

# THE PATHFINDER

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### FIRST WOMEN'S PRISON

The first federal prison for women—to be run by and for women—is being built near Alderson, W. Va., not far from fashionable White Sulphur Springs. There will be no walls. The establishment will be run on the cottage plan, that is to say the inmates will be housed in groups. The institution will take care of women federal prisoners now confined in state prisons. They will receive occupational training. The government has three prisons for men—Atlanta, Ga., Leavenworth, Kans., and McNeil island, Cal.—but heretofore it has had no prison for women.

The new federal prison for women is the outcome of agitation by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and Assistant Atty.-Gen. Mabel Willebrandt, who supervises all federal penal institutions. The women's prison will cost about \$2,500,000. The last congress authorized the appropriation that acquired 500 acres of land for the institution. Some of the property was given the government.

The site of the prison is about the center of the federal women prisoners' population. Most of the offenders are in the East. Trafficking in drugs and liquor are the principal causes of their conviction. No woman is ever sent to the regular federal prisons. When sentenced in the federal courts to less than a year they serve their time in county or city jails or workhouses. Those getting longer terms go to state institutions.