TO TRAIN MILITIA FORCES.

SUGGESTIONS BY THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

POINTS FROM THE REPORT SOON TO BE MADE BY GENERAL BRECKINRIDGE—WHY THE NATIONAL GUARD SHOULD BE MADE TO WORK IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REGULARS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Nov. 29.—General Breckinridge, Inspector-General of the Army, is a firm believer in the efficacy of the National Guard, and a strong advocate of its more effective training in close conjunction with the regulars, to the end that the United States may be always ready for an emergency requiring the speedy mobilization of an adequate defensive force. In his annual report to the Secretary of War, shortly to be issued, he has developed thorough plans for realizing the highest benefits from the State militia, and these are likely to be adopted and put into effect early in 1898. His suggestion for a consolidated encampment of various volunteer troops with regulars has been promptly indorsed by General Miles and Secretary Alger, and will undoubtedly be carried out next summer, while the proposed inspection will be introduced earlier. On this subject General Breckinridge says:

"The general policy of our Nation has never favored in peace times the maintenance of a large standing or regular Army, though our growth gives additional importance to our position in the family of nations and lends weight to our judgment, which becomes more and more difficult for others to ignore. Our geographical position with reference to other Powers is such that the possibility of war easily appears very remote at any given time and the sudden precipitation of such conditions almost impossible. A regular establishment of sufficient strength to contend, unaided by the militia or volunteers, with any declared enemy has never existed. Therefore we may never hope for a permanent Army strong enough to bear unaided even the first shock of hostile demonstration from any Power likely to invade our borders, much less to fight a war to a successful termination or to invade the territory of another Power; and the fact is self-evident that hereafter, as heretofore, our wars must be fought by volunteers fresh from peaceful vocations, under new relations with their comrades, and somewhat unfamiliar with the environment and requirements of a campaign, and the organizations of the regular establishment will become a part of this army in all except its designation as 'regulars.'

NO INTEREST MORE IMPORTANT.

"Each succeeding war since the establishment of the Government, through the excessive waste of life and money, has demonstrated that there is no interest of more vital importance than the proper organization and instruction of the militia, and no class of individuals can be more interested therein than the officers of the Regular Army, as their fortunes must be indissolubly joined together for success or failure as comrades in any great war. Every step that can be taken in times of peace toward perfecting this comradeship would seem the part of wisdom, and the importance of this seems to be constantly growing and becoming more clearly recognized. Greater zeal and interest have recently been manifested in military subjects throughout the nation generally; but this interest is largely maintained through the personal efforts of the members of the several organizations, while often receiving inadequate encouragement from the States or from the General Government. The Secretary of War, in 1891, assigned the duty of formulating instructions for officers assigned to the inspection and instruction of militia, and of receiving, considering and distributing their reports, to the Inspector-General of the Army. About the time this order was made, the Association of the National Guard of the United States met in convention in the city of Washington, which afforded an excellent opportunity to elicit the views of the representatives from a[illegible] the States on the subject of inspection or instruction by officers of the Army.

"This office was favored with visits from the president of the association and other prominent representatives of the National Guard; and, later, a number of these gentlemen were invited to express their views and indicate their wishes as to the best course to be pursued and methods to be adopted in the inspection and instruction of the National Guard by Army officers at their annual encampments. Valuable responses were received, and the letter of instruction to inspecting officers was made to conform as far as practicable to the views and suggestions expressed by these gentlemen, since which time the interest of this Department in the development of the National Guard, or volunteer militia, has been second to none, and extracts published in former reports will show the interest and the tenor of the instructions, and the spirit shown in this duty under the supervision of the Inspector-General's department. For instance, in 1895, Colonel F. V. Greene, of the 71st New-York Infantry, late Captain of the Corps of Engineers, said:

"'I think it would add to the value of these inspection reports if they were invariably made by field officers of the rank of lieutenant-colonel, or major, and the selection of inspecting officers made as a rule from officers in active service on the plains. It would also be advantageous if officers of the Inspector-General's department could be sent to one or more of the States having large bodies of troops, like New-York, Pennsylvania, or Massachusetts.'

BOTH A DUTY AND A GRATIFICATION.

"The inspection of the regulars, under the supervision of this Department, is believed to be sufficiently beneficial to be maintained, and, of course, it would be of similar service to these forces, and if the Department can be of service it is not only a duty, but also a gratification. If the encampments of the several States could follow each other consecutively, and progressively from year to year, then there might be less impediment in the way of having each of the encampments as instructive as possible, and having the whole system lead through all the experiences of an army, up, at least, to an army corps, as it would actually appear in war. This can easily be managed without much additional expense, and merely requires a wise and proper combination of what already exists both among the State and National forces.

