

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1844.

AUGUSTA:
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1844.

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 7.]

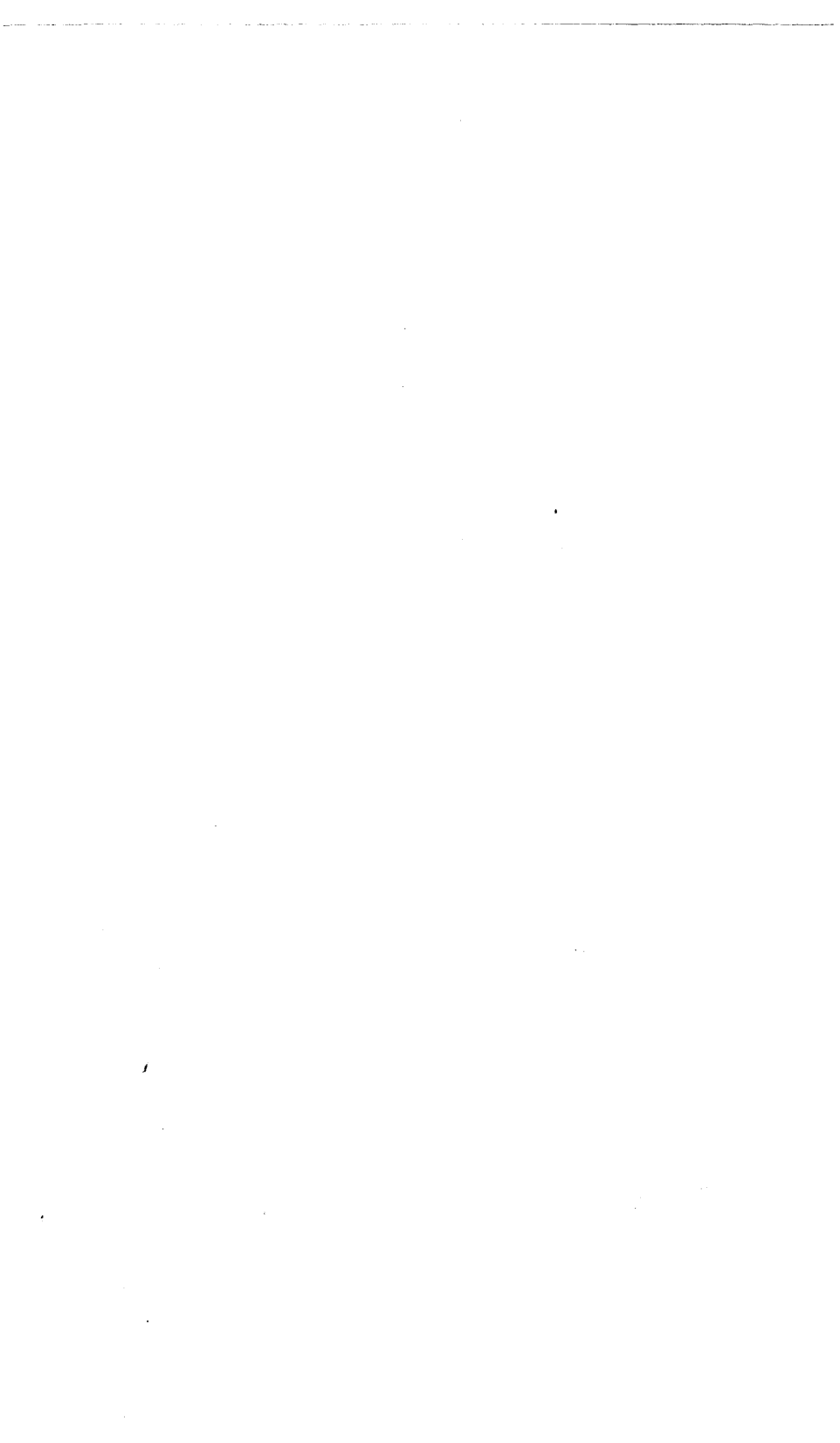
[SENATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WARDEN OF THE STATE PRISON.

[WM. R. SMITH & Co....Printers to the State.]



REPORT.

*To the Honorable the President of the Senate, and
Speaker of the House of Representatives :*

In compliance with the requirements of law, the undersigned has the honor to submit the following, as the Annual Report of the Maine State Prison.

The whole number of convicts December 31st, 1843, is 63, and they are employed as follows, viz :

In the Blacksmith shop,	5	Waiters,	2
“ Wheelwright’s shop,	8	Lumpers,	2
“ Shoemaker’s shop,	22	Barbers,	1
“ Tailor’s shop,	3	In solitary,	1
Cooks,	2	In Hospital,	2
In the Lime Quarry,	14		—
Washers,	1	Aggregate,	63

It will be seen by the above table, that the number of convicts has increased six during the past year, although it is hoped that this is no indication of an increase of crime. It is rather attributed to the fact that many of the convicts received, were at the close of last year awaiting their trials, to be had in the early part of this year, 1843.

