

## STATE BOARD SAVES THOUSANDS THROUGH PURCHASING METHODS

(By Associated Press)  
INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 10.—By acting as a clearing house for buying supplies for Indiana's correctional and benevolent institutions, the State Joint Purchasing Board estimates that it saved the taxpayers approximately \$250,000 in the last fiscal year. In addition, the board has caused several institutions to undertake to manufacture many articles and commodities needed by the institutions, which also is said to be a money saver.

The direct savings estimated by the board in its annual report include \$145,250 on the institutions' annual contracts; \$75,000 on miscellaneous small articles; \$20,000 on cash discounts; and \$6,760.44 on exemption from the federal tax on tobacco.

"The State of Indiana is believed," says the report, "to be the only state in the country now manufacturing all of its tobacco scrap, smoking, and plug for state institutions and distributing the same, free of tax."

In this connection, the board says that it obtained a treasury ruling

eliminating the 18 cents a pound federal tax on tobacco used by the state. During the year, the prisoners at Michigan City produced and distributed to state institutions 37,558 pounds of tobacco, says the report.

Besides tobacco, the report shows that the following other supplies are made by the inmates of state institutions: Vinegar, by the Indiana Boys School; shoes, tinware and clothing by the Michigan City prison, and printing, brooms, mops and brushes by the Jeffersonville reformatory.

"By pooling the estimates of all institutions," says the report, "the total quantity of each item is of sufficient size to attract competition and interest

manufacturers, brokers and jobbers who have heretofore declined to bid on the quantity desired by a single institution."

Watch Market Changes.  
Close watch, the board adds, is kept on the trend of market conditions so as to make advantageous purchases, and inspending \$6,000,000 for miscel-

laneous articles during the year, the board asserts that "by comparison, at the time of purchase, of prevailing market prices of the various articles, as an estimated saving of \$75,000 has been effected."

"Purchases now made," the report continues, "usually move direct from mills or producers, insuring the in-

stitution of fresh, clean and wholesome merchandise, bought at original cost."

"The board also entered into the yearly contracts for coal, electric supplies, lubricating and other oil, wax and grease, automobile and truck tires, rubber goods, packing, suspen-

ders, compressed yeast, farm machinery, etc."

"It is estimated that under these yearly contracts the institutions will expend in excess of \$920,000 which if bought individually as the needs arise, would have cost more than \$1,065,250. The saving on yearly contracts is at least \$145,250."

The total cost for the board, which

maintains a small office at the state house, was given at \$10,494 during the year.

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