

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1837.

AUGUSTA:
SMITH & ROBINSON,.....PRINTERS.

1837.

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SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 12.

SENATE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WARDEN OF THE MAINE STATE PRISON.

*To the President of the Senate, and
Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

GENTLEMEN—In compliance with the requirements of the 3d Section of “an Act providing for the government of the State Prison, and for the punishment of convicts,” the undersigned has the honor to submit the following statement and account of the concerns of that establishment.

On the 5th day of August last I entered upon the duties of Warden of the Prison. The whole number of convicts and their employments were as follows :

In the Lime Quarry,	39	Lumpers,	8
“ Shoemaking,	9	Cooks,	2
“ Tailoring,	3	Washers,	1
“ Blacksmithing,	4	Attending sick,	1
“ Wheelwrights,	3	Sick in the Hospital,	2
“ Shoebinders,	1	Waiters,	2
			—
			Aggregate, 75

On taking charge of the establishment I found it destitute of almost every article of provision, and very deficient in clothing and bedding. There was a small supply of stock, and but few tools for the use of the prisoners.—My purchases for all the necessary supplies and materials

amount to the sum of \$4,350 00; all of which were obtained on credit. The State had at that time in no way supplied me with funds. But few articles manufactured at the prison, were left by my predecessor of such description as would command money. The granite business having been abandoned but few days before, about forty of the convicts, the number usually employed in that department, were placed at other branches to little advantage, owing to the deficiency of tools and materials, and for want of workshops. At that time, the only place where those convicts could be employed was an old building, formerly used as a wood shed, about 25 feet wide by 53 feet long; one part of which was used as a store room for keeping provisions for the prisoners; the other part was divided, and occupied by Shoemakers, Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights, Tailors and Joiners. The Lime Quarry employed about forty convicts; one half of them being engaged in removing the chips and rubbish from one part of the Quarry to the other, whence, in a few months it would be necessary to remove them again.

The roads leading from the Quarry were so encumbered and out of repair, as to afford but poor facilities to teams for hauling out the rock. My attention was first directed to repairing these roads and clearing the Quarry, which was done at considerable expense. I have, however, been able to keep a supply of rock quarried sufficient to answer any demand whatever.

An abundance of good lime rock may yet be obtained from this Quarry; but it requires an overseer of skill and great practice in the business, to superintend to advantage the quarrying of it, particularly when the character of the men under his care is considered. The present pay will not command the services of such a man. Late in the

month of September, I obtained an order from the Governor and Council to take down the old building at the shore, (called the granite shop) and remove the materials to the prison yard, for the purpose of making such alterations and additions as had been recommended by the Inspectors in their former reports, but more particularly in a special communication from them under date of the 19th of September. The buildings have been completed, making in all an addition of 5500 square feet, and they are now occupied for the different mechanical branches; all of which have been submitted to the examination of the Inspectors; a more minute description of which will be given in their Report. The expense of these buildings and the repairs that have been made, has been greater than was expected, the old materials not having answered that purpose as was anticipated. Notwithstanding a portion of the work was done by the convicts, the labor mostly required, was that of Joiners and Masons; and as there were no mechanics of either class among the prisoners, I was obliged to employ others. By great exertions the buildings were completed before the extreme cold weather came on; and thus the prisoners were prevented from remaining idle during the winter. I have also made some repairs upon the dwelling House, amounting to about \$300. It was rapidly going to decay; and some parts of it were untenable, by leaks and other causes. The floor of the best room had partly fallen into the cellar. Other rooms were infested with vermin, (originated as I suppose from the prison) to such a degree that they could not be exterminated but by a new finish of plaster, (see Inspectors Report.) The unusually high price of such provisions as are indispensable for daily use has much increased the expenses of the prison.

During the few months I have had charge of it, my efforts have been directed to provide ample means for the employment of all the convicts, and present appearances indicate favorable results. The productiveness of the establishment will, however, in a great measure depend upon the state of business in the community at large; and, in order to secure a full share of public patronage, it must necessarily be subjected to some of the vicissitudes and risks, which affect individual interests.