The conduct of the prisoners for the past year has been uncommonly good, and but slight punishments have been inflicted to maintain good order and a proper regard to the discipline of the Prison, a detailed account of which, I trust, will be laid before you by the Inspectors of the Prison, through the Governor, to which I would refer you for a more minute and particular description.

I am aware that the public, through the Legislature, the proper organ, are anxious to know the condition and standing of the fiscal concerns of the Prison, together with the situation and condition of its inmates therein contained.

The convicts are generally healthy—much more so than could reasonably be expected, situated as they are in those badly constructed cells, which they are at present compelled to occupy. Having in the preceding year fully described these ill-constructed cells, I forbear going into detail again, as the last Legislature, in their wisdom, saw fit to interfere in behalf of these poor and unfortunate prisoners, and order a new construction of the cells, more to enable them to enjoy life as it passes away, while paying the just forfeiture for crimes by them unlawfully committed.

Agreeably to the directions of the last Legislature, there has been erected a new external prison building, upon the Auburn plan, over the eastern wing of the old cells, and adjoining the house occupied by the Warden, of suitable size and dimensions to contain 108 cells. The length of the building is 112 feet, 47 feet wide, and 25 feet high to the beams or roof, made of lime stone and rough granite, well laid in lime mortar, the walls of which are three feet thick, well secured by breaking joints at every course, both lengthwise and breadthwise. This building contains thirteen large glass windows in the walls, of 9 by 13 inch glass—sixty three lights in each window, for the purpose of properly ventilating and lighting the cells, which are to be built upon the Auburn plan within this building, made of split granite well matched together, properly laid in cement, with doors made of iron gratings, to be built three stories high, and two cells abreast in each story. The space between the outer wall and the cells, will be eleven feet wide and twenty five feet high, and when completed, firmly plastered, so that placing four stoves in the area, being one at each corner of the cells, with funnel passing over or near the doors, will warm all the cells, while the light from the windows in the outer walls will be sufficient to enable the convicts to read in their cells.

This building is entirely a fire proof building both inside and outside. A more minute description could be given of this building, but it is thought sufficient is said on that subject.

The Warden was authorized under the supervision of the Inspectors to erect this new Prison, and as the Inspectors have very frequently held consultations with the Warden in regard to econo-

my, durability and convenience of the Prison, it is hoped it will prove satisfactory to the public. While economy has been studied, yet this building has cost quite a sum to the State, not exceeding however the sum anticipated by the undersigned in his last annual Report. The whole amount expended on the new Prison, including some alterations in the Prison, occasioned by the erection of this building, is \$5,439 93, of which sum you have in the general account,

account, - - - - -	\$3,692 26
Add for 2284 days of convicts quarrying and fitting stone, &c., - - - - -	1,142 00
Add for paid overseer to work and oversee convicts,	200 00
“ “ “ for powder and tools, &c., for same,	203 92
“ “ “ by convicts to Jordan and others in labor,	64 25
“ “ “ for extra guard 5½ months,	137 50
	\$5,439 93

It is the opinion of the undersigned, that the whole cost of this building when completed, including the cells and other fixtures connected therewith, will not vary much from \$12,000.

It will be recollected that I gave it as an opinion in my last year's report, that the State would not be called upon for more than eight or ten thousand dollars, besides officer's salaries, to do this work, over and above the labor of the convicts. I am yet of that opinion.

The State has appropriated \$2,000, and if an appropriation of \$5,000 should be made early this winter, making in all \$7,000, I am fully of opinion it will complete the new Prison on the Auburn plan.

It is thought that if the committee of the Legislature on the State Prison, should be authorized and requested to visit the Prison for the purpose of making such examinations as the Legislature may suggest, it would aid them much in their deliberations.

The last Legislature nobly opened the door and commenced this much needed work of reform, to the satisfaction of the public generally, and it is firmly believed that the good feelings of the present Legislature will carry out that noble work of reformation, for the comfort of the unfortunate convicts.

I believe that some portion of the cost of this building will be returned to the State by the increased ability of the convicts to labor, as they all worked on the building with seeming delight, believing that the State was taking an interest in their unhappy condition. Thus they will be enabled when called upon in the morning, to go resolutely to work, having through the night been much refreshed in their new and comfortable cells. The several workshops are well supplied with manufactured stock, sufficient for six months, with slight additions.

It is believed the financial affairs of the Prison stand as well as at the close of any former year. Although much attention has been given to the new Prison, yet all the departments have been carried on without much inconvenience, notwithstanding the small number of convicts in each of them. The State has paid for the Prison, for officers' salaries (including \$1,042 75 due on the fourth quarter of last year, 1842,) and appropriation during the last year, \$7,238 25. The Prison, to meet that charge, paid for new Prison \$5,439 93. Paid in debts \$626 93, and has on hand demands due over last year of \$531 74, and also paid out \$166 for wharfage on lime rock that is now in suit, together with some other items which could not properly be made to appear in the tables.

