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[DOCUMENT A.]

MARYLAND PENITENTIARY, Jan. 18th, 1840.

Comparative estimate of the value of bread stuffs, as found by an experiment of twenty-one days, ending on the 10th inst.

During the above period there were in the institution 328 prisoners, each entitled to $1\frac{1}{4}$ pounds of flour per day: requiring in the 21 days a consumption of 44 bbls. less 14 pounds; which, if the flour had been of rye and middling, (as uniformly in use here,) and at the low estimate of \$4.50 per bbl. would have cost \$198 00 and would have produced 12,054 lbs. bread.

But in the 21 days above named, superfine flour and corn meal had been substituted; and it was ascertained that 30 bbls. of su-

perfine flour at \$5.50 per bbl., costing	\$165 00
And 12 bbls. corn meal at \$2.25 per bbl.	27 00

Which together amounting to \$192 00

Would produce as much bread as the former (on account of being stronger and bearing much more water) and of a much better quality, with a saving to the institution of \$6.00 in the 21 days.

WM. HOULTON, Warden.

To JOHN B. SEIDENSTRICKER, Esq.,
Chairman of Committee of Investigation.

[DOCUMENT B.]

MARYLAND PENITENTIARY, Jan. 16th, 1840.

Hon. J. B. Seidenstricker,
Chairman, &c.

The Committee of the House of Delegates on the Penitentiary, having enquired of the board of directors of this institution their opinion as to the necessity of continuing the office of agents, reply that they have had the same under consideration and they unite in the opinion, that whilst the institution would be saved an expense of about \$600 by abolishing one of those officers, the duties thereof could be readily performed by one competent person; and they do not doubt that they would be thus discharged safely to the State and to the interests of its institution.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't,

JACOB G. DAVIES, President,
On behalf of the Board of Directors.