

ment to have been made for political purposes had really put his employer's money into his own pockets. When we ascertained these facts a warrant was sworn out against him and he fled the country and has not since been heard from. Subsequently other matters were brought to my attention, and I wrote to Mr. Meighen exactly the same kind of letter, telling him, in addition, that in his endeavour to get at the bottom of such attempts to defraud the Government, he was to use all the powers of the law, employing the Chief of the Dominion Police and all the staff under his command, and to spare no expense for that purpose.

### **Penitentiary doors are yawning.**

So far as these matters, or any other such matters, are concerned, what we propose to do in every instance is this—to investigate every suspicious case, and to exact restitution and punishment so far as the laws of this country will permit.

And let me say now, for the benefit of Parliament, and particularly for the information of persons throughout this country who may be concerned in selling supplies or materials to the Government, that if any man in Canada, be he Conservative or Liberal, proposes to commit any fraud or imposition upon the Government and people of this country, or to be concerned in any attempt for that purpose, especially in connection with the war vote, he should remember that there are courts of justice in this country, and that the doors of the penitentiary are yawning for every man who commits such an offence.

Now, in connection with supplies generally we have had under consideration more than once during the past two years a proposal to establish a general purchasing commission for all departments of this Government. I myself have discussed it with my colleagues, and I know that my colleagues have discussed it with the officers of their departments. No doubt hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House who were ministers and heads of departments know how difficult it is to get officials to agree that any such proposal is practicable or possible. Objections of one kind and another have been made, and nothing in that regard has been accomplished up to the present time, chiefly, if not altogether, for this reason; also owing to the fact that since we came into power the