

File No. 10178 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

7872

fact in this case as well as questions of law, the latter of which have already been largely determined by the opinion heretofore rendered by the City Solicitor. I respectfully submit that the questions of fact should be determined by the Mayor, or by competent persons selected by him.

Very curiously, there appears to be, in the minds of some, a presumption in favor of the Van Dorn steel; it should be entirely the reverse, because (1) It is a cheaper material. (2) The test at the Ellicott Machine Shops showed that with a file and saw, in a little over thirty minutes, one-third of a bar was cut through, which demonstrated that the steel was not tool proof. (3) Evidence produced that the Van Dorn steel bars at the Binghamton Jail, New York, were easily cut through, and that a number of prisoners had escaped. (4) Evidence produced that the Van Dorn Company had attempted to bribe a leading Pittsburg architect to make a similar substitution.

While I believe that it is very unlikely that a prisoner at the Baltimore City Jail could ever be able to cut through the bars of his cell, and of the doors and windows, and so make his escape, it is, nevertheless, our duty to see to it that the best material is used, and that material, I believe, was called for in the specifications prepared by the architect and the Inspector of Buildings.

I, therefore, request that, as the Inspector of Buildings has not shown you any necessity for the changes he has attempted to make, you order the contractor to proceed with the work according to the specifications, which, in the opinion of the City Solicitor heretofore filed, called for five-ply material.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Leigh Bonsal.

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GANE & HAMAN  
Counsellors at Law,  
1137-1159 CALVERT BUILDING.

Baltimore, July 26, 1909.

Edgar A. Poe, Esq.,  
City Solicitor, Baltimore, Md.

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Dear Sir:

Re- Steel Work for Baltimore City Jail.

Referring to the question now pending before you, relating