

on loans, and instalments to the sinking fund, it would require each convict, old and young, men and women, to earn about thirty-three cents per day, in ordinary times, and for the last year, nearly forty cents, to make an aggregate equal to all the demands against the house. But these same data furnish estimates from which it appears that about one half of the convicts only should be considered as effective hands; and they have by their labor to support the balance, thus requiring each effective hand to make from 66 to 80 cents, instead of 33 to 40. The convicts who are considered inefficient are infirm and invalid, some of whom do no work, and others much less than full task; the men engaged in work which yields no profit, such as cooking, baking, cleaning the prison, hospital, &c. and the women who are estimated at one third. The effective men are about 140; and the proportion of the labor of the other prisoners which is considered available, makes the whole amount of effective labor equal to about one half of the whole number of prisoners.

By reference to the testimony it will appear that an out door weaver will earn about 60 or 70 cents a day, (see testimony, p. 384,) and that they can weave twenty-five or thirty yards per day. Now, the task of the prison is about twenty yards for the long days, if the hand be very efficient—all over the task is allowed the convict as extra work. It then becomes necessary for the penitentiary to make 75 to 80 cents per day from its efficient hands, while an out door weaver makes only 60 or 70, without any deduction for over time, which, if allowed to the prison instead of the convict, would enhance its profits. From this it appears that, besides not making as much as they could make by a more rigid system, they are compelled to derive from what they do make a certain amount annually, and are not at liberty to reduce the price of their goods and undersell the other manufactories, just to suit their own whim or caprice, as some suppose. The necessary consequence is, that their goods must be offered and sold at the highest market price, and they must realize as much as possible, because they cost more, and the expenses of the prison must be paid. If they did not do this the directors would be arraigned at the bar of public opinion as unfaithful agents, and with some reason it might then be said, that the reduced prices of their manufactures necessarily depressed the prices of other goods of that kind, and thereby not only injuriously affected the honest mechanic, but created burdens which the State would have to discharge.

These remarks, perhaps, belong to another part of the report, but as the manufactures of the prison necessarily affect its pecuniary condition, it seemed proper that we should make this explanation to account for the apparent difference between the labor of the prisoner (estimating the whole number as doing full work,) and the results of that labor in its fiscal operations. The committee are of opinion, upon this point, that so long as the authorities of the prison attempt