

Mr. MORPHY: Would it not be better to use the word "granting" instead of "allowing" in the 27th line?

Mr. DOHERTY: I quite agree. I was going to submit to the committee an amendment to that section—it will also have the effect of meeting my hon. friend's suggestion—because I think the present wording implies that the remuneration to be granted shall be allowed to the particular convict engaged in the industry in which the money was earned. Now that was not the idea I had in mind. If we did that we would create a situation where those convicts who were fortunate enough to be working on something that we could dispose of and receive money for, would get remuneration, while the other man who might be doing work just as useful but which was to be used in the penitentiary would get nothing. The real purpose was that we should have power to remunerate convicts generally for their labour, and I therefore beg to move that section (b) of clause 18 be amended to read as follows:

The establishment and carrying on of any work or industry at any penitentiary as may be thought desirable for the useful employment or training of the convicts, for the employment of the convicts therein, for the disposal of the products thereof, and as well for allowing subject to such conditions as may be prescribed and payable in the manner and to such persons as may be designated by the regulations, remuneration for the labour of convicts.

Mr. BLAKE: Did any profits accrue from the work of the prisoners in the penitentiaries last year?

Mr. DOHERTY: We have not had any general system of industries in the past with a product of which it has been possible to dispose, and we are now taking specific powers in order to be able to develop a system of that kind. But even under the administration which we have had, we have found the opportunity to earn some money by means of the labour of convicts in the past year. We have had a very considerable agricultural production—I have not the figures—which has enabled us to provide in large measure for the wants of each penitentiary, and in some cases for the wants of others. Apart from that, we have done a certain amount of work in the way of providing clothing for the camps for interned enemy prisoners; we have furnished those institutions with goods amounting in value to \$17,611.39, consisting of overalls, trousers, shirts, smocks, boots, repairs to boots, socks, suits, clothes and other work presently in progress. We have also produced for the Indian Department a considerable quantity of clothes consisting of

[Mr. Doherty.]

some 212 suits, 220 shirts, 868 pairs of pants, 207 pairs of boots, and 207 belts. In addition to that, the women of the penitentiaries have done a considerable amount of work for the Red Cross Society, consisting of the making of pyjamas, socks and bandages. But all this has not been done under any regulated system by which we have received payment which would enable us to provide for an allowance, and the purpose of this amendment is to put us in a position where we can carry out that work upon a regular system, disposing of the articles exclusively to departments of the Government—we do not wish to interfere in any way with outside labour—and receiving the normal prices therefor, which would be applied in a measure to the upkeep of the institution and to which we would look for the means to provide this allowance for the convict.

Mr. BLAKE: I think one very important point arises out of what the hon. Minister of Justice has said. A prisoner is put at work, and the profits of his work are sent back to his dependents. The Minister of Justice says that the product of his labour will be sold to these different departments of the Government. The man is sufficiently penalized, as well as his wife and family, by his being imprisoned, without further penalizing them by not giving them the best return that can possibly be obtained from his labour. That is a point that should not be lost sight of. These products, no matter what they are, should be disposed of in the open market, free to any person who will offer the best possible price, because the wife and children of that man have as good a right to be protected as any industry or manufacturer. I think these products should be sold, not only to the departments of the Government, but to anybody who will pay a just and proper price for them.

Mr. DOHERTY: It will not affect the price if we sell to the Government, because if the hon. member had had experience of the prices Government departments pay, he would know that they do not get goods cheaper than anybody else. They never get them except at the highest price that can be got.

Paragraph 18 as amended agreed to.

On paragraph 19—annual report.

Mr. DOHERTY moved:

That the section be amended by striking out the words "copies of the annual" in line 40, and substituting the word "such"; by striking out