There is one subject to which I will allude touching the productiveness of labour. Although the daily reports of the prison show that about fifty of its inmates are employed in mechanical branches, and some may suppose that the greater part of that number are mechanics, such is not the case. Of the fifty alluded to, six only are *workmen*; but strict attention is now paid to every convict in the workshops. They are instructed to regard regularity and system, as leading principles in all business, and every facility is given them for acquiring a thorough knowledge of their trades, that on their discharge they may not be turned helpless and destitute on the world. It will be admitted that the great object of prison discipline is to prevent the commission of crime, and to reform the criminal. That system of punishment which secures the attainment of these objects in the highest degree, must be the most beneficial to the community. It is a mistaken idea, "that the inmates of a prison are a set of outlaws," lost to all good, and without the hope of being reclaimed. The great mass of them, on their first conviction, are either neglected youth, thrown into the world without education, and without friends; or ignorant men, the dupes of artful knaves who know how to elude detection. Neglect of early education, the use of ardent

spirits and gambling, are the most prominent causes of crime.

Deficiency in common school learning is greater than is generally supposed. Among the whole number now confined here, there is not one well educated man—no good readers, and some cannot read at all. Their health has generally been good, except during the drought in September, when many cases of derangement of the stomach and bowels, owing to the use of impure water from the quarry, occurred, but, by the attention of the Physician and a change of water, they soon recovered.

The whole number of deaths since the establishment of the Prison (a period of twelve and an half years) is fourteen. Of that number, two committed suicide, and three were killed by accident. The remaining nine died by disease, their constitutions having been broken down long before they came to the Prison.

Notwithstanding the construction of the cells is such, as to cause great inconvenience to the Warden and other officers of the prison, there has been no complaint from the prisoners this season that they were not comfortable under the present arrangements, though the visits of the Inspectors and constant access to the officers of the prison afford them daily opportunities to do so, had they any ground for complaint.

In the month of November last I received from the Commissioners of the State Prison a schedule of demands nominally amounting to twelve thousand two hundred thirty nine dollars and seven cents; of this, I have collected three hundred and fifty dollars. The greater amount of these demands was placed in the hands of Attornies, prior to my appointment, and I am not now able to make a particular statement in regard to them. It is my opinion,

however, that very little will ever be realized from them. In some cases the debtors have claims in offset, and what the true balance against them may be, cannot be easily ascertained.

Several individuals had acknowledged claims on the establishment, amounting to three hundred and eighteen dollars and Cents, which I have cancelled at sight, whenever presented.

JOHN O'BRIEN, Warden.

DR. The STATE PRISON in account with the STATE OF MAINE, CR.

1836.	For amount of Stock and Tools on hand		1836.	By amount of Stock and Tools on	
Oct. 31.	August 5th, as per Commissioners,	3,912 77	Oct. 31.	hand, Oct. 31st, 1836,	6,926 61
"	" Amount of purchases for Lime Quarry,	1,062 95	"	" amount received and charged	
"	" " " Shoemaking,	842 89	"	" " " for stone cutting,	42 98
"	" " " Wheelwrights,	316 16	"	" " " Lime Quarry,	1,575 23
"	" " " Blacksmithing,	341 02	"	" " " Shoemaking,	1,558 04
"	" " " Sundry Departments,	12 57	"	" " " Wheelwrights,	105 93
"	" " " Subsistence,	1,263 86	"	" " " Blacksmithing,	358 92
"	" " " Clothing,	821 98	"	" " " sundry departments,	14 42
"	" " " Furniture,	6 25	"	" " " building & repairs,	6 80
"	" " " Fuel,	205 58	"	" " " Clothing,	34 25
"	" " purchases and labor for building and repairs,	1,602 12	"	" " " Subsistence,	170 48
"	" Expense ac't and convicts discharged,	175 22	"	" " of Fees from Visitors,	45 95
"	" to subordinate officers, including chaplain and physician,	917 16	"	" " of State Treasurer,	1,206 91
"	" amount for transporting convicts,	104 81	"	" Balance,	442 09
"	" Repairs on Lime Kilns,	20 50			
"	" paid Joel Miller as per Receipt,	382 77			
		<u>11,988 61</u>			<u>11,988 61</u>

LINCOLN SS. January 21st, 1837. Then personally appeared John O'Brien, Warden of the State's Prison, and made oath that the above account is just and true.

