

of taking them to Kingston would not amount to much. Later on, it may be advisable to adopt this course; but, just now, there does not appear to be any necessity for a change in existing arrangements."

That is the reason given for retaining them there instead of transferring them elsewhere. As regards the matron and deputy-matron they hold their appointments, and it is not usual, I think, to dismiss people who have served for years without either putting them on either a gratuity or pension, or some means of supporting themselves. The matron, I know, was an old and deserving servant, and I fancy that her training there for so many years has not specially adapted her to employ her services profitably to herself elsewhere. It would be hard to turn her out after having once been appointed. I dare say, when she disappears that one woman will be sufficient to perform the services required.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. Minister has adopted the argument of the Inspector of Penitentiaries, and he has added some arguments of his own. He says, as I have pointed out, that it is cheaper living at Dorchester than at Kingston, therefore, it would be saving expense to keep these five females at Dorchester rather than at Kingston. I pointed out what the expense was at the two places. I pointed out that at Dorchester it was about \$67.50 a year, and at Kingston about \$74.70, by the present estimate, or a difference of \$7 a year in favor of Dorchester. In order that we may secure a saving of \$40 we pay salaries to a matron and deputy-matron, without considering residence and perquisites, and without considering the difficulties and inconveniences occasioned by having a female wing for two or three convicts, thus taking away a large portion of the prison wanted for male convicts; and we thus expend \$800 in order to save \$40.

Sir CHARLES TUPPER. There is the cost of transport.

Mr. BLAKE. But how many female convicts would be sent up each year? If you take the statistics of the country and find how many out of the population of Quebec are sent to St. Vincent de Paul, and then transferred to Kingston; how many come from Ontario, with its 2,000,000 of people—and it must be assumed that the state of morality amongst females is as high in the Maritime Provinces as in the other Provinces—the hon. gentleman must come to the conclusion that there will not be an appreciable number of female convicts to be sent up here. The Inspector says there is no sufficient cause to make this change now, but that hereafter it may be necessary. The mending of the male convicts' clothes will not serve as an excuse for the present state of things. The truth is, it is a mistake. We built Dorchester Penitentiary with a view to economise and have a better system generally adopted, and to suggest, as the Inspector does, that because the state of things is no worse than it was when the old penitentiaries at St. John and Halifax were in operation, when the Provinces were obliged to keep a matron and deputy-matron in each of them, is absurd and is imposing on our intelligence. What we want is a reason why reorganization should not take place.

30. Manitoba Penitentiary..... \$32,233.90

Mr. BLAKE. The boom is here, if it is not anywhere else in Manitoba. There is no doubt whatever that there is a grand swell in the prosperity of this penitentiary. The maintenance last year reached \$111.36 for each convict, for that country is progressive as the hon. Minister of Agriculture says his Department is, and as a consequence the cost this year is to be \$123.97 per head. Is it going to cost so much more to maintain the free men outside of the penitentiary in Manitoba, as it is going to cost for those inside? Is the cost of living increasing there, instead of diminishing? What is the reason we find over \$120 per head as cost of maintenance for a convict in the Manitoba Penitentiary, twice as much as the cost at Dorchester. The chief keeper's salary has been increased by \$100; the guards' salaries are also increased.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. No; there are two additional guards.

Mr. BLAKE. These guards were paid at a high rate before, and I observe their salaries are the same, but the number is increased. It may be necessary to increase the number of this staff slightly, because I see an increased number of convicts is estimated for, and it is possible two more guards may be required, though I hardly see the necessity for them. It is to be presumed the original difficulty with respect to the imperfection of the walls surrounding the prison have been by this time overcome. I know not how that may be. I desire to know what is the principle on which the maintenance of a convict in the Manitoba Penitentiary reaches nearly \$124; is it the fact that the cost of living is higher this year than last? They do not use any agricultural implements there.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I presume that the estimate of last year was inadequate; hence the necessity for increasing the estimate for this year. I take it that the cost of living varies very much up there, that the cost of clothing, of food and of all appliances has been hitherto much higher than in the older Provinces. I hope we will find in another year that the cost of maintaining the convicts will be very much decreased. At the opening of navigation we will have steamers running to Thunder Bay, and a railway from there to the penitentiary in fact, and supplies will be forwarded at reasonable rates. At all events we will get competition, and the cost of transportation will be materially reduced. The increase in the number of guards is probably owing to the unprotected state of the building. I am not able to say whether any extra wall has yet been built, the lack of which has been assigned as a reason for keeping up a strong body of guards. There was a revolt there not long ago, a very serious one, when the convicts nearly overpowered their keepers, and it is, perhaps, in consequence of that outbreak we propose these two additional guards.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman expects that the cost of living will be very much decreased this year, because, he says, that during the approaching season a railway will be opened from Thunder Bay, and there will be competition. But it is for this very season we are estimating. The railway is to be opened in May, navigation in June, and these estimates are for the financial year, 30th June, 1883, to 30th June, 1884. Therefore, perhaps, the hon. gentleman will reduce the items, as he admits that the cost of living will be decreased with the opening of navigation.

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. The prison authorities, I suppose, estimated on the prices existing at the time the estimate was made, and, perhaps, with reference to the contract of last year. I hope that my anticipations are fulfilled, and that this estimate will be found too large next year, as last year it was too small. It does no harm to have the estimate.

Mr. BLAKE. The hon. gentleman says the estimate is made on present prices. This reminds me of what happened when I occupied that position. I found the estimate very high, and sent to know the reason why. The answer of the officer was that he based the estimates on the expectation that there was about to be an European war, which would raise the prices.

31. British Columbia.....\$21,706.83

Mr. BLAKE. I congratulate my hon. friends from that Province on the fact now demonstrated, that it is cheaper to live there, at any rate, than in Manitoba, because maintenance is something under \$90, for the British Columbia Penitentiary, although the number of convicts is slightly less than it is in the Prairie Province; but here I find several increases. For these seventy convicts, of whom, if I rightly