

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1839.

VOL. 2.

AUGUSTA:
SMITH & ROBINSON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1839.

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE.

NO. 8.

SENATE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I herewith communicate for your consideration, the Report of the Inspectors of the State Prison at Thomaston.

JOHN FAIRFIELD.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }
January 19, 1839. }

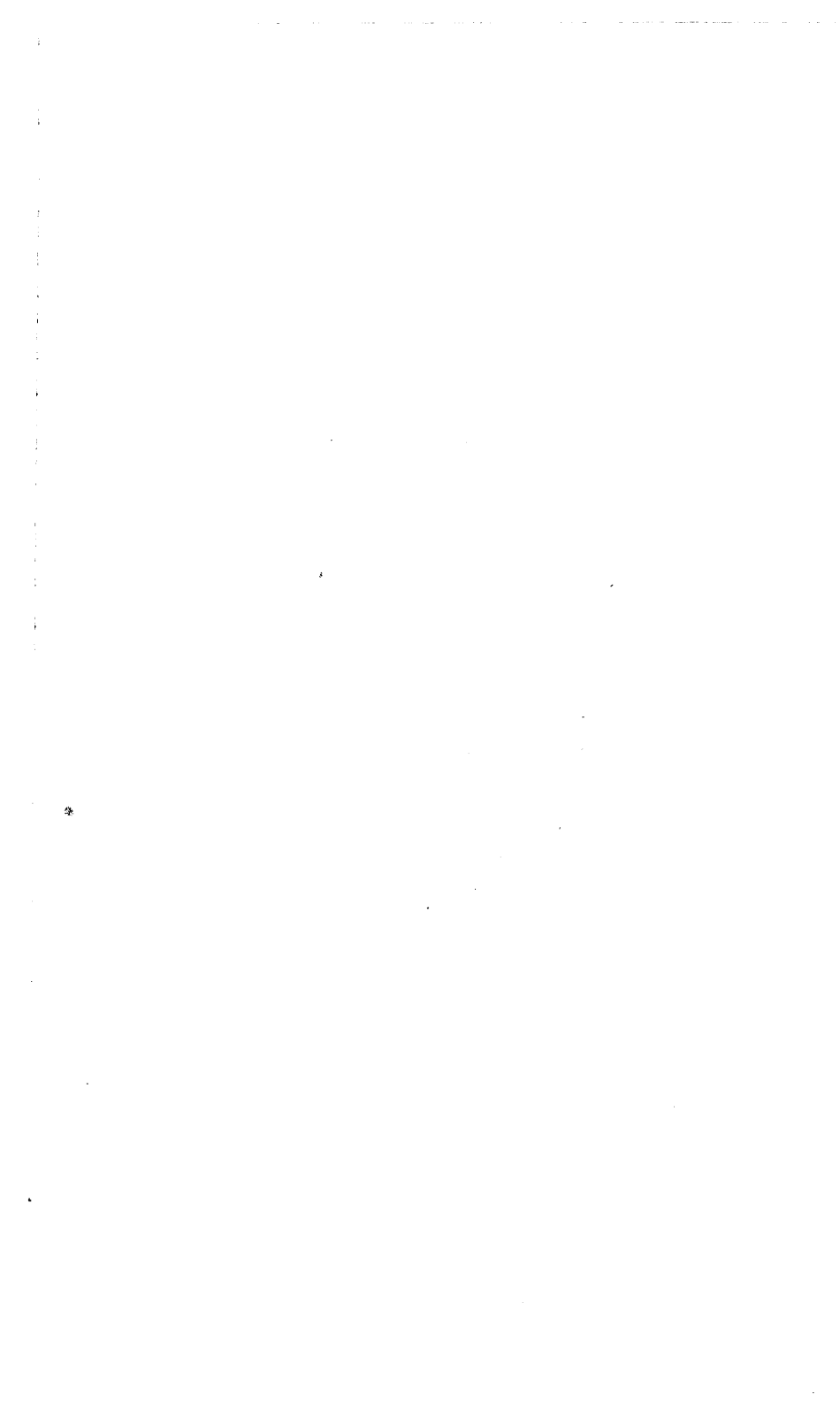
ANNUAL

REPORT OF THE INSPECTORS

OF THE

STATE PRISON.

[SMITH & ROBINSON,.....Printers to the State.]



REPORT.

