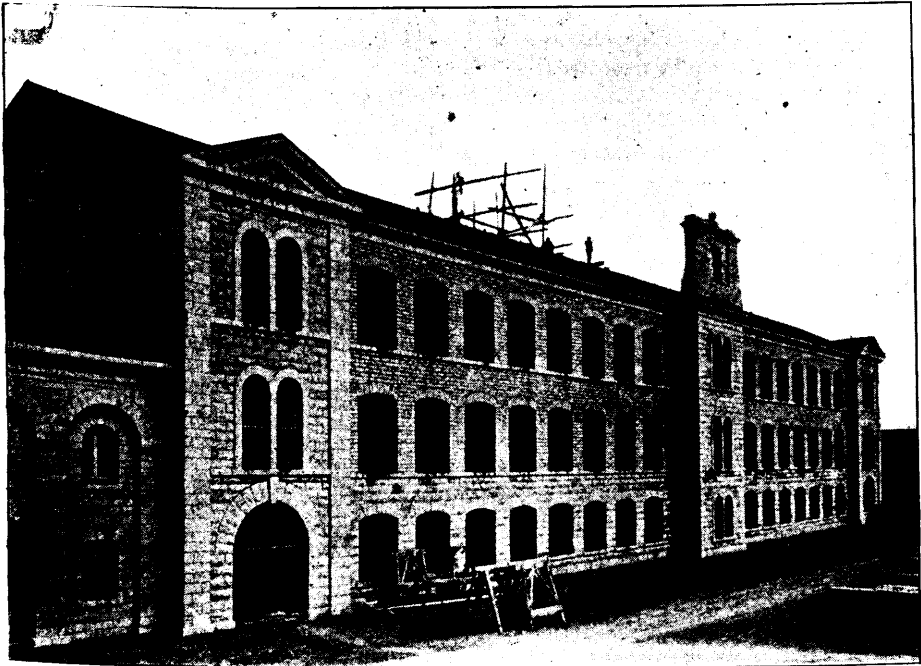




THE PRISON OF ISOLATION.

stone makes a noise almost deafening to the ears. Many convicts, who, when entering the penitentiary, are possessed of no trade whatever, leave it capable of earning an honest livelihood at from three to four and a half dollars per day at their trade. Were it not that the ventilation in all these shops is of the best, the Stone-Shed would be a very undesirable place to work, as the blue dust arising from the pounded stone is very hard to bear.

Passing on, we enter the Blacksmith Shop, where twenty-five or thirty convicts are busily engaged pounding huge bars of heated iron into various forms. All the iron work in connection with this vast institution is made here by these men, whose brawny arms and blackened faces leave no doubt as to their vocation. In connection with this department is the Machine Shop of the institution, where some of the most skilled mechanics on the Continent are busily engaged turning out

articles, the workmanship of which would command the very highest wages in outside markets.

Many years ago, a daring and skillfully prepared meeting, arranged to begin at a certain hour, was defeated in an extraordinary manner in this shop. A powerful negro who worked here was to lead the outbreak at three o'clock in the afternoon by killing the keeper in charge of the Shop, but at five minutes before the appointed hour, he was drawn by some unaccountable means into the machinery and instantly killed. This led to the defeat of their entire scheme.

Passing on we reach the Laundry and Bath-Room, where the clothing of the male prisoners is washed and dried by the most improved modern appliances. The Bath-Room is a credit to the institution and the needle shower baths, about thirty in number, are beautifully arranged.

Passing up the stairs in the centre