

in our service," showing that his character had been specially thought of before the invitation was issued to him. He was not a man looking for a job; he was a good citizen of Canada endeavouring to re-establish himself on his return from the war; was at liberty because he was not yet re-established; was known to be so by the officer in charge of the penitentiaries, and invited to enter the Penitentiaries Service.

So satisfactorily did the invitation result that although Captain Cooper joined the staff at St. Vincent de Paul as a guard and office assistant to the Warden, there arising necessity for strong and improved administration at the Manitoba Penitentiary, this officer was promoted, after only one year's service, to be a warden in the Penitentiaries Service of Canada and was transferred to Manitoba.

In Manitoba his record appears to have been perfectly satisfactory, because after two years' service there he was again transferred, on the recommendation of the same General Hughes, the Superintendent of Penitentiaries, with a complimentary letter praising him for the way he had rejuvenated the Manitoba institution. He was transferred then to British Columbia, where in the opinion of the Superintendent an improvement in the administration seemed to be imperative. He became Warden in British Columbia in 1923 and has been Warden there from that day to this, without a single adverse report so far as he knows. While he has knowledge of reports of the most complimentary nature made on him by the Superintendent and by the Inspectors, so far as the late Warden Cooper knows there was no black mark against him during the five years of his service as Warden at New Westminster.

The rift in the lute came in September, 1927. There was the usual semi-annual visitation on the part of the Superintendent, the Inspector, and another officer from Ottawa. I use the word "visitation" advisedly, because the movement of these officers upon the several penitentiaries of Canada is a very solemn affair to those under them. There are pomp and circumstance connected with it that would do credit to a victorious general visiting his main camp. However, that is another story. As I have said, the rift in the lute occurred at the close of the visit of September, 1927, when, after spending several days there, the Superintendent, the Inspector and the other officer, who, I think, was an accountant—however, he does not come into the story—met Colonel Cooper in his own house. They had told him how satisfactory their inspection had been, and they mentioned, just before leaving, that there was

at New Westminster one little point of difference that they would like to clear up, because it made friction in the establishment. That point of friction was between two ladies of the households of the penitentiary officials, and, as the Superintendent gallantly and quite correctly said: "This is none of my affair; I do not want to go into it. Things are running smoothly in this institution—I have so reported elsewhere—and I would like you to clear up this only item of friction that there is." So he left New Westminster.

In consequence of this request, Warden Cooper addressed to him a few days later the letter which I am about to read. Let me say in passing that I dislike taking up the time of the Senate in reading these letters, but that, so far as I know, every attempt hitherto made to bring these letters to the attention of the Minister of Justice has proven abortive. I have been unable, and others who have interested themselves in the case have been unable, although we have been addressing the Minister since December last, to secure any evidence or any indication to lead us to believe that the Minister has found time to look into this correspondence, or that he is at all acquainted with affairs as they are at New Westminster. So far as we know, he has relied solely upon the officer against whom I now make this arraignment for whatever it may be worth, and I know no other way of insuring that this matter does come to the attention of the responsible Minister and his colleagues in the Government than by reading the letters as I propose to read them.

I may say that these letters are marked "secret and confidential," nearly every one of them, but that after his dismissal from office Colonel Cooper wrote to the Minister, asking him to take cognizance of these letters, although they were marked secret and confidential; that the Minister replied to him that he could not ask the Superintendent for the letters, because of these markings, but that it was perfectly competent for Colonel Cooper, the late Warden, if he so desired, to send them directly to the Minister. Colonel Cooper has assured me that he has sent these letters directly to the Minister. As I say, I have not been able to see any evidence that the Minister has read them, but they are released jointly by Colonel Cooper, who has delivered them to me, and by the Minister of Justice, who wrote to Cooper that he might forward to him the confidential letters so that the Minister might take official cognizance of them.

I may say that I have omitted passages from these letters. I am perfectly content