

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1837.

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1837.

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SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 13.

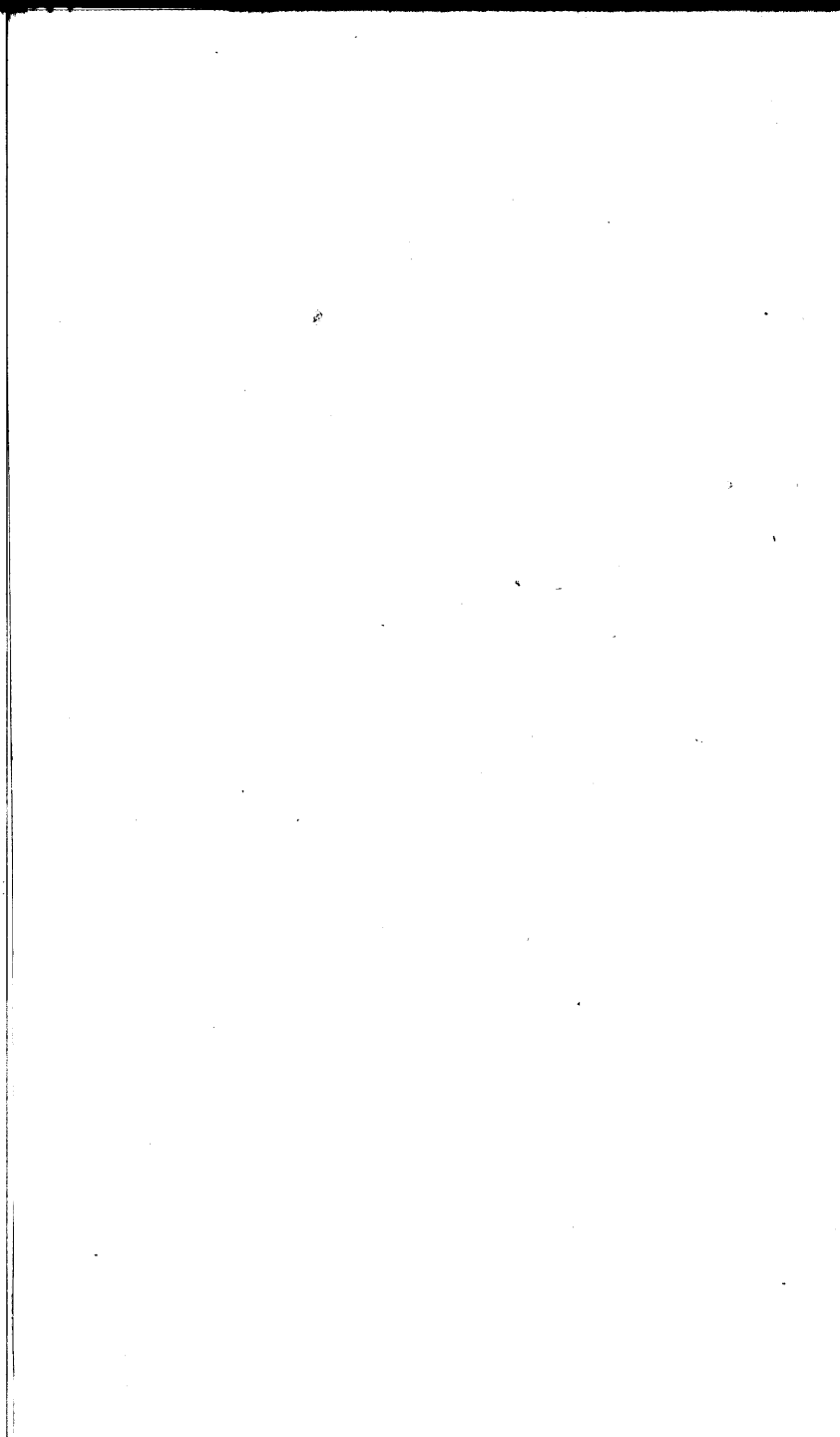
SENATE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives.

