

Retained to 93%

VOLUME 1

#1 Penitentiary Acts  
Piers Island  
Wardens Letters  
Justice Group Union

Penitentiary Employee  
Credit Union



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An Act respecting penitentiaries and the inspections thereof and for other purposes was assented to on April 8, 1875. This Act repealed the Penitentiary Act or an Act to amend the Penitentiary Act of 1868. It also appointed an Inspector for penitentiaries, prisons, and asylums or hospitals to be under the control of the Minister of Justice, and also that it would be lawful for the Governor In Council to appoint a fit and proper person to be Inspector of all such institutions, and who would hold office during pleasure of the Minister of Justice.

The said Inspector would be an officer of the Department of Justice and would receive a salary of \$2,000 per annum, exclusive of his travelling expenses, which would be determined by the Governor In Council. Subsection 9 dealing with the powers of the Inspector points out that it would be his duties to make regulations for the employment, maintenance, instruction, discipline, correction, punishment and reward of convicts imprisoned therein, and to annul, alter or amend such regulations from time to time subject to the approval of the Governor In Council, which rules, regulations so approved the wardens of penitentiaries and every other officer and servant employed in or about the same shall be bound to obey.

The Act also enumerates the penitentiaries of the day and are as follows: the penitentiary situate near the City of Kingston in



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the Province of Ontario to be known as the Kingston Penitentiary; the penitentiary situate at St. Vincent de Paul in the Province of Quebec to be known as the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary; the penitentiary situate near the City of St. John in the Province of New Brunswick to be known as the St. John Penitentiary; and the penitentiary situate near the City of Halifax in the Province of Nova Scotia to be known as the Halifax Penitentiary. It's noted that at this time there's no mention of the B. C. Penitentiary, which of course did not come into being until 1878.

The conveyance of convicts is to be done by sheriff or deputy sheriff of any county or district or any bailiff, constable, or other officer, or other person by his direction or by the direction of a court. Therefore at this time it would appear that there has been a full circle, and that instead of inmates being escorted by only penitentiary or R.C.M.P. officers we have come back to the case of deputy sheriffs within the province doing these escorts, except of course in the case of female inmates being transferred to the prison for women at Kingston Penitentiary.

Another evidence of the powers of the Inspector under the Act is noted under subsection 26, where it states that every prisoner, who, being ordered to be detained in a penitentiary, escapes from the person or persons having the lawful custody,



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shall be guilty of felony and, being convicted thereof, shall have not less than two years added to the original term of his imprisonment, and any prisoner who at times breaks prison or escapes, or attempts to escape while in the penitentiary, shall on conviction be punished by addition of a term not to exceed three years, being forfeit the whole period of remission which he may have earned, and he may again be confined in the penal prison or solitary cells, if any.

It's rather interesting that such terms would be laid down in the Act and not left to some judge or sob-sister in a jury at this time.

Further to these punishments, it's noted that any prisoner in any penitentiary who at any time attempts to break prison or forcibly break out of his cell or make any reach therein with intent to escape whether successful or not shall on conviction be punished by an addition of one year, not to exceed one year, to the term of his imprisonment besides forfeiting his period of remission.

If any convict confined in a penitentiary assaults any officer or servant employed therein, he shall be guilty of at least an aggravated assault, and shall forfeit the whole period of remission which he may have previously earned.



Under the treatment of convicts every convict shall, during the term of his confinement, be clothed at the expense of the penitentiary in suitable prison garments. He shall be fed on a sufficient quantity of wholesome food. He shall be provided with a bed and pillow with sufficient covering, varied according to the season. Every convict shall be kept in a cell by himself at night and during the day when not employed except in the case of sickness.

Convict labour was designated as being of two categories: obligatory, in that every convict except during sickness or any other incapacity shall be kept constantly at hard labour, the kind of which shall be determined by the warden, every day, not exceeding ten hours exclusive of hours for meals, except on Sunday, Good Friday, Christmas Day, and such other days as the Governor may set apart for days of fasting or thanksgiving, or such days as may be designated in the rules made by the Inspector in that behalf, provided that no Roman Catholic convict shall be compelled to labour on any of the obligatory holidays of his church. Voluntary labour, to note, a convict of exemplary conduct may be allowed by the warden if he sees fit to work over hours at such work as can be conveniently done in the institution.

Under prison offences the Inspector shall draw up a list of prison offences by way of a general warning to the convicts as to their conduct in the prison, among which it shall be especially declared that no convict shall be permitted to speak to another

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convict upon any pretense whatever, nor to any officer or guard, or any other servant of the institution, except with respect to the work at which he is employed and then only in the fewest words and in a respectable manner.

Under punishments it shall be lawful for the Inspector, subject to the approval of the Minister of Justice, to make and from time to time alter rules for discipline and correction of convicts confined in any penitentiary as hereinfore provided. But in any case any convict if accused of having committed an offence which, if proved, will be followed by the infliction of corporal punishment or a remand to the penal prison where such penal prison is established, it shall be the duty of the warden to make investigation upon oath into the facts of the case before awarding such punishment, or remand, and to make minute of the evidence taken by him to be forwarded forthwith to the Inspector, provided also that the surgeon of the penitentiary shall have certified that the prisoner is in a physical condition to receive such punishment and that the surgeon shall be present during its infliction, and that no more than sixty lashes shall be inflicted upon any prisoner for such an offence.

It shall be lawful for the Governor to appoint to any penitentiary a warden, a deputy warden, a Protestant chaplain, an assistant Protestant chaplain when required, a Roman Catholic



chaplain, an assistant Roman Catholic chaplain when required, a surgeon and an accountant, all of whom shall hold their offices during pleasure, but the Inspector shall have the power to summarily suspend any of the above-named officers for misconduct.

It's noted now that it's lawful for the Minister of Justice to appoint to any penitentiary a schoolmaster, a schoolmistress, a storekeeper, a steward, a chief keeper, a matron, a deputy matron, and such and so many trade instructors as may from time to time be required, but the warden shall have the power summarily to suspend for misconduct any of the officers named in this section until the next visit of the Inspector, to whom he shall submit a report, and in such case it will be dealt with the Inspector.

It shall be lawful for the warden to appoint for any penitentiary an assistant deputy matron and a clerk and such and so many keepers and guards and other servants as by order of the Inspector may be authorized for the proper protection and care of the institution, and to suspend any of them for neglect of duty, as he shall see fit, or may dismiss them without further charge than that of inefficiency in his opinion, but such a suspension or dismissal shall be reported forthwith to the Inspector.

On the discharge of prisoners or convicts, again it states that no convict shall be discharged on termination of sentence or otherwise if he labours under a contagious or infectious disease, or at his own request during the months of November, December, January, February or March. He shall be permitted to remain in the penitentiary or until the first day of April following the termination of his sentence. It also points out that on the first day of April a list shall be made of the prisoners whose sentences have expired during the five preceding months, and who are still in prison, and according to such order they will be discharged one convict on the said first day of April and one on every day thereafter until the whole shall have been discharged. If a prisoner's sentence expires on a Sunday, he shall be discharged on the preceding Saturday unless he wants to stay until the Monday following.

Every convict upon sentence of life or for not less than two years upon his discharge either by expiration, by sentence, or by otherwise, shall be furnished at the expense of the penitentiary with a suit of clothing other than prison clothing and with such sum of money as shall be sufficient to pay his travelling expenses to the place at which he received his sentence and such other sum in addition, not exceeding twenty dollars, which the warden may deem proper; should any sum remain at his

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credit for earnings for overwork, such sum shall be paid to him at such time and such amounts as the prison rules may direct.

The Act also carries with it notations as to the prisoners' effects, that articles found on a convict on entry are to be kept by him but he may dispose of them if he so desires. It also points out privileged visitors, in other words, who shall have the right of visiting, in other words, the Minister of Justice, Governor General of Canada, Lieutenant Governor of the Provinces, any member of the Executive Council of the Provinces, any Member of the Parliament of Canada, or any of the local Legislatures, any judge of the court of record or in any of the Provinces, any Queen's Counsel, but no other person shall be permitted to enter within the walls where the prisoners are confined, except by special permission of the warden and under such regulations as the Inspector may prescribe.

On convicts dying in the penitentiary, and should the Inspector or warden or surgeon or chaplain have any reason to believe that the death of such convict arose from any other than ordinary causes, it shall be their or his duty to call upon a coroner having jurisdiction to hold an inquest upon the body of the deceased convict.



The body disposition is that if not claimed by relatives the body may be delivered up to an inspector of anatomy or to a professor of anatomy in any college where medical science is taught or, if not so delivered, shall be decently interred at the expense of the institution.

Female prison and prisoners: the female convict shall be kept distinct and secluded from male convicts and under the charge of a matron with such and so many female officers as the Inspector may from time to time see fit to employ, reference being had to the number of convicts and the kinds of work in which they are engaged.

It is noted that under employment of officers no officer other than the surgeon would be allowed to carry on any trade or calling of property or emulant other than his office in the penitentiary.

Penal cells to be established in a penitentiary for the effect of punishment or the reprimation of the criminal shall be with strict, separate confinement and the inmate shall be confined during some period of time for which the court has sentenced him to be imprisoned, and it is therefore expedient that provision be made in all penitentiaries and in all others hereafter to be established for the separate confinement of every convict for a certain period of the time mentioned in the sentence of the court. It shall be lawful for the Governor, whenever he shall

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deem it expedient, to order that such and so many penal cells shall be constructed from time to time in any penitentiary.

It is noted also that an Act was assented to on the 12th of April, 1876 for the provision for the appointment of an assistant inspector of penitentiaries in Manitoba and British Columbia.

It shall be lawful for the Governor In Council to appoint some fit and proper person to be an assistant inspector of any penitentiary established in the Province of Manitoba and also to appoint some fit and proper person to be assistant inspector of any penitentiary established in the Province of British Columbia. It would appear therefore that somewhere along the line before 1878 advice had been given that there would be a penitentiary constructed in British Columbia.

The Penitentiary Act of 1888, as published for rules, regulations, apparently was assented to in 1887. This Act enumerates the following penitentiaries: the penitentiary near the City of Kingston known as Kingston Penitentiary; the penitentiary situate at St. Vincent de Paul in the Province of Quebec; the penitentiary situate at Dorchester in the Province of New Brunswick known as the Dorchester Penitentiary; the penitentiary situate in the County of Lisgar in the Province of Manitoba known as the Manitoba Penitentiary; and the penitentiary situate in the District of New Westminster in the Province of British Columbia

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known as the British Columbia Penitentiary.

The areas for the penitentiary were as follows: Kingston Penitentiary for the Province of Ontario; the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary for the Province of Quebec; Dorchester Penitentiary for the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; Manitoba Penitentiary for the Province of Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and the District of Keewatin; and the British Columbia Penitentiary for the Province of British Columbia.

The various Acts or subsections within the Penitentiary Act of 1888 is very little different from the preceding one. The portion dealing with punishments, deceased convicts, etc. are exactly the same. There appears at that time to have been little change in anything except in salaries. Para 38 under the duties of the warden as of 1888 notes, should it be necessary to inflict corporal punishment, the warden shall take evidence under oath which he shall transmit at once to the Inspector in order that the punishment be considered by the Minister; should no order to the contrary be received by the warden, the punishment may be inflicted. He shall also notify the surgeon at once of the time thereof but no corporal punishment shall be inflicted until nor unless the surgeon certify in writing upon the report book opposite the entry of the report that the convict is fit.

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Section 39 states, if the surgeon shall pronounce the convict fit, the warden shall name the officers who are to inflict the punishment and the number of lashes to be given by each; the warden shall be present at the punishment himself unless he be prevented by absence, sickness or other disability, in which case the deputy shall be present in his stead. It is interesting to note here that where the warden states the number of lashes to be given by each officer, it would indicate that the inmate or convict is going to receive a fair amount of punishment. If you go by the fact that they are to receive upward of sixty lashes, it would appear therefore that each officer is going to give five or ten lashes.

Under the myriad of duties that are listed under the rules and regulations of 1888 one stands out as being a little different than one would think; that is, the duties of the steward. The steward has charge of the victualling department of the penitentiary of the kitchen, he's in charge of the bakery, he checks the provisions coming in, he takes care that the food cooked or supplied is in good quality, he shall take special care that the ventilation is perfect and cleanliness of the utmost prevalence in the kitchen, he shall see that the provisions at mealtime are properly cooked and equally distributed, and he shall see that no convict exchanges or gives any portion of his diet to another convict, he shall see that the straw in the bed is changed every



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three months and for that purpose he shall divide the whole number that an equal portion shall be attended to, he shall see that the convicts are all seated facing the same direction; the steward shall be in charge of the shaving and the hair-cutting of the convicts, he's in charge of the washing and the mending of clothing and bedding, and he sees that their under-clothing is changed once a week, he's responsible for the clothing and bedding which has been handed out to him by the storekeeper, he appears in the prison for duty not later than half-past six o'clock in the morning in the winter or six in the summer to see to the preparation of breakfast, he is present at all meals, he sees that the cells are scrubbed out once a week, whitewashed once every three months, he shall see that the blocks of the cells are distinguished by capital letters such as A, B, C, and that each of ranges by Roman numerals, that every cell is indicated by the figures 1, 2, 3; when a convict is received in the prison the steward takes charge of him to see that he is properly cleansed and clothed in a prison suit, he sees that the right convict's effects are entered in the effect book, he appoints a cell to be occupied by the convict, he shall see that the clothing of the convict is properly cared for, he sees that every article supplied to a cell is marked with the appropriate letter, numeral, figure, he shall see that every article of clothes is marked, he shall see that in every cell there shall be furnished one stretcher, one bed, one pillow and

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one pillowcase, one pail, one piggin, one towel, one hair comb and that in the summer the bed is finished with two linen seats, one blanket and one rug, and in the winter one blanket additional. He sees that there's a piece of soap in every cell, he sees that every convict is supplied with one jacket, one waistcoat, one pair of trousers, two pair of drawers, two day shirts, two night shirts when ordered by the warden, two pairs of socks, one stock, one cap, one pair of strong shoes or brogans, and one handkerchief. The dress of the male convicts, if of woolen cloth, shall be one-half brown and one-half yellow; if cotton or linen, one-half black and one-half white. In those penitentiaries where meals are taken in the cells, the steward shall take due care to have the food served to the convicts with every possible regard to their comfort.

I wonder with all these duties just what the chief keeper was doing.

Under the duties of the guards it is rather interesting to note that para 213 states, every guard on the walls and on duty outside the walls shall be armed with a breech-loading rifle in every chamber of which there shall be a ball cartridge. He shall also carry in addition a revolver always loaded, the same as all officers within the walls. This is a change from present-day regulations in that no officer within the walls with the exception of the patrol officers carries a weapon of any sort.

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Under punishments, section 364 for inmates, it decrees that punishment to be inflicted upon male convicts for any one prison offence shall be not other than the following: diet of bread and water not exceeding nine consecutive meals; hard bed with or without a cover or covers according to the season not exceeding six consecutive nights; a diet of bread and water not exceeding nine consecutive meals combined with hard bed not exceeding seven consecutive nights if approved by the surgeon; ball and chain; ball and chain combined with the diets as listed above; confinement in penal or separate cells with such diet as the surgeon shall pronounce sufficient respect being had to the constitution of the convict and the length of period which he is to be confined; penal or separate cell combined with 1, 2 or 3 or flogging with the cats under restrictions set forth in the Penitentiary Act; flogging with rods of birch or other wood.

Punishment to be inflicted on female convicts shall not be other than the following for any single offence: diet of bread and water not exceeding six consecutive meals; hard bed with or without one or more covers not exceeding six consecutive nights; diet of bread and water not exceeding six consecutive meals combined with hard bed not exceeding six consecutive nights; cutting the hair short; cutting the hair short combined with number 1, 2 or 3 (which is the diet of bread and water and hard bed etc.); penal or separate cell with such diet as the surgeon shall declare

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sufficient respect being made to the constitution of the convict and the period during which she is to be confined; penal or separate cell combined with any of the preceding; also, forfeiture of date of remission of sentence earned by the convict.

The following is the penitentiary diet which could be altered from time to time by the Inspector upon consultation with the warden and surgeon. Breakfast - cold meat, 4 ounces without bone; bread, white, 12 ounces; bread, brown, 1 ounce; coffee, made of peas, 1-1/2 pints; sugar, 1/2 ounce; dinner - meat, 7 ounces without bone; bread, white, 8 ounces; bread, brown, 1 ounce; potatoes, 16 ounces; soup, 1-1/2 pints; supper - bread, 12 ounces; tea, 1 pint; sugar, 1/2 ounce. From the indication there they're not going to get too fat at supper.

Officers' uniform clothing of the day were as follows. Each officer who wears uniform shall be allowed uniform clothing as follows: one fine blue cloth dress suit every four years consisting of fine blue cloth cap, frock coat, waistcoat and trousers. I wonder what he did for a shirt? One winter suit every year consisting of pile of cloth, pea jacket, waistcoat and trousers. One summer suit every year consisting of blue serge or Halifax tweed, pea jacket, waistcoat and trousers; one frieze overcoat every three years; one pair of French kid boots for winter and a pair of shoes for summer every year; one fur cap



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every four years; one cloth cap every year. The warden may allow any officer whose conduct has been good and who is about to retire from the service to take away his dress suit if it has been in use eighteen months, and his winter or summer suit if it has been in use six months.

In the rear of this book of the Penitentiary Act's rules and regulations of 1888 there has been appended a notation regarding half-rashions. This is in almost copper-plate handwriting and is dated 22nd of January, 1920. Half-rashions breakfast - fifty per cent of full ration; dinner - fifty per cent meat, fish, or beans or whatever may be served; fifty per cent of potatoes, fifty per cent of bread; one pint of tea or coffee when issued; supper - fifty per cent of fruit, rice or syrup and the same proportion of bread. Bread and water diet - 6 ounces bread each meal, water at will, I believe this is, it's extremely hard to read, it could also be water at life.

WATER AD LIB

The Penitentiary Act 1939 as amended 1940, 1945, 1947 repeals the Penitentiary Act of 1927 as amended by chapter 27 of the Statutes of 1932, '33 and the Statutes of 1938.

The penitentiaries as listed or enumerated in the '39 Act are as follows: the penitentiary situate near the City of Kingston in the Province of Ontario known as the Kingston Penitentiary;

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the penitentiary situate at St. Vincent de Paul in the Province of Quebec known as St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary; the penitentiary situate at Dorchester in the Province of New Brunswick known as the Dorchester Penitentiary; the penitentiary situate in the County of Lisgar in the Province of Manitoba known as the Manitoba Penitentiary; the penitentiary situate in the District of New Westminster in the Province of British Columbia known as the British Columbia Penitentiary; and the penitentiary situate near the City of Prince Albert in the Province of Saskatchewan known as the Saskatchewan Penitentiary.

The provinces to be served by the enumerated penitentiaries are as follows: Kingston Penitentiary for the Province of Ontario; the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary for the Province of Quebec except the Magdalen Islands; the Dorchester Penitentiary for the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the Magdalen Islands; the Manitoba Penitentiary for the Province of Manitoba, that portion of Ontario lying west of the meridian of 85 degrees 20 minutes west longitude, and all that part of the territory situate east of the Province of Saskatchewan and the 102nd west meridian; the British Columbia Penitentiary for the Province of British Columbia; and the Saskatchewan Penitentiary for the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and for all that part of the territories of Canada except the Yukon Territory situate west of the 102nd west meridian.

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The subsections in the 1939 Penitentiary Act do not vary in any great content from those of the previous Acts, except one area whereby in 1939 it was possible to discharge an inmate in the months of November and March. Previous to this no inmate could be discharged in November or March.

The following positions are noted in the rules and regulations of 1888: the warden, chaplain, the assistant chaplains, other ministers, surgeons, deputy warden, the chief keeper, the accountant, the storekeeper, the steward, a clerk, the schoolmaster, a schoolmistress, trade instructors, hospital keeper, keepers, guards, gatekeepers, matrons, deputy matrons, assistant deputy matrons.

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Prepared and submitted by T. W. Hall, former warden, B. C. Penitentiary, and Regional Director (Western).....

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PIERS ISLAND PENITENTIARY

1932-1935

In May 1932 a total of 292 male and 278 female members of the Sons of Freedom Sect of Doukhobours, living in the Kootenays of British Columbia, were sentenced to penitentiary terms of imprisonment for parading in the nude.

The federal government handled the problem of one of the biggest mass arrests in history by creating a special penal colony at Piers Island in the Straits of Georgia.

Piers Island is about 240 acres, situated about three-quarters of a mile east of Swartz Bay on Vancouver Island.

Construction of the prison facilities to house the Doukhobour prisoners, male and female staff, and necessary administrative and servicing requirements, was commenced in May 1932 and completed in December of that year.

The penitentiary buildings were located on the north east side of the island and consisted of the following:



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Two separate barbed wire enclosed compounds, one for female and one for male prisoners.

Each contained:

4 dormitories  
Kitchen - dining room  
Laundry and changeroom  
Stores department  
Small infirmary  
Administration offices  
Guardroom

N.B. The staff kitchen and dining room was located in the male compound.

Outside of each compound respectively living and sleeping accommodations for male and female staff were erected.

As construction progressed and accommodation became available prisoners were received at the penitentiary, beginning in August 1932 and completed in December 1932. This strange prison was now fully operational.

The greater majority of the male and female prisoners were sentenced to three years' imprisonment for parading in the nude. However, a minor number, both male and female, were also sentenced to additional terms for arson or bombing offences.

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All buildings were of frame wooden construction, similar to World War II temporary accommodation for the Armed Forces.

- (a) Each compound was enclosed with a 16 foot high double barbed wire fence.
- (b) Entrance gates to both compounds were controlled, opened and shut, by a male officer posted on a security stand, which was erected at fence top level, and manned 24 hours each day.

Water for drinking, ablutions and cooking was provided by at least six wells which were drilled on the island. This was a governing factor in the decision to lease the island. Sea water was pumped directly to a special water tank for general sanitary and fire-fighting services.

Each well had individual gasoline pumps and required servicing day and night to meet the heavy demand for fresh water.

Coleman lamps were used to provide lighting both inside and outside the compounds. Because of the large number required, together with the need to service the water well pumps, it was necessary to post an officer on day and night shifts for the needed maintenance.

Since the island could only be supplied by boat, a wharf large enough to handle the CPR "Princess Mary" had to be built. The wharf also provided berthing space for the prison's power boat. This boat, the "Narsipur", made regular security tours around the island, and was used to take prisoners to Duncan on Vancouver Island for such things as specialized medical treatment, surgery, or involved dental care. It also ferried officers to Swartz Bay when they were proceeding on leave, or returning from leave.

Staff

47 male officers

12 matrons

1 part-time physician

1 part-time dentist

Male Officers

A/Deputy Warden

A/Chief Keeper

Senior Warder

( 2 Warders

( 1 Storekeeper

Temporary ( 1 Hospital Officer

( 1 Works Officer

( 1 Boat Captain and Engineer

( 1 Horse team driver (later a dump truck)

Male Officers (cont'd.)

35 Temporary Guards Grade 1

The guard staff worked a night shift of 13 hours (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) and a day shift of 11 hours (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.). In the first year of operation officers were granted six consecutive days of rest every 6 weeks. This was ultimately changed to two days of rest each two weeks.

All temporary staff, male and female, received a salary of \$90.00 per month, plus food, lodging and uniform. There were no other perquisites or benefits.

Night Staff duties (Male Officers)

- 1 - In charge (a/Warder)
- 2 - Guards Grade 1 - one perimeter security of fence of both male and female compounds.
- 2 - Guards Grade 1 - one each on entrance gate stands of male and female compounds.
- 4 - Guards Grade 1 - one to each of 4 dormitories. Locked in with inmates for entire shift.
- 1 - Guard Grade 1 - For relief for midnight meal in each dormitory and to service pumps and lamps.

Female Staff

- 1 - Matron i/c
- 1 - Matron - to staff infirmary, and visit each dormitory with Matron i/c. (Matrons were not

Female Staff (cont'd.)

locked in dormitories for the night.)

A fair way to describe these prisoners would be to call them religious fanatics. They were convinced they did not have to obey Canada's laws and the country's accepted social behaviour. A detailed study of the Doukhobour peoples and their problems may be found in a book written by Simma Holt, entitled "Terror in the Name of God", and which is the story of the Sons of Freedom Doukhobours.

When the prisoners were admitted in 1932 they refused to perform work of any kind, their attitude being that they were innocent. You, the "civilization peoples", had put them in jail and must do everything for them.

However, they soon complied with preparing and serving their own meals. They were strict vegetarians, and the authorities had very little trouble in providing the food necessary for a well-balanced vegetarian diet.

It was not long before they agreed to do their own laundry in the facility provided in both compounds. Eventually, the female prisoners began to make shirts for the men and to repair clothing.

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They were a strong-willed and stubborn group of people. Basically, they are a matriarchy and as such the female prisoners were very difficult to handle. The men gave way easily to pressure from them.

By 1934 there was a noticeable improvement in attitudes, particularly in the younger age groups.

As far as was possible housing in the dormitories was arranged as follows.

No. 1	Dormitory	-	app.	19-25	yrs.
2	"	-	"	25-35	"
3	"	-	"	35-55	"
4	"	-	"	55 and older	

Officers were posted to day and night shifts, and one could, for example, be assigned to the young men's dormitory because he was also between 22-30 years of age. There is no doubt that this was beneficial, because the young inmates wanted to talk for hours on end about the activities and social life in the areas outside of the Kootenays and their strictly controlled life as seen by their Doukhobour elders. Many invitations were extended to the young officers to visit them in Krestova and Brilliant when they were released.

WARDENS LETTERS

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The Doukhobours, by their religious beliefs, did not believe in any form of killing, whether it be animal or human. There were many arguments between them, but they were vocal and not physical. At times they would refuse to go into their dormitories at night and would stand as a stolid group. The officers occasionally had the onerous task of carrying them in bodily and placing them on their beds. They bore no animosity towards the officers for this action.

They did not believe in leaving any windows open in the dormitories at night, and would close them within minutes after a dormitory supervising officer had opened one or two for ventilation. This, combined with the high fire they maintained in the steel barreled stoves at night, made tours of 13 hours' night duty something no present-day penitentiary officer would ever accept.

By day and night they would gather in the dormitories and sing doleful hymns, interspersed with Russian folk songs.

As can be well understood, they missed deeply personal contact with their families, and with the compounds only 100 yards or so apart, it was inevitable that a form of signalling by handkerchiefs soon sprang up. The island was well-wooded, and the only way the officers could get the male prisoners to go into the woods to cut firewood was to walk them by the



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female compound fence on the way to the work area. This worked well and was a major factor in keeping down the natural unrest.

Because of certain acute medical reasons or for obvious compassionate situations a percentage of both male and female prisoners were granted what was called at that time "Ticket-of-Leave" instead of parole. In practically all cases, the prisoners refused to accept this voluntary type of release, and it was not unusual to see two officers carrying the prisoners to be released on stretchers to the dock and placed on the "Princess Mary" bound for Vancouver. In every case, with the exception of serious medical ones, the prisoners got off the stretchers and thanked the officers. They had demonstrated to the public that they had forcibly been removed from their "brothers" who were left in the prison.

In early 1935 a gradual release of all the prisoners began, because of their general behaviour which had contributed towards a reduction in their sentences. Naturally, family members were released at the same time. By March 25, 1935 all the prisoners had been released.

The penitentiary authorities were well aware that the majority of this misguided group had not changed their attitude of defiance to the laws of Canada. However, it was the

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opinion of most of the officers who had worked for approximately 3 years in the unusual prison that a large number of them, particularly the younger prisoners, would ease out from under the yoke of the elder members of the sect and drift away from this terrorist group which was dedicated to arson and bombing. Nude parading was a form of protest and they believed served to emphasize that they were "Nature's People". As the young people melded with the normal population, only then would the sect be minimized over a period of aging to an easier controllable level.

Many say it was an exercise in futility. Only the future, statistics, and reports from the harrassed federal agencies, will confirm that incarceration contributed towards an acceptance by them of our way of life for themselves and their children. When arrested in 1932 over 150 young children became wards of the provincial government and were exposed for 3 years to a different culture.

The staff of the prison carried out the usual administrative duties of closing out a prison. Officers who had been seconded to Piers Island from B. C. Penitentiary in New Westminster returned to normal duties there. Certain temporary officers were offered permanent positions at B. C. Penitentiary and all accepted.

WARDENS  
LETTERS

- 11 -

Special commendation should go to Lt. Col. H. W. Cooper, Warden of B. C. Penitentiary, A/Deputy Warden L. Goss, A/Chief Keeper B. Macdonald, and Keeper W. Bennett, who administered the prison on Piers Island with compassion, and with the intelligence to realize you cannot handle this fanatical type of prisoner within the framework of the usual regulations and discipline.

WARDENS  
LETTERS

**Willson**

091-0711

▽

WARDENS  
LETTERS

18 December 1878

James G. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries;

requesting permission to borrow \$64.47 from the Bank of British Columbia to meet outstanding accounts.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden.

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20 December 1878

B. W. Pearse  
Resident Engineer, Victoria

Sir;

I have received your sketch of the gate, Mr. Fitzsimmons thinks that the most suitable gate would be an ordinary board gate hung on wooden posts to correspond with the fence and a small wicket cut in the fence at one side. This would be a cheaper and safer gate and we could get all the necessary iron work done here. With your permission this will be the gate we shall put up. I shall be glad to hear from you at once so that the men can go to work at once.

I have the honour to be Sir  
your obedient servant,

Arthur H. McBride

1879

Estimates for the British Columbia Penitentiary for the fiscal year ending  
June 30, 1880

Salaries	\$12,600.00
Rations	\$ 3,650.00
Clothing	\$ 1,236.00
Discharge allowance, gratuities, Clothing, etc	\$ 240.00
Total Estimate for the Fiscal Year ending	<u>                    </u>
30 June 1880	<u>\$26,485.00</u>

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23 January 1879

To: Assistant Inspector;

I have already received authority from Ottawa to purchase a team of horses and a cart for the Penitentiary. A light horse and buggy are also urgently required, and it would be well to apply for an additional sum of money for their purchase. Farm implements will be much required this spring. I have allowed for them in the estimates but it would be advisable to purchase a plow, harrow, etc before spring sets in and so as to have a certain amount of land under cultivation this year.

Your obedient servant

Arthur H. McBride

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7 January 1879

The Warden  
B.C. Penitentiary

Sir;

I am directed to inform you that in the case of the convict Jack A Barclay sound Indian found guilty of murder at the Autumn Assizes held at Victoria, and upon who sentence of death was passed, his Excellency the Governor General

20 February 1879

B. W. Pearse  
Resident Engineer  
Victoria

With reference to my memo of the 14th instant and your reply dated the 17th instant. I have to inform you that the leak was not caused by the snow drifting under the shingles. In an earlier letter to the Warden about an Indian who had been sentenced to 10 years for murder I believe I used the name Jack, it would appear that the name is Jacobs.

Arthur McBride

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March 1879

Inspector of Penitentiaries:

I have to report to you that convict Jacobs (Indian) broke from his gang on the afternoon of Thursday, February 2nd at about half past two o'clock. He obtained leave to go to the convenience, situated about fifty yards from the place the men were working and when there he took off his shoes and stockings and made a straight run for the bush. Two shots were fired to stop him, but he paid no attention. Guard Wiggins started after him, and after a run of about half an hour brought him back. I have to commend Guard Wiggins for the energy and proptitude he showed on this occasion. I am happy that the affair ended as well as it did, for had the attempt been successful there should doubtless have been many more considering the insecure state of the building. The difficulty of recovering a man who gets two hundred yards from the Penitentiary, and the loose discipline to which the men have been accustomed in the gaols, I consider it well to make an example of him and thereupon ordered an infliction of thirty-five lashes with the "cat". The sentence was carried out in the presence of the surgeon and an assistant Inspector and some of the



more unruly convicts in the evening of Friday afternoon and this morning convict Jacobs reported to his gang. Jacobs was sentenced at the Victoria Autumn Assizes to death for wilful murder. His sentence was commuted for ten years in the Penitentiary.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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13 March 1879

B. W. Pearse

Resident Engineer  
Victoria

I understand that part of the government reserve as the south side of the river has been set aside as a farm for the Penitentiary. If I am correct will you be good enough to give me possession of it as soon as possible. You will understand how much it is needed. The land surrounding the Penitentiary is of very little use for farming purposes and supposing what little there is could be brought into proper cultivation. There is hardly enough to give forage for the horses. If possession could be given in a month or so we could get some sort of a crop from it this year.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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13 March 1879

The Inspector of Penitentiaries

I have to inform you that an old building put up by the Sappers as a Church and afterwards used as a legislative assembly house was blown down during a gale here on Thursday last. It was the only one of the old buildings considered worth repairing and it was being shingled and underpinned accordingly. The men were working in it up to within an hour of the time it fell. On examination of the frame on the first floor it was found that the mortiseing was gone with

dry rot. We have now no work shop but the little carpenter shop immediately by the front door.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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13 March 1879

The Inspector  
Ottawa

I enclose a copy of a letter sent to Mr. Pearse about the reserve on the south side of the river. Mr. Pearse was here and it was at his request the I wrote to him as the Indian Department have applied for it as an Indian Reserve. I need not tell you how necessary it is that the land mentioned be appropriated for the Penitentiary for you are aware that it is and will be when cleared good farm land and we have more on this side of the river, this land is situated immediately opposite the Penitentiary. This land which is about 1200 yards wide, a large part of which is prairie land.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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23 March 1879

Inspector of Penitentiaries

Mr. Pearse on his last visit informed me that he had received instructions from the Public Works Department to supply the necessary grating for the unsecured windows, wooden double doors and to alter the Catholic Chapel. The Chapel is being altered by convicts under his guidance, the window gratings are to be made on our premises by Mr. Tiposea of Victoria with one convict as assistant. I will report fully as soon as the alterations etc. are finished.

