

File No. 10178 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

7835

Bids were asked, through a ten days' notice, for the work commencing September 24, 1908 and opened October 14, 1908. About one week later a report was made, on tabulation of the bids, and contract awarded to David Peoples (see proposal in back of specifications); in their proposal they named Van Dorn as the constructor of the steel cell work.

On page 36 of the specifications, the specifications call for a door-locking device equal to the Pauley system, - which fact itself shows that it was the intention on the part of the city not to debar anyone from bidding who had a system of a proper standard.

The contractors having submitted to me the names of three firms as having devices of proper standard, I visited Rahway, Newark and Cleveland, and upon my return I stated to the Board of Awards that I considered the Pauley system and the Van Dorn system fully equal, and the contractor could use either one in compliance with the specifications; I also stated to the Board that I had examined into, and seen tested, the tool proofing of the bars, and had brought samples with me, (samples exhibited to the Board), and I recommended that White Diamond method for the reason that, in the White Diamond process, the entire outer surface is tool proof, and the five ply system has the outer surface of soft metal which can be readily cut or sawed. After laying this before the Board of Awards, I gave a written order for the White Diamond tool proofing.

There is no change in specifications whatever, as the requirements of the specifications are for tool proofing materials, and the whole question is whether the entire encasement of the bar is better than two internal layers. And this is a question I have, after letting the Board of Awards know, approved as the best materials, and I claim to be the proper officer to decide such a question in building construction.

I herewith submit to you a copy of letter as appears on the record of the Board of Awards, which plainly shows that these questions have been passed upon by the Board of Awards, and the statement of the Mayor, Mr. Hunsen, Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hooper that they had seen these samples I submitted proves conclusively that no underhand practice has been resorted to.