To the Governor and Council of the State of Maine :

THE INSPECTORS of the State's Prison present the following

REPORT.

They have attended to the duties required of them by the laws, and have, from time to time, made known the results of their labors in special Reports, to which they ask leave to refer.

At the close of the year, however, they have, as their duty required, been engaged in a more thorough examination of all the affairs of the Institution, especially as it regards its financial concerns, and the economy of its expenditures.

On an examination of the Warden's accounts, we state it thus :

The Warden is charged with receipts from the State's Treasury, to the 31st December, 1838. \$9,736 00

For sales of manufactures, and for debts due
the Prison, 6,280 61

\$16,016 61

He is credited for disbursements during the
year ending 31st December, 1838, . . . 15,531 37

For two balances of former settlements, . . . 507 31

\$16,038 68

Making a balance in his favor, of . . . \$22 07

On examination, we find the State debtor to the Prison, as follows :

For the amount of articles purchased in the various departments of labor for expenditure in and about the Prison ; for payments of salaries and balances of old accounts due the Prison, and all disbursements, except the

Warden's salary,	\$25,076 91
For the last year's balance against the State,	1,779 29
For last year's stock,	11,063 51
	<hr/>
	\$37,919 71

The credit stands thus :

For amount received from the State's Treasury,	9,736 00
For sales of manufactures, &c.	20,493 82
For amount of stock on hand, Dec. 31, 1838,	12,818 22
	<hr/>
	\$43,048 04
Leaving a balance in favor of the State,	5,138 33
	<hr/>

Still, as the State paid during the last year, \$9,736 00, and the whole amount of receipts from sales falls short of the disbursements \$4,583 09, it will become necessary to make further appropriations for the current year.

There are demands against individuals, of the year 1837, and previous, which are not here included :—some of these are *sperate*, some *desperate*, and no certain calculations can be made of them. From these *data*, and the Reports of previous years, the amount required may be ascertained. We refer for *our* estimate, to the documents annexed, marked C.

The old demands, some of which are in suit, are scarcely worth mentioning :—at least, the prospects concerning

them are so dubious, and every year growing darker and darker, that it would be unsafe for the best calculator to hazard a conjecture, or entertain a hope, concerning them.

The expenditures for improvements or repairs, have been only trifling, and none have been allowed but such as were clearly indispensable.

The *Police* of the Institution, is as good, perhaps, as it can be, without a radical change of the whole system. The expediency of any change of the penitentiary system, and if any, what, is not within the province of the Inspectors; especially, as the whole subject has been, and still is, under the consideration of a Committee of the Legislature.

It will be perceived by reference to the schedule annexed, that while some of the departments of labor are *profitable*, others are a *losing concern*;—still, as all are in some measure dependent on each other, it would be difficult to dispense with either. The *team* which is chiefly auxiliary to the *Lime* department, is a heavy expense, and it may be somewhat doubtful whether it might not be better economy to dispose of it, and depend on hire altogether,

At any rate, the expense of taking Lime rock up from the quarry, at the average depth of 80 feet, and at an angle of ascent, in some places, of 30 degrees, by *animal power*, must be indeed great. We submit whether *steam machinery* might not be applied at a moderate expense, and at an immense saving of *animal labor*.

The prisoners for the past year, have been healthy, with few exceptions;—their food is plain but wholesome; their clothes are suitable and neat, and their cells are as pure as cells so constructed can be. The convicts are treated kindly, and the diseased are suitable attended. No death has occurred during the year.

Religious service is performed every Sabbath afternoon, and except in the winter, a Sabbath school is regularly attended each Sabbath, under the superintendence, of the Rev. Mr. Washburn, the Chaplain. The chamber used for a chapel and school room, is comfortable and convenient, and a Library is commenced of about two hundred volumes, consisting chiefly of bibles and testaments, and such plain and interesting moral and religious books as are suitable to such minds as are to be found in such a place.

The number of prisoners is now 73; the number on the 31st Dec. 1837, was 77. There have been received since, 38. Discharged, 38; pardoned, 3; and escaped, not retaken, 1. Of the 73 now in Prison, 51 are Americans; 11 Irish; 4 English; 3 Nova Scotians; and 4 Mulattoes. The crimes are: Larceny, 44; Forgery, 3; Counterfeiting, 3; Burglary and Larceny, 2; Adultery, 3; Felonious assault, 4; Attempt to commit a rape, 1; Maiming, 1; Lewdness, 1; Bigamy, 1; Manslaughter, 6; Arson, 2; Murder and Commutation, 1; Robbery, 2. The highest number within the year was 84, and the lowest 64.