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7 April 1879

Mr. Bussie esq. M.P., M.D.

Ottawa

In reply to your letter of the 10th inst. suggesting that in future a liberal amount of outside orders be given to Mr. Dean and Major providing they furnish the articles as reasonably as anyone else. I have to inform you that all the goods for the Penitentiary are purchased from the tradesmen whose prices are lowest and whose selection of goods are the best. Following out these conditions, Mr. Dean has almost the whole of the patronage outside of the contracts.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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8 April 1879

The Inspector

Ottawa,

I am sorry to report to you that night guard came on duty on Saturday evening considerably the worse for liquor. He was very insistent to the Chief Keeper and used very bad language. I dismissed him immediately and had him removed from the Penitentiary. I have temporarily appointed James Burr until I can see the Assistant Inspector and find a man to take on permanently.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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12 April 1879

Rev. Robert Jamison

New Westminster, B.C.

I am instructed by the Inspector of Penitentiaries to inform you that you have been appointed Protestant Chaplin to this Penitentiary at the salary of \$200.00 per annum. I am also to instruct you on receipt of this notification to enter

upon the discharge of your official duties.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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14 April 1879

W. Wynand Walkem, M.D.

Assistant Inspector,

B.C. Penitentiary, Burrard Inlet.

Sir:

I have received your letter of the 12 April and note your instructions about the books and will satisfy Father Horris. In respect to the school I can only tell you that we have had no school master. Mr. Foulding, acting under instructions from Mr. Noylan, contained in the following paragraphs in his instructions, as soon as convenient the Warden will provide temporary accommodations, say in the passage of the wing for opening school. The accountant and one of the guards, who was the best qualified will act as teachers under the supervision of the Chaplins. As in the case in the other Penitentiaries, attend school in the wing three days a week, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during the dinner hour. Mr. Bullen teaches during the dinner hour also. On Thursday, and Fridays, also Wednesday divine service is held during this time. I am, myself, present every day in the weeks, so far the instruction goes, I think, that Mr. Foulding and his assistant have shown their best and that the convicts have shown fair progress. I would also say that during these regular school hours discipline has been properly maintained. I notified the Chaplins that the school was to be conducted under their supervision. As yet neither one or the other has attended the late acting Chaplin promised only last week that for the future he would attend school regularly one day a week.

I will again bring the matter before the notice of Father Horris and Mr.

Jamieson and report their actions.

Arthur H. McBride

28 April 1879

Archdeacon Woods  
New Westminster, B.C.

I am instructed by the Acting Inspector of this Penitentiary to place the Protestant Chapel at your disposal at some convenient time on Sunday afternoons. Please inform me at what time it would be most convenient for you.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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5 May 1879

The Acting Inspector  
Burrard Inlet

In reply to your memo of the 3rd inst. instructing me that the teamster is to be done away with. I cannot possibly do without him as none of the other guards are capable of taking his place. As no provision has been made for him and one guard must go, I have informed Guard Fitzgerald that his services are no longer required. Fitzgerald was taken on in place of Guard Johnston on the 15th of April. In my letter to the Inspector dated February 5, I stated that it was absolutely necessary to engage a teamster as I had no guard who was able to take care of the horses and I have been thus far compelled to take the above course. I regret that Guard Fitzgerald's dismissal in the present state of affairs, for although I should have a full complement of Officers, were the bush around the Penitentiary cleared, I cannot help feeling that where there is much brush and forest within 100 yards of the Penitentiary door, and always about a hundred Indian canoes at the waters edge close by, it is not safe to allow the gangs outside with only three officers. One of whom will have to be giving almost all his attention to the work, the fourth guard is in charge of the carpenter and blacksmith shop.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

Nominal list of Officers employed in the B.C. Penitentiary, 30 June 1879,  
giving rank, rate of pay and date of appointment:

Arthur H. McBride	Warden	\$1,200.00	16 May 1878
James Fitzsimmons	C/Keeper	\$ 800.00	12 August 1878
Charles M. Trew	Surgeon	\$ 500.00	09 August 1878
W. Harvey Falding	B/Keeper	\$ 800.00	09 August 1878
Rev. R. Jamieson	P/Chaplin	\$ 200.00	4 September 1879
Rev. E. M. I. Horris	RC/Chaplin	\$ 200.00	29 September 1879
H. Fizherbert Bullen	Steward	\$ 650.00	27 September 1878
John Wiggins	Guard	\$ 600.00	25 September 1878
John Devon	Guard	\$ 600.00	27 September 1878
Benjamin Graham	Guard	\$ 600.00	25 September 1878
Henry Kehoe	Guard	\$ 600.00	27 September 1878
Patrick Smyth	Guard & Teamster	\$ 600.00	21 February 1879
Jonathan Money	Messenger	\$ 600.00	03 September 1878

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14 August 1879

Assistant Inspector, Burrard Inlet.

With regard to the bakery I have inquired from Mr. McKay and he informs me that the only place in the building where a bakery would be practical is in the dining room. Guard Money informs me that he can put up a bakery in the room under the Chief Keepers Office, now used as a lamp room. The cost of erecting an oven with utensils such as bakers trough, table, etc, estimating cost of a man for eight days to take Guard Money's place while he is building would be something under \$50.00. If the oven is built here however, the flue would have to be carried up alongside the fireplace in the Chief Keepers Office above in the manner shown in the accompanying diagram. Guard Money is a plasterer and a bricklayer, he says that he would do the whole of the work and finish it in about eight days if you will give me the necessary authority. The work can be completed by the end of the month. This is the only possible way of reducing

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the bread account shown in the estimates. It would be impossible to put up a bakery outside for \$95.00, even if it were an extra guard would be needed for our convict who understands baking.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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7 February 1880

B.C. Penitentiary  
Assistant Inspector, Burrard Inlet

I have to report that convict #61, a Chinese, injured himself about the scrotum this morning. Convict Ah Tong gave information that the convict was bleeding and when visited by the surgeon was found to have a cut in the scrotum and the left testicle was hanging out. The testicle was removed by the surgeon. This convict has shown symptoms of insanity previously and the Doctor suspects him of being of unsound mind. He wishes him to be carefully observed night and day. I would again urge the necessity of providing a hospital for the sick. This disturbance in the night caused by cases such as the above is naturally a great inconvenience to the other convicts.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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9 June 1880

The Inspector

Ottawa

I enclose a letter from the Chief of Police of the city of Astoria, Oregon. In regards to convict James Good who was sentenced in New Westminster on the 18 June 1879 to three years in the Penitentiary on a charge of assault with intent. He escaped from the Penitentiary on July 9, 1879. I have written to the Chief of Police asking him to keep a look out for Good who is supposed



13 October 1880

Inspector

Ottawa

I have to inform you that a convict Crowe, an Indian, sentenced on June 18, 1879 to five years in the Penitentiary on a charge of wounding with intent died on the 7th inst. of Scrofula. He was suffering from that disease when convicted and has been under medical treatment until the time of his death.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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In 1880 salaries were as follows. These are annual salaries.

Warden	\$2,600.00
Deputy & C/Keeper	\$1,400.00
Accountant & Schoolmaster	\$ 1,000.00
Surgeon	\$ 500.00
Chaplins	\$ 300.00
Steward	\$ 650.00
Keeper	\$ 700.00
Guards	\$ 600.00

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9 November 1880

J. G. Moylan

Inspector, Ottawa

Sir:

I beg leave to inform you the estimates you telegraphed for were sent from here on November 1st to the Assistant Inspectors Office, Burrard Inlet. I hope you will get them without delay. I quite expect you to be surprised at the large addition to last years estimates. I wish to tellyou that since I made out my last report I have received fifteen convicts, total at present 43. As there are twenty in the small gaols awaiting trials, so that before

the beginning of January next I am afraid the number of male convicts will be more than the Penitentiary is fit to receive. You will therefore see that it is fully time to think of building another wing. Trifling things in the way of lumber, nails, etc. for doing necessary repairs to all the old buildings are charged to the Penitentiary account, as there is no one here at present that I am aware of working for the Public Works Department. There are twelve cells in the basement, unfinished, these cells were intended for female convicts, but not likely to be used for that purpose for a long time. Still as this number of convicts are increasing it will be very likely that these cells will be occupied before very long. The old stoves I have had put up in the wing will not last this winter, and for the basement, it will be occupied this winter. The stoves for it are not worth repairing. On 27th August I telegraphed to you stating I had not received the estimates for 1880-81 and I have not yet received them, and without the detailed estimates I am at a great inconvenience.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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19 November 1880

B.C. Penitentiary

G. L. Foster, General Accountant for Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

In reply to your telegram of the 17th November, I would state that I wrote the Inspector on the 9th last explaining my reasons for estimating for sixty convicts. On that date I wrote twenty awaiting trial, my information since received from Superintendent of Provincial gaols, I learn that there are twenty-eight. The Assizes are now going on in New Westminster, and are yet to be held in Victoria. The only reason I can give for the rapid increase is now that the railway construction has begun there are great many rough characters passing in from San Francisco and other places. A little more than two years ago this Penitentiary was opened with twenty convicts and now

we have forty-five.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

30 May 1881

The Inspector, Ottawa

I have to report to you that convict #8 James Brown, escaped from one of the gangs on the 23 inst. at 10:30 A.M. He was at the time employed in making shingles, close to the ravine and was in charge of guard Burr. On that day the convicts were more scattered than usual, some taking out stumps and some working at general clearing above the buildings, others below the buildings were working among the vegetables. There were thirty-three convicts out at work that morning, two were employed in charge of the teamster in carting manure from town, so that there were thirty-one convicts with only four guards. There is no fence between where Brown was working and the bush. He was missed immediately, the convicts were then brought in and all the Guards that could be spared set out in pursuit. Yet, up to the present nothing has been heard of him and considering the unprotected state of the Penitentiary grounds there is no blame to be attached to the guard. Convict Brown was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years imprisonment at hard labour on the 17th May 1875 at New Westminster by Mr. Justice Crease.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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This conversation took place about the 1st August 1881 and apparently two convicts decided to embrace the Catholic Faith. They were questioned by the Warden:

First convict: China Boy, Hung Quie

Q.1 You expressed a wish to join the Roman Catholic Church

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A. 1 Yes

Q. 2 Is this an act of your own free will?

A. 2 Yes

Q. 3 Has any body influenced you in any way in regard to changing your religion.?

A. 3 No

Q. 4 Is it your wish to change?

A. 4 Yes

Q. 5 Has anyone spoken to you about changing from one church to another?

A. 5 No, Sir

Convict Woods is interviewed by Warden McBride

Q. 1 You have expressed a wish to join the Roman Catholic Church

A. 1 I did.

Q. 2 Is this an act of your own free will?

A. 2 It is.

Q. 3 Has anybody influenced you in any way in regard to changing your religion?

A. 3 No.

Q. 4 It is your wish to change?

A. 4 Yes

The following questions by the Rev. Jamieson, Protestant Chaplin.

Q. 1 When did you express this wish to change?

A. 1 On Monday, last.

Q. 2 Why did you express this wish?

A. 2 For reasons of my own. Of course I did not expect to be questioned in this way.

END OF INTERVIEW.

5 August 1881

Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

I have to report that Convict Wood and Hung Quie expressed their wish to join the Roman Catholic Church. Woods was previously an unbeliever and the other is a China boy. I put the usual questions to them in the presence of the Protestant Chaplin and afterwards both Chaplins met in my office and the convicts were turned over to Father Horris.

Arthur H. McBride.

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6 August 1881

Inspector, Ottawa

During your official visit you directed that money received from visitors be kept until it amounted to something worth while and then your were to be informed of the fact. The amount now comes to about \$40.00. Be good enough to let me know what is to be done with it. The Chaplins are asking for separate libraries. Can the money be divided between them for that purpose?

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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1 October 1881

J. W. Trutch, Government Agent

Victoria

Sir:

I beg to apply for the rifles in your possession to and for the use of this Penitentiary. Also for permission to purchase one stove and piping and leave to have a range put up in the wash house for the use of the Penitentiary. Cost not to exceed \$90.00

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

A sample of gratuity and travelling allowance for inmates in 1881.

Ah Kem	Gratuity: \$5.00	Fare to Cariboo	\$118.00
Ah Ack	Gratuity: \$5.00	Fare to Nanaimo	\$ 7.50
Hum Fat	Gratuity: \$5.00	Fare to Cariboo	\$118.00
Stewart	Gratuity: \$5.00	Fare to Quesnel Mouth	\$85.00
Hueq Quie	Gratuity: \$5.00	Fare to Clinton	\$ 30.00

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15 December 1881

Some escapes from the Penitentiary as reported by Warden McBride.

JACOBS: 27 February 1879. The convicts were employed in the old stable.

Jacobs obtained leave to go to the closet fifty yards from where they were working. He was seen to run and without shoes or stockings was called on to stop. Fired at and then chased by Guard Wiggins, and brought back without any resistance by Guard Wiggins. The convicts were on this day all working together in charge of Mr. Fitzsimmons, Guards Wiggins, Kehoe, Graham and Morey and Teamster Smyth.

JAMES COOK: On the 9th of July was missed from his gang. The alarm was given and his shoes were found by the fence. He was searched for but no tracks could be found as he left his shoes behind him. The gang was in charge of Guard Graham and Messenger Morey.

JOHN STEELE: 10th March 1880. He was sent to the root house about a hundred yards from his gang for an axe and he broke away and ran straight for the bush. He was chased and overtaken in about two hours by Guard Smyth and brought back without resistance. He was in charge of Guard Fitzgerald.

ISSAC SERLIN AND GEORGE ALEX: On the 9th June 1881 both broke away from the gang and were gound out, chased by Guard Wiggins, Teamster Smyth and the Warden. Guard Wiggins overtook ALEX. SERLIN at the time of his escape was doubled ironed and Alex single ironed. This did not prevent them from running away. They were in charge of Guard Kehoe.

31 January 1882

Inspector, Ottawa

I have to inform you that I have purchased for the use of the Penitentiary a buggy and harness. In order to get what would suit the purpose it was necessary to send Mr. Fitzsimmons to Victoria. The buggy and harness that he has purchased costs \$295.00 which leaves only \$155.00 for the purchase of a horse and either in Victoria or New Westminster I cannot get a horse fit for our use under \$250.00. Therefore the sum of \$95.00 is wanted. E. Quitty was appointed Guard and entered on his duties on 18 January, an appropriation of \$275.00 will be required to pay his salary to 30th January.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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30 May 1882

Dominion Government Agent

Victoria

I have to draw your attention to the rifle range used by the Volunteers of New Westminster. The butts stand immediately opposite the Penitentiary reserve and when the riflemen are at practice it is not safe for officers or convicts to be at work on that portion of the reserve. Also permit me to remind you that the powder magazine is not yet removed from the Penitentiary grounds.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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31 May 1882

Dominion Government Agent

Victoria.

I have to draw your attention to the unfinished state of the workshops lately erected for convict labour and request that you will have them furnished and made fit for use as soon as possible.



7 August 1882

Inspector, Ottawa

I beg to enclose a copy of the evidence taken under oath in consequences of charges made against convicts Marreocis, Barry and Kelly by the Officers. I found it necessary to order them sixty lashes each but only administered thirty-six. The charges against them for resisting Guards, having dangerous weapons in their possession and for using threatening language to the Officers. There were also other charges against them of violence, refusing to work and destroying property. The punishments inflicted on Tuesday afternoon, August 1st, since then they have gone to work and given no more trouble so far.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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19 October 1882

Resident Engineer, Victoria

Please inform me what is to be done towards heating the Wing I. I fully expected to have the heating apparatus in place before now if it is not to be, new stoves must be purchased immediately and be good enough to obtain authority from the Government Agent, Mr. Trutch, by return boat for either you or me to get them.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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28 November 1882

Dominion Government Agent

Victoria

I beg to draw your attention to the following facts. On Saturday last, I received from Gaols ten convicts which leave fifty-nine at present in the Penitentiary. The Assizes are now being held in New Westminster and are yet to be held in Victoria. Both places having a heavy calendar. In this

Penitentiary there are but fifty seven cells. Five of which are unfinished and are supposed to be for punishment cells. Also the dining hall is much too small. In fact it has been of no use for the purpose for which it was built. The convicts I am obliged to have take their meals in the dormitory having no other facilities large enough. I wish to draw your attention to the urgent need there is for hospital accomodation. There is no way of keeping the sick separate. You will, I think, see from these various reasons the necessity for immediately commencing to build additional cells as well as other accomodations.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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28 November 1882

Inspector, Ottawa

I beg to inform you that I received ten convicts on Saturday last. Nine of which are chinamen and the Judge marked on the calendar that they were not to have their <sup>queues</sup> irons cut off. All others have had theirs cut off and I consider it necessary for the cleanliness of the Institution that their <sup>queues</sup> irons should be cut off. Am I to obey the Judges orders or not?

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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5 December 1882

Inspector, Ottawa

Sir:

I sent a copy of the enclosed to the Dominion Agent. I received ten additional convicts which gave me fifty-three. I discharged two and I have now fifty-one and have only one cell to spare besides the five punishment cells. The Assizes are at present going on in Victoria and I am informed there are over twenty committed for trial there. I trust that you will be good enough to see that the work will be commenced at once to expand this building.

24 January 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

In answer to your memo of the 25th December 1882, respecting the construction of another wing to the Penitentiary, I would suggest that instead of adding to the present building it would be far better to erect the new wing on the level ground 200 feet North West of where the present wing stands. At present we have no hospital accomodation and should the wing be built where I mentioned, this wing can then be made useful for the purpose but also for female convicts and an asylum for the criminally insane. For the last 14 months Mr. Trutch has made occasional visits, at this insistance, Mr. Gamble has frequently come up from Victoria and has examined the Penitentiary Wing and has delayed long in bringing water to the building. I may say on one such occasion has gone over the Penitentiary and in speaking of the necessary improvements told me to write to him and I sent you a copy of the letter. Mr. Trutch is holding a copy of the same.

Aruthur H. McBride

Warden

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8 February 1883

The Inspector, Ottawa

Sir:

In answer to yours of January 12, concerning the workshops, houses for married guards also the heating of the Chapels and dormitories. As for the workshops, the Carpenter and Blacksmith shops are now occupied, and since my last annual report the Public Works Department has put up a hearth and bellows in the Blacksmith shop, but it will still require the \$500.00 asked for in the estimate for machinery and tools for both shops. Also water is yet to be brought into the building and water closets and sinks to be built. There is neither tailor or shoemaker in this Penitentiary, consequently these shops are not used and it would require at least \$100.00 for a Tailor shop. I have

purchased a sewing machine and with that exception there is at present nothing in it but a stove. To furnish the Shoemaker shop it would require \$400.00, there is nothing in it but a stove. At present it is used for a drying room for clothing and there is no place suitable for that purpose in the Penitentiary building. Concerning housing for married guards, I want three built, each to contain three rooms and a kitchen at a cost of \$800.00 each. The Accountant is a married man and will require a house, cost \$1400.00 Total cost for houses \$3800.00.

As for heating the Chapels, the only way that I see is to place a stove in the hall between the Chapels and run the pipes through the Catholic Chapel to the chimney. Concerning the heating of the present wing, I understand that there is in the basement a place for a furnace but from my own knowledge I am not sure whether it is intended for an air shaft or heating apparatus. Also there is a tank on top of the building for hot water with pipes leading to the water house and basement rooms, but at present there is no way of heating it. The tank and pipes are of no use. Last fall I received from the Public Works Department two stoves for the wing, they are made with large drums and keep the place more comfortable than before, but until a furnace before mentioned, is put in the wing or dormitories will not be properly heated.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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5 March 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

I beg to inform you that #71 convict Williams, an Indian, died on the 1st inst. at 11 P.M. of consumption after an illness of eight weeks. He was convicted on a charge of assault with intent on the 1st August 1881 and sentenced to five years in the Penitentiary by Justice Crease.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

5 March 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

I have to inform you that on the morning of the 3 inst. convict #105 SAM, an indian, sentenced on the 27 November 1882 to five years on a charge of cattle stealing, #74 JOHNNY, Indian, sentenced to seven years on 1 December 1880 on a charge of manslaughter attempted to escape. They were employed taking out stumps. There were thrity-nine convicts under three guards and one A/Keeper. The convicts scattered over about ten acres, these convicts were both doubled ironed and were employed cutting roots at the time in a hole about seven feet deep. They cut the rings of their irons with axes and then made a run from the gang, armed with an axe. It was a most deliberate attempt that had been made here to escape. They were captured on the grounds. Immediately other irons were then put on and they were sent to work. Waiting your answer whether they will be flogged or tried at the next assizes.

Authur H. McBride

Warden

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8th March 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

I beg to inform you that on the third of this month I found it necessary to commence giving the convicts meals in their cells for the following reasons: The number of convicts are too many for the dining room to hold and as they have been taking their meals in the dormitory the tables extend nearly around each side of the wing and in that form they cannot be properly guarded. There is no door on the stair leading from the wing to the basement, also it had come to my knowledge that some of the convicts had it in contemplation to make an attack on the guards during the dinner hour. To seize the armoury, as you are aware the armoury is in a room adjoining the wing and not at all secure, a number of the guards are at dinner while others are in the wing and they have to deposit their rifles in the armoury. The convicts after washing in the morning then have

their breakfast served to them in their cells. The dinner is placed in the cells when they come in, then the cells are locked. Before going to work the knives and forks are passed out to the steward. Immediately after dinner the cells of those individuals attending school are unlocked and they are placed at the school table, there is no time lost by this arrangement and I must say that the well conducted convicts are pleased with the change. Hoping that it is with your approval and that you permit me a proper dining room.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden.

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9 March 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that I have had five stands erected for the guards. In the estimates for 1883-1884 I asked for one Keeper and one additional guard on account of the sudden increase in the number of convicts I find it necessary to add these guards as soon as possible. Will you be kind enough to give this your immediate attention.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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20 March 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

I beg to forward a certificate from the surgeon of this Penitentiary concerning convict #55 ANTONIA SAMPAOUX, who has been on the sick list since the 25 July 1882 and is now confined to bed. On the visit of His Excellency the Governor General to this Penitentiary, his attention was drawn to this case, and during his visit, I learned from his Secretary Col. DeWinton that if the convict mentioned was not likely to survive and the Doctor would certify to that effect His Excellency would give it his favourable consideration. SAMPAOUX was sentenced to five years on the 18 October 1880, on a charge of killing cattle at Kamloops by Mr. Justice Crease. Second attempt to escape, four months additional on 30 June 1882 by Mr. Justice Gray of New Westminster, B.C.

Arthur H. McBride, Warden

3 April 1883

George Foster, Esq.

Accountant of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

I beg to call your attention to the fact that some accounts from December and January are unpaid and that all accounts and salaries since January are unpaid. The pay list and the two accounts for January are all that were paid in that month and I have considered it advisable not to make up the schedules and forward these until the rest are paid. If you desire to have the schedules for what has been paid in January, telegraph and I will send them immediately. To complete paying all accounts to the end of January will require about \$1600.00 February about \$1,800.00 and March and April about \$1,700.00 each, altogether to pay up to the end of April \$6,800.00. I hope this credit will be issued immediately as officers and tradesmen are pressing for money.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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10 April 1883

Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

I have to inform you that the number of convicts in this Penitentiary at the present time is 68. New Westminster Assizes will be open on the 2 May next. Eleven cases, I believe, up to the present time are committed for trial at New Westminster. Also during the summer the Assizes will be held at Nanaimo, Yale, Litton, Clinton, Kamloops, Cariboo. My object in writing this is to learn from you what to do with those that are sentenced to the Penitentiary. The double cells have each one occupant. I could put three convicts into each of those cells and that would give room for ten more, if I am not to do this are they to remain in the local gaols until I have room for them. In reference to this matter permit me to draw your attention to the Penitentiary Act passed for this province in 1874, chapter 42, section 6. If convenient I would be glad to receive the acts of Parliament passed from time to time relating to Penitentiaries.



ies. Also one or two copies of rules and regulations for same. Please be good enough to answer at your earliest convenience.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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19 April 1883

To the Under Secretary of State, Ottawa

Sir:

In answer to yours of 3 February, I beg to inform you that in the case of convict BILLY and PRICE (Indians) sentenced on the 8 August 1881 to five years imprisonment in the Penitentiary, the sentence has been reduced from five years to two years in each case. Convict BILLY died on March 1, 1883 aged 22 years.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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24 April 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

In answer to your memo of 21 March instructing me on how to act in the case of SAM and JOHNNY, Indian convicts, who attempted to escape, I beg to inform you that I have written to the Provincial Attorney General concerning this case. Also I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the Penitentiaries Act for 1875 as well as reports for Minister of Justice for 1882.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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11 May 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

I beg to inform you that I have received three convicts from New Westminster Assizes, which makes a total of 59. Two more than I have cells for, but I

present time.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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18 May 1883

Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

In regard to your memo of 21 March concerning the report of the Government Agent, Mr. Trutch, I beg to inform you that with the exception of what Mr. Justice Gray said at the Assize Court last spring when I had occasion to bring before him for trial five convicts who had attempted to escape, nothing had occurred in the Institution to call for an inquiry such as that made by the Honourable Mr. Trutch. When the remarks of Mr. Justice Gray concerning the treatment of the convicts then present were then finished, he ordered an inquiry. Before leaving the court room I requested personally that the result of the inquiry mentioned would be made public at its termination as his remarks and an order for an inquiry were then made.

On the 8 inst. at the opening at the Court of Assizes when I had occasion to bring two other convicts before him for a similiar offence, he spoke at some length on the present case. From what he said I think, his Lordship understood more clearly the relationship between officer and convict. For some months after the first case convicts who were at all inclined to be troublesome became more difficult to manage than usual. So much so that I had to resort to corporal punishment. It is I believe almost impossible for anyone who is not immediately concerned to understand just how convicts must be managed. How in the case of convict WOOD of whom you made special mention, permit me to inform you that he was very useful while here. Also for the last year of his time he was the most skillful workman about the place, consequently he was at all times under the supervision of the Deputy Warden, who assured me that any little privilege given him, he fully appreciates.

Arthur H. McBride

8 June 1883

Government Agent, J. W. Trutch,

Victoria

Sir:

I beg your permission to fence in a portion of the house now occupied by the C.P.R. Engineers. At the time permit me to draw your attention to the fact that there has been a good fruit garden in this part of the grounds but it has been exposed and neglected so that many of the trees are broken by boys from the outside and the trees that remain are growing wild from want of care. The cost of an eight foot close board fence will not exceed \$175.00. The posts I will have got out and made by convict labour. I have not a regular carpenter and may find it necessary to employ one to make the gate.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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13 June 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

Enclosed please find a letter from convict #32 CHARLIE BELL convicted at the Victoria Assizes 2 June 1879 on a charge of sodomy and sent by Chief Justice Begbie to the Penitentiary for life.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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5 July 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

The workshops are almost finished. The Honourable Mr. Trutch desires me to write to him concerning what would be required for them. I beg that you will inform me how to act in the matter. You are aware that having no trade instructors it is impossible for me to say what is required. The Blacksmith and Carpenter shops have been very useful and I have a carpenter and blacksmith (convict) at

work since they were taken over from the Public Works Department.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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23 July 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that on the 20th inst. I received a copy of the Penitentiary Act in addition to instructions contained in previous forms. I find shortening of sentence is to be increased. Would you be good enough to inform me at what time to begin with convicts who are now here.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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31 July 1883

The Honourable J. W. Trutch  
Government Agent, Victoria

I wish to inform you that DeVeck Brothers are putting up a house on the point of land opposite the Penitentiary Reserve. On the other side of the Brunette River. I went to Mr. DeVeck this morning about it. He claims that the land is his and that he has a deed for it. I would like to be certain as the above mentioned is only a sand or mud band and I would like to have the matter settled as by doing so immediately it may save embarrassment. Therefore, will you be good enough to send Mr. Gamble up in order that he may see just how the affair stands as I think it comes under Chapter 14, Section 4 of the Penitentiary Act.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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31 July 1883

J. G. Moylan

Inspector of Penitentiaries

Sir: I have the honour to submit my report on the school. There has been no

change during the year except that perhaps the interest taken has been less than ever. The accomodation is insufficient and the gratuity for books is ridiculously inadequate, \$7.00 to provide books and stationery for the year for thirty or fourty scholars. Mr. Jamieson has been present on several occasions and has given me much assistance. Father Horris, after making frivolour charges against the shcool master, before Mr. Trutch, which charges he admitted were followed on what he heard from convicts, and which he also admitted he made no attempt to investigate and had never reported to the proper authorities. He promised me to attend school at least once a month. A promise he has kept by never coming near the school or ever saying a good word about it. There have been 813 changes of books in the general library, the books are really all in pieces. I have the honour to be Sir, your Obedient Servant.

W. J. Falding

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TELEGRAM:

30 September 1883

J. G. Moylan, Inspector, Ottawa

There are two penitentiary convicts confined at present in Victoria Gaol, no room for them in the Penitentiary.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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6 October 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

The Cannery in front of the Penitentiary was destroyed by fire on the night of the 1st Inst. Penitentiary fence a little burned, damage about \$5.00. I hope that no other building for fishery purposes will be allowed to be erected on Penitentiary grounds.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

8 October 1883

G.S. Foster, Accountant of Penitentiaries

Ottawa

In reply to your letter of 6 September asking how it is that I have not asked credit to pay July and August Accounts. I beg to inform you that the June accounts were not ready to be mailed to you. I did not ask for any credit according to your instructions conveyed to me in a letter dated 15 October 1882, where in it states "that I am directed by the Deputy Minister of Justice to say that no credit will be sent to pay the accounts of any Penitentiary until the receipted vouchers of the proceeding month have been returned to this office" Mr. Falding informs me that accounts will be forwarded to you this week, I hope you will find this sufficient reason for not applying to you for credit for July and August.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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9 October 1883

Mr. W. Dewdney, Esq.

Yale

Can you give me any information concerning an Indian named ANDREW whom I consigned to you on his discharge from this Penitentiary as he was too sick to take care of himself. I sent a letter to you containing his passage money to Kamloops and requesting you look after him a little by purser George Harwick. Since then I have heard nothing of him.

W. H. Falding

Accountant

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11 October 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

Will you be good enough to inform me if it is the intention of the government to carry out section 54, page 16 of the Penitentiary Act of 1883 as regards

convicts who have attempted to escape. Are they to lose time of remission earned previous to the attempt? To some of these convicts it would make a very great difference. Be kind enough to answer as soon as possible.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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Stock in the B.C. Penitentiary: October 1883

Meat Gallery	\$ 53.00
Sundries	\$3112.50
Wash House	\$ 89.50
Lamp Room	5.00
Halls	\$ 98.00
Blacksmith Shop	\$ 344.25
Guards Quarters	\$ 74.50
Coal Cellar	\$ 420.00
Accountants Office	\$ 289.50
Deputy Warden's Office	\$ 114.25 such as 1-spitton - \$1.00 Sewing Machine - \$75.00
Warden's Office	\$ 97.50 (includes brush, comb, looking glass)
Farm	\$3786.60
Storeroom	\$ 773.93
Kitchen	\$ 245.00
Wing	\$2061.00
Catholic Chapel	\$ 538.50
Protestant Chapel	\$ 154.75
Surgery	\$ 410.00
Armoury	\$ 450.50 (includes 1 breach loading shotgun)
Accountants Quarters	\$ 32.50

It is noted that all Offices are equipped with a stove.

Deputy Warden's Quarters, including: bed matrees, stove, pipe elbow \$177.75

Warden's Quarters: \$ 146.75

(it would appear that the stove pipes used in these offices were on the stock of that office)

Carpenter Shop	\$ 298.25
TOTAL INVENTORY FOR INSTITUTION:	\$13,773.53

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22 October 1883

J. G. Moylan  
Inspector, Ottawa

In reply to yours of the 5 into calling my attention to the use of shackles practiced in this Penitentiary, I am sorry to say that I have shackled over eleven of the convicts. Five of these attempted to gain their freedom or commit similiar or other attempts and I have no doubts in my mind that they will try again. Now that the Minister has given some additional guards to work as Trades Instructors I shall remove all of the irons. If any attempt to escape takes place that will make it necessary to replace any of the irons I will report to you immediately. I beg to enclose a letter from the late Assistant Inspector and a copy of my memo to him concerning the irons, at the same time I wish to say that it pains me to see any convict in irons but in some cases it is the only recourse.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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26 October 1883

J. W. Trutch  
Government Agent, Victoria

Sir:

Enclosed please find two requisitions for fittings, tools and impliments for the Tailor and Shoemaker Shops. The Trade Instructors are appointed and will begin their respective duties on 1st November. There are shelves and benches to be furnished. I have no carpenter amongst the convicts. Will you be good enough to grant permission to employ one. I am also informed that there is to be a sentry box at the gate. This will be required as soon as possible. There fore I beg to say that when arranging for shevles and benches for the two shops it would be well to decide about the sentry box, if it is convenient to do so.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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25 October 1883

Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that I have, according to instructions, appointed two Trade Instructors. One a tailor, the other a Shoemaker. I will write again more fully concerning them. For some time there may not be sufficient work for the Penitentiary for all that will be required to be placed in the shops. If so, will you give permission to buy materials and make articles for sale to stores here. As soon as possible, I will send prices for the different qualities

of leather here. From what I can learn, it would be cheaper to have some sent from Kingston Penitentiary. Traders who import leather from Canada here expect to make a good profit. I hope to be able to open both shops on the 1st November.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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30 th October 1883

J. G. Moylan  
Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 1st, asking a report for the Honourable Minister of Justice, concerning Old Government grounds between Penitentiary fence and the river. On October 1st a fire broke out at the fishery and all the houses occupied by the fishery were destroyed. The one small house that Mr. Laidlaw put up and an old cabin belonging to the government. The Penitentiary wharf was saved and also an old storehouse, also a wharf which has been used for cleaning fish. Mr. Laidlaw informs me that he believes his lease has three years yet to run, also that he pays \$15.00 per month rent to Captain Dupont, the Inland Revenue Collector. The Government house is occupied by Mr. Marcus Smith, engineer for the C.P.R. It is in a very bad condition, the greater part not fit to be occupied. The out houses are not fit to live in and not worth repairing. The house at the gate is weathered. I sent a copy of your letter to Mr. Trutch. As you desire reliable information, Mr. Trutch, is the only one here who can give it. I enclose his letter as well as a copy of my letter to him.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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2 November 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that according to your instructions I have removed all of the irons from all of the convicts.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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2 November 1883

J. G. Moylan

Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

I beg to inform you that I have appointed as Trade Instructors for the Tailor

department, Hubert Walsh, native of British Columbia, age 30, height 5 ft 10 ins., religion, Roman Catholic. Recommended by the Rev. Father Horris and teamster McInnis.

