

have been retired to promote efficiency and harmony. You will be given the gratuity to which you are entitled. You will, on receipt of this, hand over your keys to your deputy warden." When Cooper got that he opened the door and found the deputy warden there ready to take over his keys: he had been already advised. Thrown out like a malefactor, without any notice whatever! No urgency; a quarrel in September, investigation in December; in February a wire "Get out when you get this wire." This from the gentleman who writes in so many letters about maintaining the esprit de corps of the staffs of the penitentiaries in Canada!

Meantime Captain Cooper had become Lt.-Colonel commanding the local regiment, and served his term faithfully and well, as he had served in every other capacity. But he was thrown out with a contemptuous message as if he was a malefactor found stealing the change of the institution! And to this day he cannot get any explanation or any statement from any person as to what he was supposed to have done to merit such treatment.

You will say he got a gratuity. The gratuity is provided for by section 32 of the Penitentiaries Act. I quote from the Revised Statutes:

To any officer whose conduct has been good, and who has been faithful in the discharge of his duties, there may be paid—

—so and so. It is a certificate of good conduct. The superintendent, in order to warrant the Minister in taking \$1,400 out of our Treasury and paying it to that warden, had to certify that to the Minister—that his conduct had been good, and his record correct—and he did certify that; and yet he threw him out in that contemptuous way. That is one of the matters I want inquired into.

I omitted to say that the warden, when he takes office, is sworn to carefully observe and carry out all the regulations of the penitentiary. By the Act to which I have referred, it is provided that the warden of the penitentiary shall be the chief executive officer of the same, and as such shall have the entire executive control of all its concerns, subject to the rules and regulations duly established, and the written instructions of the Superintendent or of the Minister. That gives the warden authority over all prisoners who come there. But warden Cooper has had the unique experience, possibly not paralleled before in any institution in Canada, of receiving from the Superintendent two letters in violation of the regulations which he had sworn to observe in toto. These letters, like the others that I read, while they compelled him to

violate the regulations that he had sworn to observe, are marked "personal and confidential," so that if any trouble arose the warden would not be in a position to say "I did this by direction of the Superintendent." The first is as follows:

Office of Superintendent of Penitentiaries,
Ottawa, 7th October, 1925.

Personal and Confidential.

Dear Colonel Cooper:—

Should Doctor _____ come to the penitentiary, please place him in Accountant's office, as an assistant to the officers now there. He is highly educated and will readily adapt himself to much work in that office that may be assigned him.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. Hughes.

Colonel H. W. Cooper,
Warden of the Penitentiary,
New Westminster, B.C.

The second is as follows:

Office of Superintendent of Penitentiaries,
Ottawa, 19th December, 1925.

Personal.

Re Doctor _____

Sir:—

Relative to the above, I think I advised you formerly that Doctor _____ was one of my Highland Cadets in Kingston, and his mother was a personal friend of Mrs. Hughes. I am in receipt of a letter from his father, who is anxious to have a private interview with his son, accompanied by the latter's wife, regarding the straightening up of his business and a lawsuit which is pending in the Courts and may go to the Privy Council.

I would be glad if you would take this interview in your office, yourself, and permit such interview to be as private as possible; in fact, I feel you would not run any risk in doing so.

May I ask please where _____ is employed and how he is getting along.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. Hughes,
Superintendent.

The Warden,
The Penitentiary,
New Westminster, B.C.

Hon. Mr. SMEATON WHITE: Is Dr. Blank a prisoner?

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR: He was a prisoner then. He has since been released. Blank, of course, is not the name.

The reason I read these two letters is that quite recently one of my colleagues had a conversation with the Minister of Justice on this subject, and the Minister of Justice mentioned, as one of the most serious matters connected with Colonel Cooper, that he had violated the regulations in connection with this Dr. Blank—as to whom he had been expressly directed by the Superintendent to violate the regulations because this unfortunate man was a personal acquaintance of the