I herewith lay before you the Report of the
Inspectors of the State Prison at Thomaston.

ROBERT P. DUNLAP.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }
February 2d, 1837. }



REPORT

Of the Inspectors of the State Prison.

To the Hon. Governor and Council of the State of Maine.

THE undersigned Inspectors of the State's Prison, would respectfully state, that we held a meeting on the 29th of December, 1836, for the purpose of entering upon the usual and required examination of the affairs of the Prison preparatory to the making this our annual Report; but as our board was not then complete we adjourned to the 6th of January, 1837, and from that day to the 7th, then to the 11th, 12th, and on the 14th of said January we finished the necessary examination of the books, accounts and general transactions, for the term during which the present Warden has had charge, viz. from the 5th of August, 1836, to the 31st of October, 1836, which is the close of the Prison year as fixed by law; as also the present state of the various departments of the Prison.

We first proceeded to audit the accounts of the Warden, as presented and exhibited on the clerk's books. Satisfactory vouchers were furnished to all the charges, excepting sundry items, mostly fuel and subsistence, amounting to about \$100, for which the proper vouchers were wanting. But as we had no reason to doubt their correctness, we allowed them in account, and have placed on file a schedule of these items, that the satisfactory vouchers may be procured and examined at our next meeting.

We next proceeded to examine the different departments of the Prison, all of which have undergone more or less repairs and alterations since the last quarterly examination of the Inspectors; and on this account we must ask the indulgence of the Honorable Governor and Council, if we shall enter into a more extended course of remarks than has been usual on these occasions.

The guard room has been newly floored over, and otherwise slightly altered for the better.

The introduction of water into the Prison yard, by lead pipes leading from the well in front of the Warden's house, a distance of 180 feet, is a very great improvement, and will, by thus securing an abundant supply of pure water, obviate the difficulties which have heretofore existed, in the labor and trouble of procuring it, and from the use of the impure waters of the quarry which have been thought at times to have proved prejudicial to the health of the prisoners.

The building, formerly occupied for a blacksmith shop, wheel-wrights' shop and shoe makers' shop, and into which were also crowded the joiners, tailors and barbers, and part of which was used also as a store house, has been turned into a spacious shop for the wheelwrights' department. An ingenious, and to appearance competent overseer, has been appointed to this department since the Inspectors' last Report, viz: Benjamin H. Burrell, whose appointment the Inspectors have approved. A good supply of stock appeared to have been provided for this department. Several ingenious machines have been prepared by the overseers to facilitate its operations, and we are of the opinion that it may be made a productive branch of Prison labor. The building formerly used as a dining hall, chapel, &c., has been altered by raising the roof,

and thereby erecting it into a two story building. In the lower story is the cook room as heretofore ; also the new department of coopering, which has been commenced by the Warden, and as we think with a fair prospect of profit in the manufacture of lime casks. We noticed that this department, too, was well supplied with stock.

In the upper story, or new part of this building, is a room about 54 by 28 feet, occupied by shoe makers and tailors ; also a room for storing leather, and the manufactures of the shops ; and another for the old clothes, &c. of the prisoners which need repairs. The shoe makers' and tailors' shop, is a spacious and convenient room well lighted and principally warmed, to a suitable degree, from the heat of the fires which are kept in the cook room and cooper's shop beneath ; which heat is introduced into and conducted through this room by funnels prepared for the purpose ; and by this means some thirty convicts are at present comfortably employed in a room heated almost entirely by heat which has heretofore been lost by the unwise construction of the building.

The old wash house has been changed into a store room and connected in a convenient way with the cooking room. A new wash house has been made of the old materials brought up from the granite yard.

