

# BOOTS FOR PRISONERS

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A PAIR.

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Boots Made In Penitentiary Cost \$2.85 a Pair—The Prison May Be Allowed to Make the Necessary Footwear.

The boots now being issued to the prisoners-of-war at Fort Henry are being made at the penitentiary by convict labor. There has been some trouble about finding suitable boots for prisoners, as it was not necessary to issue them such good shoes as issued to the soldiers, and which cost \$3.92 to make. The authorities decided that a boot of the quality classed as "Coburgs" and made by the convicts at penitentiaries for their own use would be suitable. Tenders were called from several manufacturers, and the average price proved to be \$2.50 a pair. The cost of material and labor for the boots to be made at the Portsmouth Institution has proved to be \$2.85. At Portsmouth the convicts have been very busy, and had 90 pairs on hand, some of these, however, being of the "discharge" kind—the style issued to convicts on their discharge and some the kind issued to the officers. About 350 pairs were transferred to Fort Henry and authority is being asked so that despite the higher price all boots may be made at the penitentiaries.

The Commission, which investigated the conditions at the Portsmouth Institution some time ago, condemned the stone-pile and recommended that the convicts be given more work in the shops. At present the work in the shops is very quiet and rather than put the men back on the stone pile it is considered advisable to have the convicts continue to work in the shop making boots, even if they have to be given to prisoners of war at a loss.