I will again take the liberty to suggest the propriety of the State authorizing the Warden to purchase an engine with suction hose, as one is much needed to prevent the destruction of buildings when a fire happens among the workshops in the Prison. It is well known that some of these shops are filled with combustible matter, and liable to be set on fire by the convicts. It is thought that some \$400 would be sufficient to purchase a suitable one—and this small sum might save the State many thousands of dollars.

As the Inspectors will go pretty fully into the affairs of the Prison, I do not deem it of so much importance that I should be particular, knowing as I do, that the Inspectors feel a deep interest in the construction of this new Prison, and the operations of the Prison generally. I should do them injustice if I did not bear testimony to their having given much attention to the Prison, which has better enabled the Warden to progress with the work—also the

several subordinate officers of the Prison have done much to render the burden of the Warden light during the year, and it is believed, all have passed off with mutual good feelings, both Inspectors and subordinate officers.

A Report of the Chaplain and Physician will accompany the Inspectors', and as it is usual for both the Inspectors' and Warden's Report to be coupled, I would refer you to a statement of success in their labors during the past year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

BENJAMIN CARR, *Warden.*

Dr.**The State of Maine in account with the State Prison.****Cr.** 8

1842.			1843.		
Dec. 31.	For amount of Stock and Tools on hand,	13,119 88	Dec. 31.	By amount of Stock and Tools on hand,	12,821 97
1843.				By cash received from visitors,	78 77
Dec. 31.	For paid for transporting Convicts,	400 00		By cash received from convicts,	77
	“ “ Convicts discharged, . . .	249 71		By rec'd and ch'd for Team, . . .	607 75
	“ “ Team,	751 89		“ “ Blacksmithing,	2,156 36
	“ “ Officers' sal's, except Warden,	4,077 61		“ “ Fuel and Lights,	42 90
	“ “ Blacksmithing,	1,192 96		“ “ Sundry expenses,	11 69
	“ “ Fuel and Lights,	455 35		“ “ Lime Quarry,	1,812 89
	“ “ Sundry expenses,	407 90		“ “ Shoemaking,	5,372 76
	“ “ Lime Quarry,	967 32		“ “ Building and repairs,	186 71
	“ “ Shoemaking,	3,392 84		“ “ Wheelwrights,	2,658 34
	“ “ Building and Repairs,	3,692 26		“ “ Subsistence,	388 80
	“ “ Wheelwrights,	2,068 57		“ “ Clothing,	342 67
	“ “ Subsistence,	1,957 68		By amount received of State Treasurer,	7,238 25
	“ “ Clothing,	757 54		By amount due Prison on Notes, . . .	1,035 25
	For amount due individuals on Notes,	590 36		By amount due Prison on Books, . . .	7,248 52
	For amount due individuals on Books,	3,060 16			
	For balance,	4,862 37			
		\$42,004 40			\$42,004 40

STATE PRISON.

BENJAMIN CARR.

LINCOLN, ss.—January 13, 1844.

Then personally appeared, Benjamin Carr, Warden of the State Prison, and made oath that the above account is true, according to the best of his knowledge and belief.

BEFORE ME,

ABNER RICE, *Justice of the Peace.*

Examined and compared with vouchers, and found correct.

JOHN MERRILL,
GEORGE A. STARR, } *Inspectors.*
BENJ. F. BUXTON, }

NOTE. The new Prison alluded to in the foregoing Report, worth \$5,439 93, must be reckoned as stock on hand and credited in the above account, in order to show the operations of the Prison for the year, not having been taken into the account.

Number of Convicts in Prison, Dec. 31, 1842,	57
Received since,	27
	—
	84
Discharged on expiration of sentence,	13
Pardoned,	6
Died,	2
	—
	21
Remaining number,	63

Whole number of Convicts since July 2, 1824,	808
Discharged on expiration of sentence,	590
Died,	23
Pardoned,	125
Escaped and not retaken,	7
Remaining number Dec. 31, 1843,	63
	—
	808

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STATE PRISON.

Crimes.

Larceny,	39	Manslaughter,	1
Arson,	5	Assault to kill,	1
Burglary,	3	Forgery,	2
Murder, sentence commuted,	1	Perjury,	1
Murder, awaiting sentence of death,	1	Malicious mischief,	1
Adultery,	2		—
Passing counterfeit money,	2	Total,	63
Assault to ravish,	4		



STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 16, 1844.

ORDERED: That 300 copies of the Report of the Warden of the State Prison, be printed for the use of the Senate, and 50 additional copies for the use of the Warden.

JERE HASKELL, *Secretary.*