

After Recess.

The House again resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

(In the Committee.)

PENITENTIARIES.

27. Kingston Penitentiary..... \$98,620 17

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I see that one part is detailed for an insane asylum.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. It is simply for an insane ward in the asylum.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I observe only 500 convicts are estimated for against 625 in 1883-84. Is that based on any positive information, or is it mere guess work?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. On account of the limited cell accommodation in St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, it was found necessary on several occasions, during the last few years, to remove a large number of convicts thence to the Kingston Penitentiary, and for this reason provision was made in the latter for 100 convicts, besides its own, a very large number having been discharged, and there being no likelihood of more transfers in consequence of the completion of two new cell wings, the Warden has based his estimate for the year ending 30th June, 1883, on the probable requirements of Ontario alone.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. A good deal of attention has been drawn at various times to the somewhat defective drainage in this penitentiary. Several times the Warden and others connected with it have mentioned to me on my going through the institution, that there was considerable difficulty in this respect, that the original plans of the drains had been lost and there was difficulty in discovering where they all were. Another defect, but one which cannot be altered, is the smallness of the cells which makes it more difficult to ventilate them than could be desired.

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. There has not been any complaint lately about the drainage, as we have made some improvements in that direction. I do not think there is any great complaint just now or the complaints would have been laid before me. Of course, the cells are built, and they must remain. Any improvement in ventilation would require a special vote, but my attention has not been brought to that lately.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Does the First Minister know anything about that?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No, I have not heard; there have been no complaints made by the inspector or by the warden as to drainage to the Department; but, with reference to the old cells especially, those are far too narrow, and one could not help observing, although the place is scrupulously clean, that there was a little prison smell in the older portion of the building. My hon. friend the Minister of Public Works tells me it is now in contemplation to break down the walls of the older cells and join two into one. I dare say the hon. gentleman is right in his supposition that the original plans of the drainage have been lost. That is possibly the case. Some years ago, once or twice, there was something like incipient typhoid, but of late years that has not appeared, possibly in consequence of an improvement in the drainage; at all events, there have been no complaints which have reached the Department.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Then the Minister of Public Works thinks he can improve the cells by knocking two into one?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Of course, I am aware the thing is a difficult one to remedy, but, living in Kingston, I have occasion sometimes to go over that institution, Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT.

and I have noticed that some of those cells are not fit to keep people in for fourteen hours together, as they must be often kept. I think in 1882 we had some discussion over this subject, and I think the Minister of Public Works or somebody suggested then shafts in these drains to ventilate them better. The Minister of Public Works has, no doubt, been over the penitentiary?

Sir HECTOR LANGEVIN. Yes, I have.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. There is what may be called a large rotunda round which the cells are built, and of course it is doubly necessary in a building constructed in that fashion to see that there is some shaft or other that will completely ventilate it. I do not know if that has been brought to his attention, but I would take this opportunity of doing so.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Traps.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. It would require more. In England they erect a sort of chimney and turn hot air into it in some way. Sometimes they go so far as to keep a fire. That keeps a steady up-draught from the drain, and where a number of human beings are crowded together, something of that kind is very necessary. It may perhaps be difficult to apply that system in this country. I am not prepared to say how that is, but where it can possibly be done, it is a very effective mode, as I think all medical men will concur with me in stating. Do I understand that these 500 convicts are likely to be the normal number for Ontario?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Of course, with an increase of population, there will be an increase of convicts.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Yes, and that varies also according to whether we have good or bad times.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes, a good deal.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I see there is a considerable reduction in working expenses, no doubt due to the reduction in the number of convicts. What is that account used for at present? Is that the expense of working the farm?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. And the quarry, I suppose? What does that \$16,629 represent?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The cause of the reduction is on account of saving under the sub-head of repairs to building and maintenance of machinery and light.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What is the \$16,000 spent in, then?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Everything except mere maintenance—working expenses, repairs, maintenance of machinery and light, apparently, and matters of that kind—all except maintenance, and salaries of the officers.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What industries are going on just now? How are the men being employed? How many go to the farm?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The only contract is that of making locks. Then the labour is principally employed on the farms and about any buildings that may be wanted.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. The boot and shoe manufacture has been entirely discontinued.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes, that is discontinued.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. And furniture also is discontinued?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Yes