Before me,

HEZEKIAH PRINCE, JR. *Justice of the Peace.*

Examined and compared with the vouchers and found to be correct.

JOSHUA PATTERSON, }
H. PRINCE, JR. } *Inspectors.*

**Statement of the Receipts and Profits, Expenditures and Disbursements, and
General Concerns of the State Prison, from August 5th to October 31st, 1836.**

Dr.			Stone Department.		Cr.	
1836.			1836.			
Oct. 31.	For amount of Stock and Tools on hand August 5th, 1836.	416 88	Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged for Granite and Tools as per account,		42 98
	<i>Note.</i> —In the account of Stock for Oct. 31st, sundry Chains, &c. put to this Department by the Commissioners, were transferred to Blacksmithing.		"	" Amount of Stock and Tools on hand Oct. 31, 1836,		336 06
			"	" Balance,		37 84
		\$416 88				\$416 88

Dr.			Lime Quarry.		Cr.	
1836.			1836.			
Oct. 31.	For amount of Stock and Tools on hand.		Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged		
	August 5th, 1836,	375 21		for rock as per account,	1,575 23	
"	" amount purchased since and for Team	1,012 95	"	" Amount of Stock and Tools	1,161 62	
"	work,	1,298 69		on hand Oct. 31, 1836,		
"	" Balance,	\$2,736 85			\$2,736 85	

Dr.**Shoemaking.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For amount of Stock and Tools on hand		Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged	
	August 5th, 1836, . . .	757 91		as per account, . . .	1,058 04
"	" amount purchased since, . . .	842 89	"	" Amount of Stock and Tools	
"	" Balance, . . .	492 03		on hand Oct. 31, 1836,	1,034 79
		<u>\$2,092 83</u>			<u>\$2,092 83</u>

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Dr.**Wheelwrights.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For amount of Stock and Tools on hand		Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged	
	August 5th, 1836, . . .	564 72		as per account, . . .	105 93
"	" amount purchased since, . . .	316 16	"	" Amount of Stock and Tools	
"	" Balance, . . .	123 26		on hand Oct. 31, 1836,	898 21
		<u>\$1,004 14</u>			<u>\$1,004 14</u>

Dr.**Blacksmithing.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For amount of Stock and Tools on hand		Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged	
	August 5th, 1836,	581 77		as per account,	358 92
"	" Amount purchased since,	341 02	"	" Amount of Stock and Tools	
"	" Balance,	306 75		on hand Oct. 31, 1836,	870 62
		<u>\$1,229 54</u>			<u>\$1,229 54</u>

Other Departments, viz :

Arms and Military Stores, Stationery, Sunday School Library, Hospital, Oakum,
Barbers, Tailors and Miscellaneous.

Dr.**Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For amount of Stock on hand August 5th,		Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged	
	1836,	221 14		as per account,	14 42
"	" Amount purchased since,	12 57	"	" Amount of Stock on hand	
"	" Balance,	416 60		Oct. 31, 1836,	635 89
		<u>\$650 31</u>			<u>\$650 31</u>

Dr.**Provision Account.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For amount of Provision on hand, August		Oct. 31.	By amount of Provision on hand	
	5th, 1836,	192 22		Oct. 31, 1836,	404 71
"	" Amount purchased since,	1,093 38	"	" Amount consumed,	880 89
		<u>\$1,285 60</u>			<u>\$1,285 60</u>

Dr.**Clothing.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For Clothing on hand Aug. 5th, 1836,	635 90	Oct. 31.	By amount of Clothing on hand	
"	" Amount purchased since,	821 98		Oct. 31, 1836,	1,156 68
			"	" amount to convicts discharged,	34 25
			"	" " furnished,	266 95
		<u>\$1,457 88</u>			<u>\$1,457 88</u>

Dr.**Furniture.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For amount of Furniture on hand August 5th, 1836,	105 83	Oct. 31.	By amount of Furniture on hand Oct. 31, 1836,	186 73
"	" Amount purchased since,	6 25			
"	" Balance,	74 65			
		<u>\$186 73</u>			<u>\$186 73</u>
<i>Note.</i> —Sundry articles to the amount of \$24 65 were included in the account of Stock in October 31, which were overlooked by the Commissioners in their appraisal in August 5th.			Some other articles from Building and Repairs, charged to that department and remaining on hand, were also taken into this account.		