Also so shoemaker George McKenzie, native of Scotland, age 39 years, height 5 ft 7 ½ ins, religion, Protestant. Recommended by Rev. R. Jamieson and teamster McInnis. I have made a requisition for tools for the workshops on the honourable Mr. Trutch but have not yet received them.

Arthur H. McBride

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6 November 1883

Inspector, Ottawa

Will you be enough to answer the following question. Are the guards to have their uniform clothing and boots repaired in the Penitentiary? If so they have to pay for what they requirie done. It will be well to have the question definitly settled.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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19 November 1883

W. H. Falding

Dear Sir:

The Honourable Minister of Justice desires me to say to you that he is obliged by your remaining as accountant after your resignation had been accepted, therefore by authority from him I beg to inform you that you are relieved from further duties in this Penitentiary from this date.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

November 6th, 1883  
The Inspector, Ottawa

Could you be good enough to answer the following question. Are the  
guards to have their uniform clothing and boots repaired in the Penitentiary  
workshops? If so shall they have to pay for what they require done?  
It will be well to the question definitely settled.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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November 9th, 1883  
W. F. Falding

Dear Sir:

The Honourable, the Minister of Justice desires me to say to you that he  
is obliged by your remaining as Accountant after your resignation had  
been accepted, therefore by authority from him I beg to inform you that  
you are relieved from further duties in this Penitentiary from this date.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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November 23rd, 1883  
J. W. Trutch

Dominion Government Agent, Victoria

Sir:

Enclosed please find a memo from the Surgeon of this Penitentiary, the  
wants to which he draws your attention, I have repeatedly written about  
and now state to you that the Chapels are miserably cold during the  
winter months, also the ventilation throughout the whole building is  
defective.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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December 11, 1883  
Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

In regard to your letter of the 19th inst. concerning the Deputy Wardens  
not being permitted to employ the labour of more than one convict for his  
service, I beg to inform you that I have given him a copy of your letter

Arthur H. McBride

December 11th, 1883

J. C. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries

Sir:

In answer to yours, in asking for a statement concerning the Officers of this Penitentiary who received prerequisites in addition to their salaries. In answering questions 1 and 2, I beg to state in answer to the last. Six Guards reside in the Penitentiary, five of these occupy two rooms on the highest floors, three sleep in one room and two in the other. The sixth occupies the room on the lower floor called the Keepers Hall, where the arms are kept. Each of these guards have the use of the convicts kitchen also a convict to put their rooms in order, they buy their own supplies, and have the cooking done by the convict cooks who prepare convict meals.

Second Question: The money value of their services I consider equal to \$5.00 per month to each guard for residing in the Penitentiary, they are the only guards receiving any prerequisites to their salaries.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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December 13th, 1883

J. G. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

In answer to your letter of the 16th asking for estimates of the probable quantities and expense of material required for the Penitentiary from the Department of Public Works for the year ending June 30th. I be to forward the estimates as nearly as I can possibly make it. In the farm yards there are no houses or sheds sheltering cattle, wagons, carts (of any value.)

The lumber mentioned for the fence will enclose nearly all Penitentiary lands back of buildings on the North side of the Ravine. It includes material for building two additional sheds, I give the market price of lumber at the present time. There are no houses belonging to the Penitentiary for officers married or single. The floors, walls, stairs and offices throughout the whole building are still without covering of any description. In mentioning the Wardens and Deputy Wardens private apartments I have placed the estimate for furniture (which is very much needed) in a lump sum for the Wardens Quarters. There are ten rooms nothing has been added, to the few necessary articles of furniture that

were purchased during your stay here with the exception of two or three cupboards made by convicts. The Deputy Wardens quarters which consists of five rooms also unfurnished with the exception of what was placed there at the opening of the Institution. The iron bedsteads occasionally need repair. Also the locks, stoves and piping get out of order, the range in the convicts kitchen is nearly worn out. Crop bars and padlocks mentioned for cell doors are needed. I do not consider the cells are completely secure without them. The iron doors do not fit properly in fact so badly that the bolts of the locks are exposed.

Incidental expenses are likely to occur for keeping Penitentiary roofs and closets in repair.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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January 10th, 1884

J. C. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

In forming my last yearly report I presented to you the advantages which I am certain the Institution would gain from an official visit from you. Since then I have been favored with a visit from the Honourable the Minister of Justice, after his return to Ottawa I learned that an addition is to be made to the present building, in view of such an important event in the history of this Institution I most earnestly request that the attention of the Minister be called to the necessity of the Inspectors presence here during the portion of the time that this work will be going on, the many glaring defects in the present building would be impossible for me to explain in writing to you in fact equally impossible for anyone to understand unless they had been subject to the varying inconsistencies that arise in almost every apartment of the building from cellar floor to roof, and I know of no one here or otherwise who had the experience to point out these defects. Therefore a visit from the Inspector would be a saving of thousands of dollars to the department. The workshops which are being fitted up could I think be made to pay well if your attention could be received for a short time.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden  
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January 11th, 1884

Inspector, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that I have taken on a guard in the place of I. Lawrence who died on the 30th of last month. Alexander Gordon, a native of Nova Scotia, aged 39 years, height 5 ft. 11", Religion: Protestant, Recommended by Thomas Cunningham, Esq. Merchant, New Westminster and W.A. Faris, Esq.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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January 12th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries

Sir:

In answer to yours of the 27th in reference to the lease held by Mr. Hobrook for certain houses on the Penitentiary Reserve lately destroyed by fire, I can only write from memory. There was first a large frame house, 54 x 25 feet with two floors and a barn on each side of it. Then the houses of one story high 38 x 28 feet, second 30 x 28 feet, third 34 x 18 feet and the fourth 35 x 27 feet, the fifth house, two stories 42 x 32 feet. Chinese employed in the cannery lived in this house last mentioned, there is also a house completely destroyed. When Mr. Holbrook got the place there was a blacksmith shop of corrugated iron about 30 x 25 feet, I believe he has that taken down. The buildings were closed some years before the Penitentiary was occupied and never handed over to the building account. I never saw the lease, neither was I informed of the conditions of the buildings or their immediate surroundings.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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January 31st, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector

In answer to your memo of the 10th inst. with respect to the new rules of remission for good conduct and industry. I beg to report for the information of the Honourable Minister of Justice, the extension of remission times has in most cases has produced a marked change for the better. Since the act has come into force reports for bad conduct have decreased perceptably.

Arthus H. McBride

Warden



February 4th, 1884

Inspector, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that Mr. Herbert Walsh engaged as a trade instructor did not prove a suitable person for the position he held in the Penitentiary. Therefore I dispensed with his services on the 28th January . I have found it necessary to advertise for a tailor to take his place.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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February 4th, 1884

Inspector, Ottawa

In answer to your memo of January 18th, I have to request that you will be good enough to inform me in what instance I have acted contrary to the 23rd section of the Penitentiary Act of 1883. In the case of any officer or guard leaving the Penitentiary employ I have reported to you as soon as possible. Since the Penitentiary has been opened no officer or guard has been suspended. In regard to the late Accountants resignation I thought it unnecessary to write formally as telegrams had been so often exchanged concerning the matter.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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February 8th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector

Sir:

The widow of the late Steve Lawrence, Guard in this Penitentiary has requested me through the Government Agent to do what I can to gain some help from the government for her. She has one child two years of age and she is now expecting to be confined at any day. Her husband came here as a guard September 6th, 1880. I can say of him that he was punctual and attentive to his duties, he was ill only two weeks. In laying this matter before you I do all in my power in the widows case, and hope you will consider it a charity to do what you can.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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February 14th, 1884

J.G. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries

Sir:

I beg to inform you that three of our guards have given me their resignation desiring to leave at the end of the month. One goes to join the

Police of New Westminster at a salary of \$70.00 per month, the others have given no reason for their leaving. I must say as I have before mentioned in the annual report of 1882 that it is hard to get suitable men to continue on the staff at the salary given, when they pay for board and lodging out of \$50.00 per month there is little left. Houses ought to be built for guards outside the Penitentiary walls where there is a good piece of ground for such houses. The guards would always be within reach of the Penitentiary. I have advertised for a tailor about two weeks ago, no suitable person has yet applied.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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February 14th, 1884

J. G. Moylan

Sir:

I beg to inform you that on Sunday last on the 10th inst, Guard Gordon had reported that he has lost his revolver in the water closet in the basement during the time of services in the Roman Catholic Church. At the time there were only four convicts out of their cells, one white and three Chinese. All declare they have not seen it. A thorough search has been made through the whole building but up to the present nothing has been seen of the revolver. He said that he carried it in his hip pocket, and now he is not certain where he last had it. Should anything definite arise concerning it I will let you know immediately.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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February 14th, 1884

Inspector, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that the Shoemaker Shop is now completed, all that is necessary in the way of tools and fittings have been finished by the Public Works Department. The Trades Instructor is capable and attentive and with the number of hands now employed more work can be done than is required for the Institution. Please let me know if I can do work for the market, if you permit such work to be done I think it would prove profitable. The fittings for the Tailor Shop have not yet arrived but expect them any day.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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February 25th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries

Sir:

In answer to your letter of the 7th inst. concerning my report of October 22nd, relative to the use of shackles in the Penitentiary. I bet to state for the information of the Deputy Minister that all shackles were removed at the time mentioned in my letter of that date, also I am pleased to say that nothing has occurred to necessitate the placing of irons on any convict.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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March 10th, 1884

John McRobert

#79 South Front Street

Portland, Oregon

Sir:

I have received yours of the 7th inst. the place of Trade Instructor for the Tailoring Department in the Institution is open at present. Salary \$750.00 per year, with uniform clothing, neither board or lodging supplied. The Trade Instructor will act as a guard over the convicts whom he will have in charge, must be a British Subject. If you will apply state your age, height and weight, testimonials will be required. The situation is a permanent one for persons suitable.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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March 13th, 1884

Inspector, Ottawa

I beg to inform you that guard Kehoe has tendered his resignation, reason low wages. He wishes to leave at the end of the month. He as one of the first guards employed. I wish to inform you at the same time that I have a great deal of trouble in finding suitable men to fill the place of guards which are now so often made vacant.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

March 13th, 1884

J.G. Moylan, Inspector

Sir:

I wrote you on February 18th, concerning Guard Gordon having lost his revolver while at the Penitentiary. Since then I have had the water closet and pipes searched and in fact have continuously searched for it but have found no reason to fear that it is anywhere among the convicts. The time he lost it there was snow on the ground, he ran all the way from town and may have dropped it from his pocket, if so likely Indians or Chinese have found it. He has purchased one of the same pattern in its stead.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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March 13th, 1884

G.L. Foster, Accountant of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Dear Sir:

Received yours of February 13th, concerning the monies still in the possession of Mr. Falding, he told me when he was about to leave the Penitentiary employ that he would turn the sum over to his successor as soon as he would be appointed. At the time I had no idea the appointment would be so long delayed and you know according to Penitentiary rules the Accountant should be held responsible. Although Falding during his five years Service did not give bonds, however he is still in town and when the new Accountant is appointed I hope all will be made clear although you say that the appointment is about to be made. I have as yet heard nothing more concerning the matter, whoever comes to fill his place I hope the government will instruct him to give bonds.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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March 17th, 1884

William Keary, Esq. New Westminster

I have to inform that you are appointed Accountant of this Penitentiary. Your salary commenced on the 8th of this month, therefore you will at once commence your duties as such.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

March 31st, 1884

J.G.Moylan, Inspector

Sir:

I wish to call your attention to the subject of clothing of guards in this Penitentiary. Of late changes so often take place that few remain long enough to gain the article of clothing allowed by Penitentiary rules. From this cause a great deal of discontent arises, therefore I most respectfully suggest, that each guard be allowed a sum of money equal to the value of clothing to be paid monthly or quarterly as you may see fit. I think this change need be but temporary, when railway work is completed more will be found who will hold situations in Penitentiary employ more permanently. At the present time wages for working men are good and labor is scarce. This month two guards are to leave, one of them only came at the first of this month. I have advertised for a Tailor as a Trade Instructor, no one to suit has yet applied.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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March 21st, 1884

George Foster

Accountant of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

I have to inform you I took possession of Accountants Office, B.C. Penitentiary books etc. I have received from Mr. Falding \$141.00 for Farm Account which I placed to the credit of the Receiver General. I have also received from him \$89.30 petty cash balance, and \$12.130 gate mon making a total of \$242.60 all of which I hope is correct. The books I find have not been posted since February 5th, 1883, fourteen months in arrears, which makes work rather awkward. I would have been much pleased to have had books and accounts all audited to the time I took possession and I hope they will be shortly. Would you be good enough to forward to me an analysis of all accounts forwarded to you by Warden since late accountant left commencing with the August accounts.

Your Obedient Servant

William H. Keary

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March 28th, 1884

Inspector, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that the supply of water in the workshops is not sufficient in case of fire and if it were sufficient there is no hose therefore, I request that you order two Babcock engines to be supplied for the shops.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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April 8th, 1884

Mrs. Lawrence, New Westminster

Dear Madam:

Some time back I wrote to the Inspector of Penitentiaries requesting that he would use his influence with the Minister of Justice to procure a gratuity for your benefit. By late mail I am directed to inform you that of late such applications have not been granted, therefore he cannot recommend a gratuity in the present case.

I remain yours obediently

Arthur H. McBride, Warden

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April 17th, 1884

Mr. Trutch, Government Agent, Victoria

In answer to yours of the 16th inst. I beg to say that in objecting to the garden at Government House being used by the Public as a picnic grounds I am only carrying out the wishes of my superior office in the Department of Justice.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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April 19th, 1884

Mr. J. W. Trutch, Government Agent, Victoria

In answer to yours of the 17th inst I beg to remind you that during your last visit to Sapperton and while inspecting the old cottages, which Mr. Keary's letter refers to, you told me to have it pulled down. Also other old buildings near Government House at the same time you said to pull down the chimneys that had been left standing since the cannery was destroyed by fire and promised to send me written instructions which I have not yet received.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

It would appear that the following statements were made as a result of an attack by Convict BARRY on Guard James Fitzgerald.

STATEMENT OF GUARD FITZGERALD:

On Thursday, April 17th- 1884 I was in charge of a gang of men at work in the Penitentiary grounds between four and five o'clock. I was sitting on a rock when convict BARRY #83 passing me by with a three prone manure fork in his hand. He turned suddenly on me raising the fork close to my face telling me he wanted my revolver, I asked him what for, he said, "you sone of a bitch give me your revolver" at the same time striking me with the fork in the face, which tumbled me over. He, BARRY shoved the fork into my arm while I was down, twice. I drew my revolver and got up. BARRY then dropped the fork and ran and I followed him. After going some distance he stopped. I said "BARRY go to the house and I won't hurt you" He then took another fork and again ran at me using the expression "you SOB I will do something to you." I was in the act of drawing my revolver on him backing at the same time when I stumbled. BARRY made a stab at me with the fork and fell on me. I caught him by the leg. Guard Smith came up and said "don't shoot him". I said I would not but for Guard Simth and Roberts to take BARRY to the house.

Signed: James Fitzgerald

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STATEMENT OF GUARD ROBERTS

on Thursay, April 17th, 1884 between the hours of four and five o'clock placed as a guard to assist Guard Fitzgerald looking after a gang of convicts on Penitentiary farm. I was looking at five convicts unloading wood, I heard a noise which attracted me attention to where Guard Fitzgerald was. I saw Guard Fitzgerald on the ground from the distance I was away about 50 yards. Fitzgerald was holding one end of the fork and convict BARRY the other end. I immediately ran towards them drawing my revolver while running. I shouted to BARRY to let Fitzgerald alone, when I got there BARRY had left Fitzgerald and Guard Fitzgerald got on his feet. Fitzgerald said "BARRY I have got you, you rascal, you will have to come to the house with me". BARRY said he would not. The other convicts rushed towards us, I ordered them to go on with their work. When I saw Fitzgerald again Guard Smith was with him about 80 to a 100 yards away from me. BARRY was further away but approaching Fitzgerald with somthing in his hand, which I believe was a fork saying to Fitzgerald "I will kill you". The other convicts rushing up drew my attention away and when I turned again, next towards Fitzgerald saying " Leave BARRY to me."



Fitzgerald told Guard Smyth and myself to take BARRY to the house. BARRY went towards the gate, running with a rake in his hand, having dropped the fork. Guard Quilty who was on the watch tower shouted to BARRY who still kept running. Quilty fired a shot, then BARRY stopped. Afterwards walking to the gate, I heard Quilty say to the Deputy Warden BARRY has a rake. Barry dropped the rake and took up a pick fork with one hand and two stones with the other. BARRY said "I will knock the head off someone walking down. When the Deputy Warden said "BARRY drop the pick, BARRY stood by the gate and asked the Deputy Warden what he would do to him. The Deputy Warden said I won't do anything to you, but drop the pick. He said "will you let me go to the house". The Deputy Warden said "Yes". BARRY said "I will walk down by myself". He walked on. Deputy Warden, Guard Hutchison and myself with him, met the Warden at the corner of the building. The Deputy Warden said "Warden this man has a pick, ask him to lay it down". The Warden said "BARRY lay the pick down" and BARRY made a dirty remark. The Warden drew his revolver, the Deputy Warden took Guard Hutchison's rifle and ordered the guards to close in. BARRY laid the pick down turning to the Warden and said "This is the man I will give the pick to". The Warden took hold of BARRY.

Signed: Thomas Roberts

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 April 18th, 1884

The Warden

I was called yesterday to attend to guard Fitzgerald. I found he had three wounds. One on the left side of the face about midway over the lower jaw and a slight scratch on the corresponding part of the right side of the lower jaw, and two wounds about two inches apart on the outside of the left arm. The wounds are all penetrating and a three tined pitchfork which was shown me would have produced such wounds. There must have been three assaults made to produce the wounds.

SIGNED: C. Newland, Surgeon

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 April 19th, 1884

Statement of Guard Quilty:

On April 17th, I was on guard on the Penitentiary grounds on watch tower Between four and five o'clock, P.M. I saw a disturbance among a gang of convicts. I saw Guard Fitzgerald and convict BARRY get up off the ground. I heard Fitzgerald say something but did not understand what it was. I saw BARRY run across the field, I saw him pick up something. I afterwards found out to be a fork and go towards Guard Fitzgerald and made a second

attack on him. Fitzgerald fell and so did BARRY. Guard Smyth went towards them and told Fitzgerald not to fire, Fitzgerald having drawn his revolver on BARRY. Fitzgerald said "BARRY go to the house". Smyth said he and Roberts would take him. BARRY started on the run towards where I was stationed with a rake in his hand. I shouted to Guard Hutchinson to tell Deputy Warden to come up. BARRY kept coming on. I fired a shot to give the alarm. I told BARRY if he came any further I would kill him. He stopped and then walked on. I told him I would let no one leave the field until the Deputy Warden arrived who was coming. BARRY then asked me if I would shoot. I said I would and not to make any mistake about me. I would shoot him or any other convict who would attempt to go out of the field. He picked up a stone with his hand and walked on a little further and dropped the rake and took up a pick. By that time the Deputy Warden arrived and allowed him to go to the building.

SIGNED: Thomas W. Quilty

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April 19th, 1884

STATEMENT OF STEWARD McINNES:

On Thursday, April 17th about four thirty P.M. I was going to the wing heard a disturbance outside. I stepped on a table and looked out of the window, saw Guard Quilty with rifle in hand ready to shoot. He fired a shot. I ran to the Warden's Department and reported that there was some trouble in the field. Warden ordered me to go up and see, I did so, when I reached the watch tower where Quilty was the D/Warden was there. Convict BARRY was coming down the field, he had a rake in one hand and a stone in the other. The D/Warden ordered him to drop what he had in his hand, he threw down the rake and took up a pick. The D/Warden told him to lay down the pick, he refused. The D/Warden said he would shoot him unless he laid it down. BARRY said "I will take the pick to the house if you will let me" speaking to the D/Warden who said "all right". When he got to the corner of the building D/Warden said to Warden "BARRY has a pick, ask him to lay it down. D/Warden said " BARRY lay the pick down" so did the Warden. The D/Warden ordered the Guards to close in. BARRY said turning to the Warden "this is the man I will give the pick to", handing it to the Warden then threw the pick to one side and took hold of BARRY. Also Guard Hutchinson took hold of him. Warden ordered me to get the handcuffs. He was put in irons and placed in his cell. Since that time BARRY has said he was sorry he had not succeeded in killing Fitzgerald, and that he intended to make an escape that evening and thought that was the best way

way to get it, frightening Fitzgerald to get his revolver. He thinks he tried the attempt too soon.

SIGNED: Thomas McInnes, Steward

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April 19th, 1884

STATEMENT OF THE DEPUTY WARDEN:

On Thursday, April 17th, between three and four P.M. I left the field where the convicts were at work. Things seemed as usual, afterwards while in the Farm yard my attention was called by Guard Hutchinson calling out. The Guards wanted me as there was something wrong and up the field met convict EDWARDS who told me that convict BARRY had made a murderous assault on Guard Fitzgerald with a fork. I told him to go to the building and tell the Warden. As I got passed Guard Quilty's stand I saw BARRY coming across the field, a rake in his hand, pursued by Guard Smyth and Roberts. I ordered him to stand and drop the weapons, he refused to do so and picked up a stone. He, afterwards, dropped the rake and took up a pick. I then drew my revolver and told him I would shoot him if he resisted any further, and did not drop the pick. He still refused asking to be allowed to go to the house, seeing the Warden coming I told him he could go on towards the building but that he should drop the pick before he go there, I called BARRY had a pick and to order him to drop it. The Warden ordered him to drop it, BARRY again refused, I then took Guard Hutchinson's rifle and told the guards to close in on him and take him away. When BARRY heard this he said, "That is the man I will give the pick to" and handed the pick to the Warden who threw it away and took hold of BARRY who was immediately placed in irons and locked up in his cell.

SIGNED: James Fitzgerald

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April 21st, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector

Sir:

I beg to enclose the statements of the different officers showing that on the 17th inst. convict BARRY made a most determined attack upon Guard Fitzgerald with the intent to murder. The Guard had charge of a gang at the time. Another convict "O'Conner" is implicated in the affair, I believe he is the ringleader but the evidence is not sufficient to send him before a jury. Two convicts came to the guards assistance, I will write to you concerning their conduct.

Guard Fitzgerald will be able to resume his duties in a few days. Convict BARRY was tried by Mr. Justice Crease at Victoria on June 14th, 1882 and sentenced to seven years. On the charge of robbery with violence. O'Conner was tried by Mr. Justice Grey at New Westminster, May 2nd 1883 and sentenced to five years on two charges, shopbreaking and the other burglary. Convict BARRY I have confined to his cell with shackles and will keep him in until he is tried at the Assizes which will open in New Westminster on the 11th of next month. I have also put shackles on O'Conner.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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April 23rd, 1884

Arthur H. McBride, Warden writes to  
J. G. Moylan, Inspector, Ottawa

I have succeeded in getting a Trade Instructor for the Tailor Department. Thomas McRoberts, native of Scotland. He came here from Astoria, Oregon in answer to an advertisement which I had published in the British Columbian papers. He comes well recommended and I hope he will suit

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April 25th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

On the occasion of one of the guards being attacked by a convict, convict BELL and JOHNSTON, both behaved most humanely. Enclosed please find a letter from the Guard. From myself I hope you will favourably represent their conduct to the Honourable, Minister of Justice and also hope that he will grant them some relief by so doing. I know that his clemency will make a good impression on the other convicts. Convict CHARLES BELL was sentenced to imprisonment for life by Chief Justice Begbie in Victoria June 6th, 1879 on the charge of sodomy. Convict WILLIAM JOHNSTON was sentenced to five years by Mr. Justice Gray at New Westminster, May 2nd 1883 on a charge of larceny and receiving stolen property.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

May 6th, 1884

The Inspector, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that on the 3rd inst. that Guard John Stevens came to the Penitentiary under the influence of liquor (I dismissed him). I have one in his place, Charles Rodgers, a native of England. He served in the Indian Police, comes well recommended, is 28 years of age and 6 feet in height.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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May 9th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

I beg to draw to your attention the following facts relating to the Shoe Shop, at present I have on hand, made by convicts, about 70 pairs of shoes and all the old ones repaired. I have five convicts employed in the Shoe Shop. They are able to do much more work than is required to supply the Penitentiary's wants. If I were allowed to sell the extra work that could be done by these convicts I know it would considerably lessen the expense of the Institution.

I do not suggest to do work by contract but merely wish to show as clearly as possible how much more profitable it would be to have these kept at work in the shops than to send them out to work on the land, which I shall be obliged to do unless you can make a specialty in the case. If you take into consideration the amount of boots and shoes that are imported here from the United States and England you will find that any work done here could not in any way compete with Canadian Manufacture. I also respectfully ask that you direct the Public Works Department to have surveyed another portion of the Penitentiary Reserve for the purpose of having the fence extended. All enclosed land is nearly cleared, the fencing required will cost about \$800.00. I have already asked for this, and had the opportunity of showing the ground (which I wish to take in) to the Honourable Minister of Justice during his visit to the Penitentiary. I request that you will give this your attention as soon as possible, as this land must be enclosed in order to furnish labour for the convicts.

Arthur H. McBride

May 15th, 1884

Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that all the convict uniforms I have is now in use. I have had to purchase clothing for the last lot. Send the clothing with material to made drawers and shirts for at least 100 convicts and sufficient shirting to supply the same number. I can get more here suitable, also send cloth for making up suits for discharged convicts and material for officers uniforms. Send as soon as possible.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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May 15th, 1884

Inspector, Ottawa

I wish to inform you that convict BARRY was sentenced to ten years for the assault upon the Guard, which sentence is to run concurrent with his former sentence on the 7th inst. He is still in shackles and confined to his cell. He threatened, while in court and since his last sentence was passed, that he would again commit an equal offence. I do not permit his door to be opened except in the presence of his guards. I think it is better for the present to keep him in his cell under constant care. I know him to be treacherous, therefore will not change his condition until I receive your instructions.

O'Connor is still in shackles and works in the gang.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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May 27th, 1894

His Lordship

The Bishop of New Westminster,

My Lord:

I have received yours of the 24th, inst and bet to state, regulations furnished me as Warden of the Penitentiary instruct that all convicts now being received into the Penitentiary who do not prefer to be members of the Roman Catholic are placed under the spiritual care of the Protestant Chaplain, who is formerly appointed by the Department of Justice. Your communication I will forward to the Inspector of Penitentiaries, without his immediate interference I can make no

alterations to the present arrangements of this Penitentiary.

Authur H. McBride  
Warden

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May 31st, 1884

A. H. McBride, Warden  
B.C. Penitentiary

I wish to inform you that I have not yet disposed of my book and stationery business which I was carrying on in New Westminster, when I was appointed Accountant of the B.C. Penitentiary. I have had several offers and today I was almost certain I had sold the store, but I did not succeed. I am certain of disposing of the business this coming month. I have as you are well aware a man in my place in the store, attending myself every day at the Penitentiary. I thought it necessary for me to write to you officially about the matter and explain.

W. H. Keary  
Accountant

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June 23rd, 1884

His Lordship, Bishop of New Westminster  
My Lord:

I have the honour to inform you that according to the Inspector's answer to my letter concerning your communication of May 24th, religious exercises and instruction are permitted for the convicts of the Church of England on Sundays between nine and ten A.M. and Wednesdays between twelve thirty and one P.M. Therefore I beg to say that every possible facility will be afforded yourself or any clergyman appointed by you for this purpose.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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June 25th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector, Ottawa  
Sir:

Enclosed please find the list of names of five convicts who are in New Westminster Gaol, I beg to state that with the number that are now in the Penitentiary it is utterly impossible to take these five.



I will of course include those five in the annual report and I will also pay for their keep to the local government. At present time there are no less than six convicts to a small room at the end of the building (this room has been used as the hospital) cells built for solitary confinement are occupied. Some by three convicts and some by four, who are obliged to sleep on mattresses on the floor. I have not had the least intimation from the Public Works Department when the making of other cells will begin. I am happy to say that nearly all are in good health, if sickness of any kind should break out I have not a vacant spot in the whole building in which I could put an invalid, I have not at present a sufficient number of stools to supply each convict with a seat. Some weeks ago the Assistant Engineer, Mr. Gamble visited the Penitentiary and promised to employ a Carpenter to do some jobs that are required about the place. I expected the man to be set at work at once, nothing has yet been done. I am indeed sorry to trouble you again in this matter. I request that you will use your influence with the Department in order to have these things attended to immediately. Believe me it is not safe to allow the crowded condition in the cells. The Public Works Department have had time to remedy this in six weeks.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden

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July 7th, 1884  
The Inspector, Ottawa

Enclosed please find a letter from #75, convict FRANK JONES, to the Honourable Minister of Justice. Also a memo from the Surgeon to me. JONES is very anxious that the government supply him with a set of teeth. He was sentenced at Yale by Mr. Justice Gray on December 1st, 1881 to twelve years in the Penitentiary on a charge of shooting with intent. He is one of the convicts who applied to Sir Alexander Campbell while visiting this Penitentiary for a pardon or investigation of his sentence.

Arthur H. McBride  
Warden  
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July 8th, 1884

The Inspector, J. G. Moylan

In answer to your letter of June 25th, concerning the part O'Connor took in the disturbance at this Penitentiary on the 17th April inst. I beg to inform you for the information of the Deputy Minister that I have had a copy of his letter read to the guards and find that they are unanimous that O'Connor was going to assist convict BARRY when the assault was committed on guard Fitzgerald. The remainder of his letter is a tissue of falsehood. His conduct since his incarceration here has been bad, always in an underhand way, encouraging convicts in every way that it is possible for him to break the rules. He has been reported since he came here 17 times, I consider him one of the most contumacious characters that is in this or any other Penitentiary in the Dominion and requires always strick watch and discipline.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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July 28th, 1884

Inquiry into the Breach of Discipline on the part of Convict John L. BARRY on July 26th, 1884

Thomas A. McInnes being sworn said:

I am the Steward of the B. C. Penitentiary, at noon on last Saturday the 26th day of July I went down to the lower wing of cells to take convict BARRY out to get shaved. Guard Quilty was with me, I opened the cell door, BARRY walked out past me, he met guard Quilty about six feet behind me, I turned around as he passed me, when he got near guard Quilty he threw a handful of lime at Guard Quilty's face, he hit guard Quilty at the same time with his hand. He then caught the guard and tried to take his revolver from him, as soon I saw him throw the lime I hit him behind the ear with a cell key which I had in my hand. He then dropped his hand and let go of guard Quilty. We put him in his cell and locked him up and reported the affair to the Warden and D/Warden. We then went down to the cell again with the D/Warden and opened the door and brought BARRY out into the corridor and searched him. A knife was ound in the breast of his shirt, the shirt had to be cut to get the knife out.

Signed: Thomas A. McInnes  
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July 28th, 1884

Inquiry into the conduct of convict BARRY:

Sworn statement by guard Thomas Quilty:

On Saturday, July 26th, 1884 between one and two o'clock I went down with the Steward of the B.C. Penitentiary to get BARRY and fetch him up to get shaved. The Steward went ahead of me and unlocked the cell door. He told BARRY to get shaved, he walked past the Steward, came up at me and made a blow at me with his right hand at the same time throwing some lime at my face and then caught hold of me with his hands. I believe with the intention of getting my revolver. The Steward hit him with the cell key about the head, he then let me go and made for his cell. We, then locked him up and reported to the Warden and the D/Warden

Thomas W. Quilty, Guard.

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July 31st, 1884

Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

I beg to enclose the evidence taken by me under oath in consequence of a charge against No.83 Convict BARRY for assaulting guard Quilty with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. This is the same convict who attempted to murder the guard last April. I found it necessary to sentence him to 60 lashes with the "cat" which was inflicted on Monday the 28th inst. in the presence of the Surgeon. The knife which was mentioned in the evidence was made out of a piece of hoop iron which must have been taken from his bucket. He scraped the lime off the walls of his cell which he threw at the guard.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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August 13th, 1884

T.W.Trutch, Victoria

Enclosed please find a requisition for the repair of cell door to which I found it necessary to have done for the safe keeping of convict BARRY.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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September 5th, 1884

F. C. Gamble, Assistant Engineer, Victoria

Sir:

I have received the plans, specifications and forms of tender for additional cells at this Penitentiary, and will be guided by your instructions concerning this plans.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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September 18th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector

In the Officers clothing sent out this year there are 14 suits of Sunday Uniforms. Will you give permission to have these served to the Officers. Although they are not yet due my reason for desiring this to be done is on account of the many changes that have taken place amongst the guards. Also the uniforms have been so often altered again for want of full suits of weekday clothing they have had to wear the Sunday uniform in many cases. Therefore, nearly all are threadbare and very shabby. The Staff is full, we have also a Tailor Shop and by permitting the Sunday Uniform to be served it will place all guards alike in regards to uniform. I request you will give this your immediate attention.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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October 14th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

I enclose herewith detailed estimates for the fiscal year 1885-1886.