"The most reliable National feeling and effective comradery between the citizens, but especially among the armed forces of the States, must be found and maintained in the National Guard, whether the Guard is run wholly on State lines or with such combinations as the best interests of the military service demand, and which have been exemplified both in camp and rifle practice. All feel that there is a broader and higher view, which every one recognizes must be immediately accepted in case of war, and could be partially accepted now by mutual consent under those higher patriotic motives which may lie dormant in peace but are the very soul of every branch of the military establishment, whether regular or militia; and it is this view of our present military service, which is but preparatory to the more exacting demands of war, that deserves the most attention.

"The appropriation of a more adequate sum by the general Government for the maintenance of the National Guard may be essential to any great or rapid progress. It is the duty of the Nation to provide for the common defence, and every dollar spent in wise preparation saves two in war; so it is evident in a purely business way that the general Government can well afford to give a dollar for every dollar raised by a State.

"Much more could be said in commendation of these National military forces, and numerous instances could be quoted in evidence of the willingness, readiness and promptness with which the volunteer forces respond to calls in time of trouble. But it is known to all men. The militia has done its duty and acquitted itself creditably in the past. It should be supported unstintingly, and the Government could make no expenditure with better results than a liberal provision for its soldiery. The National Guard deserves it; the stability of the Republic and the safety of the people demand it; and the respect for our flag abroad is gauged by the strength of its defenders. And it is believed that the utmost efficiency for war will be advanced by all parts of the military establishment working together intelligently, zealously and harmoniously, just as they would have to act in war.

A FAIR ILLUSTRATION.

"Perhaps a fair illustration of the good results of this intelligent and patriotic concert of action can be found in the issuance of some of the most important general orders concerning military instruction and practice, and also in some of the books of regulations. This Department has done what it could, and is connected, necessarily, with every branch of the military establishment where the best discipline, efficiency, instruction or economy is desired, and it has thoroughly realized the importance of joining hands with the National Guard by all proper means; and it is believed the beneficial intercourse between the two branches of our military establishment—the regulars and the National Guard—was never more pleasant and complete than while it was a recognized part of the duties of this bureau.

"The distinctive quality of soldiers is their ability to act efficiently in masses under all circumstances, according to the will of one man. Individually the unsoldierly may or may not be superior; but collectively the power of rigid discipline is recognized. It is gratifying to note, therefore, that gymnastics, target practice, practice marches, and the professional and practical illustration and solution of ordinary military problems (or in other words, collective as well as individual training), are receiving increasing consideration and attention among our National forces. Some States have already inaugurated consolidated encampments of their military forces with beneficial results. It is only a step further to bring the troops of several States into one camp, and it is earnestly recommended that this be done. With the present rate of shrinkage in the ranks of our veteran officers, who are able to handle large bodies of troops, there will soon be no one left possessed of experience gained in the late war. Our standing Army is too scattered to permit the concentration of a corps into one camp without great expense, but never too much so to be able to attend in limited numbers a consolidated encampment of several States. Money could not be expended for a better and wiser military purpose."

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THE BUDGET FOR 1898.

VARIOUS ITEMS IN IT DISCUSSED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE.

The consideration of the budget for 1898 was begun by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment yesterday in the Mayor's office. Before the first of the final estimates was passed, however, the Board disposed of other business. Colonel Waring, the Commissioner of Street Cleaning, asked for authority to complete a new garbage dump at Forty-third-st. and the East River, the old dump there having been condemned by the Dock Board. A resolution giving the authority was passed.

The Board approved the organization of the following school sites: Twenty-eighth-st., near First-ave., $18,500; One-hundred-and-thirty-third-st. and Seventh-ave., $114,016; Columbine-st., near Jackson-ave., the Bronx, $17,783; One-hundred-and-eighth-st., near Second-ave., $79,620; One-hundred-and-twenty-sixth-st., near Third-ave., $17,140; and at Horatio and Hudson sts., $14,030.

The plans of a new bridge over the Harlem River, at One-hundred-and-forty-fifth-st., to cost $1,246,000, were approved. The plans show a single 400-foot draw, spanning the stream and two approaches, from Lenox-ave., on the Manhattan side and from Girard-ave. on the Bronx side, 675 feet and 540 feet long respectively. An independent electric plant, in connection with the turning machinery, is provided for.

