

block was busily engaged in cutting the bars of the inner door when discovered by the guard who shot him dead.

The cells are furnished with iron beds, on which is a neat-fitting straw mattress, and sufficient comfortable rugs to suit the season. During the day this bed is folded up against the wall. The stool and wash basin are the only other articles of furniture in the cell. Each cell is furnished with a ten-candle power incandescent electric lamp, the lights being on until nine o'clock each night. The smallness of the cells is the only thing which convicts have to complain of in the Kingston Penitentiary.

WHEN A PRISONER ARRIVES.

On his arrival at the institution the convict is taken before the Steward, who strips, bathes, measures, weighs and takes a minute description of him, dresses him in the grey check, worn by all new comers, assigns him his prison number, which is stamped on his clothing together with the numbers of the range and cell he is to occupy. After this he is taken before the Warden, who puts him through a catechism of searching questions, the object of which is to determine the cause of his crime and previous record in order that the Warden may fully understand the character and capability of the new comer. The Warden then assigns him his work, and his life in the prison has begun. If at the

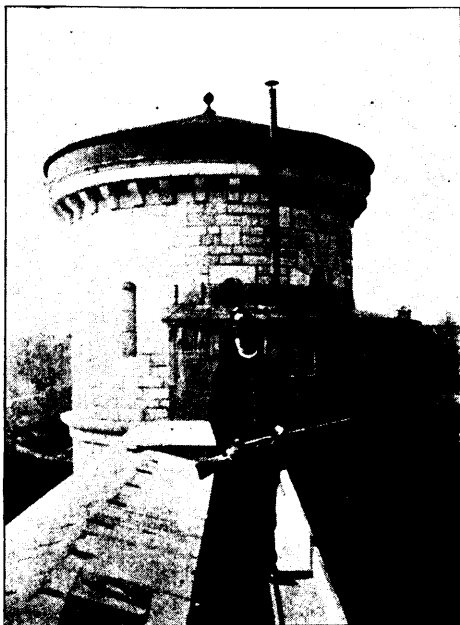
end of six months the reports of his conduct and industry are both good, he receives a suit of plain grey, known as the good conduct clothing, having nothing on them excepting the numbers before mentioned, but should he at any time be punished for any reason whatever, he will receive a suit of red, black-checked clothing known in the prison as the third grade. By this the convicts can readily determine the standing of their fellow-prisoners. This grading in clothing has been lately introduced, and is having very satisfactory results,

as no convict is desirous of appearing in the third grade clothing.

THE FEMALE PRISONERS.

In the female prison, which is situate in the north wing of the old block, everything is neatly and cleanly kept. There are twenty-seven prisoners confined in this ward, under the charge of a Matron and a Deputy. The women as a gen-

eral thing are quiet and industrious, and do a large amount of knitting, sewing and such like work for the institution. They are neatly attired in blue and white dresses, and wear white muslin caps. Four of them are serving terms for life, while several others are sentenced for long periods. The female ward is kept entirely separate from the rest of the institution and managed upon principles different to those applied to the management of the male wards.



A GUARD ON DUTY.