A new building has been erected for a blacksmith shop built of the spurious lime rock from the quarry. It is a spacious and convenient building, containing two double forges, and appears to be well stocked with tools, iron, coal, &c. The Inspectors have often represented, as we see by their Reports made in past years, the great need there was of new buildings for these various branches of business. They were the more needed when the present Warden took charge of the Institution, as from the un-

productiveness of the granite department, it was determined to suspend operations in that business. This measure of course threw a large number of the convicts that had been employed in that department, into the mechanic shops in the upper yard. We can therefore only say, that although the expense may have been greater than was anticipated by the Governor and Council, or even by the Inspectors or Warden, arising from circumstances which the Warden will undoubtedly explain, we heartily approve of all the improvements that have been made in the Prison, believing them to have been indispensable to the respectability and profit of the institution. And we can but express the hope that the necessary appropriations will be recommended to, and made by, the Legislature to enable the Warden to pay the bills that may be due for these improvements. Under this head we would name also the fact, that a part of the expenses charged to the account of building and repairs, have been incurred in fitting up the dwelling house occupied by the Warden.

The Inspectors have examined these alterations and repairs, and although there may be some things that could have been dispensed with, the greater portion of them were really needed, have been judiciously made, and are all, so far as we can judge, permanent and decided improvements. The fire places have been fitted for burning anthracite coal, which the Warden thinks will cause a considerable saving in the expense of fuel.

These buildings and repairs are *now* completed, and the bills are all on the books of the Prison. They amount to the sum of nineteen hundred seventy five dollars $\frac{22}{100}$. The Warden has assured the Inspectors that the expenses on this account, such at least as will require drafts on the

State's Treasury, may now be considered at an end. We shall therefore feel it to be our duty, hereafter, to disapprove of all expenses on this account not absolutely necessary, until the public mind shall have decided the question of a removal or remodel of their Penitentiary—a question which we would respectfully urge upon the attention of the Legislature, believing that the interests of the State, aside from higher considerations, require action upon the subject.

The Lime Quarry, as being an important department for the employment of convicts, was not overlooked in our examination. Little can be done in the quarry in winter. An abundant supply of the best rock is now on hand ready for the market when the season for active operations in lime, shall open. The Warden reports to us, and the fact was before known to a majority of the Inspectors, that he found the quarry in a bad condition when he took charge of the Institution in August last.

He says it was "literally covered with refuse rock, chips and rubbish," and that much labor and expense has been necessary to put it into a condition to be worked to advantage, and to accommodate the teams employed in taking away the rock.

It is believed by the Warden and Inspectors that an abundance of rock, of a good quality, can yet be obtained from this quarry. But it needs the superintendence of a man of more experience and skill in the quarrying business, combined with the tact for employing the convicts to the best advantage, than can be obtained for the compensation which is now allowed. We would therefore recommend that the Warden be authorized to offer for a suitable overseer of the quarry, a compensation, including board, not to exceed four hundred dollars per annum.

The Hospital appeared orderly and comfortable. One convict has been a steady occupant of the Hospital since his entrance, September 19th, 1835. He appears to be far gone with consumption. All the other cases were temporary.

The extreme West wing of the unoccupied cells, has been floored over, partitioned off, and fitted up for a chapel, where it is said the prisoners are attentive and apparently interested listeners to the religious services of the sabbath. The sabbath school is conducted by the Chaplain, Clerk, Deputy Warden and other officers—but from what we can learn of this school we are led to fear that its importance is not sufficiently appreciated by the subordinate officers—that they do not enter upon its interesting duties with the feelings that they ought to inspire. We consider it one of the most importance duties of the officers of this Prison to strive to exert a moral influence among the prisoners, by example and precept;—and that the regulation, which requires them to attend the sabbath school as teachers, should not be considered a burthen, but on the contrary, an agreeable exercise, in which they may unbend, in a measure, from the firmness and positiveness of the overseer and taskmaker, and show a feeling of interest and concern for the present and eternal interests of their unfortunate fellow creatures, committed to their charge. The Inspectors will feel it to be their duty, and in this they are gratified to have the assurances of the Warden of the same determination on his part, to look with strictness to this important part of prison duty and discipline.