In examining the disbursements we find the expense for transporting convicts to the Prison and furnishing them with means to depart, are no small items. We have perceived too that many are sent here for short periods, say six or seven months. Now as such might be confined in the County Gaols, and punished there, with quite as much effect, and this expense of transportation be thereby saved, it may be proper to inquire for a remedy, and whether the fault is in the law or in its administration.

There has also occurred a difficulty in regard to punishing for repetitions of the same penitentiary offence, where the previous convictions were not known at the

trial. The Act of the 25th February, 1824, provides, that in such case, the Court, on confession of the party, verdict of a jury, or otherwise according to law, may extend the imprisonment even during life.

This provision is not only of doubtful constitutionality, but has proved useless, at least in practice. Its repeal or modification is recommended.

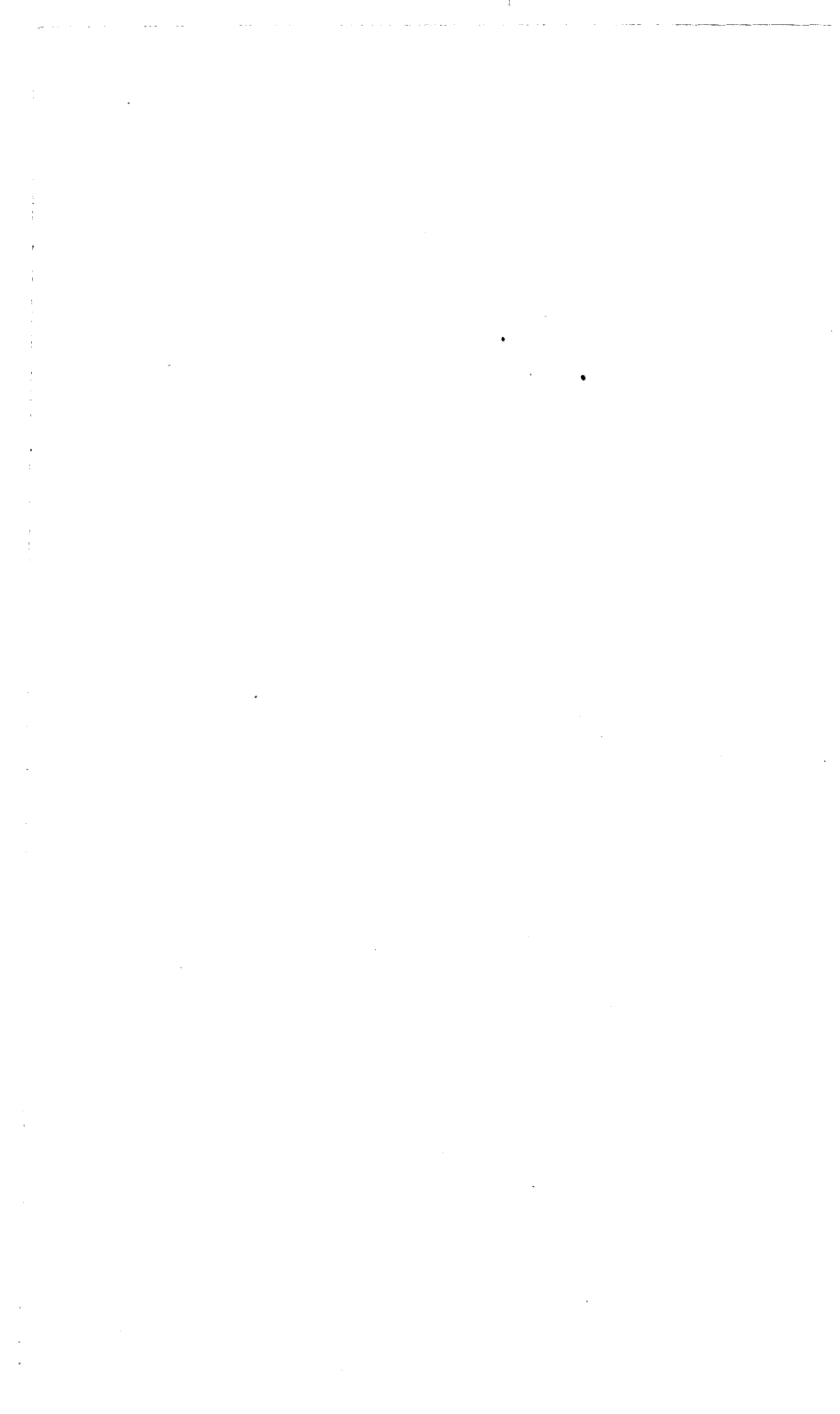
It is perhaps matter of conjecture, what will be the future expenses or profits of the institution. Times change and markets for the articles manufactured here, will fluctuate. This year lime has been particularly depressed. The market for boots and shoes is increasing, and it is difficult to supply the demand.

