

INDUSTRIES.

The trades carried on in the penitentiary are blacksmithing, carpentering, painting, stonecutting, stone quarrying and tinsmithing, all of which are engaged almost exclusively in supplying goods and materials for the use of the penitentiary. There are at rare intervals orders placed with the tailor and shoe shops for supplies required in other public departments, and some work is from time to time done for people in the neighbourhood, but not to an extent to make this a marked feature of these industries. In what follows as to the working of the industries there is in all cases the reservation as to their being conducted without a proper observance of the requisition system and with the irregularities which have been referred to elsewhere, the present purpose being to deal with them in respect to the service they give to the necessary penitentiary work. The tailor and shoe shops are in a good building and are well arranged; and under proper regulations and strict discipline could be made to produce a large amount of goods required for use in other public departments as well as supplying the needs of the penitentiary. The carpenter shop, although fairly equipped for plain carpenter work, has little or nothing to do. There is no work of construction going on in which carpenter work forms a part, and the demands upon the shop are limited to ordinary repairs. As is always the case where there are idle men, with tools and material at hand, there is a temptation to be doing something, and the result is this shop has been going on in a disorderly fashion, a prey to every abuse, and attended with a large loss of material taken from both the public works and penitentiary supplies, for which no proper return has been made. The shop has not been in charge of a competent instructor, and having little or nothing to do except in the way of making trifling repairs, it scarcely deserves to be called an industry.

BLACKSMITH SHOP.

The blacksmith shop should be made much more useful than it is in the work of the prison. The extraordinary thing in connection with it is, that much of the work it should do is done by outside tradesmen. The dressing of stonecutting tools and horseshoeing which must cost hundreds of dollars yearly, to a large extent is done outside the prison. Much of the work it should do, it does not; and work it ought not to do, that it does. The regular and necessary work of the prison is in large part avoided, and the illicit work of the officers and others has a considerable share of its attention. If brought under proper regulation as the rules of the prison provide, there would be a saving in having it do the work of the prison, and an additional saving in the cost of material used in the work done for officers, for which the prison is not paid. The blacksmith instructor in charge of this department should be required to do all the work of the prison, and if not competent, should give way to another who is.

STONE-SHED.

The stonecutting has not been under the charge of a capable instructor. He was not a tradesman and was unable to properly instruct in stonecutting. In no department of trade is it more necessary that the instructor should be a man of knowledge and skill if waste of material is to be avoided.

This officer was compelled to rely on a convict to lay out every important piece of work, being himself incompetent to do it. He was no less incompetent to instruct than to how the work should be done. The convicts all knew this and having no confidence in his skill ventured to do pretty much as they pleased with the material they were working on.

From this they were led to destroy the stone for use in the wall that they might use it as "corporation stone" in filling their own contracts, elsewhere referred to in this report.

They had set up among themselves a system of convicts rights. This system was applied to the work they might or might not be properly called upon to perform. To