

goes to \$1,400. In the Dorchester penitentiary the warden begins at \$2,000 and goes by \$50 a year increase to \$2,400; the deputy goes from \$1,100 to \$1,400, and where the deputy warden's and chief keeper's offices are combined, he begins at \$1,200 and goes to \$1,500; the chaplains begin at \$500 and go to \$600.

Mr. LANDRY. Why is there so much difference between the salaries of the chaplains at Dorchester and the salaries in other penitentiaries?

Mr. THOMPSON. In all cases the difference of salaries is in consequence of the difference in the prison population. Speaking from memory, giving the figures roughly, the population in Kingston is about 600, at Dorchester only about 200. In Kingston the chaplains require to devote their whole time to the prisoners; that is not necessarily the case in Dorchester.

Mr. MILLS. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to the chaplain's work. I see that in St. Vincent de Paul and Kingston, the salary ranges from \$1,000 to \$1,200; in the Manitoba and British Columbia penitentiaries the salary is half this sum. Now, what is the duty of a chaplain? Is it simply preaching sermons on Sunday and having prayers, or does he attend generally to the religious and moral interests of all the inmates, and how much of his time is devoted to this work?—because a chaplain might be quite as hard worked, and quite as diligently employed in one institution as another, although there might be a smaller population.

Mr. THOMPSON. There might be a great difference in the zeal of the chaplains. But the duties of the chaplain are not merely to officiate on Sundays, but to attend to all the spiritual wants of the prisoners. In some of the large penitentiaries the work of the chaplains is laborious. For example, the work of one of the chaplains at St. Vincent de Paul, the Catholic chaplain, and I mention him because he has far the larger proportion of prisoners under his care, is such as to occupy his whole time, and a very laborious office it is.

Mr. BLAKE. I observe there is but one engineer provided for Kingston, one for St. Vincent de Paul, but an engineer and an assistant engineer for Dorchester. Why is this?

Mr. THOMPSON. The hon. gentleman will understand that it is not necessary that this staff be appointed. We are now fixing the salaries of persons who may be appointed from time to time.

Mr. BLAKE. I understand the hon. gentleman does not propose to ask the committee to prescribe salaries for officers at penitentiaries whom he does not intend to appoint.

Mr. THOMPSON. There is the possibility of their being appointed.

Mr. BLAKE. What is that possibility to the smaller institution at Dorchester which requires us to provide for filling the office of assistant engineer when at the very much larger institutions of Kingston and St. Vincent de Paul, there is no such possibility as the hon. gentleman is proposing to meet.

Mr. THOMPSON. The reason why there is no such office at Kingston is because there are other persons connected with the Public Works Department who are capable of doing the work.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will give us an indication as to what will be the general result of this new scale of salaries, whether it will increase, diminish or leave at the present sum this public charge.

Mr. THOMPSON. The result will be a reduction when the system gets fairly into operation. At the present time

the warden of Kingston receives \$2,600 a year, and in addition he has perquisites of at least a value of \$400. He is, of course, entitled to his house, and that is not reckoned; but he has been entitled for a number of years past to fuel, light, keep of horse and cow, and convict labor to work on the grounds he has for domestic purposes. Under the operation of this resolution he will begin at \$2,600, without any perquisite except his house. So, practically, there will be a reduction of \$400 a year when a new appointment is made although he will receive an increase of \$50 a year. The late warden of St. Vincent de Paul received a salary of \$2,600 a year, and perquisites amounting to \$400 more. On his retirement some three or four months ago, the present incumbent was appointed at a salary of \$2,400 without any perquisite. So there is a saving for the present year of \$600. The warden at Dorchester will receive under these resolutions \$2,000. The late incumbent had \$2,400 and perquisites amounting to \$400 more. In all these salaries we have placed the minimum at considerably less than the officers now receive in order that they may begin with the understanding that they are to progress in salary. I am not prepared to give in very great detail what my estimate of the saving is, but I have had such a calculation made, and my officers inform me that it will result substantially in a saving of \$5,000 or \$6,000 a year, and that will be more especially by the abolition of perquisites.

Mr. BLAKE. Then so far as regards the salaries they will remain about the same.

Mr. THOMPSON. Yes.

Mr. KIRKPATRICK. I understand the Minister of Justice by these resolutions is desirous of seeking to equalise the salaries paid to the officials of the penitentiaries, and he grades them according to the size of the penitentiary, the responsibility attached to the office and the danger, because we know that the officials engaged in the penitentiary not only occupy responsible positions but at different times incur great danger, and they are entitled to the consideration of the House in that respect when it is fixing their salaries. But I notice there is a strange difference between the salaries of some of the guards and keepers, when you compare the penitentiaries of greater importance with those of minor importance. For instance, the guards at Kingston receive from \$400 to \$500; the guards at Manitoba from \$500 to \$600. The guards at the Manitoba, British Columbia and Dorchester penitentiaries have, moreover, free residence, whereas the guards at Kingston have greater responsibility and incur greater danger, and yet have no residence. A short time ago the guards at Kingston sent in a petition referring to this matter and asking that their case should be considered. I do not see that these resolutions make that matter any better, but they rather keep up the inequality of giving these officers at the smaller penitentiaries larger salaries and more perquisites. That is not in accordance with the object of the resolution stated by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. THOMPSON. At Kingston penitentiary the inferior officers are divided into two classes, guards and keepers. In Manitoba the guards are really keepers as well; and as regards perquisites, the hon. gentleman will bear in mind that they are proposed no longer to be continued as to those officers coming under the operation of the Act. As regards residence it is true that in Manitoba residences have been provided. That is principally owing to the fact of the distance of the penitentiary from the city of Winnipeg and the necessity of providing residences for the guards at Stony Mountain, where it would be almost impossible to get residences if they were not provided in this way. I may say it is the intention of my colleague the Minister of Public Works to ask Parliament for an appropriation which will enable us to put up residences for the keepers and guards at Kingston, because we find that the efficiency of the institution is very much