STAFF:

Warden: Long service. 21 years, increase in number of guards and convicts causing additional responsibilities.

Deputy Warden: Long service. 27 years. Performing the duties of Deputy Warden, Chief Keeper and Farmer Gardener.

Accountant and Storekeeper: Increase of convicts and workshops being opened. Great additional work. The school on account of great increase of number of scholars, in fact as many as we can accomodate and mixed nationalities; Indians and Chinese, I would aske for an assistant to Mr. Keary which could be filled by one of the guards, paying him the additional \$100.00 I ask for Trade Instructors, a great amount of necessary work is required to be done in the Blacksmith Shop, buildings and farm. I wuld ask a Blacksmith Trade Instructor. To induce good master mechanics to continue in the service I would ask an additional increase in their salaries.

Steward: Performing the duties of steward and hospital steward, an increase in number of convicts requires a great amount of additioanl work.

Keeper: Having a large number of guards I would ask for a keeper. For the last two years one of the guards has been acting in that capacity.

Guards: No houses and long distance from New Westminster where they are compelled to live and it is very hard for me to keep good men for the small salary.

Maintenance: Increase in number of men. Working expenses

Industries: I require to buy materials and where I hope to derive a good revenue for the Penitentiary

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

October 18th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector

I beg to report that on the 15th inst. convict #118, Thomas O'Connor tried at the Assizes on May 2nd, 1883 before M. Justice Gray at New Westminster and sentenced to five years in the Penitentiary on two charges (one of shopbreaking and the other burglary) sentence to run concurrent, made an attempt to break from this Penitentiary. This is the convict I reported to you at the time Convict BARRY made an attempt to murder guard Fitzgerald. He was brought before me for continuously breaking the Penitentiary rules. I ordered him to have irons put on until his conduct would admit of their removal. He then made a run and jumped through the window and two of the guards jumped out and pursued him. He was called upon to stop but paid no attention but kept on the run. Some distance from the building he attempted to get over the fence by means of a ladder which had been used repairing a stand. When on the top of the fence he was fired on by one of the guards with a revolver, the bullet struck him a little below the knee in the fleshy part of the leg. He does not seem to suffer much from the wound. Enclosed find the certificate.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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27th October 1884

Hon. J. W. Trutch, Dominion Government Agent, Victoria

Sir:

I wrote for permission, to you, sometime ago, to be allowed to live in the cottage, commonly called Captain's Ball's cottage, just outside the Penitentiary grounds. I, again, respectfully repeat my request to be allowed to do so, it's impossible to procure a house of any description, closer to the Penitentiary than New Westminster. If I am allowed permission I will repair the building so that I can live in it for the winter months.

Your Obedient Servant

W. H. Keary, Accountant

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October 29th, 1884

George Foster, Accountant of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

Enclosed please find a Band Cheque for \$35.00, amount paid to Mr. James Fitzsimmons and Falding in October 1883 for stocktaking and valuing buildings at the Penitentiary June 1882. Mr. Fitzsimmons is not pleased about refunding that sum and you know Falding has been out of the employ for some time therefore it may be a long time before he will give me back the money. Mr. Fitzsimmons will, I suppose pay before long. At present I have had to send it from my private means, again I beg to remind you that at the time of paying this money I was ignorant of the New Act relating to the Civil Service.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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November 6th, 1884

J. G. Moylan, Inspector, Ottawa

Sir:

The enclosed cutting from one of our local newspapers is a correct account of the melancholy affair that happened between two of the Penitentiary guards on the morning of the 4th inst. During their time of their service here I always found both men efficient and attentive.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

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November 6th, 1884

George Foster, Esq. Accountant of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Sir:

On the morning of the 4th inst. Guard STerry was murdered by guard Rodgers. STerry had no friends here. Will you be good enough to inform me how the funeral expenses will be paid and under what head will they be charged. There are four days pay due him. Will you let me know how the pay list should be signed and will the money be used toward the expenses above mentioned? The cost will amount to between \$30.00 and \$40.00. I have written this day to the Inspector concerning this affair. STerry has left no means that I am aware of. The men were not on duty at the time of the event.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden

November 10th, 1884

Inspector, Ottawa

Sir:

In reply to yours of the 23rd inst. inquiring about the beginning of the new wing, I beg to inform you that a present there is no mentioned made of erecting a new wing. Today the contractors have come to begin building an addition of 32 cells. This is to be done by raising the roof of the present wing and adding another tier to the three than now stands. Then at the north end of living cells are to be added leaving only an narrow passage for Officers or convicts between the cells and the outer walls on the lower floor. The water tank is to be taken away. The contractor says that he can connect the pipe that now supplies the tank with the small pipes that supply the building. But that certainly is not safe. In case of fire there is no other way of getting water, had the government seen fit to extend the present wing instead of adding in this way, water supply need not be interputed. Also, they might have given at least 80 cells, 32 is not sufficient. After repeatedly writing and telegraphing I had to go to Mr. Trutch and he gained permission to purchase lumber for fencing, the remainder of the land on the north side of the ravine. Nothing else asked for has been granted. What I now require most urgently is to have from 30 to 40 acres more enclosed in order to give employment to the convicts. All that is now fenced will only keep them busy for three or four months. Before the last piece was secured many of the convicts had to be kept in for days, there being nothing that I could give them to work at outside and that was at a time when the weather here was most suitable here for outdoor labour.

I sincerely hope that you will give your early attention to this matter. While writing of this negligence on the part of the Public Works Department, I beg to state that before the work of adding cells had been decided upon, the Inspector of Penitentiaries should have visited this Institution.

Arthur H. McBride

Warden



Details of convict clothing, approximate amount required, 1885-1886  
B.C. Penitentiary

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Winter Suits:

Required 10 yards to each man. 100 men, 1,000 yards cloth,  
trimming for winter suit: \$1.50 each.

Summer Suits:

Required 10 yards per man, 100 men. 1,000 yards linen.  
Trimnings for summer suits: .87¢ each.

Hats:

Straw, required, 1 to each man, 100 men, 175¢ each/\$75.00

Shirts:

Flannel, required 9 yards to each man, 100 men, 900 yards flannel.  
Trimnings for each shirt .15¢/200 - \$30.00

Flannel Drawers:

Required 8 yards to each man, 100 men, 800 yards flannel.  
Trimnings for each pair .15¢/200 - \$30.00

✓  
END OF WARDEN McBRIDE'S LETTERS

April 7th, 1911

Inspector of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Dear Sir:

I enclose herewith the resignation of guard Exley who left the service last night. He obtained a position on the Provincial Police at \$75.00 per month and expenses, with a regular increase up to \$90.00 or \$95.00 per month. This makes five of the regular staff and the extra man, Warren, leaving the service in the last two weeks.

John C. Brown

Warden

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April 19th, 1911

Mr. J. Clementson

P.O. Box 267

Vancouver, Washington

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of April 17th, I beg to say that before appointment to the staff of this Penitentiary, the candidate must pass an examination before our Surgeon, who is to be found here every morning at 10 o'clock. He must be physically sound, with good sight and hearing, at least 5 feet 9 inches in height, without shoes and under 35 years of age. He should also know something of the handling a rifle and revolver. The appointment in the first place is on probation for three months. If services proved satisfactory the permanent appointment is then made. The pay being at the rate of \$700.00 for day work and \$750.00 for night work, with two suits of uniforms (tunic, trousers and boots) per annum, an overcoat and cap every two or three years. Officers also have certain privileges in the use of prison shops, annual holidays and so forth.

Very truly yours

John C. Brown

Warden

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April 20th, 1911

The Inspector, Ottawa

Dear Sir:

I wish to made a "trade" in the proper way of course. and cheque of course for two pigs for a Berkshire Boar and an Angora goat and should be glad to have your approval. I find that the Berkshire

Yorkshire is a good one as the pigs mature quickly. The other day I acquired an Angora without cost and as it runs on friendly terms with the deer. I want to get a mate for it as Angora's are highly commended as weed and brush destroyers.

John C. Brown  
Warden

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April 21st, 1911  
George A. Pratt  
9 Cathcart Street,  
Montreal, Quebec

Dear Sir:

I have written Warden McCauley to get me a carload of potatoes if they can be laid down here for not more than \$40.00 per ton. Fifty dollars is the price here now and it is expected to go to \$60.00 very soon.

John C. Brown  
Warden

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July 5th, 1911  
The Editor, The Civilian  
P.O. Box 484, Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Sir:

Sometime ago I received from you a circular re subscription to the Civilian and handed it to one of my Officers with the result that he has handed me three names to which I add my own and enclose a Post Office order for \$4.00 Please send your paper to P. Smyth, H. Norman, T. Sampson, the Penitentiary, New Westminster and to J. C. Brown, 65 Columbia Street, East, New Westminster. I am sorry that more of the officers have not subscribed but the majority of them have been paying membership fees to the Civil Service Association and as no benefit seems to have accrued they are reluctant to spend any more money in the same direction.

John C. Brown  
Warden

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July 10th, 1911  
Inspector of Penitentiaries

Dear Sirs:

I beg enclose herewith application of Keeper Sampson for the position of Chief Keeper. I shall take the liberty of submitting my recommendation in the matter later on.

John C. Brown

Warden

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July 14th, 1911  
The Yale and Towne Mfg. Co.  
9 Murray Street  
New York, New York, U.S.A.

I beg to enclose herewith official order for certain locks and keys required at this Penitentiary. You will observe the order for prison locks calls for two to open for the same key, and one having a different key, and that none of these is to open with the same key previously supplied to this Penitentiary. The previous supplied were seven one side locks in 1908 and 8 two sided locks in May 1909, the former had the shop number 214 and the latter 212 on the keys. Kindly send these as soon as possible and send them by freight.

John C. Brown

Warden

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July 17th, 1911  
Inspector, Ottawa

I respectfully submit that the reorganization of the staff of the Penitentiary has become necessary. Mr. Disney's resignation has left me not only without a Chief Trade Instructor but without an officer who has more than a superficial rule of the thumb knowledge of carpenter work. With a good carpenter Instructor I might do without a Chief Trade Instructor, but on the other hand the additional expense involved without a carpenter instructor, would be only the difference between his salary and that of a guard. It is necessary to have an Officer in Charge of the Carpenter Shop in any event.

Turning to the question of the Police Staff it requires strengthening from the point of view of maintenance of discipline, and I think the large increase in prison population and the fact that we have now 66 men in the temporary cell house, and in all probability will shortly

have men sleeping outside the cells in the main wing, warrants me in asking that the staff of keepers be increased by one and that a Chief Keeper be appointed. Here-to-for the main entrance to the building has been inside the fence with riflemen on the stands at the entrance gates. The system is now changing. That part of the reserve in front of the main entrance will be open and unguarded a barrier door being placed at the front entrance of the prison, so that the hall guard who was formerly available as a messenger or to supervise visits of prisoners relatives, can no longer be used for such purposes and must be continually on hand as a Store-keeper, leaving the D/Warden who is also Chief Keeper, as the only spare man. Therefore when the arrival of a new prisoner or any other matter engages the attention of the D/Warden for the time being, there is no available for any second demand which may arise, and the D/Warden's time is so taken up with various other duties that it is impossible for him to give the necessary supervision to the general working of the prison.

I, myself, of course, make the rounds as frequently as possible, but the amount of correspondence to be attended to frequently makes it impossible to do more than a hurried round once a day and sometimes even that is out of the question. I think what I have said will be sufficient to show that I am not unreasonable in asking that the staff be strengthened as above.

John C. Brown  
Warden

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July 17th, 1911  
Inspector, Ottawa

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of June 15th, 1911 I beg to return herewith file #244/11, re: sale of officers houses. I have given this matter full consideration and have gone over the matter with Inspector Dawson during his recent visit here.

A few weeks ago I was inquiring in the interest of a friend for a house to rent, and was told then by every man in the real estate business to whom I spoke that anyone wanting a house in New Westminster must either buy it or build it. Of course this means that rents are high, and the price of property both in the city and for some distance

outside is at such a figure that buying for investment has stopped. At present the only officers available in an emergency occurring out of working hours, are those living in the government house attached to the Penitentiary. Were these sold, a number of officers living in them would be scattered to other points probably at too great a distance to hear the alarm bell. I cannot therefore recommend the sale of the houses, but would on the contrary urge that consideration be given to the availability of erecting say a dozen or more cottages on the remainder of that portion of the reserve on which the present cottages stand. The expenditure of an amount of say \$25,000.00 would provide by the erection by contract of a group of cottages sufficient to provide quarters for nearly all, if not all, of the officers who wish to have them, and by increasing the rental 50% the interest on the money and ordinary repairs would be provided for. In giving this advice I am going against my own personal inclination, The presence of Officers houses of which the government is landlord, and the Warden - landlords agent, means a good deal more trouble to me , but I am afraid it is only too certain looking at the situation of the citizens of New Westminster, Vancouver and Victoria. In constant touch with the American cities across the border and remembering that this is the ultimate west and that the floating population having arrived here cannot go any further, that this Penitentiary will, before many years, become a much larger establishment than it is at present. The growth of the city of New Westminster at the same time will probably make rentals in the vicinity of the Penitentiary even higher than they are now, so that residents within reasonable distance of the prison would be quite beyond the means of the officers. It would therefore appear prudent to make use of that part of the reserve which is available for the construction of residences, but for no other purpose, to secure the desirable end of keeping a considerable body of officers at all times within close touch of the prison, so that their services would be available at a few minutes notice.

Very truly yours,

John C. Brown

Warden

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July 18th, 1911

Inspector, Ottawa

Dear Sir:

Referring to the recommendation in my letter of yesterday that a carpenter instructor be appointed for this Penitentiary, I just had a conversation with Mr. James McLellan of whom I have some personal knowledge and who brings me a letter of strong recommendation from Mr. George Kennedy, President of the Liberal Association here. I can, therefore, recommend confidently him for appointment as carpenter instructor, when I informed Mr. McLellan of the salary, etc he at first said that the appointment would not suit him, but finally decided to give it a trial, as I told him there would probably be an increase before very long. He has been acting as a contractor's foreman for some time and gets considerably better pay than he would receive here, but an injury to his right knee left a slight permanent disablement, which he feels when he has to make frequent trips between the work he is engaged on in the lumber mills, which is not serious enough to disqualify him as an Instructor here. He is thoroughly familiar with house building and understand electric fittings, plumbing and so forth. He is forty four years of age and a healthy clean living man.

John C. Brown

Warden

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July 31st, 1911

Gillry Bros, New Westminster

Dear Sir:

Kindly send me at the earliest possible moment your quotation on:

150 tons best B.C.Lump Coal

150 tons best Nut Coal

to be delivered. In the coal shed on Penitentiary wharf, or F.O.B. Scow Penitentiary wharf, or FOB. car on Brunette Mill spur of the Great Northern Railway. A quantity of say 50 tons or more of each description of coal to be delivered within ten days, after the order is placed. If delivery is to be FOB scow, you will be responsible for safety of scow and cargo while at wharf, but I will guarantee it will be unloaded as rapidly as possible, using convict labour.

John C. Brown

August 3rd, 1911

The Inspectors of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Dear Sir:

Last night I sent you by telegraph:

"Blocks one and two, soil very poor, wide ravine steep sides occupies half area. Spring north and block two only value to us. Block three soil slightly better. Nearly eight acres level. Might eventually be cultivated. All three dense bush. Selling value estimated on holding price neighbouring lots blocks one and two, twelve hundred per acre, block three seventeen hundred."

This is the result of the fullest personal examination possible of the ground made in company of the Chief Keeper Patchell, who assisted with the survey of the lots and was in charge of the party which took about 1000 cords of wood off the ground some years ago, and as to prices, the result of my enquiries as to the figures at which neighbouring property was held for sale by a number of real estate agents. It would, I think, supply you with all the facts necessary to enable you to form an opinion as to whether or not the property should be sold. I think the spring near the north line of block two should be preserved. Since the improvements made last winter, we are, by using it, saving an average of \$20.00 a month on our water bill, and I hope by further improvements this fall to increase the saving. Except for that, however, I think it would be better to sell the lots, as they would then be cleared. At present they are a tangled mass of dense bush. The southerly third of lot one and the greater part of lot three might be cleared and cultivated, but it is doubtful whether the crops raised upon them would pay for the manure and labor, as the soil is very poor for the most part. The better soil is on that part of the ground which is furthest from the prison. We have about twelve acres in the two blocks (both number 12 on the map) lying north and south of Cumberland Street, and just across the street from the north west corner of the original reserve which I propose to clear as soon as possible. The soil in these is very much better than in block one, two and three. They are not so densely wooded, and they are closer in and more accessible. In the clay pit work, in fact in all work outside the yard wall, but more particularly in work outside all fences, a man who is willing to risk the chance of a shot (as the two men who escaped yesterday risked it) will always have a fair chance of getting clear away, so long as land immediately



adjoining the Penitentiary Reserve is covered with dense brush, and for that reason I am ore inclined to advocate the sale of these blocks (one, two and three) as more than half of block one and practically the whole of block two is useless for cultivation and if we retain them, we shall have to undertake the difficult work of clearing them and keeping them clear, or leave them in their present condition as a temptation to men working anywhere near them to make a break for liberty. If sold the new owners would doubtless work the clay which underlies them and clear as building sites the part they did not want to use.

John C. Brown  
Warden

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August 9th, 1911  
Mr. E. J. Adams, Esq.  
Architect of Penitentiaries  
Department of Justice, Ottawa

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 31st, enclosing blueprints of new wing basement windows. I note that the barriers for these windows are to be made in Kingston.

John C. Brown  
Warden

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August 9th, 1911  
Mr. Ewen McInnes

Dear Sir:

I regret to say that neither yourself nor your friend passed the surgeon. The objection in your case is that you are color blind, but I should not consider this an objection provided that you could tell the difference between a guard in uniform and a convict at 150 or 200 yards distance. Please let me know how this is, so if a vacancy should occur, I will know whether you are available or not.

John C. Brown  
Warden

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August 15th, 1911

Mr. Ewen McInnes

Dear Sir:

I shall have a vacancy on the staff in a few days and should be glad to see you if you care to come over, and if I find, as I expect to find, that your color blindness is not of the kind to interfere with your usefulness as a guard I shall put you on the staff.

John C. Brown

Warden

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August 16th, 1911

Dear Mr. Wise;

I am sorry to say that we can't let you have any hay this year. Dynes tells me that he is feeding eight horses now, and he wants all the hay we has for his own use.

John C. Brown

Warden

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August 17th, 1911

The Inspectors, Ottawa

Dear Sirs:

RE: KEENAN CASE

Referring to my letter of August 4th, re the above and subsequent correspondence by wire, I beg to inform you that the case came to trial before Police Magistrate Walker, of Burnaby Municipality, yesterday. Mr. Brown of Brown and Ellis, Vancouver appearing for KEENAN. The man injured whose name is Legg made a statement slightly different from KEENAN's in some details, but admitted that when asked to halt, he shouted "Go to Hell" and ran. The doctors evidence was that he found the wound in the man's ankle about 1/2 an inch deep, which might have been made by a bullet, but that he found no bullet in the wound, fearing to probe deeply as it was close to a large blood vessel, and he could not swear that the wound was made by a bullet. The Magistrate having announced his intention to send the case for trial, defence was reserved, and KEENAN was kept in custody of a Burnaby Constable until this morning as Judge Howay was out of town and a Vancouver Judge had to be found to make an order for bail, which was fixed at \$2,000.00 for KEENAN and two sureties of \$1,000.00 each. H.C. Robertson and guard Smyth became bondsmen for KEENAN. Legg, the

man who was hurt intended as I anticipated to apply for compensation but has been forstalled by the bringing of this criminal charge. As I understand it, without his knowledge or sanction on the initiative of the Burnaby Magistrate. KEENAN will doubtless be brought to the County Court Judge for election, and I shall be glad to know whether the Minister would prefer to have the case tried without a jury or at the Assizes

John C. Brown

Warden

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August 18th, 1911

The Inspectors, Ottawa

Dear Sirs:

Referring to your statement in your letter of August 10th, that there are at present no funds available for the payment of Penitentiary accounts, and as this is I presume, does not include petty cash disbursements, I write to ask if we could be authorized to pay from petty cash the account of \$150.50 due J. C. O'Brien for wood, a bill for which was forwarded July 12th. O'Brien, although he owns some valuable property has no ready money, and has employed men to cut the wood in pursuance of an agreement made with me to supply it. I have made over 600,000 bricks this season, and have burned two kilns and have another kiln of about 275,000 ready to burn for which I want a considerable quantity of cord wood, and later in the season I shall be burning another kiln so that I must have wood, and I am depending upon O'Brien for it. I am afraid it will be impossible for him to go on if I tell him he must wait for payment until it is voted by the next Parliament, and you are aware, of course, that to stop our brickmaking operation would be simply disasterous.

I trust therefore, it will be found in some way possible to have this account paid.

John C. Brown

Warden

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August 19th, 1911

Inspectors of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

Dear Sirs:

I beg to enclose herewith application of Ewen McInnes whom I have today appointed as temporary guard. You will observe that the Surgeon wrote "No" in answer to question 14 and that is solely on account of the fact that the man is not able to name the different colors. I prefer him to any other man whose application I have had, as he has served for some years in the Glasgow Police. Therefore I took him up on one of the towers and found that he could easily distinguish between guards and convicts at a distance, and also he could see almost as well with the naked eye as I could with field glasses.

John C. Brown

Warden

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August 19th, 1911

John R. Greenfield, Esq.

Post Office Inspector, Vancouver

In reply to your letter #731 of August 16th in which you refer to our correspondence about a certain "decoy" letter and asked why the letter was so described. I beg to say that the letter was written in order to be intercepted. One of my guards was "trafficking" that is to say he was sending letters, written by prisoners, requesting their friends to send money. He gave the address to which this money was to be sent and when it arrived he procured what the prisoner wanted, generally tobacco, to the extent of about one half of the amount of the remittance, putting the other half in his pocket. I, therefore, had this letter written by a convict who handed it to the suspected guard, with a request he send it out and have the money he asked for sent to him, so that he could procure tobacco for the writer. As the latter is a Vancouver man, and acquainted with the various business people there, I told him to choose an address which would not arouse the suspicion of the guard, and I also directed him to mark the envelope which he did to such an extent that the guard readdressed it in his own handwriting, thus furnishing additional evidence against himself.

John C. Brown

Warden

August 22nd, 1911

The Inspectors of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

RE: WORK

Dear Sirs:

The brickwork of the yard wall, although not finished yet, is now continuous, the lowest point of it today being some six feet above the foundation. Given fairly fine weather, I do not think there will be an difficulty about completing the wall to its full height within, or nearly within, three years from the day of laying of the first stone of the foundation, that is about the middle of November. The foundation of the new industrial building is more than half in. The east side and the north end are complete, the south end which is very heavy work, wants a few feet of being complete. The west side is about one third in; the trenches are dug and the work will now go on rapidly to completion.

Bricklaying on the building will be starting tomorrow. Mr. Imlah's crew being divided and both gangs strengthened. The work on the yard wall which remains to be done is straight work requiring little skill, so that the best men can be put on the new building. The carpenter and blacksmith are well ahead with the window and door frames and barriers, so that the bricklayers will not be delayed by them. The excavation at the south end of the new building is very heavy, but I think we have so far broken the back of the work now that the removal of the earth and grading of the yard can be carried on without interfering with the bricklaying. A little has been done incidently as it were, in the filling up of the new road and tearing down of fences, but the ordinary routine work of the farm, and so forth, is practically all we have been able to attend to aside from the work above detailed, bricklaying and getting cordwood for the brickyard.

The last mentioned work is a very serious drag, as about nine cords a day is about the utmost that we can bring in; so that the large amount required we have practically the whole time of the horses, from other absolutely necessary work, taken up, and for the past year I have been using wheelbarrows to a large extent where dump carts were formerly used. Considering the time occupied in hauling the wood, and the cost of the wood itself, I think it will pay to send a party to Wright Island next spring for wood. I am paying \$25.00 for cordwood now, and should expect to pay more next year for any I have to

buy, and also probably have to go further afield for it. I think to that I can safely let the brickyard lie during a large part of next summer, if not for the whole year, and this would enable me not only to manage with less expenditure for officers, but also to pick a fairly "safe" gang for the island. When the brickyard is running we want a dozen or fourteen men for the clay pit, and with the brickyard idle these could be sent to the island.

I require to finish the yard wall to full height all round, and for the new industrial building, about 410,000 to 415,000 brick. I have on hand, burned and ready for use, about 100,000 and in kiln, ready to burn 280,000 and we are turning out and building into the next kiln something like 9,000 per day. So that if the kiln now ready to be burned turns out as well as the last, I shall have all the brick I want until we are ready to begin bricklaying on the East Wing, and Mr. Imlah say that we will not be ready for that until the winter of 1912-13, and possibly not until the following summer. Therefore except in case of an accident running one of the two kilns to be burned this year, I should have in a month from now, 200,000 brick under our weatherproof shed in readiness to be used on the new wing.

I propose therefore, as soon as the kiln which I am about to fire is tested, if the brick prove to be good, to close down operations in the brickyard and put the force thus relieved at the construction of the fence across the ravine and the completion of the new road; so that when the time comes to go to Wright Island it will be necessary to take a very few men, other than the farmers men, outside the wall while we have a force at Wright Island. I have not yet been able to make a close estimate, but I feel satisfied that I can put the wood from the island into the yard for less than I am paying for wood now, and of course can haul as much from the wharf in one day as I can haul from the woods in four or five, thus setting the horses free for the hauling of brick and stone and sand for the East Wing. Of course, I shall endeavor to cut down Mr. Imlah's estimate of time a little if possible, but even should I succeed, I shall have a sufficient margin of brick to prevent any subsequent delay on that account.

John C. Brown  
Warden

September 1st, 1911

K.J. Admas

Dear Sir:

In the order for lumber for the new buildings, the beams were specified, 10"x12" x16' and they were supplied. The new carpenter instructor checking his lumber by the detail of the building, tells me that the beams in the detail 10"x14"x16'. As the beams are not a stock, the mill naturally objects to taking them back, and as we have no machinery heavy enough to cut them into plank, I am afraid they will be on our hands for a long time except you approve of their use. I understand that the brackets, or whatever you call them, on top of the posts and extending under the beams in both directions will reduce the clear span to 11' and if that is correct I think that a 12" beam should be heavy enough to carry any weight it will have to carry when the building is in use. Kindly let me have your answer about this in good time.

We have the north wall up to the top of the door frame and the East wall far enough advanced to have seven window frames set up. The deep trench and heavy excavation at the south end is holding us back a little.

John C. Brown

Warden

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September 5th, 1911

C.E. Deans, Grocer, New Westminster

Dear Sir:

I enclose request for quotations on groceries. All supplies are to be of the best quality. We will take, at the beginning of the quarter a large quantity of the stock of articles that do not spoil by keeping; other things, such as butter and eggs, we get as required, and of prunes and peaches we take 100 or 150 lbs at a time. The tea asked for (200 lbs black tea) is for the convicts rations, and is a much cheaper grade of tea than the 50 lbs of English Breakfast tea, which is for the officers' mess. Please send your quotations to the address given as soon as you possibly can.

Very truly yours

John C. Brown

Warden

September 11th, 1911

Inspectors of Penitentiaries

Dear Sirs:

I sent you, two days ago, requisitions no's 36,37 and 38 for electrical supplies. You will notice that req. 38 was marked "list no. 2" and should have been accompanied by this letter. That req. no. 38 covers an estimate of material required for the temporary cells to be erected in the new industrial building, and I enclose herewith a sketch showing the plan proposed to be adopted for lighting the cells. The convict who drew the plan is clever at electrical work, but is not a good draftsman, however you will easily see what the idea is, to run the supply lines under the galleries and to have the lamp inside the door of the cells, so that there is nothing in the cells that can be interfered with other than the lamp itself and by putting in a piece of low voltage fuse wire, interference with the lamp would affect only one cell, whereas at present, a man by tearing down his wires can put a whole tier out of commission. We have had several cases, one just the other day, of injury to electric wires in the cells. The last man who tore them down told me he wanted to use them to hang himself withal, and although I do not believe him it would be possible to use the wire for that purpose. I think, therefore that the plan now proposed will be a good one to adopt, especially as it will cost less than any alternative plan. I propose of course, to arrange for a transformer beside the new building so that the current from the main line will be taken off at high voltage, for which a no. 6 wire will be sufficient. If we took the current from the present transformer at low voltage, it would be necessary to have a very heavy wire instead of the no. 6, which would be much more costly and would also throw the line loss on our side of the transformer, thus increasing our light bill. I have not yet been able to arrange the matter with the city, as their electric men have not kept the appointments made, but will arrange as soon as possible and communicate with you further. I have reason to believe the convicts have interfered with the light wires in their cells to make experiments with the current, a practice which it is desirable to prevent.

John C. Brown  
Warden



September 18th, 1911  
Joseph F. Scott  
Superintendent of Prisons  
Auburn Prison  
Auburn, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of September 11th, asking me as to the rules and regulations governing this Penitentiary. I beg to say that these are contained in the Penitentiary Act, and partly in a printed book of regulations supplemented by typewritten circulars. As all Canadian Penitentiaries are under the Department of Justice at Ottawa, the rules for all are the same, and I am forwarding your letter to the Inspectors of Penitentiaries at Ottawa, with a request that they will send you, if they have not already done so, any information which may be of use to you.

John C. Brown  
Warden

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September 21st, 1911  
Inspectors of Penitentiaries

Dear Sirs:

I beg to enclose herewith application of Miss E. Chastey, for the position of organist in both chapels, vacant by the resignation of Miss Disney. Miss Chastey has been recommended by the D/Warden and some of the other officers. She is a music teacher, and I am assured is thoroughly competent. I beg therefore to recommend her appointment.

John C. Brown  
Warden

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September 22nd, 1911

Inspectors of Penitentiaries, Ottawa

RE: PROSECUTION OF CONVICTS

Dear Sirs:

I beg to ask for instructions as to whether or not the convicts named below should be prosecuted in court.. Personally, I believe that punishment here by the automatic loss of all time earned, and be compelling culprits to wear irons for a considerable period, is more effective from the point of view of discipline than an addition of a few months to a man's sentence by order of the court.

Joseph SMITH: Sentenced to ten years imprisonment, March 8, 1911 by Police Magistrate Shaw of Vancouver for assault with intent to steal. This man escaped on the 2nd of August from the brickyard and was recaptured the same evening. He slipped away without any attempted violence or anything of that kind, and gave no trouble on his recapture. He has been a fairly well behaved man up to the time of his escape.

Convict Frank FULLER: Sentenced to three years imprisonment, January 5, 1910 by Police Magistrate Jay of Victoria for "stealing". This man assaulted an officer the other day by striking him with his cell stool. The officer had brought on account of misconduct at this work, and on his refusing to go into his cell the officer pushed him in, and as he turned to leave the man struck at him with his stool. There were no witnesses, and the convict denies the assault. He has been a very troublesome man here, idling and creating disturbances and being frequently impertinent to the officers. He, of course, loses any time at his credit, and I propose, besides punishing him for his bad conduct in the gang, to put him in irons for the assault on the officer

Very truly yours

John C. Brown  
Warden

END OF WARDEN BROWN'S LETTERS

089 Willson

091-0711

UNION

U1

June 1979

THE HISTORY OF THE B.C. PENITENTIARY UNION - by D.M. McLEAN

I joined the Penitentiary Service on September 3rd, 1932, at New Westminster, British Columbia. I left there on transfer to Collins Bay Penitentiary on April 1st, 1954. This narrative will therefore deal with the period between 1932 and 1954 at the B.C. Penitentiary.

Since this is dealing primarily with Union activities and the subsequent organization of the Union at the B.C. Penitentiary, I think it is necessary to give a preamble on the conditions of employment existing during the 30's and of course prior to that at the B.C. Penitentiary.

One must bear in mind in dealing with the period between 1932 and the 40's the depression was at its height and the streets of Vancouver were crowded with unemployed who on many occasions came into conflict with the police during their demonstrations. This situation created a tremendous reserve of well motivated and experienced men for any employer who wished to recruit new employees for any organization or company under his command.

It also allowed him the power to discipline the staff and fire individuals with the knowledge that replacements would be easy to get. Accordingly, I do not think it would be

U2

appropriate to deal with Union activities alone without mentioning some of the personalities who were in control and also other individuals who were in senior positions at the B.C. Penitentiary at the time.

Col. H.W. Cooper was Warden in charge when I reported to the B.C. Penitentiary on the morning of September 3rd, 1932. The salary at that time was \$90.00 per month and this applied to all temporary guards. I had just arrived the day before from Scotland, having applied for employment during the summer of 1932 at the Penitentiary along with some thirty others. After a brief examination by the Doctor we were interviewed by the Deputy Warden, R.S. Douglass, I believe I was placed 17th on the list which did not bode well for early recruitment. Consequently with nothing in sight I returned to Scotland where I found employment prospects no better but much worse.

Before leaving I asked my brother who lived in Port Coquitlam that if anything turned up to let me know. A few days after I arrived in Scotland I received a cable stating that the Warden has advised there was a vacancy at the Penitentiary.

I borrowed my fare, arranged passage, and cabled the Warden I would report within ten days. It was a gamble and it was with a great deal of terpidation that I entered the Warden's office on the morning of September 3rd, 1932.

U3

His first question was "how long did it take you to get here", to which I replied, "nine days sir". He then swore me in and though his manner was brusque I felt he had a sense of empathy for one who had travelled six thousand miles for a ninety dollar a month job. He was fitted with a well tailored uniform and this with his stern manner and sharp blue eyes conveyed the impression that there was no question as to who was in command. I had reason to believe that beneath his well disciplined exterior lay a streak of humanity which rarely surfaced during his term at the B.C. Penitentiary.

