

came into Colonel Cooper's, I am informed he declined to give Cooper any information as to what evidence he had taken. He had before that refused in writing to allow Cooper to be present at the taking of any evidence, and when he saw Cooper himself he declined to tell him what evidence he had secured or from whom he had secured it, but confined himself to asking certain questions. I will mention only one question to show how misleading the questions and answers were. He had learned from the Trade Instructor's Department that Colonel Cooper had procured a galleon—that is a toy ship fixed up with sails, and everything—from the Trade Instructor's Department. The way it came to Cooper was this: "Is this your signature?" The document was the requisition for a galleon. Cooper said: "Yes, that is my signature." "Is that date correct?" "Yes, I presume it is. It is there." Another document was produced—"Is this your signature?" "Yes." "Is that date correct?" "Yes." One document was a requisition for a galleon, the other was a receipt for a galleon. The difference between the two dates was five days. Those dates were correct. The question was: "Can a galleon be made in five days?" "Certainly not." "It takes many months to make it, doesn't it?" "It certainly does."

The matter ended there, and that is all that goes to the Minister—that Cooper apparently was caught snitching a galleon from the Trade Instructor's Department, without being charged for it, and through some accident putting in a requisition only five days before when it should have been in a year before. When this man had gone away Cooper followed the matter up with the Trade Instructor, and this is what he found: that there being present a high official from Ottawa, with some ladies in his party, and one of the ladies having expressed the wish that she might have one of those toy ships, Cooper had gallantly sought to get it for her. He had gone with a requisition to the Trade Instructor, and the Trade Instructor had said: "Why, I have one of those in my own house; I will give you that to present to this lady, and will make another for myself." So he gave it to him five days after the date of the requisition, and presumably made another for himself. Anyhow, that transaction was entirely innocent, but the way it was put by this inquisitor, who was the personal enemy of Cooper, as known to the whole institution out there, would lead the Minister to think that amongst other delinquencies this warden was snitching material from the institution without paying for it as he was supposed to do. We have no knowledge of what was told the

Hon. Mr. TAYLOR.

Minister, because he has not communicated it to any person. I will read the letter announcing the investigation, as delivered by Inspector Jackson:

New Westminster, B.C.,

December 23, 1927.

Warden Cooper,
British Columbia Penitentiary,
New Westminster, B.C.

Re Investigation, etc.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge yours of December 21st requesting notice of the time and place that I will hold the hearing in regard to the investigation of certain charges made by you—

Note that: "certain charges made by you."—and investigation into the administration of the B.C. Penitentiary.

Also your request that you be represented by counsel during the investigation and that you be permitted to adduce evidence and examine and cross-examine any witnesses at the hearing.

I informed you on my arrival at the institution of the reason of my visit and read to you the authority granted me by the Department of Justice. I also read to you Section 21, Chapter 35 of the Penitentiary Act dealing with my duties as Inspector of Penitentiaries.

I now inform you in writing confirming what I have already told you verbally, that I will open the enquiry at your institution on the 23rd of December at or near 10.00 a.m.

I further notify you that you are not entitled to counsel at an enquiry, neither are you permitted or entitled to be present during any evidence being taken (except your own) and you cannot examine or cross-examine any witnesses.

This for your information, please.

Yours sincerely

(Signed) E. R. Jackson,

Inspector.

So we have an official document from an Inspector, saying: I am here by authority of the Minister of Justice to investigate charges made by you, but you are not to be permitted to tell me what the charges are, or to be present to prosecute them or to call evidence in support of them; nor are you to be permitted to hear statements made against you, or to examine or cross-examine witnesses. And it was under these circumstances that this investigation was held in December.

In December the attention of the Minister of Justice was called to these extraordinary proceedings, and he was asked to have the matter looked into at Ottawa, and, if possible, to give it his personal attention. So far as I am aware, no answer to that request ever came from the Minister of Justice, and so far as Colonel Cooper is concerned, or so far as I have heard, there is no evidence that the message ever reached the Minister of Justice.

The matter rested from December until February; and towards the end of February a telegram came one day to Warden Cooper. I think I remember the exact words: "You