

for their own use by the convicts on supplying their own material and paying twenty-five cents per day for convict labour. In practice it has been the custom for the officers to offer, in some cases, material entirely unsuitable, in other cases insufficient material, and in still other cases a broken piece of board, or a piece of cordwood picked up in the prison yard, and utterly useless as material from which to make the goods ordered by them, when all the unsuitable material would be thrown aside, and the proper material and any that might be lacking for the purpose required, would be taken from the penitentiary stores. There is no regular system of keeping the time of convicts employed on any piece of work, and the result is, the articles so produced are charged for at a few cents by the trade instructor, apparently on the principle that the party ordering it is "one of us" and ought not to be made pay more than a pittance for them. The privilege of obtaining convict labour at twenty-five cents per day is limited to the officers of the institution, to the exclusion of all others, who are required to pay fifty cents per day, but to evade the exclusion officers requisition for goods for their friends and neighbours, thereby admitting all to the privilege. In the stone quarrying department there have been the most flagrant waste and abuse. Enormous quantities of stone have been accepted from the contractor for use in the penitentiary wall that was not of the description called for by the contract, and that was absolutely unfit for any purpose to which it could be put in connection with the penitentiary work, and had to be thrown on the waste dump. Much of this stone, when delivered, was measured by convicts and paid for on their measurement. By the system pursued in the industries there was a premium put on the waste of stone. No charge was made for waste stone to those who applied for permission to cart it away. If they desired selected waste they would go to a convict working in the stone-shed and bargain with him to select a certain number of toise of a good quality of waste stone, roughly dressed to dimensions, and the price agreed upon to be paid to the convict. The contracting convict bargains with other convicts working in the stone-shed to assist him in getting out stone to fill his contract. All the convicts in the stone-shed are employed dressing stone to dimensions for use in the penitentiary wall, now a number of years in building. As illustrating the convicts methods in securing selected waste stone, they take advantage of there being a nice sound piece of stone on the blocks, nearly dressed, ready for the wall; but before the last stroke of the hammer is given, the remark is made "this will make good corporation stone" when it is struck a blow knocking off a corner to spoil it for the wall and it is then worked up to fill the convict's contract. By "corporation stone" is meant stone in which convicts have an interest. If the stone is for an official the convicts have an additional stimulus given them to select just such as are wanted, by gifts of tobacco, &c., and in this way large quantities of stone have been taken from the prison, for which it has received absolutely nothing. It need, therefore, be no matter of surprise that the quantity of stone paid for by the Department of Public Works in prison construction and for use in penitentiary wall is \$65,662.52 in excess of the value of the stone contained in the work erected, calculated at the contract price. For all this excessive and wasteful expenditure of money the penitentiary has practically nothing to show, it being the result of the greatest maladministration. No officer has profited to a greater extent by the abuses of the industrial system than the warden, as will appear in the details hereafter given.

#### POLITICAL.

That the warden used his position and that of the prison organization under his control to actively promote the interest of his political friends will be abundantly shown by the evidence.

With this brief reference to the characteristics of penitentiary administration the Commission will now submit in considerable fulness of detail several matters into which they have extended their inquiries with the conclusions at which they have arrived respecting them, and will conclude with the recommendations which as a result of their inquiry, they have been led to adopt.