

At the outset of their inquiry the Commissioners called upon the warden to produce certain contracts for supplies, tenders for the same, and correspondence in connection therewith; but in a number of cases they were not forthcoming, and after much urging, the reason given by the warden's clerk, Mr. Papineau, as to why they were not produced, was, that a large number of the official documents and papers in the warden's office had been burned, and that, therefore, they were not in existence. It was found, also, that the warden was actively interesting himself in suppressing evidence, and the intimidation exercised by him over prison officials and convicts, who were in a position to give evidence, so far tended to impede inquiry, that the Commissioners felt that their only course was to recommend his suspension, and the recommendation being acted on, they were finally able to obtain access to books and papers, and to evidence which permitted the inquiry more freely to proceed. There was evidence from the first that a long course of preparation had been made for the visit of the Commissioners. Omissions in the accounts in which should be entered the dealings of the officers with the penitentiary were attempted to be corrected by making entries long after the proper date, and with figures arrived at by mere guess work. Statements had also been prepared with reference to the engineer's and other departments, as well as for the stone quarried for the use of the penitentiary, that were calculated to mislead the Commissioners, and instead of being assisted by the officers of the institution having charge of the several departments of work, in performing the duties the Commissioners had entered upon, it was made clear that a compact had been entered into by certain officers to defeat the object of the inquiry.

#### DISCIPLINARY.

Before entering upon details of the disciplinary management and its moral bearing on the officers and convicts, or upon details of the economic management, a few general observations in respect to these matters will serve to lift the veil on what is to follow. The first impression from surface indications was that the discipline was not particularly faulty, and it was only as inquiry was made into the workings of the system that its utter hollowness and deceptiveness became apparent. Under it a system of trafficking had grown up between the guards and convicts, and of petty thieving participated in by both. The convicts were allowed to make from prison material, articles of various kinds and to sell them, and very frequently to present them as gifts to the guards. There were guards who employed convicts to steal supplies from the store or from the kitchen for their use, and in some cases the convicts had facilities afforded them to steal freely from these departments on their own account.

Some of the guards with the warden's knowledge were permitted to keep supplies of fruit and other delicacies to sell to the convicts, and to employ the latter to sell them to other convicts, while some of the prisoners stationed near the elevator from the kitchen to the change room on the floor above were permitted to keep what was known to their fellow prisoners as the "restaurant" supplied with what could be stolen from the kitchen and sold to other convicts. In some instances the grocer called regularly upon certain prisoners to take their order for what they might require in his line. These, it is true, are somewhat notable instances of what was permitted under prison discipline; but they are the outward and visible signs of the general system of trafficking, and of the irregularities which prevailed more or less openly among the officers and the convicts. In the disciplinary management but little regard appears to have been paid to the book of rules and regulations. To the disciplinary staff it is practically a sealed book. No one seemed to care to know anything of its instructions, and it certainly has not been the practice to refer to it for guidance in the conduct of discipline. In the person of the warden appears to have been embodied the rules and regulations and his will was the supreme law which governed the institution. He dominated over every official whether of the penitentiary or the Department of Public Works branch, and over every department of the work. He directed in everything and from all received a willing obedience; with this he appears to have been content, and did not push his authority to restrain the irregular dealings of the officers with the institution or with the convicts. Between the warden and the majority of the staff was something both