The final estimate for the Park Department was taken up at noon. Three thousand dollars for a superintendent of parks north of the Harlem River was refused. So were the salary of a new police captain and the money necessary for a large increase in the force. The Board decided that the additional men would be provided for when the Park and Municipal Police are consolidated under the new charter. The Board objected to $7,500 for bicycles for policemen on drives. The Board thought that $75 apiece was too high a price for bicycles. President Jeroloman said that good bicycles could be got for $50 apiece. President McMillan, who was present for the Park Department, said that Commissioner Cruger was the wheelman on the Park Board and would explain about the bicycles. One hundred and fifty thousand dollars was given for new parks north of the Harlem and $5,000 additional for the Aquarium. Mayor Strong said that he was in favor of this last because the city needed a new white whale. Controller Fitch said that the man in his office who looked after the bills as they came in was in doubt when the bill for the last white whale came in some time ago. He was expected to see that the city didn't pay anything more than the market price for things and was in a quandary as to the market price of white whales. He finally took the word of the Superintendent of the Aquarium for it. The Board put $5,000 in the budget for trees in West End-ave., several citizens appearing to ask for them. Colonel Cruger came in during the discussion of some small item, and asked for the new captaincy which the Board had refused to put in the budget before. The Board decided to hold the matter open. Colonel Cruger said that on the bicycle matter he put $75 down because he thought that the cost of a good bicycle. Police Commissioner Andrews, who was present, said in answer to an inquiry that the Police Department paid something like $50 apiece for its wheels, though it had been understood that the price should not be made generally public.

The Board decided not to pass the Park Department's final estimate yesterday on account of a number of doubtful items. It was held over so that the Police Department estimate could be taken up. Commissioners Andrews and Smith and Chief Clerk Kipp appeared for the Department. The final estimate for the Department was $7,051,639 12. The Bureau of Elections estimate was put at $312,050.

The figures of the Park Department, as far as decided upon, made a total of $1,123,025.

THE SCHOOL BOARD'S ESTIMATES.

DISCUSSION OF AN ITEM FOR THE INCREASE OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS' SALARIES.

The meeting of the Board of Education yesterday was devoted to the consideration of the estimate for the year 1898, as amended since it was first considered at the September meeting of the Board. The estimate had been increased $134,383 since September, the increase being due principally to the proposed new high-school annexes. An increase of salaries of $1,500 each for the Board of Assistant Superintendents, the increase to take effect on March 1, 1898, if the Board then in existence sees fit, helped to swell the original estimate. The increase for the Board of Superintendents amounted to $20,000, including a $2,500 increase for Superintendent Jasper, whose salary is now $7,500. The assistant superintendents now receive $4,000. There was some discussion on this particular estimate, as it was said that there would be a new Board in office after January 1, for all the present Board knew, and while many of the members said they were in favor of the increase a new Board might not see the matter in the same light.

It was finally resolved to leave the matter to the Board of Estimate, the Board of Education including the money for the increase in the budget for 1898, that the Board of next year might increase the salaries if it saw fit.

The total estimate for next year is $6,986,773 73.

A letter was received from ex-Judge Thomas Allison, in reply to a communication sent by the Board asking for an explanation of his bills as special counsel in the matter of condemning sites for new schoolhouses. The special counsel tersely said that he had been retained by the Corporation Counsel, and that his bills had been passed upon by that official and taxed by the Supreme Court. The letter was filed. Commissioner Agar then offered a resolution, reciting that as the Corporation Counsel had publicly declared that he knew of instances in the acquiring of schoolhouse sites where the choice of sites seemed to him injudicious, that official be requested to forward to the Board all such instances that had come to his attention.

Commissioner Ketchum did not want to "destroy the Corporation Counsel's holiday season by stirring him up over a possibly hasty expression," but Commissioner Agar said that even if the statement was made in a pet or a fury it was either true or untrue, and he wanted Mr. Scott to answer.

THE STATE'S FACTORIES.

II.

AUBURN STATE PRISON.

ALL THE PRISONERS AT WORK IN A GREAT VARIETY OF USEFUL OCCUPATIONS—WOODWORKING, IRON AND CLOTH-MAKING INDUSTRIES THE PRINCIPAL ONES FOLLOWED—WARDEN MEAD'S VIEWS.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

Auburn, N. Y., November 28.

All railway travellers who journey by the New-York Central through this city must remark the quaint gray tower of the big State prison rising in the air only a hundred feet distant from the railway station, and notice also the great iron gateway, the tall stone wall encompassing the prison and the roof of the eastern wing of the prison peeping over the wall. Recently, also, travellers may have wondered how many of the thousand men and women imprisoned behind those desolate-looking walls had the boon of daily labor. The Constitution had been amended, and these amendments prohibited the sale of the labor of the convicts. Were they idle?

A visit to the interior of the prison would quickly disclose the fact that both the men and the women prisoners are actively at work; that there is no idleness anywhere. Obviously the convicts have been rescued from idleness in some way by the prison authorities; and the inquiring traveller learns that the provision of the Choate Constitution, which permits of the sale of the product of the convicts' industry to other State institutions, or to city or county authorities, has proved to be unexpectedly profitable to the State prisons, giving all of them ample employment for their idle hands. Hence, when one penetrates to the interior court of this Auburn State Prison and marks on every side of the quadrangle low brick buildings, looking like factory structures, one sees that they are occupied by busy workingmen. There is a roar on the air of machinery at work, smoke rises from the chimneys, and goods are being shipped away. The place has the appearance of a prosperous manufactory. In effect it is one, since the convicts by their labor are partly paying for their maintenance by the State. Possibly also by the habit of daily industry, which many of them are acquiring for the first time, they are taking steps which will lead them back to an honest life when they are released from prison.