We asked the indulgence of the Governor and Council in the outset while we should enter particularly into a statement of the improvements and affairs, which have

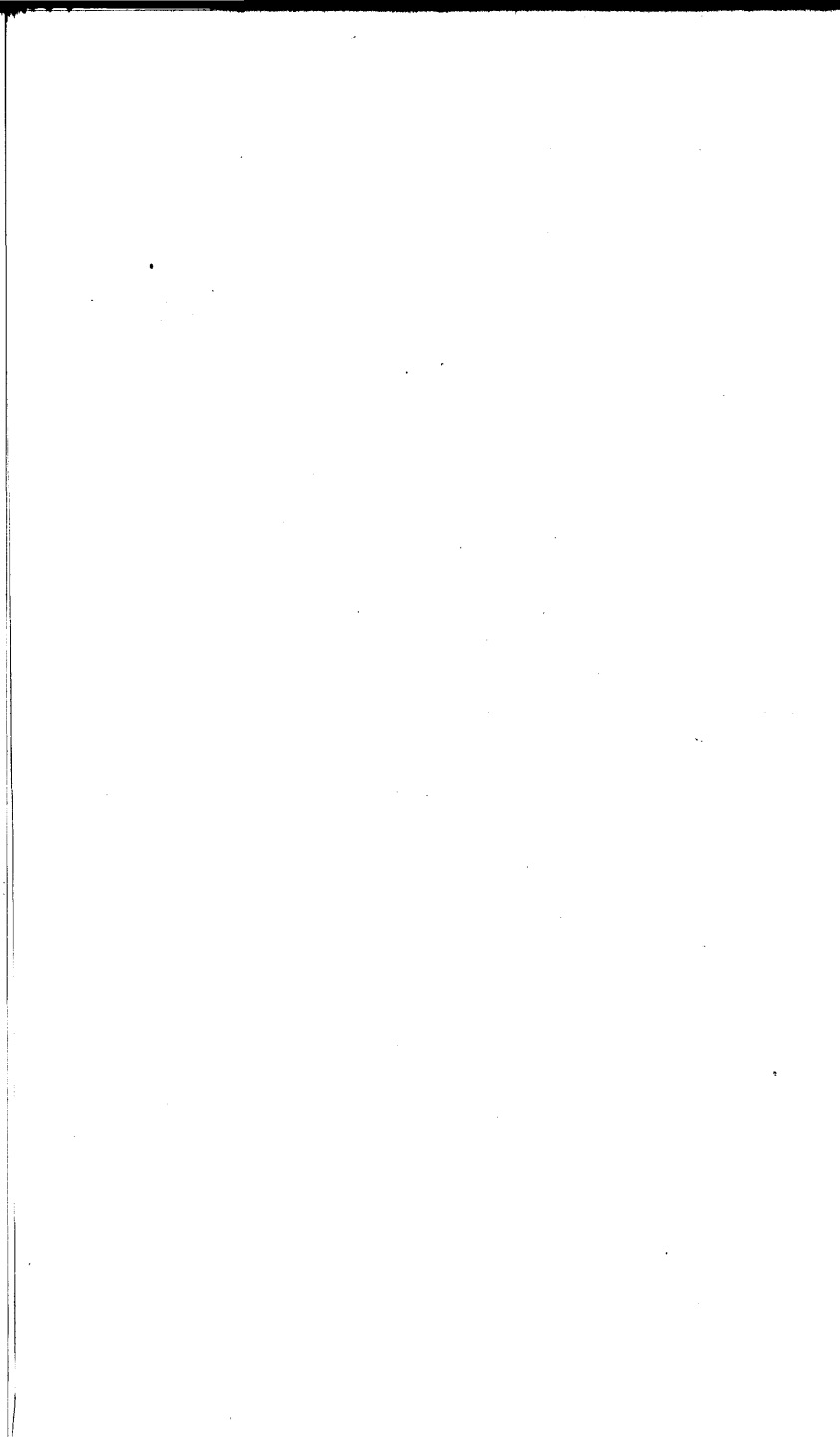
come under our inspection, and lest we have already overtaxed your indulgence we will omit speaking of the minor matters that have claimed our attention, and close by saying generally, that we found the various departments of the Prison orderly and neat, the keepers and overseers attentive and apparently efficient, and the prisoners industrious, cheerful and respectful to their keepers, all of which appeared to us to prove, that there is a commendable vigilance and ability in exercise by the Warden.

