

contract of Mr. Duvall upon his paying the rent of his shop, the hire of his men and water rent to January 1st, 1861, or to surrender to the State the bricks in his dry house, and to pay his hire of prisoners up to the date of the fire, to wit: the 23d December, 1860, and water rent of shop to 1st January, 1861.

The sixty hands that has been returned to the State upon the termination of the above contract we are placing on the looms as fast as circumstances will permit.

*Question.* Will you state to the Committee the value to the State of Maryland, in a financial point of view, of the contract system in the management of the Maryland Penitentiary, and how long such system has continued here, and state also how the sums realized by the Institution under the contracts made by the present administration, until the commercial and political troubles of the country arose, will compare with the amounts received under previous administrations?

*Answer.* I consider the contract system has been a benefit, in a financial point of view. It went into operation a short time before the present Board came into power. The Institution under the contract system, which we increased more than double after we came here, came nearer paying the expenses of the same than formerly. I did not consider the contract with Mr. Duvall as profitable, for many reasons. From the nature of the employment, extra clothing was required by the convicts, and they were subject to casualties.

*Cross-examined by Mr. Gill.—Question.* In the conversation you had with Mr. Duvall prior to or at the time of the settlement testified to by you, was anything said in relation to the cause of the fire at Mr. Duvall's shop?

*Answer.* I think not.

*Question.* Were you not aware that, owing to the loss Mr. Duvall sustained by fire, that he had no other means to rebuild and carry out the first contract?

*Answer.* I had no knowledge of Mr. Duvall's means, any further than that I heard him say that his all was invested in the business.