Dr.**Fuel.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For amount of Fuel on hand, Aug. 5, 1836,	61 19	Oct. 31.	By Fuel on hand Oct. 31, 1836,	186 80
	" Amount purchased since,	205 58		" Balance,	79 97
		<u>\$266 77</u>			<u>\$266 77</u>

Dr.**Building and Repairs.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For Materials and Labor, from Aug. 5th,		Oct. 31.	By amount of Stock on hand	
	1836,	1,595 32		Oct. 31, 1836,	54 50
				" Balance,	1540 82
		<u>\$1,595 32</u>			<u>\$1,595 32</u>

Dr.**Expense Account.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For sundry Expenses,	109 47	Oct. 31.	By Balance,	175 22
	" Convicts discharged,	65 75			
		<u>\$175 22</u>			<u>\$175 22</u>

Dr.**Officers' Salaries.****Cr.**

1836.			1836.		
Oct. 31.	For pay of the Subordinate Officers, in-		Oct. 31.	By Balance,	917 16
	cluding Chaplain and Physician,	\$917 16			<u>\$917 16</u>

Report of the Warden of the Maine State Prison, showing the number of Convicts, their employments, &c. from August 5th, 1836, to October 31, 1836.

Number of Convicts January 19, 1836,	65	Whole number of Convicts committed since	
Received since,	42	July 2, 1824,	599
	—	Discharged on expiration of sentences,	425
	107	Pardoned,	79
Discharged,	22	Died,	14
Pardoned,	9	Escaped and not retaken,	5
	—	Remaining,	76
	31		— 599
	31		
Remaining,	76		

Of the whole number discharged, 76 have been returned on a second commitment. Of the 76 now in Prison 58 are Americans, 9 Irish, 4 English, 2 Scotch, 2 Nova Scotians and 1 Italian.

Crimes for which they were committed.

Larceny,	46	Burglary,	2	Assault with intent to ravish,	1
Manslaughter,	8	Adultery,	3	Maiming,	1
Assault with intent to kill,	5	Forgery,	4	Murder, Sentence commuted,	1
Robbery,	3	Arson,	2	Cheating,	1

Note.—One Prisoner has been received since the above estimate was made.

Of this number 15 are on a second, 5 on a third, and 2 on a fourth commitment.

The Convicts on the 19th day of January were thus employed.

In the Smith Shops,	7	Cooks,	2	Coopers,	8
Shoemakers,	22	Washers,	2	Barbers,	1
Wheelwrights,	7	Attending Sick,	1	Invalids,	3
Tailors,	5	Waiters,	2	Sick in the Hospital,	3
Shoebinders,	1	Lumpers,	13		—
				Aggregate,	77

OFFICERS' SALARIES.

Estimate of the probable Expenses of the State Prison for the year 1837.

Warden,	700 00	For Provisions,	3,000 00
Deputy Warden,	340 00	" Clothing,	1,000 00
Clerk and Commissary,	400 00	" Fuel and Lights,	850 00
Overseers,	2,960 00	" Tools and Furniture,	500 00
Chaplain,	150 00	" Bringing Convicts from County Jails,	450 00
Physician,	100 00	" Officers' Salaries,	4,400 00
		" Raw Materials,	3,000 00
		" Building and Repairs,	800 00
		" Incidental expenses,	200 00
		" Chaplain,	150 00
		" Physician,	100 00
	<u>\$4650 00</u>		<u>\$14,450 00</u>

The probable income will amount to \$13,500.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, FEBRUARY 1, 1837.

Ordered, That 500 copies of this Report be printed for
the use of the Legislature.

(Extract from the Journal.)

Attest, WILLIAM TRAFTON, *Secretary*.