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they should be, and that the convicts have no complaint to make about the services or the way they are treated.

The Catholic Chaplain reports that the convicts have given him entire satisfaction by their good conduct and the fulfilment of their religious duties. He speaks in highest terms of the conduct of the officers, especially of the courtesy of the Warden and Accountant.

It is the intention of the Minister of Public Works to order the erection of another wing and of other necessary buildings, including chapels, boiler house, workshops, hospital, &c., next spring. It would be well, at the same time, to commence the boundary wall, the want of which causes constant anxiety and annoyance to the Warden and his staff.

In my last Annual Report to you, I briefly referred to the financial affairs of this Penitentiary, and in so doing, I fear I was unintentionally guilty of doing the Warden injustice. In the remarks I made, I had in view the comparative expenditure of this with British Columbia Penitentiary, as these institutions are nearly on the same footing. Finding that the expenditure here exceeded that of British Columbia by more than \$3,000, it occurred to me that there was extravagance somewhere, and hence I intimated to the Warden that "by making the necessary effort, he should be able to show a more favourable balance sheet." In making this statement, I did not take into account an expenditure which has been made annually since the Penitentiary was first opened at the Old Stone Fort, in 1871, and which had been duly sanctioned at the time. I refer to an item of about \$3,600 for cordwood and coal oil, supplied to the officers, there being no similar expenditure in British Columbia Penitentiary. This accounts for the difference in expenditure in both places, and fully exonerates Mr. Warden Bedson's administration from any charge or suspicion of extravagance, in so far as the excess in expenditure over British Columbia is concerned. It is due to the Warden to make this explanation. I regret there has been any mistake in a matter respecting which the Warden is, reasonably enough, so sensitive.

By advice of the Deputy Minister of Justice, arrangements will be made with the Canadian Pacific Railway to get the supply of coal at greatly reduced price.

Corporal punishment—one lash—was inflicted on an Indian, merely as a caution

One successful and two unsuccessful attempts to escape were made during the year. Considering the great insecurity of the cells and that there is no boundary wall, this return argues constant vigilance and attention to duty on the part of the officers.

I fully concur with the Warden in recommending that the powers and discretion of the Agent of the Public Works Department at Winnipeg be enlarged, in connection