During the summer the custodial staff worked from 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. six days per week. The Instructors were on duty from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. six days per week. The night shift reported at 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. the next day, a total of thirteen hours on duty. This for six days per week. During Warden Cooper's time, sick leave was almost non-existent. In the twenty-two years I spent at the B.C. Penitentiary, I do not recall the Deputy Warden or the Chief Keeper ever being off duty due to illness. Thus only the hardy survived. During the heavy snowfall of 1935, when it lay three feet deep in the streets, all transport came to a halt, but the staff turned up almost to a man by trudging most of the night to work.

A large percentage of the staff were temporary which made dismissal easier. This was usually accomplished by the officer

U4

concerned having an envelope handed to him at the front gate as he was leaving the prison at night with an enclosure stating his services were terminated at 1800 hours that date. During this period I knew my fate was hanging in the balance for the Deputy Warden had advised me that he did not think I was tall enough for the job, and on one occasion asked me if I had found one yet. It was an inane question when the streets of Vancouver were filled with thousands of genuinely unemployed men. This certainly did not help my morale. However, one evening on reaching the front gate, I did receive a letter from the Warden's office, handed to me by Jock Grozier. He thought, and so did I, that this was "it", and as I was going through the gate Jock said, "it was good knowing you Mac., and the best of luck to you". I still had not paid all the money I had borrowed to come and this coupled with the vision of joining the ranks of the unemployed made the situation look bleak indeed. I tried to be as nonchalant as possible and postponed opening the letter until I got to my room at 29 Columbia Street, where I was staying with a pioneer family, the A.E. Manns, who were also down on their luck at the time. When I opened the letter I was thunderstruck at the turn of events, at least as I had portrayed them, for it was an order to report at the prison next day at 3:00 a.m. I was ordered to report at that time to assist Farm Instructor Hornby, in the transfer of two horses from

U5

the farm to Vancouver for transport to Piers Island. Needless to say I was extremely glad I was still on the payroll, but I think such incidents as this shall convey to the reader how little thought was given to the personal arrangements of the employee. Under these conditions one could think it would prove to be unwise during those times to "reason why" openly.

Warden Cooper kept the staff on its toes. Frequently he would arrange for quick written tests in the school room during the noon hour. Many of the questions dealt with the regulations, but interspersed with these would be "how many horizontal bars are there in a cell gate, how many upright bars", "how many red headed inmates are there in the population?" and so on. With the large number of men on the temporary staff, coupled with the ease one could be separated from employment, such tests were not conducive to taking the job for granted. On certain evenings during the summer the prison would be closed thirty minutes early and we would be paraded to the flat area behind the prison where we were drilled in forming fours, marching, saluting by numbers, etc. I could not help but think what a crime it was and misuse of authority to subject these men in their final hours of duty to go through this torment in the sweltering sun. Looking back as a young friend of ours who was serving on the Atlantic during the war on a corvette wrote, "it was a hell



U6

of a way to make a living". Yet, in spite of it all we had some remarkable individuals on the staff. I remember George Raeburn, who in the early thirties was in charge of the tailor shop where he employed about thirty inmates. For a long time he worked alone but eventually he got an assistant. He made all the uniforms for the staff, and inmate clothing for both the B.C. and Piers Island Penitentiaries. It was a big job and if it had not been that George had the knack of handling inmates these results could not have been reached.

Col. Cooper was fortunate in having two excellent executives on his staff in the persons of R.S. Douglass, Deputy Warden, and J.L. Goss, Chief Keeper. The former was conscientious and fair with inmates and fearless in the performance of his duties. I remember at roll call one morning, it was around 1937, when he told us an attempt was going to be made to take him hostage and march him to the Front Gate where the inmates would endeavour to make their escape. He instructed the tower officers and the rest of the staff, if this should happen they were to use their weapons to stop the attempt even though his own life might be in danger. He was always on the job and was the first in Canada to implement a form of classification of inmates. I believe he was the best Deputy Warden in the Canadian Penitentiary Service.

Chief Keeper Goss was another imposing figure who was gifted with a quick mind and was also faithful in the performance of his duties. He insisted on cleanliness, was regimental

U7

and sometimes a bit harsh in the treatment of staff members. He had a keen sense of humour. I remember one day an inmate by the name of Brown, during the breakfast parade came to him and claimed he had found a maggot in his porridge. Goss replied, "for God's sake Brown don't tell the others or they will all want one".

However to give some idea of the organization and discipline which existed at the B.C. Penitentiary, it should be mentioned that they never had an escape for twenty-two years until an inmate decided to go through the Front Gate in a garbage truck and succeeded in doing so. About 1934 a new steward was appointed by the name of Wells, he was a short individual and in uniform gave the Napoleonic air to his stance. He improved the menu dramatically but like most people in his line did not stay long. One thing that seemed to perplex him was the idea that kitchen inmates were only permitted to have the same amount of rations as the remainder of the population on going to their cells in the evening. This seemed unfair to him. He must have checked with the Deputy Warden and the Chief Keeper but apparently they would not allow any relaxation to this rule. However, Wells was not to be daunted, and when he met the Warden in the Dome he approached him, saluted smartly and asked if this rule could be changed. To this Cooper put his thumbs through the buttons of the upper pockets of his tunic, rocked back and forth on

U8

his heels which was a familiar pose for him and then advised Wells to look up a certain verse in the Bible, then walked off leaving the steward somewhat mystified. Wells then approached Keeper Bennett and told him of his request to the Warden and the strange reply that he got. Bennett asked him if he could remember the quotation and Wells assured him that he did. Keeper Bennett then procured a Bible from an inmate's cell and looked up the quotation which read to the effect, and I quote, "Muzzle not the oxen that treadeth the corn". Needless to say, both were surprised that anyone could give such a quote from the top of his head so quickly.

Cooper demanded high standards of performance at all times. Tower Officers were not permitted to remain in their shelters except during noon hours. They had to keep continuously on the move and be prepared to come to attention, slope arms and give the salute at the approach or passing of a senior officer. In complying with this order some men would cover twenty miles in a day, pacing back and forth along the guard rail on the wall. At that time a Tower Officer was supplied with enough equipment to stand off a prolonged seige. For example, as he entered the Tower each day he had a rifle, shotgun and revolver with ample ammunition for each, also a rope and water can. He looked as if he was off to fight some guerilla war which I am sure would have been more exiting than spending eleven hours alone all day or thirteen hours on the night shift on the Tower. Many thoughts must have passed through the minds

U9

of various individuals who manned these Towers over the years. It was a lonely vigil and I can speak from experience of spending one month on No. 4 Tower and another month on the same post during the night shift. The uncertainty of continuing employment, the almost instantaneous separation from the service which could happen, the low salary, coupled with payments for rent and other costs must have during those times posed many questions in the minds of the Officers on duty.

Compared with the insecurity of their own situation they must have thought that in many ways the inmates were better off. Needless to say between 1932 and 1936, one of the deepest periods of the depression no agitation arose to better working conditions, in fact, no one raised a note of protest for the simple reason his voice would soon be stilled by dismissal. I believe some time prior to 1930 an attempt was made to join the Amalgamated Civil Servants of Canada but this never reached any degree of accomplishment. In 1918 there were rumblings of discord for we have on record a long letter dated May 1919 written to the Honourable C.J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, complaining of the excessive hours of duty and the low salary of \$68.33 per month. Also the fact that no uniforms or holidays were provided in the first year. This evidently applied to the temporary staff but those who were permanent were not much better off as their salary only exceeded the foregoing figure by \$10.00 per month. This protest, if it did reach Ottawa, has left no evidence of any reply. It is difficult to portray the atmosphere and the tensions connected with employment during those times. Men on temporary staff sometimes went

U10

for years without uniforms. When one did get a uniform, it indicated he had reached a new status in the eyes of the Senior Staff and usually some rumour would accompany this new uniformed officer to the effect that certain individuals were going to be discharged as they were overstaffed. This did not help the mental tranquility of those of us who were merely hanging on by what seemed as a tenuous thread at the time. Most of the men hired in 1932 and 1933 never reached permanent status until around 1937, it was a long wait for many.

It was in 1934 when the night shift was split into two eight hour shifts. The additional hour was taken up by one shift reporting one hour earlier in the evenings. I can't recall any pressure from the B.C. Penitentiary for this change for the obvious reasons already mentioned above. However, this change was necessary from a humane point of view. Picture working six nights per week of thirteen hours each. Take the travelling time to and from work and there is nothing left except time to rest.

Warden Cooper was transferred to Prince Albert Penitentiary in 1936 and was replaced by Warden W. Meighen, brother of the former Prime Minister, who came from Stony Mountain Penitentiary. The coming of Meighen was like a summer wind after a hard winter. He was quite different from Cooper, somewhat aloof, quick tempered when aroused and inclined to be a bit raucous

U11

when things did not go his way.

However, on taking over, the climate of the prison became more relaxed. Being the embodiment of conservatism he would have had a fit had he known a few years later the sprouts of a union would take hold within the confines of his office.

Cooper had many facets to his personality and possessed a great sense of drama as I witnessed one night during the time the Doukhbors were confined on Piers Island. I was directed to go to the Vancouver docks and pick up a sick inmate who was being escorted by an officer from Piers Island and bring him back to the prison hospital. The Warden gave me instructions to wait outside the gate until he arrived. When he came up, I found in the meantime he had posted two men inside the front gate and one in the armoury and two other officers were posted on the outside of the inner gate leading to the yard. At a given signal I entered between the two gates and as the big wooden gate closed behind me the Warden ordered me out of the vehicle. He stood there looking around creating the impression if anyone made a false move it would be to the detriment of the Empire. I couldn't help but see in this atmosphere a bit of humour and as the Warden passed me, I noticed he got the impression of a flicker of a smile passing over my face, I thought then and there in view of the serious nature of this operation, as judged by him, my chance of survival the following

U 12

morning would be slim, however, he may have thought it was good to know someone on the staff could see humour in this evening of manufactured drama.

As the years rolled on to 1940 the winds of change were blowing. Discontent was surfacing, especially among the instructors who had no Saturday afternoons off which had been the privilege of tradesmen on the outside for a great many years. Many of the guards were also becoming disenchanted with the working conditions and the long hours of duty. No compensation of any kind was granted for overtime worked during any period of trouble within the prison. I believe if the administration had the foresight to press Ottawa for some concessions at this stage it would have been some time before the Union would have seen the light of day in British Columbia.

Some movement must have been taking place around 1937 for I saw in the files where Alex Wilson had drawn up a schedule to indicate that a forty-four hour week could be possible in the Penitentiary if this was adopted. Nothing seems to have happened to this proposal until the Union began to organize in the early 1940's.

The Union took roots during the winter of 1941-42, when a small group got together to plan strategy in connection with the proposed organization. This group included Instructor

U 13

L. Cox, Storekeeper Bert Fox, Walter Johnstone and myself (D.M. McLean). A brief was drawn up for the Honourable Louis St. Laurent, Minister of Justice, pointing out the need for shorter hours and the recommendation that other grievances be attended to.

When this group first met it was in secret for it was necessary to protect Walter Johnstone who was the Warden's secretary at the time and we knew that if the knowledge of what was happening got out all hell would break loose. Also Bert Fox who as the storekeeper came into frequent contact with the Warden during his duties and if the Warden found out that he was involved it would require little imagination to understand the the tongue-lashing which he would be subjected to.

When the meetings were held outside the prison, sometimes in the Legion Hall and the Russell Hotel it was no longer a secret and when the Warden finally found out what was going on, in a moment of panic he paraded us to the Church during the noon-hour and proceeded to blast us for our Union activities and implied if we proceeded with this he would fire the lot and bring in a group of farmers to take our place. It was around this time that Al. Cox had an interview with the Warden in order to clear up some misconceptions he may have had. This evidently developed into a shouting match which some said could be heard on Columbia Street.



U - 14

Cox was a veteran of the 1914 war, holder of the Military Medal and Bar and was also an excellent public speaker, Meighen under these circumstances, was outclassed and consequently must have lost his temper. Walter Johnstone on the other hand, was an excellent stenographer and was very capable at drawing up reports and briefs. Between Al. Cox and Walter Johnstone we had a couple who had skill and initiative and one might say they pioneered the whole effort of getting the Union organized at the British Columbia Penitentiary.

In the meantime another brief had been drawn up and typed by Walter Johnstone and submitted to the then Minister of Justice, The Honourable Louis St. Laurent requesting permission to organize a staff Union.

A week or so later a reply was received from the Minister advising our request had been granted. The Warden was also notified for almost simultaneously with the receipt of this letter we were again paraded up to the Church. The Warden addressed us but in a much chastened vein. He made a few remarks and then gave the impression rather unwillingly that the Minister had granted our request. Following this he hastily left the Church. Al. Cox was elected President of the Union and meetings were held once a month. He held this position for about a year when he left the service and went to the North Country and remained there for a number of years. Al died in 1954 in Vancouver.

U 15

Walter Johnstone also left the service and did not return until Warden Meighen retired in 1946. Eventually he became Superintendent of the Staff College in Kingston. In 1954 he was made Warden of Kingston Penitentiary where he remained for six years and following this was transferred to Ottawa as Director of Organization and Administration. Walter Johnstone passed away in 1978.

By 1942 the Union had received recognition and by April of that year, the Justice group of the B.C. Penitentiary was formed and was now part of the National Organization known as the Amalgamated Civil Servants of Canada.

However, recognition did not mean shorter hours and other improvements in working conditions would follow automatically. I shall review some of the correspondence that went on for years before many of the objectives which the Union had in mind came withing striking distance. I should be noted that even after being recognized as a Union by the Minister of Justice, Warden Meighen absolutely refused to see any delegation acting on behalf of the staff and he pursued this policy to the end until he retired in 1946. Any communication to the Warden had to be dealt with through correspondence. Early in 1943 much correspondence took place between New Westminster Justice Group and the National Office of the A.C.S. of Canada complaining about the summer schedule which was due to begin

U 16

on March 15th, 1943, this meant there was going to be no change in the long hours which had been prevalent in the Penitentiary system since perhaps the beginning of its existence.

At this time it appears that Kingston Penitentiary was still not organized but evidently they had an eight hour plan in operation there on a trial basis from the first of the year.

In a letter to Prince Albert Penitentiary dated February 8th, 1943, mention is made of the stubborn and obstructive attitude of the Warden and Deputy Warden at the B.C. Penitentiary. The second paragraph of the letter mentions they heard Kingston is trying the eight hour day on an experimental basis. It states that Kingston was selected for this as the Warden there was looked upon as being the most progressive minded in the country. This Warden was Dick Allen, who by the way came from the same town in Scotland as Tommy Douglas, the former Premier of Saskatchewan.

On March 23rd there is a letter from the B.C. Penitentiary to Prince Albert Penitentiary advising the daily orders of the B.C. Penitentiary of March 9th, announced that the eleven hour day would re-commence on March 15th. In answer to this the Union wired the National Secretary of the A.C.S. of Canada requesting him to have this order countermanded and if this was not done by March 13th, it was proposed to take the question

U 17

to the floor of the House of Commons. The result of this was Ottawa suspended the order for one month and instructed the local heads to try out an eight hour day schedule similar to the one being tried at Kingston. However, this plan provided only for a forty-eight hour week and was not the forty-four week which was the objective at that time. In another letter received from Ed. McCullagh of Prince Albert Penitentiary, he stated they had the eight hour day in operation, and a letter was received from Norman Smith of Stony Mountain Penitentiary advising the Stony Mountain Local had been organized on April 1st, 1943.

It was about this time that Al. Cox resigned from the service at the B.C. Penitentiary and went to the North West Territories. His aggressive leadership did much to improve working conditions for the staff at the B.C. Penitentiary which eventually led to a general improvement throughout the service.

On May 19th, 1943, New Westminster advises Prince Albert that D.M. McLean has now taken over the duties of Mr. Al. Cox and that T.W. West is now secretary.

On June 5th, 1943, it appears there was much discussion on the question of the three mile limit and the permanency of Instructor Carpenter Robert Frew. At that time everyone was expected to live within three miles of the Penitentiary but in 1943 this was extended to four miles. On the 29th Norman

U 18

Smith of Stony Mountain advises the staff at Dorchester have now organized and that Mr. Knowles had addressed a meeting of Kingston and Collins Bay employees who unanimously voted to organize under the banner of the Amalgamated Civil Servants of Canada.

On July 31st, 1943, the Acting Superintendent of Penitentiaries advised Prince Albert that the Honourable Minister has instructed there is no law prohibiting officers joining a Union but if they do join they must avoid breaking Penitentiary Regulation 431 (a), otherwise consequences by the latter regulation would likely follow. This particular regulation created endless discussions and correspondence before it was finally pointed out to the authorities in Ottawa that as it was worded it had no bearing whatsoever on the actual situation which it was supposed to protect. In other words the affairs of the Penitentiary were not to be discussed beyond the precincts of the prison according to the regulation and the affairs of the Penitentiary could include almost anything from working conditions, hours of labour, inmate treatment and so on but it was pointed out in subsequent letters, inmates were being released daily from the Penitentiaries throughout the country and in many cases knew more of what was going on than many of the staff members did. Consequently they could not be muzzled.

On September 21st, 1943, T.P. West in a letter to the Kingston Local on behalf of the New Westminster Justice Group reported

U 19

a resolution was passed that the right of collective bargaining could be recognized in the Penitentiary Service, also the question came up and was also forwarded that the use of the term "Guards" is somewhat negative and should be replaced with the term "Custodial Officer". It should be noted in connection with this that this is the first time an attempt had been made to raise what might be called the status of Penitentiary Officers and this came from the Union and was eventually adopted at a latter date by the people in Ottawa.

On September 23rd, 1943, a letter was received from the Kingston Local signed by O.A. Earl, President, suggesting amendments to the Penitentiary Act with regards to the gratuities paid to the dependents of deceased officers. It also notes the resignation of Mr. McQuade, Secretary, who has now been replaced by Mr. Jerry Dumont of Collins Bay Penitentiary. This latter gentleman became quite a help in the years following his taking over of this position. On September 29th, 1943, there was a letter from New Westminister to Manitoba advising the staff there of the strength at the B.C. Penitentiary, at that date it was seventy-nine which included two Chaplains, a part-time Doctor. The inmate population in September was two hundred and fifty.

A letter from Prince Albert by Ed McCullough of October 16th, 1943, indicates he is pressing Fred Knowles, National Secretary for the right to collective bargaining. Now all Penitentiaries

U 20

are organized except one. The one being St. Vincent De Paul in Quebec.

There is a very interesting letter dated October 18th, 1943, it is a letter from the Acting Superintendent, Lawson, to all Wardens, dealing primarily with regulation 431 (a). The letter suggests if convenient, the Warden may arrange for the officers of the Penitentiary to meet in a suitable room on the Penitentiary Reserve but no report or resolution of such meetings referring to the affairs of the Penitentiary shall be directed or communicated to the A.S.C. of Canada or any of its branches or any other body. This regulation reads (431) (a) Penitentiary Officers shall not make the affairs of the Penitentiary the subject of conversation beyond the precinct of the Penitentiary nor make them known to any person outside the Penitentiary under penalty of dismissal. All through the correspondence this particular ambiguous regulation keeps on creeping up.

On October 21st, 1943, the National Secretary reports to the Minister that the Warden at New Westminster refuses to meet with a delegation of the staff.

November 9th, 1943, there is a long well written letter by Jerry Dumont of Collins Bay, which was sent to the Minister advising him on the reasons the A.C.S. of Canada was selected to represent the officers of the service. Generally, it pointed out, it had no affiliation with any labour union

U 21

and seemed to be the best instrument to represent the views of all members. Jerry Dumont was certainly an inspiration to all with whom he came in contact. On November 9th, 1943, a long letter was sent to the Minister of Justice regarding the affairs of the Penitentiary and Penitentiary Officers joining the A.C.S. of Canada. It pointed out the different inferences to be drawn from the Penitentiary regulation 431 (a) and implied this regulation makes little distinction between staff and convicts regarding the affairs of the Penitentiary. It states that all convicts who are released know a great deal on the subject and further the Royal Commission Report of 1937 which can be found in any library reveals more of the affairs than any officer can hope to reveal. It concludes with the statement that Penitentiary Staff properly organized will not only improve their own well being but also improve the service as a whole, this was signed by D.M. McLean, E. Cadenhead, T.P. West, C.J. Tams, A.E. Davies, S. Sellers and O. Burgess.

Following this, T.W. West of New Westminster sent copies of this letter to T.E. Cousins of Prince Albert, Norman F. Smith, Stony Mountain and Jerry Dumont of Kingston, Ontario. After receipt of the foregoing copies several letters were forwarded from other Penitentiaries putting forth the same arguments.

November 19th, 1943, Fred Knowles, National Secretary, reports he had talks with Mr. Anderson, Council in the Law Branch, Department of Justice, on the subject of Penitentiary regulation 431 (a) and states this will be amiably settled to meet the



U 22

requirements of the department and the desires of the staff.

November 20th, 1943, a brief was sent to the Minister of Justice dealing with many subjects. This from Collins Bay and Kingston Staff. This brief mentions that the hours of work were still around forty-eight hours per week, that Statutory Holidays were not handled as they should be, and that a resolution was passed reading that action be taken for the immediate establishment of a service wide regulation providing for basic hours of labour at the rate of forty hours per week and that overtime be granted for all hours worked between forty and forty-four hours in one week at straight time. All hours in excess of forty-four should carry compensation at time and a half and double time rates to apply for holidays and Sundays. In this same communication the question of permanency was raised, as at that time many Officers were held on temporary staff for years before being appointed to the permanent staff. It also mentions Officers acting in a higher salaried position for indefinite periods should be paid after two months the salary paid for that position. The question of the return of contributions to the Superannuation Act was raised. Officers on leaving the service at that time lost their contributions unless they had served a period of ten years. This was considered to be grossly unfair and was mentioned in the brief. The brief was signed on behalf of the Kingston and Collins Bay Group by H. Field, C.H. Down, Jerry Dumont, F. Frayne, H.B. Paterson, O.A. Earl, and A.E. Ribbens.

U 23

November 23rd, 1943, a letter was received from St. Vincent De Paul Penitentiary which I assume was a copy of that sent to the Member of Parliament. It was written in French so we were unable to understand it. It was initialed by R.O.C., I presume this was R.C. Charron. Mr. Charron sends along a covering letter in which he states; "you are aware that we were late in organizing, but you can rest assured that we are working on all points of interest." His letter in French, to the Minister, covers most points which are presently being emphasized by all Penitentiaries.

In his concluding paragraph he states, "You will please excuse us giving you the labour of translating our letter to the Minister of Justice, but to translate all letters received from other Councils".

This appears a clear and fair way of expressing the problems of communications between two groups speaking and using a different language.

December 10th, 1943, a letter was received from Mr. Stultz, Secretary at Dorchester Penitentiary acknowledging receipt of the New Westminster brief, which he says will be placed before the next meeting on Monday, December 13th, 1943. He states that Dorchester has not filed a brief as yet, but it is to be hoped that steps will be taken at the next meeting to do so.

December 22nd, 1943, there is a circular to all Wardens re Penitentiary regulation 431 (a), affairs of the Penitentiary.

U 24

This pretty well clarified the subject which I think was generally accepted by all concerned. At the same time copies of this circular were sent from Branch Headquarters to the National Secretary for distribution which is tantamount to recognition of the A.C.S. of Canada as the bargaining agent for the Penitentiary Staff.

In December 1943, Mr. L.E. Chinn, Treasurer for the New Westminster Group reports cash on hand \$51.35.

January 10th, 1944, Jerry Dumont of Kingston reports advice received from Dorchester, St. Vincent de Paul and Stony Mountain; they have prepared or are preparing briefs for support of those submitted by Prince Albert and Kingston.

March 15th, 1944, John Grant reports from Dorchester Penitentiary that the Secretary N.H. Stultz has resigned and his position has now been filled by Hugh McMaster.

April 14th, 1944, T.P. West writes from New Westminster to National Secretary recommending that monetary fines be eliminated for minor infractions of the rules and regulations by Officers.

In March, 1944, L.E. Chinn reports funds of \$62.45 in the local account.

May 4th, 1944, Acting Superintendent Lawson writes in reply to a letter from the National Secretary re hours of labour. States that conditions differ in each Penitentiary, consequently some variations in the eight hour schedule will occur.

U 25

Implies forty-four hour week is out for the present.

May 2nd, 1944, a long letter to the National Secretary from D.M. McLean, New Westminster, deploring the lack of effort to improve working conditions and implying if the Acting Superintendent would apply his engineering talents to the human side, conditions of employment could be improved.

May 15th 1944, T.P. West, New Westminster, reports postage expenditures, 84 letters @ 4 cents, \$3.36, 12 letters air-mail @ 7 cents, 84 cents, postage due 22 cents. Total \$4.42. E.L. Chinn reports cash on hand \$2.00 after taking delegates to National Council Meeting. Cash on hand \$67.80.

July 12th, 1944, report from Jerry Dumont of Kingston reporting on the National Convention and the matters discussed along with the resolutions passed. States they were particularly warmed by the welcome extended to them by the New Westminster group. It appears at this time the New Westminster held the most favourable position in regard to statutory holidays and the granting of days in lieu to Custodial staff. Several letters from different groups around this time dealing with the results of the National Convention.

August 1944, a letter to the Minister of Justice from the New Westminster group thanking him for the prompt manner in which the long hours of duty in the service were rectified. I trust we will be favoured with the same courtesy and under-

U 26

standing in this appeal. The appeal was as follows:

1. Basic rates of pay be increased by 25%.
2. Statutory increases be paid to all temporary employees 1 year and 6 months after the date of employment.
3. Overtime and Statutory Holidays - Officers required to work overtime to be paid or allowed time off in lieu thereof.
4. Collective bargaining be introduced to the Penitentiary Service.

August 16th 1944, to the National Secretary, Fred Knowles, pressing for action on some of his previous letters and stating in one paragraph that "Confidence in the National Office is rapidly decreasing". It appears at this time that the National Office was under great pressure from the different groups throughout the country.

On the same date Dumont wrote to all the secretaries of the Justice Group advising that there will be no abatement here till the showdown has come to pass. Evidently this group had a good interview with Warden Allen of Kingston and Warden Craig of Collins Bay. He states that Warden Allen was very keen on the subject and understood he went all out as promised. I presume this was in connection with salaries and other matters. The file does not bring this out too clearly.

August 17th 1944, Knowles replies to Dumont's letter of August 16th, accusing him of practicing evasiveness "yourself", regarding a revision of salaries he states.

U 27

Resolution 97 of the National Convention calls for a reclassification of salaries, he says there is a ban against the reclassification of position in peace time departments for the duration of the war. It is interesting that in this letter Knowles states "compensation in the civil service has not depreciated in value, as a matter of fact the cost of living is lower than in 1926 when salaries were revised and no bonuses for increased cost of living were paid".

May 18th 1944, from New Westminster in connection with salaries, and cites the recent increase to prison staff in the Provincial Service which leaves the guard staff in the Penitentiary Service very much behind, this was addressed to the Acting Superintendent in Ottawa.

August 23rd, 1944, things are looking better salary wise, a letter from Inspector E.L. O'Leary for Acting Superintendent advising that there would appear to be some merit in this request for increased salaries. They may also be informed that the Branch is prepared to support them at the appropriate time.

August 25th to September 14th, 1944, from Hugh McMaster of Dorchester and Jerry Dumont of Kingston dealing mostly with the subject of salaries.

September 18th, 1944, a letter from New Westminster pressing for a \$300.00 increase in salaries signed by D.M. McLean, W. Anderson and T.P. West.

U 28

September 21st 1944, another letter from New Westminster suggesting to all locals a representation at Ottawa could help bring about the introduction of higher salaries and the forty-four hour week.

September 27th 1944, a letter was sent to S. Knowles from the New Westminster group dealing again with the question of salaries. This seemed to be the paramount question at that time and was giving a comparison between the salaries of the Montreal and Toronto Constables as compared to the salaries paid Guards in the Penitentiary Service. It also went on to compare the Provincial rates of pay, the rates paid in the Mental Hospitals to Engineers and so on. Signed by D.M. McLean and W. Anderson.

E.L. Chinn, Treasurer, reports cash on hand at the time of \$64.47.

October 30th 1944, Knowles reports that they had a meeting with the Penitentiary delegates on the subject of salaries and other matters with the Honourable, the Minister of Justice. A good hearing resulted, all subjects were covered. The Minister agrees the salaries should be more in line with that in comparative lines of work.

October 31st 1944, W. Anderson announces he is now the President of the New Westminster Group.

December 24th 1944, T.E. Cousins reports from Prince Albert on

U 29

the election of a new executive. They were President E.B. Jackson, Vice President A. Pardue, Sec. Treas. T.E. Cousins, Executive, A. Wiggins, W.J. Baldie, A. Green and E.S. Bell.

January 1945, E.L. Chinn reports cash on hand \$33.97.

May 12th 1945, a letter from Hugh McMaster of Dorchester dealing with the failure of having an interview with the Acting Warden.

March 22nd 1945, a letter to the Honourable Louis St. Laurent from the National Secretary stating the absurdity of the positions taken by the Acting Warden (Dorchester) in refusing to meet with the Union representatives, I may add that this situation was never resolved and will not be until some of the Wardens are retired due to age.

April 28th 1945, complaints from Prince Albert written by T.E. Cousins to the Rt. Honourable McKenzie King pointing out that discrimination exists in the civil service in regard to the new salary increases. Those increases can be gained only by yearly increments, a situation which applies to Penitentiary staff only.

April 1945, a letter from W. Anderson to Prince Albert and I quote "Deputy Warden left today to take charge of your Institution. Mr. Douglass has shown co-operation with our organization, I believe you will get proper consideration to



U 29a

your requests and perhaps your lot can be improved considerably".

May 30th 1945, a long letter from W.T. Ponting, Sec.Treas., St. Vincent de Paul dealing with general problems.

E.L. Chinn reports cash on hand of \$50.07.

August 1945, things looking up cash wise, cash on hand \$72.07.

September 5th 1945, Jerry Dumont of Kingston resigns. His position is now taken by S.J. Gabourie.

September 14th 1945, McMaster writes from Dorchester and states among other matters things are generally quiet there but they are anxiously awaiting the return from the armed forces of Lieut. Col. F.T. Good, permanent Warden of the Penitentiary.

September 29th 1945, John Grant writes from New Westminster advising all secretaries with material for consideration at the District Convention dealing with salaries, hours of labour and so on.

October 12th 1945, New Westminster reports a new slate of officers: President E.B. Welsford, Vice President W.F. Reed, Secretary John Grant, Treasurer Ed. Cadenhead, Executive, A.G. Ferguson, C. Barstow and G. Ayer.

November 1945, New Westminster group suggests one of the new three prison commissioners should be selected from the staff

U 29b

so that the Penitentiary problems can be backed up by practical experience.

November 16th 1945, meeting arranged with Acting Superintendent G.L. Sauvant at New Westminster. Subjects discussed, reinstatement of Guards Malin and Davidson (the two guards mentioned had resigned to join the armed forces after being refused leave of absence by the Warden and were not taken back on strength when discharged from the army), uniforms, night lunches and other matters.

September 7th 1946, a letter from Grant to National Secretary advising that Warden Meighen will retire shortly, this will mean the Deputy Warden possibly acting without pay for six months and the Chief Keeper filling the Deputy's position without acting pay pending six months retirement leave of the Warden. It is apparent from this letter that the Union is now taking up the cudgels on behalf of its senior staff, a change indeed.

July 1st 1946, a letter from Grant to Acting Superintendent asking if any change in policy of government was contemplated with regard to the reinstatement of ex-guards Malin and Davidson who left the service and joined the army without first obtaining leave. Also the question of the temporary rating of Instructor Frew who has a commendable record as an officer but still has not been granted permanent status.

U 29c

July 11th 1946, Mr. A.G. Ferguson was chosen at a meeting to represent the New Westminster group in Ottawa. All members to be assessed \$1.00 to help defray costs of sending delegate to Ottawa.

August 21st 1946, an invoice by E.B. Welsford of the New Westminster group with the total cost of Mr. Ferguson's trip to Ottawa including train fare, berth and expenses for eight days at the total sum of \$333.40. Date set for the smoker of the New Westminster group who were prepared to spend approximately \$60.00 which would include soft drinks for the pure! This was signed by W.F. Reed who is now President.

August 25th 1946, all delegates arrived from the prisons for the conference in Ottawa. They are A.G. Ferguson, New Westminster; W. Chapman, Prince Albert; E.J. Horn, Stony Mountain; O.A. Earl, Kingston; W.T. Ponting, St. Vincent de Paul; and Hugh McMaster, Dorchester. They have prepared a brief to be presented to the new Commissioner, General R.B. Gibson.

November 7th 1946, a new slate of officers elected in New Westminster. They are A.G. Ferguson, President; W.F. Reed, Vice-President; George Duncan, Secretary; G. Foulkes, Treasurer; Executive, G. LaPorte, E. Cadenhead, Lorne Kelly. Advisory, Welsford, Anderson and McLean.

November 19th 1946, an interesting letter received from Prince Albert, Sask., on the subject of the suspension of an officer

U 29d

for disobeying a lawful order. It appears an order in the order book stated "as from September 1st this year no employee of the Penitentiary Service can carry on a trade or calling other than his calling at the Penitentiary". The letter goes on to state that some members play in outside orchestra's for profit and the Warden is a landlord who rents out two houses near by. Some Officers keep chickens and sell the surplus eggs. The Officer concerned, Keeper Coombs, was employed by a contractor during his spare time to build homes. They cannot see where there is any difference in this activity from playing in an orchestra, renting houses as the Warden does or selling surplus eggs from chicken raising. They have appealed to the Commissioner for a ruling on this matter.