A few days ago Senator Lispenard Stewart, of New-York, who is president of the State Commission of Prisons, inspected this prison, in company with a Tribune correspondent. Mr. Stewart's visit was an official one; he desired to learn the condition of the work which has been in progress since January 1, under the direction of the State Commission of Prisons, and of Austin Lathrop, the Superintendent of Prisons to give employment to the convicts in Auburn Prison. The correspondent had visited the prison to describe its industries.

J. Warren Mead, warden of the prison, accompanied the visitors on their tour of inspection through the workshops. Mr. Mead led the way first to the cabinet shop; this had the appearance, when the visitors entered it, of an ordinary carpenter's shop. There were the appliances for cutting and sawing wood; shavings scattered about the floor; planed boards stacked up in corners, and parts of incomplete wardrobes, tables, chairs and bureaus scattered about. The convicts in their striped suits were hard at work planing boards, sawing wood and putting together furniture. Were it not for their striped suits, one would have thought them workingmen of some large furniture manufactory, earning an honest dollar, and ready at nightfall to depart, dinner-pail in hand, for some modest tenement in Auburn. The wardrobes they make are solid and well-made looking articles; and so impressed with their merits are the heads of various State charitable institutions that after some of them had been delivered at the Manhattan State Hospital there was more of a demand for them from other charitable institutions than could be supplied. A good many of the chairs inspected will be sent to the Soldiers' Home at Bath for the use of the veterans. They have to be stoutly constructed, these chairs, for the aged veterans like to lean back in them against the walls of their dormitories and occasionally enjoy a nap in them.

On the day of the inspection the men in this cabinet shop were at work filling an order from the Poughkeepsie State Hospital for the insane for 400 wardrobes, 400 bureaus, 400 tables and 400 commodes. This shows the nature of the work done by the convicts in this department of the prison and the large orders received for furniture.

Across the courtyard from this room was a room in which fifty convicts were at work making cane-seated chairs, baskets and brooms. The broom-making is by machinery. Corn brooms are made. The fibre brooms are made at Sing Sing. It was only in February last that this machinery for making brooms was made in the prisons, and yet already the convicts have become skilful makers of the brooms, and handle the machinery as though they had been in a broom factory all their lives. In the same building other convicts are at work completing iron bedsteads. The parts of an iron bedstead are first cast in the prison foundry, and then are turned on a lathe and filed until they are in a form fit for use in a bed. The output of this iron-bedstead factory is thirty a day. That makes 180 beds a week, but there are large orders to be filled—one of 500 beds for the Matteawan State Hospital for the Criminal Insane, and one of 1,110 beds for the Manhattan State Hospital. The convicts in this room also make wire mattresses for the beds. Some were engaged on the day of the visit painting the iron bedsteads white. Warden Mead stated that a well-constructed iron bedstead, with an excellent wire mattress, could be made in the prisons for from $4 20 to $4 50, and a bedstead with brass knobs and brass crossrail for $5 70.

The main industry of the prison is the manufacture of woollen cloth and blankets. Enormous quantities of this cloth are needed for the clothing of the sixty thousand indigent persons and convicts of the State in its various prisons, reformatories, asylums, almshouses and hospitals. Into this woollen goods manufactory Warden Mead now lead the way. "We take wool," said Warden Mead, "and transform it by machinery into cloth and blankets. I have a large number of men at work on hand looms and on power looms at the present time, and I have just purchased spinning machinery. I shall soon have sixteen hundred spindles at work. All this machinery has been bought at an expense of only $18,000. It is worth $50,000. I bought it at just the right time. The Dingley tariff had not yet been passed, and President McKinley's Administration had not yet got fairly under way. The manufactories, therefore, were doing only a small business, and manufacturers had a doleful view of the future; so it was an opportune time to buy idle machinery, and I was able to get this machinery at a quarter of its value. We have large orders for blankets. The State hospitals for the insane have ordered fifty thousand. These blankets are 80 per cent wool, and, as you will see, of good material."

INDUSTRY AT THE HAND LOOMS.