The Inspectors have only to add, that the accounts of the Prison are neatly, and as far as we can judge from minute inspection, accurately kept; and we see nothing in the whole administration for criticism or animadversion.

(Signed)

JOHN HOLMES,
CHARLES HARRINGTON, } *Inspectors.*
GEO. S. WIGGIN,

Thomaston, [Jan.] 15th, 1839.



A.

Number of Convicts, Dec. 31, 1837,	77	Whole number of Convicts committed since	
Received since,	38	July 2, 1824,	671
	—	Discharged on expiration of sentence,	486
	115	Died,	16
Discharged on expiration sentence,	38	Pardoned,	89
Pardoned,	3	Escaped and not retaken,	7
Died,	0	Remaining.	73
Escaped and not retaken,	1		— 671
	— 42		
Remaining number,	73		

Of the whole number discharged, 87 have been returned on a second commitment. Of the 73 now in prison, 51 are Americans; 11 Irish; 4 English; 3 Nova Scotians, and 4 Mulattoes.

SENATE.—No. 8.

Crimes for which they were committed.

Larceny,	44	Adultery,	2	Manslaughter,	6
Forgery,	3	Assault to kill,	4	Arson,	2
Counterfeiting,	3	Assault to ravish,	1	Murder, sentence commuted,	1
Burglary and Larceny,	2	Maiming,	1	Robbery,	2
Lewdness,	1	Bigamy,	1		

B.

Dr. The State of Maine in account with the State Prison. Cr.

1837.			1838.		
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand,	\$11,063 51	Dec. 31	By amount Stock on hand,	\$12,818 22
	“ “ purchases for Team,	1,701 24		“ am't rec'd & ch'd for Team,	1,627 03
	“ “ “ Clothing,	906 64		“ “ “ “ Clothing,	321 04
	“ “ “ Blacksmithing,	1,261 50		“ “ “ “ Blacksmithing,	2,171 14
	“ “ “ Subsistence,	2,245 43		“ “ “ “ Subsistence,	224 47
	“ “ “ Expense Account,	908 69		“ “ “ “ Expense account,	120 66
	“ “ &c. “ Building & repairs,	1,701 38		“ “ “ “ Building & repairs,	3 67
	“ “ “ Shoemaking,	2,370 37		“ “ “ “ Shoemaking,	4,975 69
	“ “ “ Lime Quarry,	3,996 25		“ “ “ “ Lime Quarry,	6,050 35
	“ “ “ Wheelwrights,	2,374 07		“ “ “ “ Wheelwrights,	3,447 47
	“ “ “ Coopering,	1,335 26		“ “ “ “ Coopering,	1,386 92
	“ Officers salaries, except Warden, } Chaplain and Physician, }	4,762 69		“ “ “ “ Lime Kilns,	130 81
	Sundries to Convicts discharged,	467 79		“ Fees from visitors,	44 57
	Transporting Convicts,	455 00		“ amount rec'd from State Treasurer,	9,736 00
	For purchases for Fuel and Lights,	590 00			\$43,058 04
		\$36,140 42			

12

STATE PRISON.

[Jan.

C.

The following is an Estimate of the probable Expenses of the Prison, for the year 1839.

