

File No. 10178 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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to the above subject, and in response to the inquiry which you informally submitted to us some time ago, and which we, in turn, submitted to our client The Van Dorn Iron Works, we have to advise you that they write us, saying:

"Will state that we shall not make any further reductions on the City Prison of Baltimore, as we have already made all the reduction we can afford to."

The reduction to which they refer is in the sum of about \$1500, involving certain changes which they advise us were suggested by them and render the work more valuable and modern, and hence, as they say, the City of Baltimore has an improved prison at a reduction in price.

They further advise us that if you are in search of actual information regarding the cost of the production of their work, you should consult such people as Pratt and Whitney and a number of large automobile works. It is, they say, much more expensive to harden long bars, which have to be straightened, as the furnace, tanks, and everything connected with the same are of a much more expensive nature.

They further advise us that if you go to their competitors your information will be entirely partisan, and valueless.

They further say:-

"It is true that we do sometimes make differences in bids owing to constructions and conditions of the work. We can sometimes do a job for less money with our material than the five-ply; this depends on the price of the parts of each material, but taking the last quotations we have from the Crucible Steel Company, there is not any practical difference."

In reply to the letter read by Mr. Bonsal at the last meeting of the Board of Awards, the Van Dorn Iron Works advises us that they have received no complaint from the Board of Supervisors since their work was done at Binghamton some years ago. They enclose us, and we are sending you herewith, a copy of a recommendation as to their work, signed by the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Broome county, in which, we understand, Binghamton is situated, in which the writer says, as you will note,-

"Thorough tests were made by experts hired by our Board of Supervisors, and they pronounce the cells to be perfect in every way, and thoroughly burglar proof."

Our clients further advise us to this effect:-