

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1845.

AUGUSTA:

WM. T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1845.

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 2.]

[SENATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

WARDEN OF THE STATE PRISON.

[WM. T. JOHNSON, Printer to the State.]



REPORT.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

AGREEABLY to the law the undersigned respectfully submits the following as the annual report of the Maine State Prison for the year ending December 31, 1844.

The whole number of convicts is seventy-five, and they are employed as follows, viz :

In the Blacksmith's shop,	6	In the Tailor's shop,	6
“ Shoemaker's shop,	33	“ Lime quarry,	9
Cooks,	2	“ Hospital,	5
Washers,	1	Waiters,	2
Lumpers,	3		—
In the Wheelwright's shop,	8	Aggregate,	75

In examining the records, I see there is an increase of twelve convicts during the last year. It will be recollected that the number decreased until 1841, but since that time it has increased, as the laws were revised about that time, and so changed that none are now sent here for a less term than one year. This alteration is for the better. When prisoners come into the prison with suitable sentences they can be put to a trade, so that when they are liberated they are enabled to make an honest living by it. It is almost universally the case that when convicts enter the prison they wish to be put to a trade, and their wishes are complied with provided their sentence will warrant it.

The prisoners generally are industrious and peaceable, although situated as they were the last summer they caused me much trouble and anxiety. While taking away the western wing of the old prison, which constituted a part of the fence or prison wall, frequent plots were made by them to escape and some of them were successful. It occupied about two months in working and taking away the old granite building, the convicts in the mean time being crowded together two in each cell, and more than twenty in the hospital, which gave them a good opportunity to plot mischief, and it is believed they were not idle while thus situated. It is dangerous to allow more than one convict in a cell, although it could not be avoided in this case, for in building the new prison, we used the granite of the old cells to construct the new, therefore the number left to occupy was small.

The new prison is now completed agreeably to the directions of the legislature, containing 108 cells, built of split granite. The building is three stories high, with 36 cells in each story, two abreast, with a longitudinal wall of bricks forming the backs of the cells. Each cell has a ventilator carried up separately through the wall, and which empties itself into a granite trough which passes the whole length of the building. On this trough are placed two chimneys which carry off all the bad air from the cells. The cells are 7 feet long, 7 feet high, and 4 feet wide in the clear. Each cell contains an iron bedstead, the frame of which is made of 1 inch round iron, and filled with narrow hoop iron. When the convict is not in bed, this is turned up and fastened, so that nearly the whole room is had to walk in.

The cells, as before stated, are made of split granite, 1 foot thick, dowed together with iron bolts, and clamps of iron drilled into the front stone, and also into the partition stones. Over the doors is placed a walk of split granite, 3 feet wide and 6 inches thick, 1 foot of which is laid in the wall of the cells. The wall of the cells being laid upon this walk holds it from canting. The same is done to both stories. At the edge of these walks is placed large round iron posts 10 feet apart, into which holes are drilled and a screw cut so that eye bolts are screwed in which receive the railing,

made of 1 inch round iron running the whole length of 90 feet of cells. The cell door is made of an iron frame, the back part near the hook or hinge is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch square—the front and two ends are $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 5-8 inch, and in the centre are two cross bars of $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 5-8 inch. These middle cross bars are drilled with inch holes, through which pass seven bars of inch round iron and also pass through both end bars, with the holes on the outer side counter-sunk and riveted firmly. Two large bars for hinges at equal distance from the cross bars bolted to the large bar, and also to each bar as it passes across the door, and are riveted to the front bar. A plate of iron 6 inches wide is bolted to the cross bars to which is affixed a large lock which locks the door in the centre. Over the doors passes a large bar of iron in a horizontal direction which moves on rollers. This bar at a single move of 4 inches locks all the doors of one division of eighteen cells; therefore each door is locked twice and the convicts made perfectly secure. These doors are so open as to admit plenty of light and heat.

The area between the outer prison and cells is 11 feet wide and 25 feet high, well lighted by large windows. The windows move on pulleys and weights, so that each morning the prison is aired by dropping the windows which drives the bad air up the flues of the cells and leaves the prison pure and clear. The whole inside of the outer prison is plastered with three coats of lime mortar, and all the cells both inside and outside are well whitewashed. The floor in the area is also made of split granite and whitewashed. The windows have green blinds on the inside for the protection of the night watch. The doors, railing, &c., are painted black, all which make a very good appearance. The cells are warmed by four box stoves placed in the area.

The new prison as completed, has cost \$13,177.44. This includes some \$300 paid out for building an engine house and two sections of wall of about 60 feet in length each, adjoining the prison on each side, forming a part of the prison yard fence. This wall is built 3 feet thick, laid in lime mortar with the joints cemented. If the entire prison yard should be built of this kind of fence, it undoubtedly would be to the interest of the State.

One more improvement I would suggest for the consideration of the legislature. There are now left twenty-two of the old cells. These are adjoining the guard room. If about six of these cells on the western end should be taken and the granite split up and built into a small house upon the top of the next eight cells, it would make a beautiful hospital, divided into about four rooms for the sick, besides a small room for the nurse. It would be on the second story where the fresh air would circulate. Then there would be left eight cells for punishment cells between the hospital and guard room, a sufficient number for that purpose. The present hospital is as inconvenient as the old cells, being located on the ground floor and adjoining the old cells.

