

the practical workings of the Institution, examined carefully all its various departments, and with equal cheerfulness and justice testify to the neatness, cleanliness and order which characterize them throughout. Every assistance was afforded by the Directors, Warden and other officers to the committee in the prosecution of their investigation.

The report of the Directors and Warden recently presented to the Legislature and which, on examination, was found to be correct, disclosing the financial condition of the Penitentiary, renders any further statement unnecessary on that subject. The Directors and Warden seem to have manifested a most commendable interest in the welfare of the Institution, and have labored with conscientious perseverance and assiduity to make it self-sustaining, and the committee express the belief that if the unforeseen destruction of a part of the works by fire, and the consequent annulling of contracts, and the more lamentable National troubles, had not occurred the State would, in a very short time, have been relieved of the appropriations which are imperatively demanded by the necessities of the case.

A great part of the goods and wares manufactured by the convicts was disposed of in the Southern markets, which are not now accessible, and there is on hand a heavy stock that can not be made available except at heavy loss, which the Directors do not justify in incurring. Owing to the fact that raw material can not be purchased at such prices as will make the results of labor remunerative, and the difficulty of sale, many of the convicts are compelled to remain comparatively idle, to the great detriment of the interests of the State and to the serious moral disadvantage of the prisoners. It is fondly to be hoped, however, that this unfortunate state of things will be of merely temporary duration, and that a speedy settlement of our grievous national difficulties will instil new life and vigor into every branch of trade, and that every department of labor will be busy with successful energy. The committee have every assurance that the authorities controlling the Penitentiary will avail themselves of any happy change of affairs to turn it to advantage. The committee believe that the State should conduct the labor, as far as possible, and thus realize the profits that enure to contractors. To this end they recommend that agricultural implements, and other articles of indispensable use should be manufactured, and that the State should furnish its own machinery of the latest and most improved character.

An improvement in the machinery now used, which is comparatively inefficient, would, in the opinion of the committee, be of signal service and amply repay in a short time the necessary expenditure. The committee further recommend that