May 27th 1947, a great many records and reports of the 11th National Convention held at the Hotel London, London, Ontario are too detailed to mention here. Justice was represented by O.A. Earl, Kingston; W. Chapman, Prince Albert; A. Fortin, St. Vincent de Paul. A number of resolutions from the Penitentiary Service were passed such as salaries, hours of work, recreational facilities for the staff, efficiency reports, methods of promotions and training school for Penitentiary Officers.

January 20th 1947, R.S. Douglass appointed Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary. A letter of congratulation is sent to Warden Douglass from the group wishing him well and assuring him of

U 29e

co-operation. I quote one passage from this letter which says "Having in mind the fact that you started here as a temporary guard and by your own efforts have reached the highest position in the Penitentiary, we feel your career will set a pattern for the younger officers of our staff to follow". Signed, A.G. Ferguson, W.F. Reed, L. Kelly, G. Duncan, G. Foulkes and E. Cadenhead.

March 11th 1947, W.F. Johnstone and A.E. Cox attended this meeting. The former has now returned to the service having left in 1942 due to his Union activities. They were all very pleased to see those two gentlemen there.

March 17th 1947, a letter of congratulation to Mr. Louis Goss on his being appointed to the position of Deputy Warden at the B.C. Penitentiary, signed by A.G. Ferguson, L. Kelly, W. Reed, G. Duncan, G. Foulkes and E. Cadenhead.

March 17th 1947, a letter to all Justice Groups from New Westminster advising them that they now have a new Warden, Deputy Warden and Chief Keeper all appointed from within the staff.

April 16th 1947, considerable dissatisfaction has developed through the new increase in salaries and special emphasis is placed on the fact the to reach the new top levels must be done by yearly increments.

U 29f

May 6th 1947, John Grant of New Westminster writes "the date of my appointment as Assistant Steward was June 1st, 1945, nearly two years ago, and still no pay for the job".

May 7th 1947, G. Foulkes reports cash on hand \$64.00. He is now Treasurer.

July 14th, 1947, Meeting discussed the demotion of E. Cadenhead from Garage Instructor to Custodial Staff. This was due to alleged faulty workmanship on the Warden's personal car. It appears the car had run some 7000 miles after the work had been done, then trouble developed. It was pointed out the car had gone far beyond the usual mileage guaranteed by local garages for repairs. However after lengthy discussion it appears Mr. Cadenhead is prepared to revert to Custodial duties provided it does not spoil his chances for future promotion.

July 24th 1947, a letter from the Instructors of the New Westminster requestion an increase in salary to keep up with the cost of living and also that a forty hour week be instituted in the service.

September 26th 1947, George Duncan reports at the end of the war a number of returned soldiers were taken on the strength of the Penitentiary. These are exceptionally fine types but many are resigning because they cannot live on the low salaries that prevail.

October 17th 1947, New Westminster reports new executive elected:

## U 29g

W.F. Reed, President; Tom Ellis, Vice-President; Mr. Flinn, Secretary; G. Grozier, Treasurer; Executive; P. Dall, W. Ivens, and C. Tams.

October 17th 1947, a letter from George Duncan to Gordon Foulkes with a statement of costs of entertainment on October 15th, 1947. Items are:- 20 cases of beer \$42.00. Permit from Liquor Board \$1.00. Cheese, crackers and dills \$3.22. Total cost \$36.22, leaving a balance of \$1.22.

Between December 11th 1947 and January 19th 1948, it seems considerable dissatisfaction was current with regard to salaries and there were many complaints about salaries not keeping up with the cost of living.

January 17th 1948, New Westminster reports present salary for Guards is \$145.00 monthly, increasing at \$60.00 per annum until they reach \$2,040.00, and to reach the maximum of \$2,280.00 attained in two annual increases of \$120.00 annually. Salary range for Instructors was \$2,580.00 with increases at the rate of \$120.00. A long list of rates is also forwarded for the various engineering groups.

February 13th 1948, To T. Reid, M.P. from W.F. Reed advising of the dissatisfaction existing regarding requests for a cost of living bonus or an increase in salary.

March 11th 1948, From W. Reed to Tom Reid, M.P. thanking him for presenting before the House our problems regarding hours

## U 29h

of work and stating that this is the first time in the history of the Dominion that our problems have been so aired.

March 15th 1948, Tom Reid is doing his best by representations in the House of Commons and also to the Minister and his Officers there. In 1948 the Wardens' salaries were: Grade I \$4,800.00 to \$5,400.00, Warden Grade II \$5,400.00 to \$6,000.00 as reported in The House of Commons.

January 1st 1949, At a local meeting this date, A.G. Ferguson moved that a letter be sent to General Gibson, Commissioner of Penitentiaries, applauding his efforts to build up the efficiency of the service by courses of instruction at Rockcliffe, Ontario. The motion was carried.

January 19th, 1949, B.S. McDonald makes a farewell speech on his retirement from the Service which takes place next month. It appears, he pointed out, that he cannot get his annual leave since he must retire in February as he is sixty-five and according to rules he is not entitled to it unless he works until March 31st.

January 19th 1949, New pay schedule. Guards not mentioned in this. Keepers go to \$2,760.00 and Instructors to \$2,880.00. It is interesting to note at this time the Physicians full time salary was raised to \$440.00 per month.

March 14th, Mr. B.S. McDonald was recommended for Honourary Membership in recognition of his faithful service.



U 29i

May 9th 1949, At this meeting it appears that the introduction of the forty-four hour week is not settled.

August 24th 1949, A complaint from Guard Grade I, John Kennedy about being fined the sum of \$10.00 for leaving the barrier keys on the barrier which were found within ten minutes.

Another complaint that the Government was only prepared to pay three cents per mile for personal cars used on Penitentiary business.

October 19th 1949, W.H. Darby, now Secretary of the group sends a telegram to the National Secretary requesting he interview the Commissioner re appointment of Chief Keeper and hold appointment pending enquiry into conditions of promotion.

November 1949, Some discussion took place regarding the promotional opportunities in the service and the question came up regarding W. Davis who did not have the opportunity to write the examination but evidently he will be permitted to sit for the examination later if he wishes. Mr. W. Davis retires from the service and is presented with a wrist watch by the staff.

November 18th, 1949; A.D. McNally is now President; W. Ivens, Vice President; J. Bennett, Treasurer; and H.W. Darby, Secretary.

January 9th 1950; Meeting at the Legion Hall in New Westminster. Complaints re excessive noon hour duties. Mr. Mott, M.P.. reported to the group that the forty-four hour week will be in effect shortly.

U 29j

February 18th 1950; Letter from Knowles stating extra staff will be hired to bring in the forty-four hour week.

March 21st 1950; H.W. Darby writes Knowles to thank the Commissioner for eliminating monetary fines.

September 15th 1950; Service pay suggested for officers with long service and who have reached their maximum salary. A new slate of officers elected; President, E.D. Siddons; Vice-President, R.D. Black; Secretary, H.W. Darby; Treasurer, W. LaPorte.

January 17th 1950; H.W. Darby writes Knowles on what progress if any, has been made towards the forty hour week.

February 12th 1951; Financial statement shows a balance of \$108.85.

May 14th 1951; No complaints have been received regarding officers being compelled to do noon hour duties.

June 11th 1951; J. Clawson, recently arrived from Manitoba, introduced to the members at the meeting. A report on the picnic committee by R. Thompson stating that receipts were \$78.50 and expenses \$64.33, leaving a balance of \$14.17.

Between July and December there seems to have been suggestions for permission to build a club house at the Doukhobor camp, burned some time before by the Doukhobors. The request was turned down. H.W. Darby keeps pressing for Boxing Day to be called a Statutory Holiday.

U 29k

January 14th 1952; J. Clawson reports on Christmas party and after expenses were met there was a balance of \$35.67 which was placed in the social fund. E. Cadenhead reported the Christmas raffle was a great success and that \$75.00 was collected. Expenses were \$73.50 leaving a balance of 46 cents.

February 11th 1952; Complaints were still being registered regarding the low mileage rate of three cents per mile for use of personal cars. There were also complaints regarding poor uniforms and only two shirts being issued in place of the three promised.

Mr. Wallace, the Protestant Chaplain, told the meeting a memorial service for the late King will be held in the prison chapel on Friday, February 15th, and invited all officers not on duty to attend.

February 22nd 1952; the National Secretary reports the Cabinet has turned down the request for the voluntary check off of association dues.

March 10th 1952; The President resigns this date. Jim Clawson is now acting as President. Financial report states the balance in the bank is \$20.60. The question of the forty hour week was discussed and those present were advised the A.C.S. of Canada were working on it. Considerable dissatisfaction continues about noon hour duties.

## U 291

May 1st 1952; W.F. Reed is now the Secretary of the New Westminster Local Council.

July 9th 1952; W.H. Darby writes the Warden asking that the rate of eight cents per mile be paid to all officers who used their personal cars during the recent escape, the first in twenty-two years.

September 12th 1952; The mileage paid for use of personal cars still unsettled. Mostly general business discussed this evening.

September 22nd 1952; Letter from the Warden stating the Commissioner has authorized the payment of five cents per mile for officers using their personal cars during the escape of Munavich.

September 24th 1952; Holiday on December 26th. Boxing Day approved by Ottawa.

October 15th 1952; A new slate of officers elected; President, C. Baseley; Vice President, W.F. Reed; Secretary, H.W. Darby; Treasurer, E. Cadenhead.

January 14th 1953; At this meeting it was decided to take up the following matters with the next visit to Ottawa of a Senior Official.

- (a) Noon hour duties, unfair distribution.
- (b) Unfair distribution of night duties.
- (c) Internal discipline, group feels the association should

U 29m

have the power to handle matters concerning the personal discipline of officers.

(d) Uniforms.

(e) I.D. cards for Penitentiary Officers (the I.D. cards were turned down by Ottawa as not necessary and not very practical, some years later the cards were issued (the early 70's)).

February 11th 1953; Under new business, considerable discussion took place concerning the report of a speech in the Vancouver Province Newspaper dated 10th February, 1953, by F. Ward Cook, Classification Officer of the Prison which they considered detrimental to Custodial Officers.

March 11th 1953; Treasurer reports a balance of \$48.00. Applications received from J.C. Swan and the Rev. D.J. Gilles to join the Union and are recommended for acceptance. Draft of a letter to the Warden supporting the five day forty hour week. Ward Cook to be asked to attend the next meeting to explain passages from his speech. Staff dance to be held on the 21st of March.

March 30th 1953; Letter from the Commissioner, turns down the request for five day, forty hour week.

April 13th 1953; decided to prepare a working plan for the Commissioner to prove five day, forty hour week possible with present staff. Treasurer reports a balance of \$45.99. Mr.

U 29n

Popp reports a profit from the dance of \$43.00. F.W. Cook does not appear at the meeting and it was carried that a note be sent to him regretting any inconvenience this matter may have caused him.

September 9th 1953; National Office reports the Government now willing to discuss the five day, forty hour week for Penitentiary Staff.

September 14th 1953; W.F. Reed gave a report of interview with Warden on forty hour week. He was in favour but the Commissioner was not. Deputy Commissioner March was present at the meeting. Financial statement shows \$84.05.

November 2nd 1953; Commissioner Gibson writes that he will not allow compensation for overtime during an escape, which "usually is the result of someone's slackness". He goes on to point out that the Police Forces and Mental Hospitals are faced with similar situations which are hazards of the job. An undated letter to Stewart Garson, Minister of Justice, by W.G. Wier, M.P. for Portage, Neepawa, Province of Manitoba, pointing out that during the past twenty-two years, twenty-nine officers have been injured while on duty which is evidence of the hazardous type of employment which these people are constantly under. He used this point in pressing for the five day, forty hour week. It is believed he was referring to Stony Mountain Penitentiary when he mentioned the number of officers injured on duty.

U 290

November 11th 1953; Letter from the National Secretary indicates that W.F. Reed is keeping them on their toes pressing for the forty hour week.

December 14th 1953; Letter from Stewart Garson, Minister of Justice, pointing out the problems in introducing the forty hour week in Penitentiaries by saying it may take some time before a solution may be found that would be satisfactory to all Institutions.

December 22nd 1953; Letter from Warden Douglass dealing with special diets for officers who have medical problems. Also on this date a letter from the National Office thanking W.F. Reef for the information on the dues going up to one dollar per month. There was also discussion on the five day, forty hour week.

In summary it can be seen a great deal of effort and risk was involved in organizing the Penitentiary Service in the first place. It began as already stated in early 1942 and reached some degree of stability when the Justice Group was formed in April 1942 under the banner of the Amalgamated Civil Servants of Canada. During this period there were many factors to be considered for we were still tied under that restraining regulation 431 (a) dealing with the affairs of the Penitentiary. This in the early days posed a problem regarding communication with other Penitentiaries as prior to 1942 no correspondence passed between them. However, this regulation had to be breached in order to get the other Penitentiaries

U 29p

into the fold.

First to organize was British Columbia followed by Prince Albert then Stony Mountain, Manitoba then Kingston and Collins Bay followed by Dorchester. St. Vincent de Paul came in later but think the lateness of their arrival was due to language problems as I believe I mentioned already. L. Cox and Walter Johnstone were the main springs in British Columbia. Kingston had Jerry Dumont who put a great deal of effort and time into helping to Unify the various groups in the Eastern part of the Country. O.A. Earl also did a commendable job with the Kingston Group. The B.C. Penitentiary had a predominance of excellent officers who contributed to the high rating this Penitentiary maintained for a long number of years. It was fortunate in having two Senior Officers of the high calibre of Deputy Warden R.S. Douglass and Chief Keeper Goss. I consider those two were responsible for making the path easier for two Wardens, Col. Cooper from 1932 to 1936 and W. Meighen from 1936 to 1946.

Without those two no doubt both Wardens would have experienced much more difficult times. Cooper's frequent paring of the staff which must have to some extent been supported by both Douglass and Goss was noted in the Royal Commission Report of 1937. This states that at the B.C. Penitentiary between October 1st, 1932, and November 30th, 1937, sixty-two men were released for various reasons from a staff of ninety-two.



U 29q

Eleven were released on account of health and age etc., and the remainder for indefinite reasons. It can be seen therefore, the rate of separation from the service to "promote efficiency" as it was called, was very high indeed.

The staff under Warden Cooper was expected to maintain rigid and exacting standards which left behind a highly trained force of officers on his transfer to Prince Albert Penitentiary. Warden Meighen on the other hand, had the fortune to inherit this well trained staff on his transfer to New Westminster, along with two excellent senior officers. This is no doubt, along with Meighen's more relaxed style of operation contributed to the complimentary remarks made by the Royal Commission of 1937.

At Prince Albert, Warden Cooper received an adverse report from the same Commission in 1937.

In fairness to this officer he arrived there just about the time new attitudes were being formed. He also was not supported by the same type of outstanding personality he had in the Deputy Warden at British Columbia Penitentiary. Actually during those years until the prisons were turned upside down staff wise, the Deputy and the Chief Keeper could be called the heart and soul of an Institution. This is assuming of course, they were the right type.

Cooper was not the only Warden who was faced with more than the

U 29r

usual problems at Prince Albert. Generally speaking this Institution seemed to take more than the normal toll of its senior executives.

In mentioning Saskatchewan Penitentiary it is interesting to note the Deputy Warden of the Institution sought to justify before the 1937 Royal Commission his keeping an officer on tower duty for two years stating the man talked "broad Scotch".

To get back to the Union activities it seems by 1953-54 many of the grievances had been corrected and the push was now on for the forty hour week which judging from the correspondence was just around the corner. From then on I believe most Wardens were willing to deal with complaints from the Union, and in most cases many of the problems were resolved in a satisfactory manner. In the foregoing I have digressed from the original intention of this project but I think it was necessary in order to convey the climate of these times along with the personalities involved. The foregoing was intended to be the end of this account of conditions leading up to the early union activities along with other comments on what might be called related subjects. However, I feel it should have been stated in connection with tower duty, the officers entered the tower at seven a.m. and did not come down until the close of prison at six p.m., similarly when the towers were manned on nights at six p.m. the officers on duty remained there until seven a.m. next morning. Lunch was delivered in a container midway through the shift and hauled up by a rope.

U 29 s

For the men on duty they were long days and yet much longer nights. The wooden stands used on the perimeter of working areas outside the prison were such as to test the physical endurance of the officers during inclement weather. Except for a roof and a wooden railing about four feet high there was no protection from the elements. I saw Guard Ferguson on one occasion on stand duty beyond the north wall when the temperature was around zero with a wind blowing. On looking up he seemed to me a frozen image of his former self. Such conditions tried the hearts and minds of men. During the same winter which was particularly harsh, I was detailed to drive the small half ton truck, this made frequent entries and exits of the prison and to ensure security during these movements the Warden had the cab removed and subsequently the windshield was also taken off. It requires little imagination to visualize what hardship this involved for the driver during severe winter weather.

While on this subject I remember being told on one occasion by the Deputy Warden to take my day off after answering roll call at the morning parade.

Before finishing this report I would like to mention one of my colleagues at that time, Bill McHardy, who was the Hospital Officer. I doubt if there was another officer with the same sense of dedication as this individual, who ever entered the gates of the B.C. Penitentiary. He maintained a high standard

U 29 t

of cleanliness, was most prudent with his operating expenses and should an inmate be seriously ill, would look after him like a mother with a new born babe. To see him taking sick parade morning and evening was something to witness, with his tall lanky figure, hook nose and sharp features, wearing a long white coat, he looked the embodiment of the highest medical standards. No inmate or complaining officer, for that matter, cared to brook his penetrating gaze and questioning manner unless for very good reason. In an emergency he would extract teeth and I feel certain that if one had the misfortune to be isolated far from professional help and he was available, the removal of an appendix would not be beyond his skills. The Doctor relied heavily on him. He retired either in 1945 or 1946 on what I was told was a pension of \$45.00 per month.

Consequently on this pittance there was no Hacienda's in Palm Springs or Arizona or other lush spots for retirees of these days, so perhaps after all, we have come a long way.

The above by D.M. McLean ----- June 1979.

The following is a continuation of the history of the B.C. Penitentiary Union by Bill Reed, August 1979.

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No doubt by this time you have come to the conclusion that this history of the B.C. Penitentiary is a co-operative effort of the members of the Retired Prison Officers Association.

The early 1950's were fairly troublesome times for the staff, who were members of the Amalgamated Civil Service of Canada. Many local and National problems were brought forward. For instance, noon hour duties which required that key posts in the prison should be manned during the mid-day meal which made it that officers detailed for that duty would only have about twenty minutes to eat.

Discussion and possible adoption of the forty-four week. Oxfords issued in place of boots. Service pay, check off of dues. Average time for superannuation purposes be reduced from ten years to six years. Incidentally this was accomplished after about nine years of fighting.

The Justice group about this time made very strong representation to the National Office of the C.A.S. of C. for permission to form a local council to be called the Sapperton Local Council. This in view of the fact that the New Westminster Local Council was dominated by the Post Office group was very unsatisfactory. A negative answer was received and we were informed, by the National Office, that if we were not satisfied with the operation of the New Westminster Local Council that we should attend the meetings and take over the council, the Justice group at the time being the largest group in the council.

This we did and with the consequence that Gordie Ferguson was elected President and Bill Reed was elected Secretary. Bill Reed continued in this position as Secretary Treasurer until September 1955 when he was elected to the National Council as Regional Vice-President for all of British Columbia.

1950 was a year that many promises were made by Ottawa but very few of our resolutions were implemented. Through several years of 1950 the Justice Group of the A.C.S. of C had been continuously bombarding Ottawa for the implementation of the forty-four week.

Their efforts were finally rewarded. In 1951 the Federal Government approved of it.

I think at this time some of the correspondence is very interesting and gives an idea of the activity of the Local Council in New Westminster and the Justice Group. This correspondence takes place over a period of probably a year or more. Sometimes we get results and sometimes we don't get results. Here is a letter that is of interest by the Secretary H.W. Darby to the Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary, he refers to the issue of oxfords to Penitentiary Officers, at a meeting of this group on the 13 February 1950." I was instructed to write concerning the above mentioned, we understand that some Penitentiary Officers other than those employed on inside duties have the option of having the summer issue as oxfords instead of boots, therefore we wish to ask if you will communicate with the Commissioner Gibson that the regulations be changed in order that we may have the same privilege!"

Yours truly, H.W. Darby.

July 1950, letter from the National Office addressed to W. F. Reed, Secretary A.C.S. of C., New Westminster.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Reference revocable check off of dues and re service pay. In reply to your letter on these subjects I would say that no progress has been made of a definite nature, in respect to resolution 114 It is ture that the Commissioner agreed to give consideration to the question of service pay but up to date has taken no action as a result of such consideration. Respecting check off of Union dues this question has become much wider in scope than the Penitentiary division. The matter has been taken up by the National Joint Council of the Public Service of Canada on a service wide basis and has been left in abeyance for the following reasons. Machinery used for the production of pay cheques will not permit any further check offs over and above that already being made; such as contributions to superannuation, unemployment insurance, certain sick benefit plans, income tax, etc. It is our understanding that the machinery is either to be replaced or reconstructed to permit further check off's due to the inaguration of the medical health insurance plan for civil servants presently contemplated.

When the machinery has been fixed to permit for further check offs then this subject matter will become what I choose to call a "live subject". We are forwarding under separate cover fifty copies of the amended constitution which you requested to receive.  
Yours truly, Fred Knowles, National Secretary.

Letter from the National Secretary dated March 3, 1950 addressed to W. F. Reed, Secretary A.S.C. of C., New Westminster, B.C. I received your letter of February 25th, in answer to mine of February 17th, in connection with statements attributed to Mr. Ilsley which you inform me can be found in Hansard June 9th, 1948. I have the statements before me which read;

Mr. Hackett: are they not supplied with clothing and uniforms and shoes.

Mr. Ilsley: Yes, they are

Mr. Hackett: So they really get more than the amounts mentioned?

Mr. Ilsley: Yes, they also get a free meal in the middle of the day and free medical services.

These questions and answers do not indicate that Penitentiary Officers are entitled to a meal if they are employed on the afternoon shift or at night. My understanding is that Penitentiary Officers are granted a free meal if deemed to be on duty during the lunch hour, and a free meal is compensation for being on duty at that time. I cannot see anything in Mr Ilsley's answers contrary to this conception of what a free meal is for. I would like to find out that when Penitentiary rates are struck either by the Civil Service Commission or by an order in Council under departmental authority as the case may be, such orders in council clearly designate if meals are part and parcel of compensation and there is nothing in the orders in council in respect to compensation for Penitentiary Officers which indicate that meals are a part of the regular compensation for the position. The supplies that you mentioned in the letter are forwarded to you and we trust you receive them safely.

Fred Knowles, National Secretary

Still on the question of meals for Penitentiary Officers working on the afternoon and evening shifts, this is a letter from the Secretary of the New Westminster Local Council to Mr. Fred Knowles, Secretary A.C.S. of C., Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Sir and Brother:

With reference to your letter of February 17th and March 3rd dealing in part with free meals for Penitentiary staff.

The National Office is under a misapprehension in regard to this matter all officers who are on day duty receive a free meal at noon irrespective as to whether they are on duty or not. That is to say, Instructors who never are placed on noon hour duty at the B.C Penitentiary receive the same privilege of a free meal as custodial officers who are allotted to noon hour duty. It is true that no mention is made of free meals in any salary schedule for Penitentiary staff but in circulars published in the Order book it would appear that meals would be provided to all employees, for instance Circular 11/3/50 dated at Ottawa and circular 2/50 dated at Ottawa January 23rd, 1950 Position of guard grade one, definition of class states under benefits, retirement benefits, holiday leave, sick leave, free noon hour meal, free medical attention. It might be reasonable to presume that because an employee is on night duty he would be deprived of the free medical attention.

This matter again brings up the requests made by Penitentiary staff some time ago for the night differential and in the case that some where along the line it was suggested that locals and groups get in and keep in touch with their local M.P. and they regret that any inconvenience that has been caused your office, by them, in the interview with Mr. Mott, their local M.P.

Sincerely

W.F. Reed, Secretary

Local Council, New Westminster



28th June 1950

To: D. Monette, Sec. Trea., St. Vincent de Paul Local Council

Dear Sir and Brother:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 26th inst. In reply I wish to advise that the fourty four week was instituted at this Penitentiary on the 4th day of June this year. The way it is worked here is that we get an extra day off during each two week period, for the most part we get the extra day off with the one in seven every other week. While it is admitted this is not possible in all cases, so far we have no complaints. We are certainly pleased that the Union efforts in this regard have at least brought us to a satisfactory conclusion.

H.W. Darby, Secretary

TO: W.F. Reed, Secretary, New Westminster Local

Re: Resolutions regarding service pay and superannuation

Enclosed herewith in duplicate are copies concerning service pay and superannuation which were passed at meeting of this group held on the 11 September 1950, which I have been instructed to send to you in order that they may be placed before the National Convention for consideration at the 1951 convention.

September 28, 1950

Mr. W. F. Reed, Secretary, New Westminster Local Council

I received your letter of the 25th this morning containing resolutions on collective bargaining as applied to employees of the crown.

I am assuming that this resolution is for National Convention purposes and I am placing it on the agenda. It is a very important and difficult problem and perhaps to a greater extent than the movers of the resolution realize. The government would have great difficulty in certifying any one union as a bargaining agent when there are upwards of 130 of them in the government employ. Some of them represent just one class in a classified scheme that involves hundreds of classes. The subject is worthy of debate and study and should at least bring forth debate that will be interesting and educational.

Yours truly

Fred Knowles, National Secretary

October 25th, 1950

Mr. Fred Knowles, National Secretary

Dear Sir and Brother;

In a conversation with you, during your visit to New Westminster on October 7th, the matter of amending civil service regulations pertaining to long service leave, we feel that in some respects this regulation is unfair. For instance, an employee completes 20 years of service on August 25th, 1950 and therefore due to his long service leave, but is notified by the department that in view of the fact that he reaches the retiring age of 65 years on October 25, 1950 he will be retired and granted retiring leave that he was earned. Upon making application for his long service leave he is informed that due to the fact that he will not complete one year of service after he has had his long service leave, this leave can not be granted. In the case where the employee leaves the service voluntarily or is dismissed for cause, before he can complete one year of service after long service leave. This is understandable, but when an employee is retired compulsorily by the department upon reaching the age limit, after completing 20 years of service and before he can complete one year of service after his long service after his long service leave is complete one year of service after. We feel that an amendment should be made to cover cases of this type. It must be understood that cases of this kind are rare in the service as it means that a person must enter the service at age 44 or 45 to be so effected and we feel that in view of this fact that some consideration should be made. These letters may get very monotonous but these are a few of the interesting letters and the method in which we worked through the local council, through the National Office and up to the departments of government.

An item taken from the minutes of the Justice Group meeting on November 13th, 1950, Brother LaPorte informed the meeting that the former treasurer had one and a half cases of beer belonging to the group, he wished to know what disposal to made of the same, the meeting agreed to let the former treasurer arrange his own disposal but offered to supply any necessary help he might require in this regard.

The year 1951 was a National Convention year. At this convention held in Winnipeg, thirteen resolutions were presented from Penitentiaries from across Canada. These resolutions included many facets of the work-a-day routine of Penitentiary Officers. They included service pay, wage schedules, living conditions for matrons at the Penitentiary for Females at Kingston. Thanks to our National Secretary for his efforts in securing the 44 hour work week, housing for staff, adequate uniform issue, reduction from 10 convicts per officer to seven per officer. Many of these resolutions were adopted and implemented by the continued hammering by the perfect co-operation of all Penitentiary staff in Canada. Thirty-nine resolutions were discussed at this convention being submitted from every department of government. At this time the main topic of discussion was concerning the forty hour week. B.C. was informed by letter from the National Secretary that the administration or clerical classes in government employ had recently had their hours fixed at thirty-nine for forty two weeks and thirty five hours for ten weeks in summer months but the Operational Services had to fight for many months for a shorter work week.

Also under discussion was the retroactivity of new salary scales, hours of duty of hospital officers, much correspondence was exchanged between the B.C. Justice group and the National Office with reference to the unification of all Federal Civil Servants in one organization. This dream was partly realized in 1958 when a merger convention was successfully concluded in Ottawa with the merger of the Civil Service Association of Ottawa and the Amalgamated Civil Servants of Canada. This association was named the Civil Service Association of Canada with J. Cal. Best as President.

A new venture was inaugurated in February 1952 when the National Office issued an informative bulletin. This first bulletin deals with some of the firsts that the A.C.S. of C since 1928:

- 1928: First to have a full time National Secretary in Ottawa
- 1944: First to have a full time National Secretary
- 1946: First to have a full time local secretary in Winnipeg
- 1952: First to have a full time National Vice-President

At this time there are rumours that the 40 hour week is just around

the corner, but to reach that corner takes a very long time and also a report that the check-off of dues for the whole service is not very far away. This year of 1952 appears to be a year of wait and see. In 1954, 34 letters dealing with the five day forty hour week were exchanged between Justice groups of all Penitentiaries, National Office, Commissioner of Penitentiaries, Minister of Justice, Minister of Finance, Treasury Board, Members of Parliament of the lower Mainland area, etc. The above 34 letters were written by the New Westminster Justice group. In 1953 word was received under date of March 24th, 1953 that the Government had agreed to the check-off of dues by salary deduction for all staff side organizations in the Civil Service. This was after a fight of almost 12 months. This was effective on the October pay cheques.

As a matter of interest a copy of a more important letter is as follows from the National Secretary to all National officers and Secretaries of Penitentiary Groups:

Dear Sir and Bro:

As you will probably be aware, at this time, the government announcement with respect to the application of the five day, forty hour week, with a list of centres affected, has specifically excluded employees in the Penitentiaries. For your advise, I am appending below the exclusions which the government has approved at this time.

Hospitals, convalescent Institutions, Health centres and nursing stations. Establishments and services maintained by departments to furnish living accommodations and or to provide messing facilities for Civil Servants, military personal, detainees or transient guests. Fire fighting and fire protection services. Services used in the operation and maintenance of the Penitentiaries and the guarding of persons in detention. Security and watchmen services. The operating services on farms, fish hatcheries, National parks and historic sites. Light Keeping services, Heating staffs.

Very naturally this office is not happy with this decision on the part of the government and we realize that our membership in the Penitentiary service will be resentful of the decision arrived at by the government.

I propose to make this matter the subject of special representation

to Mr. Abbott and in order that this memorandum may be as complete as forceful and as convincing as possible, I am asking all Penitentiary groups to list for me the reasons they believe the short work week should be extended to their service.

I am very well aware of many good reasons for this change, and just as naturally I may overlook a pertinent part in the representations and this I am anxious to avoid, and therefore this is the reason for this letter. Unfortunately we are in no position to advance arguments on similar occupations in services outside the government. Therefore, our entire argument must be based on the premise that the government will gain in approving the short work week to employees in the Penitentiaries. This matter was of course, taken up with Major General Gibson by the National Council, and he had advised me, in writing, of the decision arrived at by the government. It is therefore out of the hands of the department and in the realm of government policy.

I shall look forward to hearing from all councils on this matter as early as may be possible. At this time I would also refer to the fact that the Kingston Local Council has circulated a letter on the question of salaries, and to date I am advised that all groups have not commented on the matter. I think it will be agreed, that, whatever the results may be, in any intercouncil or group correspondence, it is to the interest of all concerned that we give speedy attention to the requests made from any particular group. Therefore, I would urge that any Penitentiary group, or council, which has not yet replied to the correspondence from Kingston that the matter be given early attention.

Yours sincerely

Trev Gough, National Secretary

Letter to Trev Gough, National Secretary

Dear Sir and Bro:

Re: Five day, forty hour week:

In reply to your letter dated 25th, Feb, 1954 I wish to advise as follows: during 1953 a large number of officers left the Penitentiary Service in order to take other employment in British Columbia, which had a higher salary and shorter work week. We have a large number of new members of the staff, who have been working before joining the

Service on a 5 day 40 hour week. Many have joined the Penitentiary Service during the winter months when employment has been slack. These officers have received training in our schools, fitted with uniforms, at considerable expense to the taxpayer.

A good, efficient officer is well trained and happy in the Service. Once he has reached this stage he is too valuable to lose for the sake of working an extra half day a week in a province where more than 80% of the workers are on a 5 day, 40 hour week.

The inmates in all our Penitentiaries now have a good exercise yard and sports field, entertainment and hobby work. There is no longer any need for the long week end confinement. By instituting the 5 day 40 hour week there would be a better morale for both inmates and officers and besides it would help to remedy to some extent the unemployment situation.

We also consider if and when the 5 day, 40 hour week is instituted it would result in drawing a better class of officer material. For these and many other reasons we consider that further representations should be made in order that 5 day 40 hour week will be brought into effect in all Penitentiaries in Canada, and we trust that you will take any necessary action.

Yours truly

H.W. Darby, Sec.

New Westminster Justice group.

From the National Secretary

13th April 1954

The Honourable D.C. Abbot, M.P. Minister of Finance

Ottawa

Dear Mr. Abbott:

I have been instructed to place before you a very strong protest on the application of the 5 day 40 hours week as such provides for exclusions, accepting as we must, for the time being that some exclusions are justified in the light of the policy laid down. We must urge that other exclusions are not in the public interest. Among these, and perhaps the most important, the employees of the Penitentiary branch of the Department of Justice. Let me admit at once that taking the narrow view, if comparable employees in other regions, the extension perhaps may be defended. However, there is not and cannot be any exact comparison between Penitentiary employees as such, or

police forces and employees in provincial institutions of de tention. The inmate population in Penitentiaries are, in the main, those found guilty of serious offences, and many are repeaters requiring maximum security. Therefore there cannot be any comparison of hazards and accumulative mental strain as between Penitentiary employees and those at Provincial institutions.