I do not recommend any further improvements at the prison, but wish to inform the legislature of its condition. I am aware that the prison has already drawn pretty freely from the State, yet there is a consolation left. When the undersigned in his annual report of 1842 recommended the remodeling of the prison, the statement made was, provided the legislature would give us eight or ten thousand dollars besides officers' salaries, and two or three years to do it in, it could be completed. It will be recollected also by many that the idea was ridiculed at the time, supposing it was to induce the legislature to begin the work and then many thousands would be called for; but time has proved that the estimate was properly made. All that the prison has drawn from the treasury is \$7,000; the balance has been paid by the prison, viz: \$6,292.58, besides carrying on the operations of the prison as usual.

We are now nearly out of debt, stand \$1,957.48 better than at the close of last year, and it is confidently believed that the prison for the year to come will not ask for an appropriation for anything, salaries of officers included. We now have as good a prison as is in the Union, and one that will not cause the officers to blush for shame while they are conducting visitors through it. It is hoped that the committee on the State Prison will be again requested to visit the prison and see if the Warden and Inspectors have properly expended the money committed to their charge.

The Inspectors have frequently visited the prison while the work was progressing, have aided the Warden much by their advice both as to economy and convenience, and I am constrained to say that they have at all times manifested a deep interest in the welfare of the prison. I would respectfully suggest the propriety of an alteration of the law. As it now stands, it is the duty of the Warden to advertise in certain papers for a certain number of weeks for the furnishing and delivery of different articles of provisions and stock wanted at the prison for each year. For a number of years it has not been done. The Warden is obliged to make a barter trade with individuals in order to save an accumulation of manufactured articles, and it must be apparent that this method is a saving to the State; therefore this law should be repealed or carried into effect by the Warden.

The Warden, with advice of the Inspectors, entered into contract in August last, with Samuel Bigelow of Boston, for a portion of the convicts to work at shoemaking for forty cents per day for the labor of each convict acquainted with that kind of work, and thirty cents per day each for the first three months for new hands, the contract to continue five years, both parties agreeing. If the earnings of these convicts is promptly paid, which we believe will be, it will aid much in the operations of the prison.

All the departments of the prison are now in a prosperous condition. The Inspectors will undoubtedly give a pretty full account of the affairs of the prison, which probably will be before you. The Chaplain I suppose will also make a report informing the legislature of his success in the reformation and instruction of those under his charge; it will therefore be unnecessary for me to mention that subject. The officers connected with the prison are attentive to their duty aiding and assisting in the discipline, which I believe is good, and as the new prison affords a good opportunity for improving the discipline, I am anticipating more happiness to the convicts than while they were crowded into those miserable and detested old cells.

There has been received from the Treasury of State during the

last year, \$8,692·50 in all for the two appropriations and officers' salaries. The prison has due in demands, over and above outstanding demands, \$6,190·40. The prison has more than paid its expenses by \$1,900, after allowing the amount paid out for new prison or building and repairs, which is considered as property of the State.

BENJAMIN CARR, *Warden.*

January 8, 1845.

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

1843.			1844.		
Dec. 31.	For amount of Stock and Tools on hand,	12,821 97	Dec. 31.	By amount of Stock and Tools on hand,	13,222 30
1844.				By cash received of visitors,	81 72
Dec. 31.	For paid Convicts discharged,	373 32		By cash received of Convicts admitted into prison,	10 33
"	Team,	758 73		By rec'd and ch'd for Team,	860 41
"	Officers' sal's, except Warden,	4,282 44		" " Blacksmithing,	4,675 37
"	Blacksmithing,	1,585 94		" " Fuel and Lights,	39 21
"	Shoemaking,	1,436 80		By received for sundry articles charged to expense account,	42 04
"	Wheelwrights,	2,021 40		By rec'd and ch'd for Lime Quarry,	1,808 12
"	Lime Quarry,	772 23		" " Shoemaking,	5,085 80
"	Fuel and Lights,	438 60		" " Building & Repairs,	228 68
"	Transporting Convicts, Fire Engine, and sundry incidental expenses,	1,693 96		" " Wheelwrights,	3,401 72
"	Building and Repairs,	7,587 40		" " Subsistence,	514 56
"	Subsistence,	2,481 60		" " Clothing,	301 25
"	Clothing,	755 45		By received for officers' salaries,	159 81
				By balance,	6,573 72
		\$37,005 04			\$37,005 04

STATE PRISON.

BENJAMIN CARR.

LINCOLN, ss.—January 8, 1845.

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,

GEO. A. STARR, *Justice of the Peace.*

Examined and compared with vouchers, and found correct.

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

CONVICTS.

Number of Convicts Dec. 31, '43,	63	Whole number of Convicts since	
Received since,	44	July 2, 1844,	852
	—	Discharged on expiration	
	107	of sentence,	616
Discharged on expiration of		Died,	24
sentence,	26	Pardoned,	130
Pardoned,	5	Escaped and not retaken,	7
Died,	1	Remaining number Decem-	
	—	ber 31, 1844,	75
	—		— 852
Remaining number,	75		

CRIMES.

Arson,	5	Passing counterfeit money,	7
Larceny,	46	Perjury,	1
Burglary,	3	Murder, sentence commuted,	1
Adultery,	5	Murder, awaiting sentence of death,	1
Forgery,	3	Cheating,	1
Assault to kill,	1		—
Assault to ravish,	1	Total,	75



STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, Jan. 15, 1845.

ORDERED, That 1,000 copies of this report be printed for the use of the legislature.

J. O. L. FOSTER, *Secretary.*