For Provisions,	\$3,000 00	OFFICERS' SALARIES.	
“ Clothing,	1,300 00	Warden,	\$700 00
“ Fuel and Lights,	850 00	Deputy Warden,	350 00
“ Tools and Furniture,	200 00	Clerk and Commissary,	400 00
“ Transporting Convicts,	400 00	Guards and Overseers,	4,000 00
“ Raw materials for Mechanic Shop,	4,000 00	Chaplain,	150 00
“ Building and repairs,	500 00	Physician,	100 00
“ Incidental expenses,	600 00		
	\$10,850 00		\$5,700 00
			10,850 00
		Total,	\$16,550 00

D.

Shoemaking Department.

1837.		1838.	
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand,	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand,
	“ “ purchased since,		“ Boots and Shoes to sundry persons,
	“ balance,		
	\$1,524 40		\$1,066 16
	2,370 37		4,975 69
	2,147 08		
	\$6,041 85		\$6,041 85

E.
Lime Quarry Department.

1837.			1838.		
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand, . . .	\$482 59	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand, . . .	\$1,145 05
	“ “ purchased since, . . .	3,996 25		“ Lime and Rock to sundry persons,	6,050 35
	“ balance,	2,716 56			—
		\$7,195 40			\$7,195 40

F.
Wheelwrights' Department.

1837.			1838.		
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand . . .	\$1,487 39	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand, . . .	\$2,788 54
	“ “ purchased since, . . .	2,374 07		“ work to sundry persons, . . .	3,447 47
	“ balance,	2,374 55			—
		\$6,236 01			\$6,236 01

G.
Coopering Department.

1837.			1838.		
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand, . . .	\$1,181 90	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand, . . .	\$1,544 18
	“ “ purchased since, . . .	1,335 26		“ Lime casks, &c. to quarry, . . .	1,386 92
	“ balance,	413 94			
		\$2,931 10			\$2,931 10

H.
Blacksmiths' Department.

1837.			1838.		
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand, . . .	\$1,152 35	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand, . . .	\$1,173 90
	“ “ purchased since, . . .	1,261 50		“ Smiths' work to sundry persons,	2,171 14
	“ balance,	931 19			
		\$3,345 04			\$3,345 04

I.
Subsistence Department.

1837.			1838.		
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand, . . .	\$1,755 38	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand, . . .	\$1,072 40
	“ “ purchased since, . . .	2,245 43		“ subsistence to sundry persons, . . .	224 47
				“ amount consumed,	2,703 94
		\$4,000 81			\$4,000 81

J.
Building and Repairs.

1837.			1838.		
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand, . . .	\$69 66	Dec. 31	By stock on hand,	\$25 50
	“ purchases and labor since, . . .	1,701 98		“ sundries to sundry persons, . . .	3 67
				“ balance,	1,742 47
		\$1,771 64			\$1,771 64

K.

Expense account, consisting of Furniture, S. School, Hospital, Stationery, Arms and Military stores, Barbers, Tailors, Oakum, and Incidental Expenses.

1837.		1838.			
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand, . . .	\$929 17	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand, . . .	\$885 74
	“ purchases and expense since, . . .	908 69		“ sundries, to sundry persons, . . .	120 66
				“ balance,	831 46
		\$1,837 86			\$1,837 86

L.
Team Department.

1837.		1838.			
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand, . . .	\$824 00	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand, . . .	\$862 92
	“ “ purchased since, . . .	1,701 24		“ team work to sundry persons, . . .	1,627 03
				“ balance,	35 29
		\$2,525 24			\$2,525 24

M.
Clothing Department.

1837.			1838.		
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand, . . .	\$1,246 92	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand, . . .	\$1,797 68
	“ “ purchased since, . . .	906 64		“ “ to convicts discharged, &c.,	321 04
				“ balance,	34 84
		\$2,153 56			\$2,153 56

N.
Fuel and Lights.

1837.			1838.		
Dec. 31	For amount stock on hand, . . .	\$409 75	Dec. 31	By amount stock on hand, . . .	\$456 15
	“ “ purchased since, . . .	590 00		“ “ consumed,	543 60
		\$999 75			\$999 75

O.
Officers' Salaries, Transporting Convicts, and Convicts Discharged.

1838.		1838.			
Dec. 31	Officers' salaries,	\$4,762.69	Dec. 31	By balance,	\$5,685.48
	Convicts discharged,	467.79			
	Transporting Convicts,	455.00			
		\$5,685.48			\$5,685.48

1839.]

SENATE.—No. 8.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 19, 1839.

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

[Extract from the Journal.]

WILLIAM TRAFTON, *Secretary*.