The hand-loom room was a scene of active industry, and the noise of the looms was deafening as the wooden frames of the machines were hurled backward and forward by the convicts. There were forty-nine hand looms. These looms are composed of a large framework of wood, and then a movable frame of wood, which weaves the woollen cloth. Mr. Mead stated that he employed as little labor-saving machinery as possible. More men could necessarily be employed upon hand looms than upon power looms, run by machinery, and, therefore, more hand looms than power looms were employed. He intended shortly to increase the number of hand looms. In the training of the convicts in this particular line of industry they at first made rugs out of carpet-rags, then crash and towelling, and, finally, woollen cloth. The wool is mixed on the ground floor of the building, and then is transformed by the various kinds of machinery found in a woollen mill into woollen cloth.

Cloth of all kinds of colors and differing in quality is made as the orders come in. Thus, a red, a blue and a dark-green cloth are made for the boys in the several grades at the Elmira Reformatory. In the storeroom one also finds ticking, shirting and towelling of good quality, all made on the hand looms by the convicts. In still another room one discovers a body of the convicts at work preparing the cloth for use after it comes from the looms. Here can be found a fulling, a scouring, a washing machine, a shearer, a brush and a winding machine, in company with a steam dryer and a steam press.

"Our woollen factory," said Warden Mead, "is our chief industry, and we teach the convicts by it a large number of occupations. We take the raw wool, as you have seen, dye it, mix it on machines, put it through carding machines, convert it into small threads for the spinning mules, and then, finally, on either the power looms or the hand looms, convert it into cloth. Of course, we had to have men from woollen mills come in here and set up the machinery and teach the prisoners how to make use of the various kinds of machinery. The prisoners were glad to go to work after their idleness in the month of January, and they make good workingmen. I think they take as much pains as workingmen in outside factories to do their work well. The people to whom we send the blankets and cloth say they are well made. There are eight power looms. I employ as few of these machines as possible, in order to restrict the men to hand labor. I should regard it as very unfortunate if any law should be passed saying that only a certain number of convicts might be kept at work at any one trade, for that would compel us to put more men at work on the power looms, propelled by machinery, and reduce the number at the hand looms. It might have the effect, therefore, of leaving some of the men idle, and that would be unfortunate."

"How did you keep your men at work up to the period when you started these industries?" inquired The Tribune correspondent.

"I put them at work breaking stone for roads," replied Warden Mead, pointing at a heap of road material stacked up against the prison fence, "but I do not favor that method of employing the convicts, because they learn nothing by it which will enable them to earn a living when they are out in the world. It is a degrading occupation, also, and they know it. Convicts ought to be taught trades, and then, if they have any moral inclination, they will reform their lives."

THE WOMEN'S DIVISION.

There are only seventy women in the prison. They are nearly all at work. The buildings of the women's prison are situated in a different stone-walled inclosure from that of the men. The buildings occupied by the women are well-lighted structures, and have a large tract of land about them. With the ivy growing upon their walls, they look positively picturesque, and they are indeed comfortable homes—far more so than the buildings occupied by the men convicts. With accommodations for three hundred women, there are only seventy women in the prison. There are that number—three hundred—in the penitentiaries of the State who ought to be in the Auburn Prison, but, unfortunately, judges at the solicitation of relatives send women convicted of crime, in most cases, to penitentiaries. These women are not so well cared for in the penitentiaries, nor is there so much chance of their moral reformation in them as at Auburn. Moreover, the State could support them at small expense, if it had them; the machinery for their care is already provided. Warden Mead is employing the seventy women in sewing together a large proportion of the men's suits cut out for various asylums and reformatories.

Mr. Stewart and his companion found the women at work in a cheerful room, into which the sun poured, on the first floor of the women's prison. There was a row of sewing machines at which the women sat busily at work. Other women were at work sorting out the garments and pressing and ironing them. These women have recently made four hundred wrappers for the Department of Charities of New-York City. They make fifteen suits of clothing a day, and also hem all the blankets made in the woollen factory. The prison is now filling an order of four thousand suits for the Manhattan State Hospital, five hundred dresses for the Department of Correction of New-York, and two hundred coats for the Industrial School at Rochester.

Mrs. Ballington Booth has made several visits to the prison and had private chats with the women prisoners. She also has made addresses to the convicts. Her visits are said to have a decidedly good influence, and, naturally, chiefly among the women prisoners.

Still another department of the prison is the foundry. There are made castings and great bars of iron for boiler grates. They recently shipped to New-York five or six tons of iron castings.

THE KIND OF ORDERS FILLED.

The multifarious nature of the orders received by the prison and the work its convicts are performing can best be judged by the transcript below of its orders on one day recently.

Children's Home, Yaphank, Long Island—Two dozen brooms, half-dozen whisk brooms, half-dozen clothes baskets, one teacher's chair, one dozen boys' outing suits and two pieces linen towelling.

Superintendent of the Poor, Jefferson County, Watertown, N. Y.—Half-dozen cloth caps, two dozen suits clothes, half-dozen blouses, three dozen brooms, one dozen whisk brooms, one piece towelling and one piece cheviot for suitings.

