

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1836.

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1836.

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

NO. 76.

HOUSE.

STATE OF MAINE.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 30, 1836.**

The Joint Standing Committee on the State Prison to whom were referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the State Prison, with the accompanying documents, the report of the Warden and Inspectors of said Prison, the report of the Commissioners authorized by the Governor and Council to investigate the Penitentiaries of New York and Pennsylvania and other States, and the order to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting the Warden of the State Prison from entering into trade or commerce, have attended to the duties assigned them, and ask leave to make the following

REPORT :

That by schedules presented to the Committee, there was due to the State, on demand, in posses-

sion of the Warden, October 31, 1834, as follows :

On Accounts,	\$3,150 81
On Notes,	5,263 00
On Bank Certificates,	3,399 94
Due for articles sold the year past, per Report of the Warden, February 15, 1836.	2,057 34
Due from the Warden as settled by Inspectors,	2,256 16
	\$13,274 82

Leaving a balance of demands and cash in the hands of the Warden of \$13,274 82; of this sum \$1,231 90 is reported by the Warden to have been received in cash, and \$2,256 16 reported as due from the Warden on settlement of his accounts by the Inspectors.

Your Committee further report, that the Stock on hand at the Prison, belonging to the State, is as follows, as by report October 31, 1835.

In the Stone Department, stock and tools,	4,182 78
“ Lime “ “ “	275 50
“ Shoemakers’ “ “ “	1,399 20
“ Wheelwright “ “ “	1,421 73
“ Blacksmith “ “ “	1,692 01
“ Other Departments,	150 17
	\$8,521 39

The salaries of Officers, excepting the Warden, have been paid by the State, amounting to \$3,433 34.

Thus it appears that there are demands and cash in the hands of the Warden to the amount of \$13,-274 82, after deducting debts due from the Prison, adding the amount of the Stock on hand of \$8,-521 39, the total will be \$21,796 21.

A large proportion of the notes and accounts is believed by your Committee to be collectable.

By a Resolve of 1835, the Warden was directed to collect the debts due the Prison. Little attention appears to have been paid to the Resolve.

The practice of giving credit at the Prison for articles sold appears not to be authorized by law, and is believed by your Committee to be injurious to the best interests of the institution.

Your Committee have had under particular consideration the subject of the location of the present Prison, and as the subject of removal from its present location to one affording greater facilities for the working of Granite, has been brought before the public by Commissioners appointed the last year, we conceive it our duty to say it is the opinion of a majority of the Committee, that the Prison should not be removed at the present time, but that some change be made in the system of carrying it on.— We, on inquiry, find the hammering of Granite and disposing of the same, to be to the State a losing business, and recommend a discontinuance of the business in all of its branches. We find also, from others than those who are employed in the making

and vending of Lime, that should this business be enlarged, it would be of interest to the State.

The subject of letting the Prison and all appertaining thereto, to a competent person for a term of years, was duly considered by the Committee—and they are persuaded that the State could let the Prison to a competent person and thereby save all expense to the State, excepting that of Inspectors; and it is recommended that such measures as may be deemed necessary to effect this object, may be taken prior to the expiration of the present incumbent's term as Warden. And it is the opinion of the Committee, that the subject of the removal of the State Prison from Thomaston, and the adoption of a new system of discipline, should be referred to the next Legislature. We deem these subjects matters of great importance, but the large amount of business at the present session, precludes a full and ample enquiry into them. We hope they will receive that attention from the next Legislature which their importance demands.

For the several objects herein contemplated, your Committee ask leave to recommend the passage of the accompanying Resolves.

All which is respectfully submitted.

WM. BUXTON, Per Order.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES concerning the State Prison.

Resolved, That the Governor with advice of
2 Council, be authorized to appoint three discreet
3 and suitable persons to proceed to the State
4 Prison at the expiration of the appointment of
5 the present Warden, and take an inventory of
6 all property of every kind belonging to the State,
7 and estimate the same at the true value thereof,
8 and the same duly certify and deposite in the
9 office of the Secretary of State, before the meet-
10 ing of the next Legislature.

Resolved, That the Governor, with advice of
2 Council, be authorized to contract for a term of
3 years, with some suitable person to
4 take the charge of the State Prison, in such
5 manner as they may deem most conducive to
6 the interests of the State. *Provided,* said per-
7 son shall produce to the satisfaction of the Gov-

8 ernor and Council, satisfactory evidence of his
9 qualifications and integrity to take charge of the
10 State Prison and give bond with good and suffi-
11 cient sureties to free the State from all expense
12 relating thereto.

Resolved, That the Governor, with the advice
2 of Council, be authorized to take such measures,
3 as may seem to be for the interest of the State
4 for the more speedy collection and final settle-
5 ment of the demands due the State, in the
6 hands of the Warden, also the disposing of such
7 property of every description as may not be
8 wanted for the use of the Prison.

Resolved, That the Governor and Council be
2 authorized to appoint three suitable persons, as
3 Inspectors of the Prison, whose duty it shall
4 be to visit, as often as may be considered proper,
5 the Prison, and examine and learn the treatment
6 of the prisoners, and report at least once in three
7 months to the Governor and Council such facts
8 as may come to their knowledge.



STATE OF MAINE.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
MARCH 31, 1836. }**

**Read twice and three hundred copies of the same, together with
the accompanying Report, ordered to be printed.**

[Extract from the Journal.]

Attest: JAMES L. CHILD, Clerk.