Under this circumstance to wait in this instance what might be considered an industrial parallel would appear to be both unimaginative and unjust. Under this present government for some years, many forward policies have been introduced to the view of reorientation of the outlook of offenders and the reduction of the instances of recidivism. Looking at this and Penitentiary Officers have and are receiving instruction in modern penology practices.

It must be submitted that for this service it is very vital in the public interest to retain and obtain the highest possible type of employee. If this is not a primary objective the full force of present policies is dissipated and lost.

The turnover in the custodial staff and other classes in many Penitentiaries is high and this in a large measure is directly traceable to the 44 hour week. This is a matter of easy verification. The incidents of hypertension and heart trouble among penitentiary officers is also high. A shorter work week would ease both problems. There would also be little difficulty in obtaining and retaining the best of trade instructors, whose trades on the outside almost universally work a five day 40 hour week. You will of course be aware that all Penitentiaries are in, or adjacent to, or surrounded by centres which the five day 40 hour week has already been approved for classes whose duties and responsibilities cannot be considered onerous or unimportant. Therefore, we cannot too strongly ask that the exclusion in this case be reviewed at a very early date. An early date is urged because we are very well aware and certain operating difficulties will be encountered. It may be pointed out that thses difficulties will have to be faced and the sooner the greater good for all concerned. In closing may I say that it has also been pointed out by the Penitentiary staffs that the application of a shorter work week could provide additional recreation periods for the inmate population with a resulting increase in their morale. This is a matter which should not be tied to a statistic or viewed in the light, and I trust sincerely that this

representation will receive sympathetic consideration and adjusting action.

Yours sincerely

Trev Gough  
National Secretary

Letter to:

Mr. W. H. Darby  
New Westminster Justice Group

Thank you for your letter of April 28th, informing me of your request for a 5 day 40 hour work week for Penitentiary Officers. You have my support in this matter and I shall press for its inception at the earliest date.

Yours sincerely

George Hahn  
M.P. for New Westminster



July 1954

TO: Trev. Gough, National Secretary A.C.S. of C.

This will acknowledge the representation which you addressed to my predecessor, Mr. Abbott, on the subject of the application of the 5 day 40 hour week to the staffs of the Penitentiary branch of the Department of Justice. While I will be glad to have my officers review this question I should observe that the Treasury Board have already had enquiries made into the working hours of employees engaged in the custody of prisoners under detention, and have found that the 5 day 40 hour week is almost unknown among this class of employee. I appreciate the argument which you have advanced in support of the deviation of the governments policy of applying the 5 day 40 hour week only where it is justified by the common practice of non-governmental employees, but I should observe that these facts and opinions were taken into account when the original decision to exclude certain groups of Federal employees from employment of the 5 day 40 hour week was made.

The application of this policy is constantly under review, not only by Treasury Board staffs, but also by the Civil Service Commission and your arguments will be studied by both groups. However, from information which is available to me, I would be unwilling to raise any hope for the early exclusion of the Penitentiary staffs among those operating employees to whom the 5 day 40 hour week has been accorded.

Yours truly

Walter E. Harris

This is the tread all through 1954, the battle of the 5 day 40 hours week and the Commissioner and government still fighting a delaying action. The battle continued through the first 5½ months of 1955, during this time it was sensed that the enemy was weakening and the Union efforts was strengthened by more forceful letters to all concerned, then it suddenly happened. The battle was over and our fight for the 5 day 40 hour week was brought to a successful conclusion on June 27, 1955.

During the consideration of the estimates of the Justice Department Mr. G. Hahn, M.P. for New Westminster was speaking in the House of Commons to the subject of the 5 day 40 hour week for Penitentiary Staffs. He was interrupted by the Minister of Justice to say that the 5 day 40 hour week would be introduced in the Penitentiary Service effective September 1st, 1955.

The following is an extract of a news item in the Official Union Publication, The Canadian Civil Servant, August 1955.

" Ever since the Civil Service Commission's circular letter of April 1st, 1954 with regard to the application of the 5 day 40 hours week in which it was stated that the government services generally excluded including the Penitentiary Service, we have made very strong representations to the Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice and the Commissioner of Penitentiaries to the effect that this organization was taking very strong exception to the exclusion of Penitentiary Employees from the application of the 5 day 40 hour week, as we believed such exclusion was unfair, unwise and discriminatory. In December 1954, a delegation of Penitentiary representatives met in Ottawa to discuss and study a brief which was to be submitted to the Minister of Finance and to the Commissioner of Penitentiaries. The delegates met with the Minister and the Commissioner who assured us that our representations would be given proper consideration with a view to implementation of the 5 day 40 hour week in the not too distant future. It is now our pleasure to announce that the Minister of Justice, while discussing the Department's estimates in the House of Commons on June 27th, informed the House that the 5 day 40 hour week would become effective for the operating staffs of the Penitentiary branch as of September 1st, 1955. I believe all will agree that our representations have met with complete success in a relatively short period of time, and we taken this opportunity to thank all our membership in the Penitentiary Service, particularly the Officers in the Penitentiary groups who have submitted briefs and resolutions for representation to the Minister of Finance and the Commissioner of Penitentiaries, and the representatives of Penitentiary groups who have come to Ottawa at the end of the last year to discuss this important question. We have added a feather to our cap, but we wish to state earnestly that the implementation

of the short work week would have been a physical impossibility without the wholehearted co-operation of all concerned. "

Signed G. J. Piche

This was a major battle fought wholehearted and perfect co-operation of the Penitentiary staffs in Canada, and by the very able assistance of Mr. Trev Gough, National Secretary, who also co-ordinated all our efforts and briefs for submission to the Commissioner and the Minister of Justice.

This was another convention year, and at this convention, in Regina the subject of unity was a hot potato on the agenda. In this matter it was practically impossible to get the Civil Service Federation to meet for serious talk on unity. The Amalgamated Civil Servants believed in action, and the C.S.F. adopted a more wait and see attitude. Here is an instance of a letter received by our local council from the C.S.F. and an answer thereto by the local council secretary.

July 25th, 1955

Dear Mr. Huber;

We have been requested by Mr. W. J. Smilie, Secretary of the New Westminster brach of the Association of Canadian Postal Employees, to make enquiries of our National Headquarters as to the progress that has been amde towards securing the 5 day week for the employees of the Department of Justice (B.C. Penitentiary).

However, I have just received minutes of a meeting of the National Executive Council of the C.S.F. of C., held on 11 July 1955, at which the subject was discussed as follows: The Chairman felt that all federal civil servants would be working a 5 day week regardless of whether they are operative staff or administrative staff. A short discussion followed and it was decided that representation should be made to the Prime Minister by the President of the Federation urging him to apply the 5 day week to Federal Civil Servants from coast to coast. It was moved by Mr. Hewitt-White, seconded by Mr. K. Green that the President be directed to seek an interview with the Prime Minister, either immediately before or after his trip to present a brief on the universal five day week and the working hours overtime committee

be directed to proceed immediately to prepare such a brief, the motion was carried. Thus it will be seen that the matter is already receiving the earnest attention of the Federation, and it is to be hoped that satisfactory results may follow soon. We shall be glad to keep you informed of any further developments along this line.

Yours sincerely,  
J.W.G. Langley, Secretary

The slogan at the bottom of all their correspondence is: "They also serve who only stand and wait".

I don't know how I got a copy of this letter (W.F. Reed) because it is not addressed to me, but to Mr. Huber who was at one time a member of the staff of the B.C. Penitentiary and you will find in the secretary of the Local Council's answer to Mr. Langley that Mr. Huber was never a great asset to our organization. Eventually he quit our service and transferred to another government department.

The answer to the previous letter, from the New Westminster local Council A.C.S. of C.

To Mr. J.W.G. Langley

Secretary B.C. Federal Civil Servants Association, Vancouver, B.C.  
Dear Sir and Bro.

I have before me a letter from you dated 25 July 1955, addressed to Mr. E. A. Huber, who I understand is a member of your organization and until recently on the staff of the B.C. Penitentiary. In it you refer to a request by Mr. Smilie as to progress made towards securing the five day week for the employees of the Department of Justice (B.C. Penitentiary). Mr. Huber was never a very active member of our organization and why he should take such a sudden interest on the eve of his departure from our service is a mystery to us. Nevertheless, it is creditable that he did have a last ditch interest, but his interest was a little late in view of the fact that while he was still in our service the Hon. Stuart Garson, Minister of Justice, announced in the House of Commons on June 24, 1955 that the Penitentiary staffs had been granted the five day 40 hour week effective the 1st September 1955, this would be found in Hansard of June 24th, 1955 page 4287.

Perhaps it is not generally known that the New Westminster Justice Group (B.C. Penitentiary) and other Justice Groups across

Canada have been campaigning, through our National Office and members of Parliament, for a 5 day 40 hour week for many months. It is considered that this campaign was the most intensive departmental effort ever put forward in the History of the Civil Service and its successful conclusion is mainly due to the National Secretary of the A. C. S. of C. , who co-ordinated all our briefs for presentation to the proper authorities. The fact that it was brought to the floor of the House is due to the Kingston and New Westminster groups, who never for a day let up in their fight. If we had stood and waited it is quite possible that we would be receiving old age pension before we were granted the 5 day 40 hour week. While your interest in this matter is appreciated, I would suggest that before taking any action in any matter, that you obtain some data from the persons concerned. In this case, the staff of the B.C. Penitentiary. I agree that the substance of your letter deals with the five day week for all civil servants. In this regard resolutions have been forwarded to our National Office for over a year and it is the continuing policy of our organization, but since the B.C. Penitentiary is specifically mentioned in the first paragraph of your letter of the 25 July 1955 I felt that you should be informed that the Penitentiary staffs were granted the 5 day 40 hour week on June 25, 1955.

The members of the New Westminster Council believe in the unity of all Civil Servants into one organization and this organization is willing to make concessions toward this end, we believe that one strong organization can solve our problems in a short space of time and gain better working conditions for all government employees.

Yours sincerely,

W.F. Reed, Secretary New Westminster Local Council.

A.C.S. of Canada

cc: National Secretary R.V. Cheale, New Westminster Justice Group  
W.J. Smilie of the Canadian Federation

At this convention the New Westminster Justice Group was honoured by having one of the members W.F. Reed who was a delegate from B.C. elected Regional Vice President for B.C. and a seat on the National council.

Unity was the main subject of discussion during the 1955 convention of the ACS of Canada. There was every indication that reasonable optimism prevailed among the delegates that a merger with the C.S.A.

of Ottawa at an early date. There was no indication at this time that the C.S.F. of Canada wished to take part in a merger of any kind. A copy of the Amalgamated report dated January 20th, 1956 has been recieved and is interesting enough to reproduce here:  
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL Secretary

A meeting was held this afternoon between your National Council and the Hon. Walter E Harris, Minister of Finance on memorandum which was recently received and forwarded to the government, on the matter of salaries and the 5 day 40 hour week. At this stage of consideration Mr. Harris was not prepared to indicate any clear line of government thinking. We can say that the reception was cordial and sympathetic, and we are thanked by the MInister for the representations made. Some conclusions may be drawn from te meeting and the first is that Mr. Harris die not reject, either the principles or the represenations. We believe there are grounds for optimism that an adjustment in salary and some change in government policy on the 5 day 40 hour week may be expected. We were also promised by Mr. Harris, that since the matters were under investigation and review at this time, that decisions on the matters might be expected before too long.

It must be clearly understood that the words "before too long" this is not be be expected within a month or so. We are clearly, advised by Mr. Harris that the investigations necessary would not be completed for possibly a few months. The National Office will keep in close contact with those problems and advice will be forwarded to local councils as soon as something is known on both or either.

There was considerable discussion and alarm at this time among custodial officers concerning inmates being accomodated in corridors of the cell blocks. This was due to the rapid increase in inmate population. Before any attempt was made to relieve this situation two huts had to be built. It appears that the majority of Canada's criminal population were migrating to the West Coast. However, relief was in sight, arrangements were made to transfer inmates to Saskatchewan Penitentiary and Manitoba Penitentiary. Two transfers were made to Manitoba and two to Sask. Penitentiary. Transfers consisted of approximately 35 inmates each trip. A letter was received from the National Secretary, Mr. Trev Gough,

Dear Sir and Bro:

The regular monthly meeting of the New Westminster Justice Group was held on Monday May 14th, at which I had the honour of presenting honorary life memberships to the following retired members, Fred Williams, Dan McKay, Dav Richardson, Ernie Smailer, Jack Baird and Jack Hyde. All members of the Justice Group, it was a very large and enthusiastic gathering. The largest that the group has had for some considerable time. This is, I am sure a very good sign, because it shows that the new members recognize the valuable work done by these pioneers in our organization in the Penitentiary Service. I made a point of reminding the young members of the strenuous opposition that prevailed in 1942 when all Justice Groups decided it was time for them to take their place in the A.C.S. of C. with other departments and assist in bettering conditions for themselves and the service in general. I do not think that you need worry about the state of the organization in these groups. They have had to fight hard for all benefits now being enjoyed and they intend to keep these benefits and improve upon them when the occasion arises. Your letter dated February 1st, expressing your appreciation for these valuable services was read, and I was requested to send their thanks to you with regrets that time and age did not permit them to continue their work.

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 63-56 (General)

To National Councils and Local Council Secretaries:

Dear Sir and Bro:

I am attaching hereto for the careful consideration of your council the recommended terms between our organization and the Civil Service Association of Ottawa. These general terms, and I stress the word general, because in event of agreement a new constitution would have to be framed, which would require some slight leeway, were presented to the Executive Council immediately after the press release which you received on the subject matter. Both the Executive Council of the C.S.A.O. Annual meeting, and the endorsement or otherwise, of our local councils. This proposal could very well be the first in the direction of forming one united organization of Federal Government Employees. It is with this thought in mind that local councils should consider the attached

draft. Every effort should be made to secure as full an attendance as is possible, at any meeting, or meetings, called to consider this agreement. I might point out, at this time, that if the merger is given effect that this will cancel our affiliation with the Canadian Labour Congress. The reason being that the Amalgamated Civil Servants of Canada, as such, would cease to exist. It would be up to the new merged organization, after an appropriate interval, to give what consideration should be sought for the new organization. Therefore there should be no misunderstanding in this aspect of the proposed merger.

It might also be pointed out that the C.S.A.O. as such, has operated in the restricted field of Ottawa, Hull area ever since its inception. Because of this restriction in point of area they have never faced the expenses coincident with the operation of a National Organization, such expenses as holding of district and national conventions and the payments of all costs of such out of treasury. They have, therefore, operated on a membership fee of .35¢ per member per month. The fact that to operate a National organization would be more costly than to operate a local organization is a fact to be considered in this proposed merger. It is a fact that because when the C.S.A.O. withdrew as an affiliate of the Civil Service Federation of Canada, that federation formed a local group in opposition to the CSAO. Due to the prestige gained by the CSAO over the years, this opposition organization is a comparatively minor group. However, a larger group in the per capita fee, at this moment, would cause a considerable number who are not thoroughly conversant with all the facts of the situation to resign from the CSAO and perhaps join the rival group. To eliminate this possibility it will probably be necessary to adjust the fees of the CSAO upward in at least two steps rather than one. It is anticipated that the membership costs of the new organization will be below the one dollar membership fee now presently charged by our organization. Therefore, it can be anticipated that there will be a reduction in our present fee. However, if we are to enable the CSAO to adjust their present fee to a point of proper cost of operation, it would be necessary to give considerable thought to retaining our present fee for perhaps two years. In considering this, it has to be borne in mind that if there is no merger with the CSAO our present fee will remain as it is indef-



initely. It will, therefore, pay us to carry the major load of expenses for a short period, with a thought that after that period, whatever may be agreed upon, the fee will be reduced. While I have submitted figures of the expected costs of the new organization these can only be considered tentative because it cannot be known, at this time, as to what the staffing requirements will be and what our additional expenses will be for district and national conventions. If any local council, after considering this draft, wishes further information on any point, the National Office should be written. It is desirable that opinions be obtained from all local councils in a period not in excess of two months. In event of approval of the CSAO Annual Meeting, it will be recognized that the sooner an opportunity is presented to officers of both organizations to commence a draft constitution. This release is not for general publicity or decimation, and should be kept confidential to the membership. Councils desiring additional copies for group consideration, may obtain these on request. Your co-operation and careful consideration is earnestly solicited by the National Office and the National Council.

Yours sincerely,

Trev Gough, National Secretary

By the end of 1956 it would appear that the merger is more than a possibility. Through 1957 negotiations continued between the CSAO and the ACS of C concerning the merger of the two organizations. A letter dated December 15th, 1957 was received stating that arrangements were finalized and a merger convention would be held in Ottawa on April 30th, 1958, and the name of the organization should be the Civil Service Association of Canada. This was another dream come true and instructions were given the the National council to do everything possible to consummate the merger.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM W. F. Reed: Through the years I have attended many National Conventions as a delegate and as a National Vice-President. Of course all conventions were important, but the April 1958 gathering was the most enthusiastic I had attended since my connections with the A.C.S. of C. from 1945 - 1958.

These years of hard fighting and wonderful co-operation between all Justice Groups and the National Office.

The 1958 merger convention completed my active participation with Union offices and I must say thall the worries and perplexities of about thirteen years was more than rewarding.

All this material was researched from the files and correspondence of the New Westminster Justice Group from 1950 to 1958, probably a change should be in order at this time to have a short resume of the service of W.F. Reed.

I joined the service in March 1931, during the depression and figured it as a stop-gap until the depression was ended. Which was in 1939, by this time I was well established in my job and received a lot of experience in the study of human nature. My first contact with the Service was with the Chief Keeper Lou Goss. He took charge of me at the front gate on March 7, 1931 at 1600 hours, and took me on a tour of the prison, visiting all shops and departments and finished our tour at the Main Hall. I was handed over to the Office in Charge of the post, Bill McIntosh and proceeded to get my initiation into the operation of a penal institution. By noon I had read all the Standing Orders and handled the keys under careful supervision of the Officer in Charge. Then it was lunch time and I watched the operation of the different gangs coming in, being frisked and proceeding to the kitchen to take up their lunch and then to their cells and locked up, and counted. Actually my 28 years were more or less of a stabling experience. One major disturbance, about 1934, when a large number of inmates refused to go to work and were isolated on "B" range in the East Wing. All furniture and plumbing in the cells were destroyed. It was quite a job wading through water and debris to feed the inmates bread and water. Through my service of 28 years we had 5 escapes from outside the walls and one abortive attempt to break out of the prison, the three inmates concerned broke out of their cells in the evening and got out into the yard where they were discovered by the guard dog "Spike" and the Deputy Warden hiding in a large pile of cordwood.

IN 1940 I applied for leave of absence without pay to enlist in the Active Army, having had about 26 years service in the Reserve, (R.C.E.N.P.A.M.). At this time the staff had lost many key men to the ARmed Forces and the Warden was getting a little concerned about security. He was quite concerned about his investments. AT

first he would not approve my application with all this war nonsense what is going to happen to my stocks and shares, he said. I replied: the sooner I get into the army and help them win this war nothing will happen to your investments. I eventually received approval and was away from the Institution for five years returning in September 1945.

Nothing had changed only I thought the inmates were a little more truculent than they were when I left in 1940.

I found a lot of new faces on the staff and the inmate population had increased considerably.

From 1945 to 1958 I was busy in union activities and as previously reported in these pages many improvements were made in working conditions, hours of work and salaries.

So my time drew to a close, and while not a sad day on November 23, 1958, I was some time before I became accustomed at not seeing my fellow officers each day.

Our thanks to W.F. (Bill) Reed for providing this portion of the story of the New Westminster Justice Group.

14th August 1979

During the 1958 there was considerable dissatisfaction among the Instructors of the B.C. Penitentiary about reclassification. Prior to the fall of 1957 all Instructors were the same grade and the same rate of salary. After reclassification Instructors were divided into three groups, Vocational, Engineers and Industrial. All Vocational Instructors received the reate of pay of an I-5. Electricians and plumbers received the rate of pay of an I-5, Industrial Instructors became I-5's and Maintenance Instructors were I-4"s. Where we once had 24 Instructors, all of the same grade and rate of pay we now had 15 Instructors at the rate of an I-5 or equivalent and 9 Instructors at the rate of an I-4. The Union was asked to investigate this matter and again place all Instructors on an equal footing. This problem was never solved to everyones satisfaction and some years later reclassification brought in a new grading and a new rate of pay. The Chief Engineer for the Penitentiaries when in New Westminster was asked the reason for the grading of Instructors and how the different grades were arrived. He stated that the I-5's could make more costly mistakes therefore had more responsibilities. M.J. Reid, Secretary of the Kingston Local Council circulated all Justice Groups of the A.C.S. of C. re Officers clothing issue, part of the letter is quoted here:

"For years our members have complained about the shirts we have been receiving and for years we have been receiving the same type of shirt. These shirts are manufactured at the Prison for Women and the workmanship leaves a great deal to be desired. They are never the size indicated on the shirt, the collars are going in every direction and the sleeves are either too long or too short. Recently we received an issue with greyish green buttons on them. When they can be hidden by the tunic they pass muster, but when worn alone as in warm weather they certainly give an Officer a poor appearance.

The material used in the manufacture of summer pants has the appearance of dyed sackcloth and at times looks as though the Officer is wearing pjammas."

Circular letter dated June 1958 from the National Secretary, states; "The Cabinet has approved the extension of the 5 day 40 hour week to all classified employees of the Public Service except Lighthouse Keepers employed by the Department of Transport and those on Fire-

Fighting establishments. This is to be effective July 1st, 1958.

31 March 1959

R.A. Fee

Secretary William Head Section;

Dear Sir & Bro:

This is to confirm the understanding reached recently that the William Head members will remain a part of the New Westminster group and will not join with Victoria Council. As there is no provision in our constitution for two groups, please consider your group as a section.

H. W. Darby, Sec/Treas.

On May 25th, 1959 a letter was written to the Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary.

" At our regular monthly meeting which was held on May 11th, dissatisfaction was expressed at the short notice given to some of the Officers prior to their being sent to the William Head Institution for a tour of duty. It was felt that an Officer should be given a weeks notice prior to his transfer to the Island.

Yours truly

K.S. Gains, Secretary

A penitentiary officers conference was held November 2 and 3rd, 1959. at the Beacon Arms Hotel in Ottawa. New Westminster Justice Group was represented by H.W. Darby and F. Leech. Some of the subjects on the agenda were Overtime at Premium rates, clothing issue, acting pay, optional retirement at 55 years of age to name just a few.

A circular letter dated 24 November 1959 on a question of optional retirement at 55 for Penitentiary Officers was discussed at the recent Penitentiary Officers Conference. It was agreed that the undersigned would investigate to see what might be involved in additional costs. The government is strongly opposed to such a change in the Act because of the additional costs and that it would be discriminatory towards others under the Superannuation Act. The following rough estimate has been received from the Department of Finance.

"To receive a pension based on 50% of earnings each officer would have to contribute at the rate of 9% over the 25 year period instead of 6% as at the present. In a pension of 70% under the present act you would have to contribute at the rate of 13%. However the government would not

increase its present contribution beyond the present 6%, the additional cost would be even greater.

A poll was taken of the Officers of the B.C. Penitentiary on the question of optional retirement at 55 years of age for Penitentiary Officers and the vote was 12 for and 76 against.

A letter to Mr. J. C. Best, January 18th, 1960 again on the optional retirement at age 55. For your information this letter was posted on our notice board with a sheet attached for members to cast their vote, the vote as mentioned above was 76 to 12 against. This matter was again brought up at our meeting January 8th, 1960 and it was moved and seconded that we go on record as being in favor of retirement at 55 years of age but not under the circumstances outlined in the letter.

Yours truly

K. S. Gains, Sec

Section 23(a) of the Penitentiary Officers handbook, was the subject of much correspondence. E. Davie Fulton writes J.C. Best, National President and I quote" with reference to 23(a) of the Penitentiary Officers handbook, this section gives the opportunity to officers of your association to make representation to the Warden in matters relating to the conditions, service and welfare of officers as a group. When it comes to the matter of complaints in individual cases it does not appear desirable to permit the local officers of your association to act as personnel representatives of an officer who has a grievance. The officer in such a case, if he is dissatisfied with the decision of the Warden, may submit his complaint in writing to the Commissioner under the provisions of P.R. 254 and they will receive his full consideration.

To: Mr. J. E. Martineau, St. Vincent de Paul, Local Council,

Date: 24 August 1960 RE TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE:

With reference to your letter of July 15th, 1960 please accept my apologies as I have only recently returned from Annual leave.

Enclosed please find a letter from the Commissioner of Penitentiaries to the National President under date of April 12, 1960. From perusal of this letter that the 7½ cents per mile was in effect for two trips only (Shaughnessy Hospital and Vancouver Airport) and any other mileage accrued on Penitentiary business is compensated for at 4½ cents per mile.

The foregoing has to do with officers using their own cars on Penitentiary business.

November 22nd, 1960

A delegation met the Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary to discuss mileage allowance. The Warden had a letter from Mr. Stone, Assistant Commissioner asking the Warden to find out from the Association just what allowance would be agreeable to the Union. After some discussion the delegation agreed to the following recommendation which the Warden will be submitting to Mr. Stone. This recommendation has the full support of the Warden. Where it is necessary for an Officer to use his own vehicle for transportation, such transportation to be supplied for the convenience of the Penitentiary an allowance of 10 cents a mile is recommended. Where an officer uses his own vehicle for transportation, such transportation to be used for the officers own convenience then an allowance of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents per mile is recommended. The Warden to decide which transportation is for the convenience of the Penitentiary.

Ken Gains, Secretary

The 1961 Penitentiary Officers conference opened in the Boardroom of the National Office of the C.S.A.C. on September 13, 1961.

Delegates from New Westminster were H.W. Darby and W.R. Swan, there were many topics of discussion such as duty rosters, appointment by competition, qualifications, lay-offs, notice of competition, breaches of service, discipline, staff disciplinary board, sick leave, special leave, uniforms, grievances, staff associations. The conference came to an end on September 15th, 1961.

There is very little to report from the files of the New Westminster Justice group for the year 1962. It would seem that matters were routine, there was some discussion about early retirement, the unemployment insurance fund and salaries.

10 January 1963 a letter to the National Secretary inquiring into the cost of the Death Benefit Insurance. To the members it is 40¢ per 1,000 per month but there seems to be no knowledge of the governments share. This information was requested by H.W. Darby, Secretary.

On the 24th January 1963 a letter to H.W. Darby referring to your inquiry of January 10th which you asked if it would be possible to advise the total cost of the Death Benefit to employees. I can advise you that the cost to the government is 2 cents for each \$250.00 worth of salary. This percentage is based on the fact that prior to

the introduction of the Death Benefit scheme the estates of public servants were provided with two months pay.

T.F. Gough

National Secretary

Circular letter dated March 15, 1963 from J.C. Best, National President to National Officers, There is a rumor circulating in the press in Ottawa that the government is about to announce collective bargaining rights for civil servants. There seems to be reason to believe that this information is in part, true.

18 March 1963 a circular letter to National Officers from J.C. Best further to my letter of 15 March it has now been officially confirmed that the government is prepared to discuss with the associations the means of bringing about a system of negotiation.

On April 10, 1963 the New Westminster Justice Group approved an Emergency Death Benefit Plan which will be put into effect upon approval from the Warden. A committee of three composed of F. Huggett, J. Fraser, and J. Clawson drafted the details of the plan as follows:

Eligibility: Any member of the New Westminster Justice Group, CSAC in good standing until retirement.

Fees: \$2.00 per member, wife included. \$2.00 to be paid each time a claim is paid. The coverage is the amount held from collection at the death of a member (Husband or wife)

In the event of the death of both man and wife single collection only to be paid. In event of a death of a single member, collection to be paid to the beneficiary designated by said member. In event that both husband and wife are deceased, leaving children, payment to be made to a responsible party upon proof of their good intentions. In event that both parents are deceased and welfare agency takes charge of the said children no payments will be made to said agency but payments will be made from time to time, for the benefit of the children by the committee until that collection is exhausted.

Administrative: A committee of three to administer the plan, to be responsible to the New Westminster Justice Group.

All money collected will be deposited in the Penitentiary Officers Credit Union. All interest and dividends earned to be paid to the New Westminster Justice Group. Receipts will be given for all money collected and a record kept of all money collected. Collections not cancellable and a refund will not be made. After a payment has been made the next collection shall be completed within thirty days.



This plan was set up to provide ready money for the beneficiary of a member to help defray expenses until the death benefit was paid. April 11, 1963 a letter to the Warden of the B.C. Penitentiary  
Dear Sir:

Re: New Westminster Justice group emergency Plan

A copy of the above mentioned plan is enclosed herewith. I have been instructed to request your permission to allow the plan to be put into effect. The reason that this plan has been formulated is that on more than one occasion it has been necessary to make a collection upon the sudden death of a member. We feel that more prompt assistance could be given by having a collection made in advance. We trust your permission will be received as soon as possible.

H.W. Darby, Secretary

18 April 1963 RE: NEW WESTMINSTER JUSTICE GROUP EMERGENCY DEATH  
BENEFIT PLAN

Referring to your letter dated 11 April 1963 it will be in order for you to put the Emergency Plan into effect as outlined in your letter  
Yours truly,

T.W. Hall, Warden

April 28th, 1963

The Warden, B.C. Penitentiary

Dear Sir:

I have been instructed to request an interview with you, with a delegation from this group to discuss problems outlined in the proposed brief. The delegation have requested me to advise that they will meet you on their own time and at your convenience, we hope that an interview will take place as soon as possible.

(It would appear that this brief is a result of the riot of April 1963)

1. Shortage of staff, both day and night recreation shifts
2. The night recreation shift is most emphatic in its opposition to any resumption of the night recreation program
3. Insufficient and out of date arms and riot equipment
4. Lack of water pressure and poor condition of fire fighting equipment such as hydrants that have no water and hose nozzles which do not work properly and hose which leak profusely.
5. Poor standard of lighting in the yard
6. Selection of inmates allowed to live in dormitories, the meeting considered there are many inmates who are there and are known as troublemakers.
6. Better control of Officers during the riot

7. Immediate steps should be taken to see that yard officers on night and morning shifts have the latest type of arms.
8. There should be some control of the inmates radio system so that the system can be shut off in case of emergencies to prevent them using the system in staging a riot.
9. There should be some way in shutting off the outside radio system in the event of trouble.
10. Cell equipment should be standardized.
11. More protection for officers on duty in the hut.
12. Structural changes in the Auditorium to permit easy access in case of trouble.
13. Adequate protection provided in the auditorium for officers on duty
14. There should be no more live shows.
15. We object to unsupervised A.A. Meetings.
16. Strong objection was taken to the present standard of discipline of inmates. Officers should be advised of action taken when they submit reports.
17. Directives from Ottawa not available to staff members
18. Inmates should not be allowed to answer the phone.
19. With regards to moving inmates to another celling area, the procedure should be outlined and adhered to.
20. In case of emergency, when Officers are summoned more than one radio station should be used.
21. This group strongly objects to female staff, more time wasted escorting them than is saved. Danger exists that harm could come to them from inmates such as hostage taking etc.
22. Difficulty in identifying inmates. Sweat shirts and T-shirts should be abolished and inmates required to wear issue shirts with numbers. Inmates without numbers on their clothes should be severely dealt with.
23. Hot water should be allowed only in the mornings, at the same time as the breakfast line and at 2000 hours.
24. There should be strict enforcement of regulation haircuts.
25. The present system in effect in B-7, East and North Wings, whereby the Officers are not locked in the wings should continue to remain in effect even after the emergency is over.
26. Strong objection should be made concerning the proposed open Kitchen
27. An effort should be made to correct inaccurate reports of the recent riot which appeared in the newspapers.
28. We consider that television sets should not be permitted in Maximum Security Institutions.

Circular Letter dated August 7th, 1963 to National Officers and Local Council Secretaries: The National Secretary-Treasurers and the undersigned have just returned from an important and historic meeting with the Prime Minister, the right honourable Lester B. Pearson at which he announced the governments plans for immediate action to commence discussion on a form of Collective Bargaining and Arbitration procedures for the Public Service as well as reforms in the existing classification and pay systems.

Yours truly J.C. Best, National President

In 1963 the Penitentiary Officers Conference of the CASof C was held at International House, Ottawa, June 17 to 19 inclusive. New Westminster Justice Group was represented by H.W. Darby. Some of the subjects discussed were Long Service Pay, classification, working conditions and uniforms. (It was about this time that the color of the uniforms were changed to blue) Inmate treatment and placement, housing, promotional procedures and of course salaries. 1964 was a quiet year so far as the Union was concerned they were still talking of Collective Bargaining in the Public Service.

Circular letter dated January 29th, 1964 to National Officers and Local Council Secretaries: A report to Penitentiary membership on meetings held by the C.S.A.C. National Office and with the Penitentiary Officials and the Treasury Board. This report dealt with overtime, disposition of contraband, clarification of matters effecting Springhill, Penitentiary regulation 1.41(1)(o) which deals with the use of force. Progress on Penitentiary Personnel Directives, Bilingualism in issuing directives, handbook on inmate training, unsatisfactory appeal procedures. The services of Harold Winch, MP were acknowledged for taking the Penitentiary problems to the floor of the House of Commons.

November 26th, 1964 there was a report from the National Officers on Penitentiary salaries. The remainder of the correspondence for the year 1964 deals with salary questions.

The only correspondence we have on file for 1965 is a letter to National Officers and Council Secretaries with Penitentiary membership and again it is dealing with salaries.

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This is H.W. Darby speaking:

At this time I would like to record a few of my observations;

I started in the Penitentiary in 1946. I was elected Secretary of the Justice Group in 1947 and relinquished my position as Secretary somewhere around 1964.

