

enhanced by the officers having residences on the penitentiary property and thus being at all times accessible for any services which may be required of them.

Mr. BLAKE. As I understand, the reason why there was the difference in those salaries, which has been alluded to by the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick), was largely the cost of living in these remote parts, owing to various causes which may come under discussion at an early day. I see the messengers in Manitoba penitentiary get from \$500 to \$600; British Columbia, the same; Kingston, \$400 to \$500; St. Vincent de Paul, \$400 to \$500. I see the teamsters at St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary get \$300 to \$400; Kingston, \$300 to \$400; British Columbia, \$500 to \$600, so that my hon. friend must understand that they require more money to live in those distant places.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. That was in the olden times. It is all done away with, now that the country is opening up.

Mr. THOMPSON. The only reason for the lower salaries being paid at the latter place is the one mentioned by the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Kirkpatrick), that is, they have residences, but it is not proposed to give residences to the messenger in Manitoba.

On resolution 2,

Mr. BLAKE. Is this based on regulations which the hon. gentleman has found applied in any analogous institution?

Mr. THOMPSON. This is substantially the present regulation which allows a month's salary for every year of service as a retiring gratuity to those officers not entitled to superannuation. It has been thought fair to make a distinction between those officers who have been long in the service and those who have been a short time in the service.

On resolution 5,

Mr. BLAKE. The effect of the last clause of this resolution appears to be to provide for a supply of uniforms at the public expense?

Mr. THOMPSON. They are so supplied now. All the officers have uniforms excepting the chaplains, so there is no change as to that.

Mr. BLAKE. Has it been a perquisite of any person that there should be any personal services rendered by the convicts, apart from keeping the grounds?

Mr. THOMPSON. There has occasionally been the employment of convict labor for domestic purposes, for some of the principal officers. It has also been found that lands which are not connected with the domicile have been tilled by the convicts. Practices like that have grown up in various places without any distinct sanction that I know of.

Mr. BLAKE. What occurred to me was that the words used, which are obviously intended to make it very clear that, with the exceptions specified, there should be no convict labor employed by any of the officers, might be construed into meaning that convict labor might be employed for other private purposes.

Mr. THOMPSON. I will add the words, in the fifth resolution, "or in any other manner for any officer."

Mr. LANDRY. I would suggest that there ought to be some authority allowed for convict labor to be employed. For instance, when the guards have houses, it is often desirable to employ some of the convicts to keep them in repair. I do not think it should be done at the will or option of the guard himself. But if it were provided that it should be done at the order of the warden or some other responsible officer, it appears to me that it would not be out of place.

Mr. THOMPSON.

Mr. BLAKE. Of course you have always to guard against abuses which might grow up. If it be the intention that the public, besides providing residences for the officers, should keep them in repair, it is well that it should be done by convict labor. But a provision of that kind, I am afraid, would result in the neglect of residences by those occupying them.

Mr. THOMPSON. I do not think the words I have added will prevent the convicts being employed in that way. They would not be working for the officers, but for the Department of Public Works.

Mr. BLAKE. I suppose the Act to be based on these resolutions will be an Act amending the Penitentiary Act.

Mr. THOMPSON. Yes.

Mr. BLAKE. There is a provision in the last resolution which I think requires some explanation. It is that the Governor in Council may make regulations respecting the sale to officers of articles manufactured in the penitentiary shops or grown upon the penitentiary property.

Mr. THOMPSON. Of course the hon. gentleman is aware that there are various workshops in all the penitentiaries, in which the convicts are taught trades, such as tailor's shops, shoemaker's shops, &c., in which articles are made for prison use. The convicts are provided with clothing by the tailor's shops, and with boots and shoes by the shoemaker's shops; and in respect of any articles of that kind which may enter into domestic use, instead of having no regulation on the subject, the result of which might be that wardens or superior officers might, by the exercise of their mere authority, order articles produced in those trade rooms to be transferred to their own houses, it is thought better to have a definite regulation. It is not provided that they shall not have the right to obtain any goods produced in these workshops. If a regulation is made, it will be that, under the supervision of an accountant, proper charges shall be made against the officers receiving those articles. It is virtually in the same direction as the other provisions, to prevent abuses creeping in.

Mr. BLAKE. I think it liable to considerable abuse that the officers in the penitentiaries should have the practical power of utilising the labor of the convicts, and deciding the price at which they should supply these articles. Of course, if it only concerns boots and shoes and articles of clothing, the amount would be very little, but still there is always that difficulty. Then, with reference to articles grown on the penitentiary grounds, I do not know that the accountant would exercise a very diligent supervision as to the prices his superior officers, or those with equal authority to himself, should pay for them. I should think it would be better for those persons to buy what they want outside, instead of having such an anomalous regulation as would exist if they made their purchases within the walls of the penitentiary; besides which there would be less interference with free labor if they bought their goods at the general store, the production of the mechanic, of whom the hon. gentleman has constituted himself the guardian.

Mr. THOMPSON. That may be very true, but we have not yet engaged in brickmaking at any rate. The accountants in the various penitentiaries keep an account of the hay, oats, potatoes and other produce of the penitentiary farm, and the institution is credited with the produce at the regular market prices. The accounts are laid before Parliament in the report on penitentiaries, and whenever an officer receives any of the produce, the accountant charges him with it.

Mr. BLAKE. I did not say that the accountant did not keep an account. What I said was that he was not