

of all estates, moneys, and properties which have come to the hands of the Government, or of the Inspector of Asylums and Prisons belonging to the inmates of the various Asylums of the Province; giving names of parties, and also dates of receipts of moneys in detail; showing also where such moneys are deposited, and to whose credit." Carried.

THE CENTRAL PRISON.

On the order for Mr. Cameron's resolution for "a return of the Coroner's inquisition held on the body of John McKelvey, who died in the Central Prison, Toronto, on or about the 14th day of May, 1875, together with the evidence given on the said inquest, and the finding of the jury thereon; also of the Coroner's inquisition, evidence given thereon, and finding of the jury in the case of James Skye or Schyler, who died in the Central Prison, Toronto, on or about the 26th July, 1875."

Mr. CAMERON said that on the last occasion when the matter was discussed there was an attempt on the part of the Government to deceive the House. The Government led the House and the country to believe, through the votes of their Provincial Secretary, that an enquiry had been held on the body of McKelvey, and it must have been within the knowledge of the Government that no such enquiry had ever been held. The Provincial Secretary referred to a report of the Inspector of Asylums and Prisons, declaring that there was an inquest on the body of this man, that there was a *post mortem* examination, and that the verdict of the coroner's jury was Death from Natural Causes. Now this was an exceedingly circumstantial report, and it was found to be untrue. It appeared that the House was deceived by these official reports, which were submitted to them as giving accurate information in regard to the affairs of the country. The Provincial Secretary saw fit to denounce the man, who had been the chief guard, who gave the information, and said he was a man of exceedingly bad character. He (Mr. Cameron) had been furnished with documents that established this man's character from officers of the regiment in which he served before he came to Canada. The hon. member proceeded to read a number of certificates from officers of the 13th Hussars in reference to the good character and conduct of Sergeant Major Beaumont. This man had been charged with a crime and had been convicted and punished, but it was afterwards found by his officers that the punishment was wrong, and he was restored to the service, elevated in rank, and left it after eighteen years of service with an unquestioned character. He had been told that when Beaumont sought employment of the Government he presented his testimonials, and admitted that he had had the misfortune to have been convicted of a crime. He explained that when in Scotland, and while on duty, he was asked by a soldier who was about to leave the country to lend him some money, and was tendered a watch as security. The watch turned out to have been stolen, and Beaumont was convicted. The testimonials he received after a long service subsequent to his conviction testified to the truth of his explanation. He (Mr. Cameron) had, however, heard from others whose character was beyond a shadow of suspicion that unheard-of cruelty was practiced in the Central Prison. The Hon. the Provincial Secretary knew that although the Government had been able to defeat enquiry this session they would not dare to prevent it another session, and that the country would ring with the story of their misconduct. The public records had been falsified to cover up the truth. As it was now ascertained that no inquest on the body of McKelvey had been held, no report could be made of it, and he supposed he would have to withdraw the motion.

Mr. WOOD said he hoped the hon. member would not confine the motion merely to the case of McKelvey, but would make it include all other persons who had died at the Central Prison. If it was important to get at the truth with regard to McKelvey, it was equally important to get at the truth so far as all others were concerned. The hon. gentleman had seen fit in his opening remarks to make a most serious charge. He (Mr. Wood) considered it a serious charge to accuse one man of deceiving another—a more serious charge where a member of this House was accused of endeavouring to deceive the House, and a very serious charge indeed when a member of the Government was supposed to be in possession of certain facts and endeavoured to deceive the House by

withholding them. He (Mr. Wood) denied plainly and pointedly that he had been guilty of such deception (hear, hear), and in making the denial he would be obliged to a certain extent to make the matter one upon his own veracity, and that of another gentleman whose truthfulness would generally be considered quite equal to that of any member of the House. So far as he (Mr. Wood) was concerned he had no personal recollection of ever having heard of any inquest having been held on the body of any of the prisoners. He had a very dim recollection of having heard something about some coroner having been denied the right to hold an inquest; but he was quite sure that he had no knowledge directly or indirectly that would have led him to inquire as to whether an inquest had been held on the body of McKelvey or not. The first intimation he had of anything of the kind was the statement made by the hon. member for East Peterboro on the occasion of the debate which had taken place in the House a short time ago. These statements had been made in the evening. At ten minutes to six he (Mr. Wood) had risen to speak, and between six and half-past seven o'clock he had endeavoured to get hold of information regarding McKelvey's case. The Inspector of Prisons could not find the papers on the subject. They had turned up the Report of the Inspector, and when he (Mr. Wood) had been asked in the House if he knew of a certain circumstance from his own knowledge, he had simply replied that he had read it from the report of the Inspector of Prisons. He would read Mr. Langmuir's own statement on the subject, which was as follows:—

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR
OF ASYLUMS, PRISONS, ETC.,
TORONTO, Feb. 19, 1877.

In justice to myself I beg to make the following explanations in respect to a statement that appeared in my last annual report setting forth that an inquest was held on the body of a prisoner named John McKelvey, who died in the Central Prison on the 14th of May, 1876:—It subsequently appeared that no inquest was held. When you first brought the matter to my notice on the night of Dr. O'Sullivan's resolution in the Assembly, I was sure that the name of the prisoner was familiar to me, as I had a good deal of correspondence in the case, it being the first death in the prison, and it was necessary to give the Warden instructions for his future guidance in such matters. I find that in the correspondence I instructed the Warden to hold an inquest, and my printed report, which I placed in your hands, led me to believe, of course, that an inquest had been held. I regret, however, that I could not find the whole of the correspondence before your reply to Dr. O'Sullivan. In compiling my annual report, the time from the reception of the returns from the various institutions and the time that it has to be laid on the table is so short, that I necessarily must leave the statistical part very largely to my assistants—which was the case in respect to the statistics of the Central Prison, including the deaths. The clerk who had the papers in hand informed me that he must have received the information verbally, but I have no evidence of that. It is more than likely that, having the Skye papers before him at the same time, he copied the verdict of the jury in the Skye case into the papers connected with McKelvey's case regretting that the error occurred.

I have the honour,
Yours, &c.,
J. W. LANGMUIR,
Inspector.

To the Honourable
The Provincial Secretary.

He (Mr. Wood) thought that after that statement of Mr. Langmuir the hon. member for East Toronto could scarcely charge him (Mr. Wood) with deceiving the House, for he had simply given the evidence which he had before him at the time. (Hear, hear.) He had since learned more about the matter, and what he had learned he proposed to tell the House. It appeared that Dr. Riddell, coroner, had gone to the Central Prison and proposed to hold an inquest. The warden, Capt. Prince, as was well known, had formerly been Chief of Police in Toronto, and this being the first death in the prison, and acting on the practice which had been followed when he had filled that office, he had come to the conclusion that no inquest was to be held except in cases where there were suspicions as to the cause of death. When Dr. Riddell had