

fire may have been in other stoves, as it is usual to have them at that season; all of which were extinguished, to my knowledge, about 5 o'clock, P. M., of that day, (Saturday.) In the usual course of business there would be no fires during the whole day of Sunday, and as far as I know there was no fire on that Sunday; but I was not there until after the fire.

From what I have learned from the Deputy Warden, the fire was the act of incendiary convicts, as he had ascertained by their confessions, accomplished by the use of slow-matches and powdered sulphur and rosin. That they had applied the matches in the early part of the day, probably about 11 o'clock.

After Mr. Roberts had ascertained these facts, in company with some of the officers in the Warden's Lodge, an experiment was tried with the yellow cotton yarn, which the convicts confessed to have used as matches. The experiment proved that the yarn made a good slow-match, and that it would have been easy to have communicated the fire by such matches.

The convicts who cleaned the dormitories are engaged on Sundays at this work about 10½ A. M., or later, while religious services are performed.

The distance from the door of the dormitory to the pen is, say 150 to 200 yards, this route would pass my shop, and would also pass two of Mr. Murdock's shops and dry-houses, the State dry-house and smoke-house, and also Mr. Murdock's broom corn shed. Convicts passing those shops, if properly supervised by an officer or officers, could not have obtained access to them.

Question. Who were interested in the business carried on by you at the Maryland Penitentiary?

Answer. My son-in-law, William Howard, and myself were interested in the business referred to.

Question. What was the amount of loss sustained from the fire of the 23d December, 1860, by you and your partner; state the details, and show how such loss is made up.

Answer. According to an estimate made by Mr. Conner and myself:

Materials prepared in the shop, &c., destroyed, would have made up 82,500 barrels. The barrels were sold for 35 cents a piece. Hoops and labor 9 cents—26 cents—
amounting to \$21,450.00

Besides on hand 1200 barrels, at 36 cents, 432.00

Loss in machinery, dry houses, cost \$9,500 worth, 7,100.00

\$28,982.00