

CHESTER TIMES – May 3, 1904

### THE COUNTY JAIL AND HOW IT APPEARS TO A VISITOR

Warden Thomas S. Fields of the Delaware County Prison, entertained representatives of the Chester Times and The Morning Republican yesterday afternoon on a tour of inspection of the new building connected with the prison for the reception of short term prisoners from the magistrates' courts.

The last bill for the building was approved by the Prison Inspectors at their meeting on Wednesday evening and was paid Thursday, although the building has been finished and occupied since October 1.

The new building cost exactly \$5047.71. When it was first talked about and in fact all through the negotiations, it has been estimated that the cost \$6500 and \$7000. The credit for this saving lies with William H. Miller, a member of the Board of Inspectors, and who was on the building committee and devoted his time to following the erection of the building from the time the foundations were started until the last tap of the hammer.

The building is indeed a fine one for the purpose. It measures 26x40 feet, and is fire proof throughout. It is built of rough stone, cemented on the inside, both walls, floor and ceilings and this is covered with a thick coating of whitewash. The cells are all on the first floor, and are constructed of strong steel bars. There are three of them, and they will accommodate twelve prisoners each. The cots are of wire springs placed on heavy iron piping, three tiers of two coils each, one tier on either side of the cell.

The second floor is occupied by the carpet weaving looms, and the most exacting methods are used for keeping the place clean. It is worthy of note that every bit of work on the building was done by the short term men, the class of men for whom the place was designed. Of the material in the building, everything but the iron work was furnished by Delaware County, and it came from Philadelphia through a Chester firm. Thus, every cent of money expended on the building went to Delaware County people. The building was begun on June 15. It is furnished with steam heat and electric light.

Dr. Biddle of the State Board of Charities, visited the jail yesterday and inspected the new building with which he was greatly pleased. The entire jail has just been wired for electric lights, and the cells will hereafter be lighted in this manner.

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