

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The sum received from St. Vincent de Paul is very slight, because the prisoners have been engaged in the work of construction, building a boundary wall, and so on. It is credited last year in the Auditor General's Report with \$1,168.16. That would include everything except small balances unpaid at the end of the year.

Dorchester Penitentiary.....	\$46,537 00
Manitoba Penitentiary.....	48,957 65

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) The hon. gentleman has not explained, to my satisfaction, the extraordinary cost per capita of maintaining the convicts in the Manitoba penitentiary. Some years ago that matter was discussed, and I think satisfactory proof given of the gross extravagance in that penitentiary; so much so that an investigation was made by the Minister of Justice which I had hoped would have resulted in marked economy being shown in the expenditure for the future. In Dorchester penitentiary, where the daily average is 175 prisoners, the per capita is \$254, and in Manitoba penitentiary, where the daily average is 73, the per capita cost is \$620. It may be fairly urged that a small number of convicts may be allowed a larger per capita expenditure, inasmuch as it would cost more per capita to maintain an establishment of 73 prisoners than it would to maintain one of 175. But that cannot account even approximately for the enormous discrepancy between the per capita cost in the Manitoba penitentiary and the other penitentiaries. The rations in Dorchester cost \$33 per head, and in Manitoba, \$87.56. There seems to be no just reason for any such extraordinary expenditure as that.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. The hon. gentleman will find, if he pursues the parallel and applies the expenditure of former years to the expenditure of the Manitoba penitentiary to-day, there has been a very marked improvement. At the time of which he speaks of the expenditure had been very large, and the attention of the House was called to it. The warden was eventually relieved from duty, and an acting warden was sent from the department here, in order that he might be under the close supervision of the department, and knowing the grievances which we felt in regard to the management, that he should put things on a basis that would be something like a standard for the future. He certainly succeeded very well in that, and the hon. gentleman will find that the expenditure has been satisfactorily reduced from what it was three or four years ago. As regards the cost of the Manitoba prison, irrespective of the difficulty as regards the number of prisoners, the hon. gentleman must make allowance for the fact that we pay very much more for our supplies in Manitoba. I may mention one circumstance alone, the heating of Dorchester will cost \$2,280, and

the heating of Manitoba penitentiary cost \$5,127, which is more than double.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) That is one of the items which I should imagine would require explanation.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. Coal, of course, is very high in Manitoba, and in Dorchester penitentiary, nearly all the heating is done from the wood which we gather on the place. This will come to an end soon, and we must take a larger allowance for heating at Dorchester. All the other supplies are much more costly at Manitoba.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) I would put it to the hon. gentleman that when we maintain a penitentiary, the cost of which for heating is \$91.79 per head, it, on the face of it, shows something wrong. It cannot be that by any prudence or economy the expense of heating a building to keep 73 convicts should amount to over \$91 per head. In Dorchester, it only amounted to \$7 per head. The figures given for the heating of Manitoba penitentiary in the report of the Department of Justice is \$7.251. It would seem that this expenditure at least demands looking into.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Of course, we all admit that in Manitoba a somewhat larger amount would be required for heating, but certainly not as much as my hon. friend (Mr. Davies) points out. Apart from that one item of fuel, it is quite clear that the rations in Manitoba cost a great deal more than the rations in Dorchester. I do not understand why at present in Winnipeg the cost of rationing a convict should exceed the cost at Dorchester. Flour certainly is as cheap in Winnipeg as in Dorchester; meat is as cheap; there is no reason why sugar or similar articles should cost more. Moreover, there are only twenty-eight officers at Manitoba, against thirty-eight at Dorchester, one-third more. The cost of maintaining seventy-five convicts at Winnipeg is estimated at \$2,000 more than the cost of maintaining 175 at Dorchester.

Sir JOHN THOMPSON. To some extent the increased expense for provisions in Manitoba is accounted for by the fact that in consequence of the great distance of the prison from any town or village or market, all the officers are allowed to get provisions out of the store for which they are charged at the contract price, and repay the prison at the end of each month. So that we take an estimate for the supplies needed for both prisoners and officers, and there stands to the credit of the penitentiary on this account \$959.45.

Mr. DAVIES (P.E.I.) It is quite evident the leak lies there. The cash expense for 1892-93 was \$6,296; the cost per capita was \$87.56. My hon. friend has explained why it is impossible there can be so very much difference in the cost of procuring food in Manitoba above the cost in Dorchester. We