

annual report on or before the first day of January in each year, to be laid before Parliament at the then next session, which report shall contain a full and accurate report on the state, condition and management of the penitentiaries under his control and supervision, and inspected during the preceding year, together with such suggestions for the improvement of the same as he may deem necessary and expedient, and accompanied by copies of the annual reports of the officers of the penitentiaries, and by such financial and statistical statements and tables as the books kept by them may supply; and which report shall also comprise and embrace the following particulars, viz:—

1. Any facts which may have come to his knowledge with respect to the working of the laws and penal system of the Dominion, or any injustice or hardship which, in his opinion has arisen therefrom, and such suggestions for the improvement or amendment at the same, and for the prevention of crime, or for the reformation of criminals, as he may deem expedient;

2. An inventory and valuation of all the property belonging to the penitentiaries respectively, moveable and immoveable; distinguishing the estimated value of the several descriptions of property;

3. A statement of all debts due by the penitentiaries, showing the names of the parties to whom each is due, and showing also the debts, if any, due to the institution, with the amount and nature of each debt;

4. An estimate of the expense of the penitentiaries for the ensuing year, distinguishing the ordinary from the extraordinary.

“In case the Inspector finds at any time that any Penitentiary is out of repair, or is, or has become unsafe or unfit for the confinement of prisoners confined therein, he shall forthwith report the fact to the Minister of Justice, and shall at the same time furnish a copy of such report to the Minister of Public Works.

“Another important change proposed by the Bill was to place the construction and repairs of buildings and others works in connection with penitentiaries under the control of the Department of Public Works.”

Sir JOHN MACDONALD said he had paid much attention to the subject, as it came within his department when Minister of Justice, and he would, therefore, look with great interest at the Bill. He did not at that stage propose to discuss whether the amendments proposed were such as should receive the sanction of the House, but ventured to hope that if existing interests were affected, compensation would be provided to the parties suffering.

The Bill was read a first time.

Mr. MOSS introduced a Bill to amend the act of incorporation of the Great Western Railway Company.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE asked the object of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. Fournier.

Mr. MOSS said the object of the Bill was to change the number of directors, and to apply to the Great Western Railway Company certain clauses relating to sidings, and other matters which are found in the General Railway Act of 1869.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE asked if the Bill contained anything affecting the financial affairs of the company.

Mr. MOSS—Nothing whatever.

The Bill was read a first time.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex) presented the fifth report of the Joint Committee of both Houses on Printing.

THE OUTLAWRY OF LOUIS RIEL.

On question being called,

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said—MR. SPEAKER: Before proceeding on to the regular business of the day, I propose to move in the matter of which I gave notice verbally on Monday. I then laid the record of the judgment of outlawry, in the case of LOUIS RIEL, the member elect for Provencher, upon the table, and intimated my intention to move, in pursuance of the Parliamentary course pursued in England upon a similar occasion, or one as nearly parallel to it as any case that can possibly be found. I propose to move in the same sense as the leader of the House of Commons moved in the case of SMITH O'BRIEN, who was convicted of felony when he was a member of the House, being advised—for I do not presume to enter upon any legal argument in the matter—that the sentence of outlawry is equivalent to a conviction by the Court of the crime charged in the indictment. In that case Lord JOHN RUSSELL simply moved, in the first place, that the record laid on the table be read. I have private notice given me by the hon. member for Cardwell that he intends to dispute both the motion and the premises. I am not quite sure that I am doing quite right in anticipating his own statement of the case, but it is necessary in submitting my motion to do so to some extent. He disputes that a legal outlawry has been pronounced at all; he disputes the legality of the proceedings, and proposes that this House shall constitute itself into a Court of Review of the proceedings of the Court in Manitoba. I am not aware that any proceeding of that kind was ever under-