

Have One Doctor

No sense in running from one doctor to another. Select the best one, then stand by him. Do not delay, but consult him in time when you are sick. Ask his opinion or

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REVISED FORMULA

for coughs and colds. Then use it or not, just as he says.

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J. C. AYER CO., Manufacturing Chemists, Lowell, Mass.

EMPLOY CONVICT LABOR

(Continued from page three.)

ture bags to meet the demands of the state or to regulate prices, for with a much larger force in the Walla Walla penitentiary and in San Quentin they have been unable to do either. I visited Walla Walla with members of this body a few months since, and I am free to confess that I was not favorably impressed with the operation of a jute mill in the Washington penitentiary, either from an economic standpoint or from the standpoint of healthy labor for those in prison. Two years ago I visited San Quentin with the superintendent of the penitentiary to investigate the manufacture of grain bags by convict labor, and I did not receive a favorable impression from an inspection of the plant.

I feel sure from the investigations which I have made that the penitentiary can never be made self-sustaining by the installation of a jute mill, and it is questionable in my mind if the industry operated by convicts would make enough money to pay the actual cost of its operation and maintenance.

I am heartily in accord with those who would remove the convict as a competitor of free labor, but I believe that in doing this some regard must be paid to the taxpayers of the state and the proper care, discipline and control of the penitentiary.

Stoves are manufactured in but two penitentiaries in the United States, one at Nashville, Tennessee, and the other here. In the 20th annual report of the commissioner of labor of the United States for 1905 on convict labor (see page 137) in discussing this question it is said: "Unlike stove hollow ware, stoves

do not prove a success as a prison industry. It may be said that any article which a single convict can make and complete will prove more profitable than articles made in parts by a number of convicts. When these parts are assembled they do not fit closely nor so well as when made by outside labor. The skill required to mold and cast to a nicety the various parts of a cook stove or a heater is rarely acquired by a convict in prison. This is also true of the wagon industry in prisons, so that it is safe to say that any article that must be made in parts by different men, these parts when assembled being required to fit together closely and smoothly, will not prove a successful prison industry for a long series of years."

The commissioner concludes that prison stove contracts end disastrously through inability to market the product, partly because of union boycotts, partly because of a general feeling in all classes of society against convict-made goods, but principally because a really good stove will sell on its merits rather than by virtue of its cheapness has not as yet been produced in prison.

On the other hand, the report referred to shows that many other commodities are successfully manufactured by convicts in penitentiaries of other states which practically put the manufacturers of those commodities out of business. Stove hollow ware, saddle trees, whip and whip lashes, boots and shoes, furniture, shirts, pants, overalls, brushes and brooms are manufactured in many of the prisons of the country. It would seem, therefore, that the manufacture of stoves is the least dangerous to the manufacturer and to free labor.

My experience with prison man-

agement convinces me that in order to afford health and discipline, convicts must be steadily employed, and it is largely for this reason that they are engaged in other states in labor which competes with free labor. In order to accomplish this with a reasonable expense to the state, this employment must be within the prison walls. During my incumbency I have during the summer months and whenever the weather would permit, kept from fifty to seventy-five prisoners at work of the county roads. Still, it is found inadvisable to so employ them during any of the winter season and besides there are many prisoners who could not be safely entrusted outside of the prison walls. The present employment of convicts is healthful, the plant is installed and belongs to the state; it is the least dangerous to free labor of any of the prison employments where the manufacture of any commodity is engaged in, and the legislature ought to undertake the work of dismantling the prison stove foundry plant with great caution. My own judgment is, having due regard to the taxpayers of this state as well as to the demands of free labor and the manufacturer, that whether provision is made for convicts on the roads or in some other manner, legislation to this end ought to be conservative rather than radical and ought to provide for increasing the employment of convicts in such new field as may be adopted for them without abandoning the present system at once, leaving large discretion to the executive. The purchase of rock quarries at one or more convenient places and the crushing of rock for public roads might be tried successfully and gradually extended, but in order to accomplish this an appropriation of sufficient amount to house and care for the convict must be made.

I submit this matter to your very careful consideration, and assure you that I have not found it one easy solution.

Transporting Convicts.

An act was passed at the last session of the legislature providing for the transportation of insane persons from the several county seats to the asylum by trained assistants of the latter institution instead of by county officers. Aside from the advantages accruing from this law from a humanitarian standpoint, it has resulted in a great saving to the state. The law with regard to the transportation of convicts to the penitentiary should be amended so as to require convicts to be conveyed by prison officers of the penitentiary. The cost of this service to the state under the present system for the two years ending September 30, 1906, was \$13,573.45 covering the transportation of 378 prisoners, an average cost of \$35.91 per capita, whilst the cost of conveying 314 insane patients from July 1, 1905, to July 1, 1906, was \$5,668.52, an average cost of \$18.05 per capita. If the same law is made to apply to the penitentiary, a saving of at least fifty percentum of the present cost can be saved to the state, and the prisoners handled by men trained in prison work.

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May Defeat Canal.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The Panama canal commission has forwarded data regarding borings made within the last year to ascertain the character of foundation upon which it is proposed to build the Ganun dam, upon the strength and efficiency of which depends the lock canal plan. They show that soft material practically mud lies beneath the indurated clay upon which it is proposed to base the foundation of the dam. In places the clay is thin.

The whole question whether congress has made a mistake in deciding to construct a lock canal at Panama instead of a sea level will be brought before the canal committee next week.

Wise Counsel from the South.

"I want to give some valuable advice to those who suffer with lame back and kidney trouble," says J. R. Blankenship, of Beck, Tenn. "I have proved to an absolute certainty that Electric Bitters will positively cure this distressing condition. The first bottle gave me great relief and after taking a few more bottles, I was completely cured; so completely that it becomes a pleasure to recommend this great remedy." Sold under guarantee at J. C. Perry's drug store. Price 50c.

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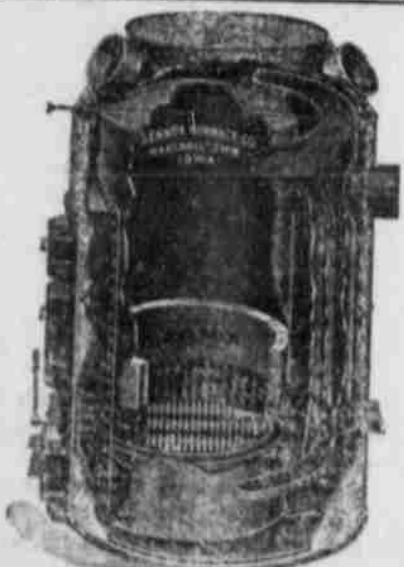
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