

they would not then come into very injurious competition with any particular class of the community; but, as regards any other employment, if it be performed generally by manual labor, they would certainly come into competition with that particular branch of industry.

To 58, I answer, that the Penitentiary certainly has the advantage of the credit or money of the State to enable the directors to make their purchases of the raw materials at lower rates than an individual; but whether they pay as much for all purchases as other buyers or not, I have not the means of knowing.

To 59, I answer, that the weavers in Baltimore can make as good hand loom fabrics as are made at the Penitentiary; but they cannot sell them as cheap, because their labor costs them more than the labor of the convicts in the Penitentiary; but I believe they can sell them as cheap as fabrics of the same quality made by weavers in other places; and as regards the difference between the price of hand loom goods of weavers in Baltimore and other places east of Baltimore, if there be any, I have not the means of knowing.

To 60, I answer, that all kinds of plain goods are generally manufactured by power looms; and some others, that are striped in the chain, such as those commonly called the Wilmington stripes and bedticking, &c.; checks and plaids are generally manufactured by hand, because of the frequent changes that are necessary on account of different colors, and that cannot be so easily or profitably effected by power looms; they cannot, therefore, be both manufactured by power looms as profitably as to manufacture plaids and checks by hand.

“To the last interrogatory, I answer that it appears to me that a portion of the convicts might be profitably employed on such fabrics as are manufactured by power looms; for instance, in the manufacture of bedticking and other stripes, as will more fully appear by reference to a calculation which I made during last session of the Legislature in regard to the manufacture of bedticking in the Penitentiary, which is herewith submitted—the committee will perceive that this calculation is made upon the supposition that the whole weaving department was to be employed in the manufacture of that article alone, and that they would weave the same number of yards as they now do of all the different fabrics manufactured in the Penitentiary, and it will be seen that profits over and above the cost of the cotton yarn and dyeing, &c. amounts to thirty-three thousand nine hundred and forty-six dollars and eighty cents. .