, and it is charged.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. How is it with respect to St. Vincent de Paul? Have they got a farm there?