We transmit herewith statements from the calender of punishments—of the number of prisoners received and discharged during the year—of the manner in which the convicts are now employed—the various accounts of income and expense, and the general account of the Prison with the State of Maine; to many of these statements we have added notes, to which we would refer the Governor and Council for such explanations as we have deemed necessary.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY INGRAHAM,	}	Inspectors.
JOSHUA PATTERSON,		
HEZ'H PRINCE, Jr.,		

Thomaston, Jan. 14, 1837.



Statement of the number of prisoners received, discharged, &c. during the past year.

Number in Prison, January, 1836,	66	The whole number of Convicts committed since July	
Do. received since,	42	2, 1824,	599
	—	Discharged on expiration of sentences,	424
	108	Died,	15
Discharged since,	22	Pardoned,	79
Pardoned,	9	Escaped, and not taken,	5
Died,	1	Remaining,	76
	—		— 599
	32		
Remaining January 1, 1837,	76		

Of the whole number discharged, 76 have been returned on 2d, 3d, and 4th commitments.

Of the 76 now in prison, 58 are Americans; 9 Irish; 4 English; 2 Scotch; 2 Nova-Scotians; 1 Italian.

15 now in prison are on the 2d; 5 on the 3d; and 2 on the 4th commitments.

Crimes for which they were sentenced.

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

State of the Prison Jan. 14, 1837.

Officers on duty,	12	Wheelwrights,	6	Waiters,	2
<i>Employment of Convicts.</i>		Shoe binders,	1	Lumpers,	15
Smith's shop,	7	Cooks,	2	Coopers,	8
Shoe makers,	22	Washers,	2	Invalids,	4
Tailors,	5	Attending sick,	1	Sick in Hospital,	1

Dr.**State of Maine in account with the State's Prison.****Cr.**

1836.		
Oct. 31.	For amount furnished Shoemaking Department, from August 5, to this date,	842 89
"	" amount furnished Lime Quarry (team- ing, &c.) for same time,	1,062 95
"	" amount furnished Wheelwrights' De- partment, for same time,	316 16
"	" amount furnished Blacksmiths' De- partment, for same time,	341 02
"	" amount paid for Fuel, for same time,	205 58
"	" do. do. Stationery, Furniture and Hospital, for same time,	18 82
"	" amount p'd for provisions, for same time,	1,263 86
"	" " " " Clothing, " " "	821 98
"	" " " " Building and Repairs, for same time,	1,602 12
"	" " " " Expenses, for same time,	109 47
"	" " furnished convicts discharged, (cash and clothing) for same time,	65 75
"	" " paid for repairs on Lime Kiln, for same time,	20 50
"	" " " for transporting convicts from county jails, for same time,	104 81
"	" " " Joel Miller, late Warden, being his salary and salaries of other offi- cers from July 8, to August 5, 1836, as per his receipt,	382 77

1836.		
Oct. 31.	By amount of manufactures and products sold and delivered from the following income departments, from August 5, to this date, viz : shoema- kers, wheelwrights, black- smith, oakum, stone-cutting and lime quarry,	3,155 52
	" amount sold from provisions, clothing and building and re- pairs, during the same time,	211 53
	[Note.—These entries originate in a practice which has hereto- fore been allowed, of retailing out articles which had been pur- chased for use in the prison, to accommodate the subordinate officers and others trading with the prison—a practice which the Inspectors disapproved.]	
	By amount received as fees from visitors during same time,	45 95
	Total amount of income from Prison,	\$3,413 00
	The disbursements exceed the income by	\$4,662 84