Suffolk County Almshouse, Yaphank, Long Island—Twelve dozen brooms, two dozen whisk brooms, two pieces hickory shirting and two pieces ticking.

The following are orders now in process of execution in the various departments:

Broom and Basket Department—Commissioners of Reservation, Niagara Falls, N. Y., 6 dozen brooms; Long Island State Hospital, 2 willow clothes baskets, 1 dozen clothes baskets, 4 dozen brooms, half-dozen hampers and 30 dozen brooms; Engineer's Department, Erie Canal Improvement (10 stations), 16 waste-paper baskets and brooms; University State of New-York, Albany, 25 round waste-paper baskets.

Bedstead Department—Collins State Hospital, 130 white enamelled iron beds; Long Island State Hospital, 400 white enamelled iron beds; Buffalo State Hospital, 2 brass beds; Matteawan State Hospital, 100 white enamelled iron beds.

Cabinet Department—Manhattan State Hospital, 270 chairs, 170 rockers, 19 dining-room chairs, 140 bureaus and 135 wardrobes; Buffalo State Hospital, 650 dining-room chairs; divisional engineer, Western Division Erie Canal, Rochester, 24 chairs, 8 draughting tables and 1 bookcase; Hudson River State Hospital, Poughkeepsie, 50 round dining-tables, 100 wardrobes, 100 washstands, 344 chairs and 100 rocking-chairs.

Blanket Department—Clinton Prison, 300 pairs red blankets and 200 pairs gray blankets; Elmira Reformatory, 400 pairs gray blankets; Soldiers and Sailors' Home, Bath, N. Y., 500 pairs gray blankets, double woollen.

Cloth Department—Onondaga County Penitentiary, 300 yards striped suitings and 100 yards suitings, Oxford mixture; Sing Sing Prison, 2,000 yards striped suitings; House of Refuge, Randall's Island, 300 yards gray uniform cloth; Rochester State Hospital, 400 yards towelling; Elmira Reformatory, 3,000 yards uniform cloth and 1,000 yards towelling; Long Island State Hospital, 2,000 yards dickey kersey and 1,000 yards ticking.

Clothing Department—Dutchess County Poorhouse, half-dozen men's suits; Sheriff Ontario County, Canandaigua, 1 dozen men's coats and 1 dozen pairs men's trousers; Sheriff Saratoga County, Ballston Spa, 50 pairs men's trousers; New-York State School for Blind, Batavia, 17 suits, 13 overcoats, 5 pair trousers and 10 caps.

Iron and Brass Castings Department—Department of Correction, Blackwell's Island, 5 sets grate bars and 16 pairs brass ferules; Sheriff Richmond County, 3 dozen iron cell buckets; Willard State Hospital, 20 standards for gas pipe fence and 370 cast-iron grave-markers, numbered; Clinton Prison, 2,000 wheelbarrow castings.

