

work on stone for the penitentiary wall they regarded as legitimate, and yet this was open to tricks of the trade, in spoiling any of the stone they wanted to fill their own contracts. If required to work stone for any other purpose it came within the domain of convicts rights to say upon what terms the work should be done. If attempted to be done without in some way contributing to the profit and privileges of the convicts, piece after piece would be spoiled until they carried their ends. In this way the stonecutting has passed from under disciplinary control and has been conducted as the convicts wished to have it. This department should have been placed under a thoroughly competent instructor, one possessed of the faculty of managing men, and if this had been done it would have resulted in the saving of thousands of dollars in the construction of prison work.

STONE QUARRY.

Previous to 1896 the stone for prison use was supplied by contract, worked by convict labour, and from quarries on the prison property. The transactions of the penitentiary in connection with the stone contracts have resulted in a great waste of public money. The part taken by the warden in these transactions throws upon him much of the responsibility for the money wasted. Not until very recently, however, and against the will of the warden, has stone quarrying become a prison industry under prison control. The stone now being quarried on the prison farm is of a much better average quality than the stone delivered by the contractor, by which it would appear that there was no necessity for accepting the poor quality of stone delivered by the latter. All the stone delivered at the prison has been for use in prison construction. When the construction shall have been completed it will not be practical to make stone quarrying and stonecutting commercially successful as a prison industry, therefore, the time cannot be far distant when they will cease to give employment to the convicts. It were wise to consider whether it would not be advantageous to introduce into this prison the manufacture of woollen cloth, woollen blankets, and knitted goods such as are used in the penitentiaries and other departments of the public service. There could also be introduced the manufacture of cocoa mats and matting, brushes of various kinds and certain articles of furniture, such as are used in the several departments of Government.

WATER SUPPLY AND FIRE PROTECTION.

The water service of the penitentiary is supplied from a pumping station located near the river bank and about 1,500 feet from the prison. The station is equipped with duplicate pumps of sufficient capacity to afford reasonable fire protection to the prison property. The fire fighting apparatus consists chiefly of 700 feet $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. canvas hose now more than seven years old and unreliable for fire duty. There is no fire organization in the village, and in the event of fire in the penitentiary, sole reliance must be placed on the fire appliances with which it is provided. For this reason they should be sufficient and reliable, which now they are not. The number of wooden buildings within the prison are an element of danger from fire in the dry season of summer, and there should be no neglect in keeping the fire apparatus in a fit condition for duty. In connection with the water service there is being supplied from the prison water mains, water to the Convent of the Sisters of Providence and to two houses belonging to Cy. Bisson, merchant, for which no charge is made. There is nothing on record to show that any authority was ever given for a water service to these premises, and the privilege should not be continued unless fair compensation is given for the water supplied. As to the supply given to the convent, it appears from the evidence of Senator Bellerose and others that negotiations were entered into with some of the Ministers with a view to securing the concession, and their consent obtained, but no record of this appears. In the case of Bisson it is alleged he was given permission to connect his own dwelling with the prison water service on condition that the drain from the chaplain's residence might be connected with his, but it also appears that since that time he has taken upon himself to connect another building belonging to him with the same service without the knowledge or consent of any person in authority.