I can well remember Ed Cadenhead collecting, who I think was Treasurer at the time, and he did a marvellous job of collecting money and later on George Kosty took over and held that position for many years. In his own chair in the lounge nobody got by George. He did a very good job really, collecting funds in the early days, and if it hadn't been for those dedicated Treasurers we wouldn't have survived and grew to the organization we did, and accomplish so much.

There were many hard workers. Bill Reed in Local Council, and it wasn't long before I was elected as Delegate for Local Council, and for several years I was Secretary of the Local Council and also Secretary of the Justice Group and when somebody else would take over the Justice Group and when I went back to the Justice Group as well as holding the Local Council and eventually someone else took over and anyway I would like to say that the years, and there were a lot of them in the early days, were very very tough. I do know that we did ask the Administration on many occasions to improve the sanitary conditions in the towers, and they stated that it was

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impractical because the water pipes would freeze and then we also complained about the heating system, that it should be electric, but we didn't get to first base until one day a member of Parliament came to the front gate. We knew about it and he immediately asked to be taken to No. 2 Tower. Frank Croft was on duty at that time, and when he saw what the conditions were that we had to work in the Towers it was only about a year or year and a half that we had running water and proper heating. I wouldn't say that it was proper that it worked. Electric was like much more efficient. There was a lot of problems, the unfair distribution of duties and I know that the Association did a lot towards the remedying of those problems. They finally got the work week cut from six days a week to five and a half. The Association showed the Administration how we could run the prison on a five and a half day week and how many men we needed. We got that, and we pressed on and we finally got the five day week and over the years a great deal was accomplished, and I think possibly one of our greatest accomplishments was getting Bargaining Rights, and many of you will remember that jump, and I want to express my appreciation for the help I had given me for the years I served as an Officer of the P.S.A.C.. They were a marvellous bunch of workers. They were dedicated, sometimes they were few and far between, but we pulled through. We made the Penitentiary a better place to work. We got good working conditions and we got considerable improvement in the salaries, and I can safely say that if it hadn't been for the organization and the efforts of its membership that it wouldn't be the place

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to work that it was when I left, when the working conditions were quite good.

Once again I appreciate all the help I got and I want to say to all the members you did a good job.

Thanks a lot.

Recently I have been asked to record information regarding Bargaining Rights. This is being recorded.

On Sunday, October 21st, 1979, I have been checking and could find I have nothing in the way of records concerning Bargaining Rights. I can only go from memory. I did promise I would do something and in the meantime I am giving a little outline on what I can remember and I will do my best to make a written report as soon as I get back from the Island which should be in about ten days, and I'll do that as quick as I can.

Anyway, from what I can recall back in 1955 at the Local Council meeting, a letter was received that there was going to be a Regional Convention in 1956 going to be held in Victoria and they wanted a resolution from the New Westminster Local Council.

The resolution originated at the New Westminster Local Council in 1955 and if I remember correctly it was a motion presented

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by Bill Reed and it was unanimously approved by the Local Council level I know and was referred to the Justice Group because they were mostly Justice Group members, and then back to the Local Council.

And there was no question about it. We wanted bargaining rights as negotiations for improvements to conditions was hit and miss without any real bargaining rights.

Anyway I can well recall and I am almost certain it will be 1956. I along with Bill Reed were elected as delegates to the Regional Convention to be held in Victoria. I can well remember the resolutions being presented to the Convention concerning bargaining rights and I could well remember laughter; laughing at the idea of Civil Servants having bargaining rights, this was an unheard thing. A dream maybe for some of us but it was unheard of for the most people who had never been Union members. Anyway, it so happened. I recall that I was on the committee which was to discuss certain resolutions. It so happened that bargaining rights resolution was among those considered by the committee together with amendments. To make a long story short our committee was sufficiently vocal that we persuaded the Regional Convention to accept the resolution on bargaining rights. It was sent on to the National Office and if I can remember correctly it was presented to the Government and if I also remember correctly Mr. Pearson was Prime Minister and he saw no reason why Civil Servants shouldn't have bargaining rights like outside union workers and that was when we made our big leap forward.

He gave instructions that we were to get them in a matter of time. It was about a year later that we actually got bargaining rights, then after that the improvement in working conditions and the negotiations for the improvements in salaries was much easier. We did get some good wages, when we went to see the Administration they listened, and often times there wasn't too much problem in having improvements made in our working conditions, it was tough though because the Wardens weren't used to being told what to do or advised or requested by anyone who had a little bit of authority. But as the years went by the hard liners seemed to soften and as the result of bargaining rights the working conditions in the service and in the B.C. Penitentiary increased remarkably well. And I would say the most important action of the Justice and the New Westminster Local Council in all the years that they had been organized was that one resolution that finally got bargaining rights and the rest of Civil Servants should always owe a debt of gratitude for what was done here in the West for all Civil Servants.

I will try and get a written report as soon as possible.



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The first meeting in the process to write a history of the P.S.A.C. Present is Wilf Girling, Bill Reed, Tom Makepeace, Bill LaPorte, Rod MacDonald and L.E. Thomas.

The idea of the taping is so each one can speak of their various reminiscence.

The first speaker is Bill Reed:

I think the best way to start this is to start with somebody that was at the Penitentiary when we first decided to organize. It is unfortunate that we haven't got one of the leaders and the "hot shot" of the organization when it started then and speaking of Al Cox, but we have others here who have been through the same experience and I think it is only logical to start at the beginning and have somebody to start this thing that was there at the beginning which I believe was in 1942, am I right? We have Tom Makepeace, Rod MacDonald, Bill LaPorte and L.E. Thomas, and I am a late comer. I didn't get into here until after the war in 1945.

I think myself we should get somebody who started to organize the organization in 1942.

They say I have to go ahead with this and give my story: So to start with, I joined the Penitentiary in March 1931 and this was to fill the gap during the depression. I was out of work and eventually I managed to establish a job down there

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at the Penitentiary, and I took the job to fill the gap until the depression ended. As you know the depression didn't end until the war started so that means that I was at the Penitentiary for nine years.

During that time I think the conditions at the Penitentiary, so far as the staff were concerned, compared to conditions now at the Penitentiary, were deplorable and to be any worse than from 1931 to 1939 when the war started, is practically an impossibility.

We were subjected to all kinds of regulations and restrictions and we had senior officers that took advantage of the condition of the labour, and so forth. They told you if you didn't do this and didn't do that and if you did anything wrong you could be out on the street and somebody would take your place, and it so often happened that we very often talked about unions, but nobody seemed to have the intestinal fortitude to pick up and start something, and at that time the staff-side organization in the civil service was not very strong, it was more a social organization at that time and I don't think there was very much they could do for the working man.

One instance I could quote, one very serious thing that happened:- We had the Archimbault Commission come through the front gate and this was for the purpose of reformation of the Penal Institution of Civil Service. One peculiar thing that happened in B.C., was that for some reason or other if you went sick and you were supposed to work a

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Sunday and you went sick and you didn't turn up and you had a day coming off in the week, this day was cancelled because you were sick on Sunday and this was considered your day off, and when you came to look to see what day you were going to be off it was cancelled and you didn't get your day off, and these were the sort of conditions that prevailed besides an eleven hour day and thirteen hour night. That one thing I will say this was rectified by the Superintendent that came after Bill Hughes and General Almond. And he was the one that split the night shift in half and this helped considerably, you worked an eleven hour day and thirteen hour night and this helped considerably, but still we had to work eleven hours a day. In 1936 we had the Commission come through and this was made up of Judge Archimbault and I forget all the members of the Commission but eventually after several months, or it could have been a year or more, they compiled a book of their findings, a report of the Commission, and this is the book that is commonly known, I don't know if it is commonly known, but I always called it the Penitentiary Bible.

We were told at that time that we had no rights, at least they thought we had no rights, we asked to form a committee and go before the Commission and give our story, at that time the Warden said he didn't want to see the staff, all they were here for was to improve conditions and make recommendations from complaints and statements from the

U-69

inmates and they didn't want to see any of the staff at all. Eventually we made our point, we had our committee that went before the Commission and we were received with great dignity, and they were amazed at the conditions that existed in the Penitentiary at that time among the staff. When we mentioned to them that if you had to work on a Sunday and you took sick and when you came to work you found your name had been erased from the day off, they couldn't understand this at all. The secretary was sent away to interview the Warden and the Deputy Warden and he came back and said that was perfectly true. That night evidently they were on the phone to the Superintendent, this condition was rectified and if you had a sick day it didn't effect your day off, this is one of the things the Commission did, and this is why, the reason I am telling you this, and this is why thoughts of Union were always in our head that if you could do this with the Commission and it was out to improve conditions in the Penitentiary, how much more you could do with a unified body throughout Canada. This never materialized because conditions never got any better in the Penitentiary, but we had to take it because most of us had families to bring up and the depression was still on, jobs were hard to get, and nothing changed until the war came along and then of course we forgot about the Union I suppose. The recommendations of the Royal Commission were shelved until the completion of the war which lasted five years.

U-70

I can't tell you anything about the organization of the Union, which I believe started in 1942, and they decided to organize under the Amalgamated Civil Servants Association. I believe they had a little difficulty with the Secretary in Ottawa, he didn't want anything to do with the Penitentiary because he figured they were an awful nuisance and a hard department to deal with, but anyway they did eventually organize. I couldn't tell you anything about that, other speakers will tell you all about this, I didn't know anything about it until I came back on leave one time and I think I paid my fifty cents a month although I wasn't working there, I think I joined somewhere around 1943, I'm not sure, but I didn't take an active part in the organization until 1945 when I went back to work and the very first meeting that I attended Jerry Welsford was elected President and I was elected Vice-President. I'm going to be quiet now and let somebody else talk, but one incident I would like to tell you about, Colonel Cooper as a Warden; we had a social organization at the Penitentiary, nobody seemed to worry about it, we had a social about once a year, no benefits from it. Warden Cooper came up when we had a meeting one day and he wanted to know about this social club we had, nobody was very interested so he suggested that it should fold up, he said we are holding money down there (the accountants), we don't know what to do with it, it is not very much money and I suggest you fold up, it wasn't a suggestion, it was an order, he said. There is only one member paid up and that is Bill

U-71

Reed, so I suggest you fold up and give him back what he has paid. It folded up alright, but I never got any refund. Nobody knows what happened to the money, it must have gone into the inmates' trust fund.

The next speaker is L.E. Thomas:

The Penitentiary service in those days the authorities imposed their will upon you on all occasions, there were really no rights so far as the staff was concerned. They could choose to put you in any position, move you without any reason at all, move you from day shift to night shift, to Acting Instructor, anything they so desired, there was no compensation whatever. The conditions were such that when other jobs became available, people were becoming more bold and while many at that time had put a number of years in on the temporary staff, they decided they were going to try and improve working conditions. Walter Johnstone who was perhaps one who was more capable of organizing and leading, along with Al Cox, the Electrician, who had some experience in organized labour, they began to make contacts with the A.C.S.A. of Canada, in the Post Office Branch to attempt to take some steps in organizing. The only person who seemed to have any information in organizing was a man by the name of McGrath in the Postal Department. He was quite active in the Postal Organization. He was contacted and he instructed Al Cox and Walter Johnstone as to what

U-72

steps to take. Temporarily we formed an organization that was associated with the Postal Branch and Mr. McGrath received any contributions in the way of dues and used the money to get us organized.

In 1942 Al Cox and I went to Warden Meighen and attempted to get some change in the working hours, particularly on a Saturday. We tried to put forward an idea of getting Saturday afternoon off and we naturally were rebuffed. It was then proposed that we get Saturday afternoons off alternately, again we were rebuffed and then the word got around to various portions of the Institution what we were attempting to do to improve our working hours. It was then that secretly they had formed a Union meeting and we were directed and advised by Mr. McGrath in what our rights should be and from there we began to put pressure on the authorities to improve conditions.

Soon after our attempt to have secret meetings the Warden got wind of it and one day he called a meeting of the staff and it was held in the Protestant Chapel. He then went into a tirade, dressed us all down and told us that in attempting to organize we were violating our oath of allegiance and that we were subject to being dismissed without notice, but there were no dismissals taking place and from then on we began to make progress in the way of organizing.

U-73

The next speaker is Bill LaPorte:

I started to work at the B.C. Penitentiary in 1938. When I started they already had the three shifts because I understand the two shifts ended in 1936. I was glad to have a job in the depression, and in those days you worked eleven hours a day from the 15th of March until the 15th of October, and then when the days were shorter we worked with the daylight. I found it pretty hard. I was not used to that type of work, I was used to working manually, and when I started my wife said to me, "how do you like your job?" I said, "I don't know if I will be able to stand it or not," she said, "is it that hard?" I said "there isn't much to do." They put me on the Tower at five to seven in the morning, the other officers too, we were there all day, we didn't come down for dinner, dinner was brought to us by a truck, you had a long rope with a hook on the end and we had to pull up a lunch bucket, we were not allowed to sit down, the shack on the towers could be used during inclement weather, when the weather was hot we had to be pacing the wall, and keep an eye on everything around us. I found it very hard because we were there an hour in the morning before you see other people going to work at Fraser Mills and we were still there an hour after they went home so I figured that was a pretty long day and as I was used to work manually I didn't think I would be able to stand it, of course the conditions in those towers was not the best, and as a toilet we had a bucket, we had a lifer looking after us, he was around the yard looking after the four towers, he brought us toilet-



U-74

paper once a week, and when the pail needed emptying he was there, he took it to the Engineers where there was an open toilet and everything went like that.

I was appointed to the permanent staff in 1948, for many years there was no appointment made and on the 1st of March there were a number of appointments.

I was there when they started the A.C.S. of C. It was touch and go, some of the fellows were reluctant to join because of the threat we received from Headquarters. We were supposed to be a semi-military organization and we were not allowed a Union as it was against the rules. When we began to organize we had secret meetings at the Legion Hall with the other members of the A.C.S. of C., the Post Office, Public Works, and one night we decided to call in a lawyer to see if we were semi-military or not, we were informed that there was no such thing as semi-military, it was either one or the other, so we pressed forward and little by little we were able to put more pressure on the authorities. The first one to agree with us and allow us to organize was the Minister of Justice, Mr. St. Laurent, he informed them in Ottawa there was no reason why we shouldn't be allowed to organize in order to improve our conditions.

From then on things went ahead.

In 1948 when we were sent down to Penitentiary Officers Training Course #1, there were three of us from B.C., there

U-75

was Mr. McLean who was very active in the organization being President, Mr. Foulkes and myself at Rockcliffe, and we met other Penitentiary Officers from the East and the Prairies, so we used to have a meeting once in awhile in the auditorium of the R.C.M.P. Barracks and we used to discuss wages and means to improve our conditions, I think people who are organized are better people all around.

When we came back we were asked to lecture on what we did down there, everyone did their best and we were able to communicate with our brother officers from other Penitentiaries and what they thought of our initiative in starting this organization. From then things were much better, the hours were made shorter, working conditions had improved, but of course there was a lot more to be done, it would take time. But right now I understand it is like day and night, the comfort that the officers have in the Institution, like running water in the towers, when we were told that some day that would come we never believed it, it was the same getting the eight hour day, that was another thing we didn't believe, this was all due to the organization. I think I can remember a lot more but today that is about all I can say about it, but it is interesting to look at what they have today and when we started.

U-76

This speaker is Tom Makepeace:

It looks like I am the only one here from Prince Albert, it seems like it was years and years ago, I have been retired for fifteen years now.

When I first started at Prince Albert, we all were the same but, we had a Warden back there and a Deputy Warden and a Chief Keeper who were what I would call gentlemen. They made it very easy on us, the guards, and they weren't very hard on the inmates, but were hard enough.

We got the letter from British Columbia, they were the first to organize, it was from Al Cox, there is not much for me to say, everything has been said, but we got things going and as you know I transferred from Prince Albert. The high-light of my career in the Penitentiary was getting these shorter hours. We had a good Warden, they liked football, we played football and I believe that is why we got along so good with them, like a big family.

U-77

The following is a letter read by L.E. Thomas:

Justice Branch  
A.C.S.A. of Canada

Monday, April 20th, 1942.

These delegates and Mr. Cox, President, and Mr. Auton, Secretary, attended the New Westminster Council meeting at the Legion Hall at 8:00 p.m. The three delegates representing the Penitentiary were Brothers West, Sellers and Chinn. Mr. Alex Wilson was on nights but Mr. W. Anderson more or less took his place and attended.

A letter of introduction was handed to Mr. McGrath who welcomed our delegation and formally accepted all our signed members, eighty-two, into the A.C.S.A. by motion which was seconded and carried, no contrary's to the move.

This officially inaugurated us all in a body called the Justice Branch of the A.C.S.A. Our only business was to listen to the New Westminster Local Council discussion. Secretary Auton turned over the April dues to Mr. McGrath, receipts on file, eighty-one members at fifty cents for forty dollars and fifty cents, one more member still to pay, Mr. Black. This probably will be paid at the end of the month.

We received from Mr. McGrath, seventy-nine cards, two more to come, we received a few copies of the Organizer, a magazine published by the A.C.S.A. of C. and also a few copies of the Constitution, with more to be coming forward. No further business was transacted.

J. Auton,  
Secretary

U-78

Bill Reed speaking:

I am not going to say anything about from 1942 to 1945, there is one point I would like to make, in 1932 Prime Minister R.B. Bennett couldn't balance his budget for eight million dollars, to make it balance he reduced all Civil Servants' salaries by 10%. We had \$100.00 a month, we went down to \$90.00 a month, this was restored to \$100.00 a month in 1937.

The first meeting I attended of the Justice Group was in September 1945 just after I returned after serving five years with the Army. It was the Annual Meeting, Jerry Welsford was elected President and I was elected Vice-President and a delegate to the Local Council.

Speaking of the Local Council, I think this is the focal point of our organization, everything had to go through the Local Council to be submitted to the National Council and so forth.

The Local Council was a very loose organization controlled by the Post Office and incidentally the Post Office was the only organization in the Local Council at that time.

We were very dissatisfied with the actions of the Council and with their financial structure, we protested often to the National Council and requested permission to organize a separate Local Council in Sapperton. This was refused by

U-79

Fred Knowles, who was the National Secretary-Treasurer at the time, we were told or ordered to go down to the Local Council Meeting and clean it up, we did this at the next meeting. In the meantime things were so bad in the Local Council that there was some suggestion that we would secede from the A.C.S. of C. and join with the Civil Service Federation, that was discussed and we had a big meeting at the Legion Hall on this point, but it simmered down a little bit, and when Knowles ordered us to go down to the Local Council and clean it up, we did this, after we had ideas of joining the C.S. Federation. We did this and the Justice Group took control of the Local Council, at that particular meeting Gordon Ferguson was elected President and I think it was Bob Shields of the Post Office was elected Vice-President and Bill Reed was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

We had no money in the Treasury and only two departments represented, the Post Office and the Justice.

We did a lot of ground work and the Local Council was soon increased to five departments, Justice Group, Post Office, D.V.A., Fisheries and Public Works.

When we got the check off of dues our finances improved and it wasn't long before we had a few hundred dollars in the bank instead of a few cents.

The check off of dues increased the membership of the A.C.S.A. of Canada by about two or three hundred per cent.

U-80

These statements that I am making are my impression of the Civil Service, we had five different departments of government in one organization around New Westminster. In speaking of these organizations in the Local Council, it not only helped them but it also helped us because we had their power behind us.

I remained as Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Council for eight years and during that time I couldn't say what problems we solved, we got a lot of rebuffs. Our work with the Local Council was very rewarding, when the Justice Group had a problem they had the support of the membership and the same support was accorded other departments. I attended every Convention, Regional and National for the length of time I was Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Council and that would be until about 1956, when I attended the Merger Convention when the A.C.S.A. of Canada merged with the Civil Servants Association of Ottawa in 1958, which eventually led to the merger of the Civil Service Federation into the one big organization you have now. In that ten years of office many things were improved for the Civil Servants and anybody that worked for the changes should not consider their time wasted. The work was very rewarding and we did a lot to bring to notice of government the lousy conditions that prevailed in the Civil Servants, that is the only word I can use "lousy". I am convinced that the success of the Justice Group was due very largely to one person,

U-81

Horace Darby, the untiring Secretary of the Justice Group at that time, this is the point, a new officer would start at 9:00 a.m. A card for check off for dues was delivered to him at noon and he was told he had to return the card next morning.

George Kosty was a hard worker, Treasurer for many years, and there are many people like these across Canada and I don't think the due is given them that is deserved. When I was elected as Regional Vice-President I had to resign as Secretary-Treasurer and who should take over the job but Horace Darby and during his tenure of office we merged with the Federation and became the Public Servants Association of Canada (P.S.A.C.)

The next speaker is Gordon Ferguson, in Penitentiary Service 1932 to 1953:

As luck happened I was present when the movement started, if you could call it a movement. They put a notice on the notice board that the long days were to start again, and Ollie Burgess came down to the kitchen where I was having a cup of coffee and swearing about the long hours; Ed Cadenhead walked in, Ed had been trying for some time to get permission to leave the Penitentiary Services and go into the Armed Forces, and that particular day permission came through, we were talking over a cup of coffee, we decided we wanted a Union and Cadenhead can help us, we gave



U-82

him a piece of paper and a pencil, we asked him to go around the staff, shops, and all that, and ask if they were willing to join a Union and if they were willing sign on the dotted line. Ed brought back the paper and practically everyone signed, that was the start of the Union and Ed Cadenhead was the man who got the ball rolling.

After that it was sort of trial and error, we didn't know too much about Unions and the authorities were against it so the only Union we knew of was the Post Office. There was another Union in the Customs called the Federated and it was a toss-up which one we would go to, we went to the A.C.S. of C. with the Post Office and everything worked out from there. At the start the Warden was very much against us, there were reasons for that, sometimes I think the Warden was misled by some of our own officials, however that is just my opinion.

The Warden at that time wanted all correspondence from our group to go through his hands to the authorities in Ottawa. We refused that and finally at one meeting we decided to call for a show down, there were talks of strikes, but nobody really wanted a strike, because there were several old timers there, Tommy North, Bill Bennett, and others who had thirty years service, if there was a strike they would lose everything, so we didn't want a strike. A wire was sent through to the Minister of Justice, Mr. St. Laurent, asking for permission to form a Union, his answer came back, there is no reason why we shouldn't have a Union and that is the authority under

U-83

which we worked and under which you work today.

There is not very much more that I can tell you about, there were trials and tribulations, but it worked out, the Penitentiary Group moved in on Local Council and performed well there, once you get something started everything falls into place.

But I think that the man who really got the Union started in the Penitentiary Service was Ed Cadenhead.

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B.C. PENITENTIARY"BON CHANCE" EXTRAVAGANZA

The U.S.G.E. (Union of Solicitor General Employees) 20016 of New Westminster, co-ordinated by Mr. Don Havlin, Shop Steward, held a "Bon Chance" Extravaganza, honouring the employees on the closing of the New Westminster Penitentiary, at the Hyatt Regency Ball Room on February 16th, 1980.

It was a very successful event and was attended by approximately six hundred.

The evening started out with cocktails from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The dinner prayer was given by Father Barry, long time Roman Catholic Chaplain for the Penitentiary. Dinner was served at 8:00 p.m. and included a delicious Roast Prime Ribs of Beef dinner, and one of the highlights of the evening was the dessert, Cherries Jubilee Flambee, which was served in a dimmed ballroom, with the flames of the dessert flashing like diamonds.

The two main door prizes were trips for two to Vegas, with accommodations, and several small door prizes and spot dance prizes.

*for Admin file*

 **Wilson**

091-0711

CREDIT UNION

"CREDIT UNIONS ACT"

CANADA:  
Province of British Columbia. }



No. 82

# Certificate of Incorporation

I hereby certify that

"PENITENTIARY EMPLOYEES CREDIT  
UNION"

has this day been incorporated as a Credit Union under the "Credit Unions Act."

GIVEN under my hand and Seal of Office at Victoria, Province of

British Columbia, this -29th- day

of July, one thousand nine hundred

and forty-two.

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES.

THE PENITENTIARY EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION; by Roy C.Fisher

In 1942 a group of employees of the B.C.Penitentiary applied to the British Columbia Inspector of Credit Unions to be incorporated under the "Credit Union's Act.The application was dated July 14th,1942 and Certificate No.82 in the province of British Columbia was issued on July 29th,1942.

Listed below are the charter members who applied for incorporation.

A.E.Cox	W.F.Johnstone	M.W.Black	E.G.Hatton
E.Cadenhead	J.A.Huff	C.Gardener	E.H.Wiggins
G.Duncan	J.A.Adam	B.Enefer	A.Wilson
L.Urch			

The first Annual Report of the Penitentiary Employees Credit Union dated December 31st,1942.

Total membership 33

President	F.W.Wiggins	Instructor
Vice-President	D.M.McLean	Instructor
Director	B.Enefer	Instructor
"	G.Grozier	Warder
"	W,McHardy	Hospital Nurse
Supervisory	E.Cadenhead	Guard
"	T.West	Clerk
"	M.W.Black	A/Accountant
Credit Committee	J.G.Drinkwater	Chief Engineer
"	A.L.Chinn	Instructor
"	T.O.Johnston	Instructor
Secretary-Manager	L.Urch	Clerk

<u>ASSETS</u>	December 31st.1942	<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Loans	\$186.00	Shares	\$445.55
Cash	257.34	Dividends Authorized	2.24
Furniture & Fixtures	5.00	Reserve Fund	1.15
Office Supplies	<u>1.80</u>	Undivided Surplus	<u>1.19</u>
	\$450.14		\$450.14

The Penitentiary Employees Credit Union carried on business within the walls of the penitentiary for 30 years until the amalgamation with the Federal Civil Servants Credit Union on July 12th.1972.

The growth of the credit union, new regulations etc. made it impossible for a part time manager to look after the business.

Several meetings were held with local credit unions and it was decided that the Federal would be better suited to the needs of the penitentiary employees, the main reason being payroll deductions. The federal government would only allow payroll deductions to a federal employees credit union, these deductions were a great help to both employees and the credit union in repayment of loans and for employee savings.

The penitentiary credit union placed directors on the board of the Federal credit union and kept their own credit committee to serve the penitentiary employees. This arrangement was used until both credit unions were taken over by the I.W.A. credit union several years later.

Roy Fisher was Treasurer-Manager of the B.C. Penitentiary Credit Union from June 1954 until July 1972, a period of over 18 years. He was in the credit union office located in the original penitentiary building every noon hour, his only absence was when on holidays or sickness.

The officers of the credit union met once a month in Fishers home where he maintained an outside office, at these meetings the supervisory committee would audit the previous months business. The directors would decide policy and pass or reject loans that the credit committee did not have the authority to deal with.

The statistics on the penitentiary credit union as follows.

December 31st.1971

The Penitentiary Employees Credit Union---Assets	\$250,748.00
The Federal Civil Servants Credit Union---Assets	214,609.00

The last Financial Statement of the B.C. Penitentiary Employees Credit Union dated June 30th. 1972

Total Assets	\$279,737.00
Total Loans since incorporation	\$1,904,964.00
Total Investments	63,510.00
Total Loans at this date	199,292.00
Total Shares (Savings)	217,213.00
Total Credit Union Reserves	32,995.00
Term Deposits in B.C. Central Credit Union	21,500.00
Excess of Revenue over expenditure (Profit)	7,806.00
Members as of June 30th. 1972	333

Loans Written Off since Incorporation, 4 loans for a total of \$420.26

Dues were paid to B.C. Credit Union League

Dues were paid to Westminster Chapter of Credit Unions

Agent for C.U. & C. Health Insurance

Entrance fee was 50¢

No annual assesment, some credit unions charged \$1.00 per member

Treasurer-Managers

Larry Urch	A/Accountant
Charlie Hill	Wardens Secretary
Jerry Welsford	Storekeeper
Chester Williamson	Schoolteacher-Librarian
Reg. Thompson	Accountant
John Cameron	Clerk
Ozzie Holland	Clerk
Roy C. Fisher	Stewards Bookkeeper

The B.C. Penitentiary Employees Credit Union provided service for penitentiary personnel at-

Regional Headquarters	Matsqui	Medical Center
B.C. Penitentiary	Agassiz	Staff College
Mountain Prison	William Head.	



PAST PRESIDENTS and VICE PRESIDENTS

1942..Mr.Wiggins---D.M.McLean	1957..A.Wilson---P.Willoughby	
1943..Mr.Wiggins---D.M.McLean	1958..P.Willoughby--J.Bryce	
1944..D.M.McLean---Mr.McHardy	1959..P.Willoughby--F.Leech	
1945..D.M.McLean---Mr.McHardy	1960..P.Willoughby--F.Leech	
1946..D.M.McLean---Mr.McHardy	1961..P.Willoughby--F.Leech	
1947..Mr.McHardy---C.Price	1962..P.Willoughby--F.Leech	
1948..B.Enefer---A.Wilson	1963..F.Leech	B.Laporte
1949 B.Enefer---A.Wilson	1964..F.Leech	B.Laporte
1950 B.Enefer---A.Wilson	1965 F.Leech	T.Rendell
1951 B.Enefer---A.Wilson	1966 F.Leech	W.H.Pike
1952 B.Enefer---A.Wilson	1967 W.H.Pike	F.Leech
1953 B.Enefer---L.Chinn	1968 W.H.Pike	F.Leech
1954 A.Wilson---L.Chinn	1969 F.Leech	R.Taylor
1955 A.Wilson---L.Chinn	1970 R.Taylor	T.Martin
1956 A.Wilson---L.Chinn	1971 R.Tay, or	T.Martin
	1972 R.Taylor	B.Clemens

The first monthly meetings were held in the homes of various directors, In July 1952 the directors were allowed to use the visiting room in the penitentiary, occasionally the meetings were held in the Y.M.C.A. in New Westminster, shortly after R. Fisher became the Secretary-Manager the meetings were held in his home and continued there until the credit union amalgamated with the Federal Credit Union.

In January, 1950, the Directors and Committee members were given a dinner and a social evening for their time and work in the past year, Cost \$35.00

February, 1954 the Annual meeting and Dinner was held at Fernie's restaurant, a steak dinner, admittance .75¢ per person.

September, 1954, the Treasurer-Manager was given authority to purchase 500 sheets of writing paper and envelopes, suitably printed, "Penitentiary Employees Credit Union"

In November 1954, the Treasurer-Manager requested the purchase of an adding machine, \$75.00 was approved for the purchase of a rebuilt machine.

Also in 1954 the Delegates to a Convention in the B.C. Interior received the sum of \$15.46 for expenses.

In this year the new Treasurer-Manager was given \$50.00 for auditing the books, three pages of errors were found.

The Penitentiary Employees Credit Union, with its office in the B.C. Penitentiary and under guard 24 hours a day, had to pay burglary insurance each year.

The Annual Meetings were held in a variety of places, at the beginning the meeting was followed by a social evening with coffee and doughnuts and as the Credit Union grew the meeting was followed by a Smorgasbord, Dance, Bar Service, Door Prizes, Speakers Etc.

These meetings were held in places such as;

Y.M.C.A. New Westminster

B.C. Electric Building, New Westminster

Russell Hotel, New Westminster

Fernie's Restaurant, New Westminster

Fernie's Restaurant, Hall, Sapperton

Gai Paree Supper Club, South Burnaby

Senior Citizens Center, Sapperton

Royal Canadian Legion, New Westminster

Royal Canadian Legion, Surrey

Starlite Room, Burnaby

Mercy School Hall, New Westminster

Lamplighter Supper Club, North Burnaby

Flamingo Hotel, Surrey

The cost per person from .75¢ to \$1.00 to \$2.00 to \$3.00

#### LOOKING BACK

Book No. 1, Alex Wilson

Book No. 2, Bert Enefer

Treasurer-Manager's Salary, 1948, \$150.00 per year

Treasurer-Manager's Salary, February 1949, \$20.00 per month

Treasurer-Manager's Salary, February 1951, 20% of Gross Monthly Income

Officers of the Credit Union over the Years.

J. Adam	J. Clawson	T.O. Johnston	A. Romer
W. Anderson	M. Corcoran	R. Laidlaw	H. Russell
G. Ayer	P. Dall	G. Laporte	T. Rendell
J. Auton	H. Darby	F. Leech	G. Saunders
F. Beasley	W. Decker	D.M. McLean	R. Stewart
M. Black	B. Enefer	J. Mulligan	L.E. Thomas
C. Barstow	R. Fisher	A. McNally	R. Thompson

J. Bryce	J. Fraser	T. Makepeace	C. Tams
L. Chinn	G. Grozier	C. McBeth	R. Taylor
E. Cadenhead	G. Green	J. McCutcheon	L. Urch
J. Cameron	K. Gains	A. Marasco	F. Wiggins
T. Craig	E. Huber	A. Martin	C. Williamson
H. Collins	K. Hartigan	H. Popp	E. Welsford
E. Collier	C. Hill	C. Price	A. Wilson
A. E. Clemens	O. Hollands	W. Pike	P. Willoughby

Wardens and Camp Supervisors who were members of the Penitentiary  
Employees Credit Union

T. W. Hall	D. M. McLean	C. E. DesRosiers	F. R. Graves
F. C. B. Cummins	J. Norfield	J. Grant	H. A. Collins
J. Bennett			

Quote, by Ralph Nader-U.S. Consumer Advocate

"Credit Unions must resist the temptation of becoming Big Business and retain their local ties. Too many of them are sucked into the corporate system once they become successful. These are the ones that lose touch with their membership. You should subject the principle of (bigger is better to severs scrutiny. Big isnt always beautiful. They need a strong membership base and need to stay small so that they never become remote from their members!"

Roy Fisher sums up the B.C. Penitentiary Employee's Credit Union with a quote from Omar Khayham.

"The moving finger writes, and having writ, moves on; Nor all your Piety nor Wit shall lure it back to cancel half a line, Nor all your tears wash out a word of it!"