

prepare my case, but I did not ask for a notice. It would have been a serious matter for the hon. gentleman from New Westminster, to ask for an enquiry before the Inspector, when the Minister of Justice had been obliged to admit, in the other House, that though many enquiries had taken place at St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary, yet affairs in the institution had been going from bad to worse. Was that the sort of official to conduct an investigation—the man whose investigations had not prevented matters from going from bad to worse at St. Vincent de Paul? The Inspector did the same thing that I complained of in my speech two years ago. The moment the Inspector hears of a complaint being made in Parliament he rushes to St. Vincent de Paul and makes an enquiry in his own way, and then reports that it is all right, and that those who make the charges are calumniators. That is exactly what he did in this case. The hon. gentleman from New Westminster, having stated that he would feel it his duty to demand an investigation, the Inspector went to New Westminster and made an inquiry himself. I do not know what sort of an investigation it was, but if it was anything like the enquiries that the same official has held at St. Vincent de Paul, it must have been a sham enquiry. There is a document on the table of the Senate which shows that the Inspector of Penitentiaries has before him a charge that the head men of St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary refused to allow the reel of the Penitentiary to be used to extinguish a fire which had broken out in a house near the institution, although it has been the custom to render such assistance for twenty years before, but the proprietor of the house belonged to the opposition. On former occasions, when fires had broken out in the village, the penitentiary reel was taken to the spot and the fire extinguished, so that when I heard that a fire had broken out, I said to myself "it will be out in a few minutes," but when it continued for over an hour I went to the spot and found that the reel was not there. One of the officials of the penitentiary said to me "if we had had the reel here the house would not burn down." Then I said to one of the officers of the penitentiary that they would suffer for their want of humanity, and one of them named McCarthy, the one that was

promoted for having done mischief, said to one of the men "go for the reel." He went for the reel, but among the whole of the men there, not one of them understood how to manage it.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—I do not think the subject of the alleged mismanagement at St. Vincent de Paul can be properly brought up now.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—I submit to it; I thought the Government would be happy to hear the truth of the matter.

HON. MR. ABBOTT—The Government heard it all last year.

HON. MR. BELLEROSE—No, that was another matter. However, these are the reasons why an investigation by competent men was demanded, and the Minister of Justice himself said in the other House that it was evident that the Inspector himself could not manage these enquiries at St. Vincent de Paul any more. If he begins in the same way out at New Westminster, I do not see why the representative from British Columbia should not complain that the Inspector is not doing his duty. These are the reasons why I thought I would raise the question of privilege, because I consider a member of this House has been attacked.

HON. MR. MACINNES (B. C.)—A week ago last Friday a copy of the *Mail* Newspaper was placed in my hands by the hon. gentleman who has brought this subject before the House. I read it, and my first impulse was to bring it immediately before the Senate at the very next sitting. However, two years ago, when I brought up a similar matter for the hon. gentleman from Delanau diere, the leader of the Government said in his place in the Senate that he would have been prepared to take some definite action in the matter had he been informed of it in advance. Consequently, instead of bringing it up on Friday, I went and saw the Minister of Justice, Sir John Thompson. I thought it was only just and fair that he should know what course I intended to pursue. On Monday again I thought it would only be doing justice to a colleague in this House to place the matter before the leader of the Senate. I therefore took the report of the Minister of Justice, which I now hold in my hands, marked it, underlining all the offensive and