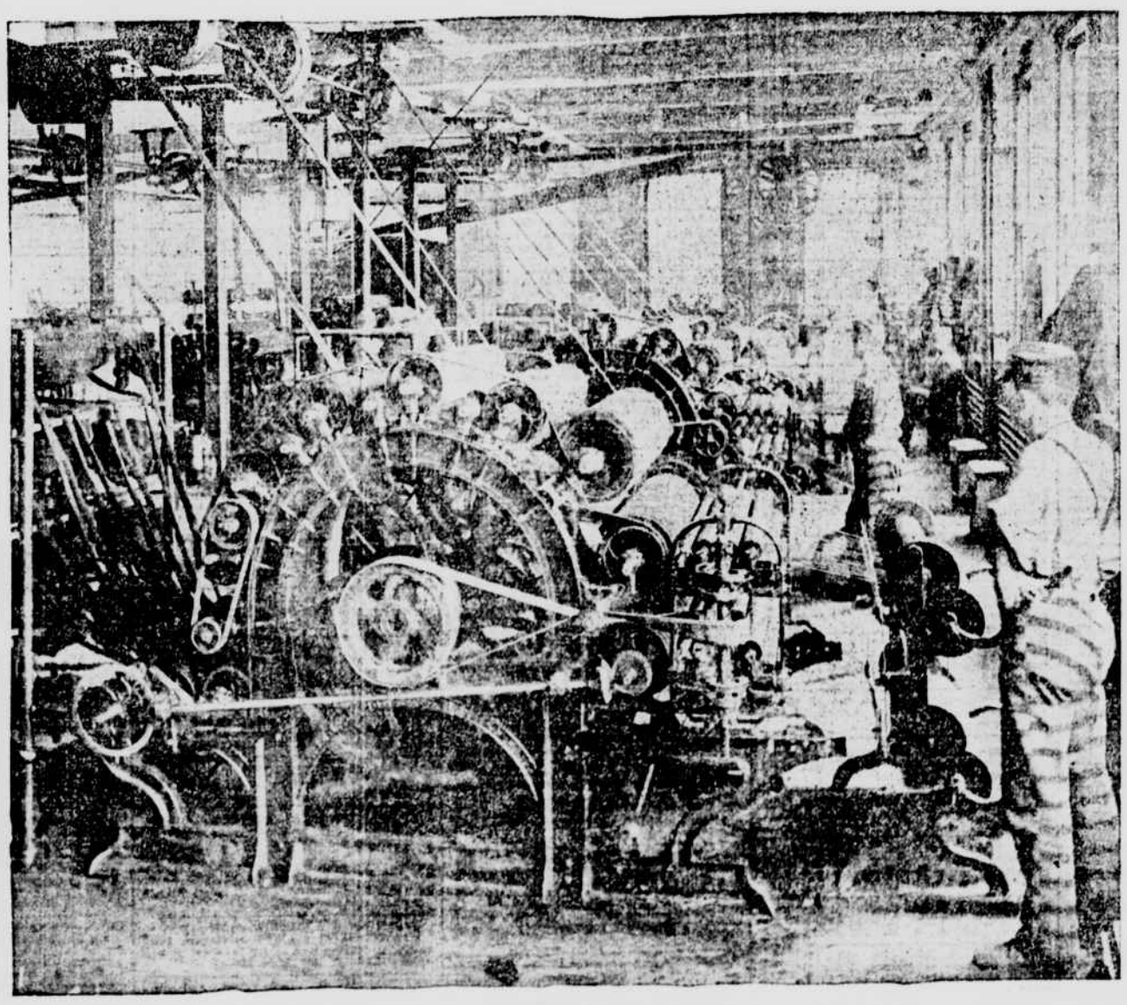
The above are but a few of the orders taken from each department. The total amount of shipments from all departments during the month of October last was $11,677 97.

Upon the day of the visit the convicts were employed as follows:

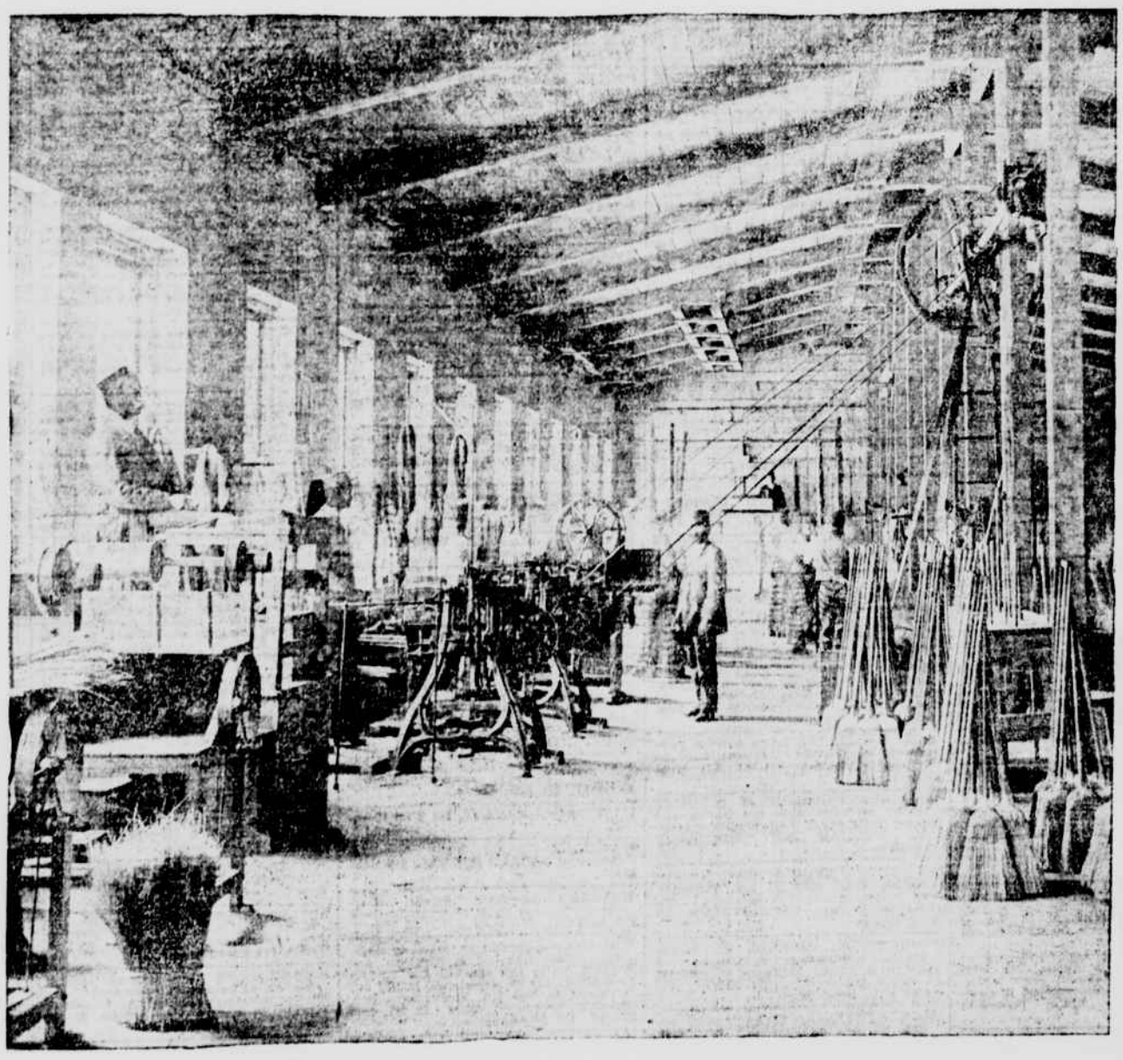
	No. men.
Clerks, hospital and shop waiters	69
Engineers and firemen	23
Gallery waiters, south wing	15
Gallery waiters, north wing	10
Hospital, sick	13
Men idle in cells	56
Kitchen, storehouse and messroom	35
Tailor shop and wash house	44
State shop	65
Stone shed, including quarry	57
Brass and iron industry	29
Broom and basket industry	40
Cloth industry	197
Wood-carving and finishing	59
Furniture and cabinet industry	42
Iron, cast and enamelling industry	102
Machinery and tools and setting	4
Construction of buildings and repairs	58
Iron beds	50
Total	983