1856. For amount paid Officers, Deputy Warden,
Oct. 31. Overseers, Guards, Physician and
Chaplain, &c. (Warden's salary not
included,) for same time,

917 16

Total amount of Disbursements,

\$8,075 84

29

The amount of stock, tools, &c. on hand
August 5, as per account of the Commis-
sioners appointed to settle with the late
Warden, was

\$3,912 77

Showing an increase of stock and tools from August 5th to October 31, of

\$3,018 84

Leaving a clear balance against the Prison for its operations from August 5, to Oct. 31, of

\$1,649 00

It will be seen that nearly all this sum has been expended in building and repairs.

By Cash received from
State's Treasury, .

1,206 91

Leaving a balance for
the State to pay to
settle up for said dis-
bursements, of .

\$4,619 91

3,455 93

\$8,075 84

The amount of stock,
tools, &c. on hand
Oct. 31, as per ac-
count then taken, was

\$6,926 61

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

For Provisions,	3,000 00	OFFICERS' SALARIES.			
" Clothing,	1,000 00				
" Fuel and Lights,	850 00	Warden,			700 00
" Tools and Furniture,	500 00	Deputy Warden,			340 00
" Transporting Convicts,	450 00	Clerk and Commissary,			400 00
" Raw Materials,	3,000 00	Guards and Overseers,			2,960 00
" Building and Repairs,	800 00	Chaplain,			150 00
" Incidental expenses,	200 00	Physician,			100 00
	<u>\$9,800 00</u>				
" Officers' Salaries,	4,650 00				<u>\$4650 00</u>
Total Expenses estimated at	<u>\$14,450 00</u>				

A Statement of the Stock on hand in the different departments of the Prison on the 5th of August, 1836 ; also the amount at the close of the Prison year, viz : October 31, 1836, together with the profits and expenditures in each department during said period.

INCOME DEPARTMENTS.

Dr.		Stone Cutting Department.		Cr.
1836.			1836.	
Aug. 5.	For stock and tools on hand at this date,	\$416 88	Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged for tools and granite sold to this date,
				42 98
			"	By stock and tools on hand to this date,
				336 06
			"	By sundry articles of stock transferred from this department to the blacksmith's,
				37 84
		<u>\$416 88</u>		<u>\$416 88</u>

Note.—Operations in this department were discontinued when the present Warden took charge, on account of its unproductiveness.

Dr.		Lime Quarry.		Cr.
1836.			1836.	
Aug. 5.	For stock and tools on hand, this date,	375 21	Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged for lime rock sold to this date,
	" amount purchased since and for team work,	1,062 95		1,575 23
	Balance in favor of this department,	1,298 69	"	By Stock and Tools on hand this date,
		<u>\$2,736 85</u>		1,161 62
				<u>\$2,736 85</u>

INCOME DEPARTMENTS.—CONTINUED.

Dr.	Shoemaking Department.				Cr.
1836. Aug. 5.	For stock and tools on hand at this date, “ amount purchased since, Balance in favor of this department,	757 91 842 89 492 03 <u>\$2,092 83</u>	1836. Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged for manufactures sold, By stock and tools on hand at this date,	1,058 04 1,034 79 <u>\$2,092 83</u>

Dr.	Wheelwrights' Department.				Cr.
1836. Aug. 5.	For stock and tools on hand at this date, “ amount purchased since, Balance in favor of this department,	564 72 316 16 123 26 <u>\$1,004 14</u>	1836. Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged for manufactures sold, &c. to this date, By stock and tools on hand at this date,	105 93 898 21 <u>\$1,004 14</u>

INCOME DEPARTMENTS.—CONTINUED.

Dr.

Blacksmiths' Department.

Cr.

