

these would have been paid, had the articles been bought at retail, wholly or in respect of the brass, and of the most-kind: the brass alone is said to be worth thirty-five cents: a very good racket brace can be bought at retail for 91<sup>cts</sup>, while a first-rate article can be bought for 91<sup>cts</sup>, and the Department pays 92<sup>cts</sup> for one which is regarded simply as a tool, is worthless.

It is evident therefore that so long as the present system of purchasing by contract, and awarding to the lowest bidder obtains, additional precautions must be adopted to save the Department from being over-reached by unscrupulous contractors; and to that end the schedule should be carefully revised by Inspector McFadden, and a list made of very articles.

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