As will be perceived from the above table, only fifty-six men in all were unemployed at some occupation. Auburn State Prison, therefore, is, once more a place of industry. The convict is paying back some of the money the State expends in guarding him.

E. L. M.



SPINNING MACHINERY—AUBURN STATE PRISON.



BROOM AND BRUSH SHOP—AUBURN STATE PRISON.

EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE

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ARE THE STANDARD OF PERFECTION.

Parents hand them down to children and grandchildren. They never wear out. They never lose their **pure, sympathetic tone.**

A second-hand Weber is always salable. We don't get many old ones, but sometimes squares or uprights are exchanged for new styles or Grands, then they are thoroughly overhauled at our factory, making them practically as good as new, and **GREAT BARGAINS.**

We always have some which have been loaned to musicians or rented for a short time, which have had very little use. Also a number of **perfectly new Webers in last year's styles of cases,** which we have marked away down.

Everybody would rather have the newest and latest style if they can afford it, but many feel limited in the amount they can expend and yet want the best.

Then we have new and second-hand pianos of various other makers, in fact, we are able to furnish

PIANOS AT PRICES AND TERMS TO SUIT ALL BUYERS.

WEBER WAREROOMS,
FIFTH AVE., CORNER SIXTEENTH ST., NEW YORK.

NEW MONEY-ORDER OFFICES.

The newly fitted up rooms for the money-order division of the Postoffice Department in the Mail-st. corridor of the Federal Building were opened to the use of the public yesterday. The new quarters are much more commodious than those formerly assigned to this department in the Broadway corridor. A force of thirty-five or forty clerks, a considerable increase on the old staff, is employed, and it is expected that delays which have heretofore arisen because of the cramped space in which work had to be carried on will be done away with. The new offices are fitted up with writing tables and other conveniences for the public.

A REGISTERED-LETTER MACHINE.

A dime-in-the-slot machine for the reception of registered letters was on trial in the Postoffice building yesterday. The authorities in Washington have formally authorized a test of this machine, which is known as the "De Brazza letter-registering box." It is designed for the use of those who may wish to send registered letters after the regular offices have closed. The box is about two feet by two feet six inches, and about eighteen inches deep. If the office is closed and one wants to send away $50, he puts a dime into the slot. Then a duplicate sheet appears at an opening on one side of the machine. On this you write the address of the person to whom the letter is mailed and your own name and address. You keep one of the duplicate sheets, the other you place in the box with the letter.

HANGING TO A TREE IN A VACANT LOT.

An unknown man, about thirty years old, wearing a sweater and dark clothing, hanged himself to a tree in a vacant lot at One-hundred-and-forty-fifth-st. and Amsterdam-ave. yesterday morning. He was found by Policeman Byrne, of the West One-hundred-and-fifty-second-st. station. The man was five feet nine inches in height, and had a light complexion, brown hair and eyes, and smooth face. In his pockets were a clay and a corncob pipe, a scarfpin and a package of tobacco.