1836.			1836.		
Aug. 5.	For amount of stock and tools on hand		Oct. 31.	By amount received and charged for	
	at this date, . . .	581 77		articles sold and labor done to this	
	" amount purchased since, . . .	341 02	"	date, . . .	358 92
	Balance in favor, . . .	306 75		By stock and tools on hand this date,	870 62
		<u>\$1,229 54</u>			<u>\$1,229 54</u>

Oakum.

1836.		
Oct. 31.	By amount sold to this date,	\$14 42

EXPENSE ACCOUNTS.

Br.		Provision Account.		Cr.	
1836.			1836.		
Aug. 5.	For Provisions on hand this date,	192 22	Oct. 31.	By amount on hand at this date,	404 71
	“ amount purchased since,	1,093 38		“ amount consumed,	880 89
		<u>\$1,285 60</u>			<u>\$1,285 60</u>

Dr.		Clothing Account.		Cr.	
1836.			1836.		
Aug. 5.	For amount on hand this date,	635 90	Oct. 31.	By amount furnished convicts dis-	
	“ “ purchased since,	821 98		charged, to this date,	34 25
				“ amount on hand to this date,	1,156 68
				“ amount furnished prisoners,	266 95
		<u>\$1,457 88</u>			<u>\$1,457 88</u>

Dr.	Fuel Account and Buildings and Repairs.	Cr.
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1836.			1836.		
Aug. 5.	For amount on hand this date,	61 19	Oct. 31.	By amount on hand at this date,	186 80
	“ “ purchased since,	205 58		“ “ consumed,	79 97
		\$266 77			\$266 77
				By materials and tools on hand at this date,	54 50
				“ articles sold to this date,	6 80
“	For materials furnished buildings and repairs from this date,	\$1,602 12		“ amount expended in repairs, &c.	1,540 82
					\$1,602 12

Dr.	Expense Account, Convicts Discharged, Officers' Salaries, Lime Kiln, and Transporting Convicts.	Cr.
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1836.			
Oct. 31.	For sundry expenses to this date,	109 47	
“	“ cash and clothing to convicts discharged, to this date,	65 75	
“	“ salaries of all officers of the prison, excepting the Warden, from Aug. 5, to this date,	917 16	
“	“ repairs on lime kiln to this date,	20 50	
“	“ amount paid for bringing convicts from the county jails,	104 81	
		\$1,217 69	

No Credit.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS, VIZ :

Arms and Military Stores, Stationery, Hospital, Furniture, Sunday School	Library, Barbers, Tailors, &c.	Cr.
Dr.		

1836.			Stock, tools and furniture on hand, October 31,	
Aug. 5.	For stock and tools on hand at this date,	326 97	1836,	\$822 62
	“ amount purchased since,	18 82		
		345 79		
	Balance,	476 83		
		<u>\$822 62</u>		<u>\$822 62</u>

The following punishments have been entered upon the Calendar of Punishments since the last Quarterly Return or Report of the Inspectors :

Nov. 2, 1836 :—*Ira Allen*, for disobeying one of the Overseers, was sentenced by the Warden to one day solitary confinement.

Nov. 3, *James Pool*, for idleness and unnecessary talking, was sentenced to one day solitary confinement.

Nov. 8, *Abraham Ploys*, for disobeying the orders of an Overseer, was sentenced to four days solitary confinement.

Nov. 9, *Abraham Ploys*, for unnecessary talking, was sentenced to four days solitary confinement.

Nov. 10, *Patrick Wood*, for same offence, was sentenced to one day solitary confinement.

Nov. 10, *Nathaniel Akers*, for feeding Wm. Connelly while in solitary confinement, was sentenced to seven days solitary confinement.

Nov. 10, *William Connelly*, for fighting, was sentenced to five days solitary confinement.

Dec. 14, *Robert Jones* and *John Russel*, for fighting, were each sentenced to one day solitary confinement.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, FEBRUARY 2, 1837.

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

(Extract from the Journal.)

Attest, WILLIAM TRAFTON, *Secretary*.