

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1846.



*AUGUSTA:*

WM. T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1847.

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# TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE.

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No. 12.

HOUSE.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

### INSPECTORS OF MAINE STATE PRISON.

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*To the Governor and Executive*

*Council of the State of Maine.*

The Inspectors of the Maine State Prison respectfully present the following

#### REPORT:

The present number of convicts is sixty, being a decrease of fifteen since the last annual report. This is a very small number, taking into consideration the population of the State. If this may be taken as proof that crime has diminished, some cause should be assigned for this diminution; and it is but fair to conclude that the temperance reform has exerted a strong influence in preventing crime, and that the attention to the moral discipline of convicts while in prison has induced many to abandon their former habits of idleness and dissipation, and apply themselves to some useful employment after being discharged, where they soon find that it is not difficult, again to obtain the confidence of their neighbors and the public, and establish for themselves a character that will entirely obliterate the disgrace of their former conduct.

The almost universal inquiry in regard to the prison has been concerning its pecuniary situation; but seldom have any questions been asked in relation to the health and discipline of its inmates,

nor has it been considered of much importance, that frequently a convict while serving his term of punishment, has obtained for himself a good trade, and although he may have been of but little or no pecuniary advantage to the State, is enabled after being discharged, to procure good employment; thus keeping him from his former haunts of idleness and dissipation, and preventing his return to prison after a short absence.

It appears from the records of punishment that during the last sixteen months, the whole time spent by the convicts in solitary confinement for punishment, amounts to two hundred and twenty six days, equal to about three days to each prisoner; and this is the only punishment that has been inflicted, with the exception of a single case of whipping, which was inflicted upon a convict after having spent at different times, in solitary confinement, sixty days. It must be evident from this, that the conduct of the prisoners has been good, and goes far in establishing the advantage of kind treatment, and encouragement of convicts, over the old system of discipline.

Experience shows very plainly that mild and humane treatment does much towards improving the disposition of the vicious, and encouraging those who are anxious for reformation; while prisoners are treated with harshness and cruelty by their officers, without receiving from them one encouraging word or look, feeling themselves as the subjects of revenge, and outcast from society, with no prospect or hope of meeting with a kind friend after serving their term of confinement, there is but little reason to expect that a salutary and permanent reformation of character will be the result, but the fair presumption is that they will improve the first opportunity to gratify the feelings of revenge, which during their confinement has been suppressed, but not subdued, and their return to prison may be daily expected. But let the prisoners be well clothed, fed, and lodged; let proper attention be paid to cleanliness, and every means taken to preserve their health; place them in a situation, when received into the prison, to learn a trade; let them be kindly instructed and encouraged by their overseers, and be made to feel if possible, that by applying themselves to such trade, they may still make useful members of society, when discharged; let them be well

supplied with useful books to occupy the time while in their cells, with suitable moral and religious instruction ; and in many cases a thorough and permanent reformation in their character will be the result ; and although the immediate result may not be so much to the State in dollars and cents, yet crime will diminish, the number of prisoners be reduced, jails relieved, and the criminal dockets in the courts of justice very much lessened.

The Inspectors are satisfied from a careful examination at their frequent visits, that since the prisoners have occupied the new building, where they can enjoy the privilege of sleeping in clean, dry and warm beds, and have good light enabling them to read the bible and other useful books, with which the cells are supplied, that they have been more obedient and willing to perform their work to the satisfaction of their overseers, than they were after having spent the night in the cold and wet cells or pit-holes of the old prison ; and consequently but little punishment has been required.

When convicts are seen by those visiting the prison, busily engaged in the shops, they think it strange that the returns from the different departments show but a small amount as the earnings of each convict ; but when it is remembered that a large number of them are almost wholly ignorant of the business at which they are engaged, and that in making the returns from the departments, the proceeds of the labor of those who are good workmen are to be divided with those who are entirely ignorant, and whose labor has been of no profit, it will readily be seen that a large daily income cannot be expected from the whole number. In addition to this, there are many who are too old, or infirm, to do any work to advantage, but must be employed, and generally are returned as being engaged in some of the income departments, as they are unfit for cooks, waiters, or washers.

The whole amount of stock in the various departments is \$17,437 89, to which should be added the sum of \$225, expended in rebuilding prison fence, and \$475, in building lime shed and kiln, as these sums have been charged to building and repairs, and to the quarry, but have not been included in the account of stock. With-

out thus accounting for these sums, the actual situation of the departments to which they are charged would not be shown.

It was found absolutely necessary to rebuild a part of the fence, as the old one had become entirely unsafe from decay. The new kiln was built for the use of those who manufacture the rock from the prison quarry. By affording facility for burning the rock, a much larger quantity of it finds a market, and the rent for the use of the kilns makes them a source of profit.

The expenditures since December 31, 1844, appear proportionately larger, and the receipts less than for the last few years; but this is readily accounted for, when it is recollected that the time embraces two winters, which must necessarily increase the expenses of support, and diminish the proceeds of labor. It requires a large quantity of wood to warm the prison and shops during the cold weather, and this has been much higher than usual for the last season. The working time of the prisoners is much less during the short days of winter, than in the summer; besides this, many convicts are taken from the quarry where their labor yields a profit, and placed in some of the shops, where from their entire ignorance of the work, they pay little or nothing.

During the last winter so many of the convicts had to be placed in the shoe shop, that it became necessary to employ an additional overseer to look after them, while the other was cutting and fitting their work and attending to the other duties of his situation. The expense of subsistence has been increased on account of the high price of corn and the impracticability of procuring potatoes, which are generally very much used by the convicts, and the want of which has been very seriously felt during the past season.

The expense account is larger than it otherwise would have been, owing to the amount which has been paid in conducting a suit commenced some time since, in Massachusetts, to recover an amount due for limerock delivered on contract. This suit is still pending, although the Warden has used every exertion to have it brought to a close.

The Wardens of the prison have at various times, made contracts with individuals for labor to be performed by the convicts, with the

expectation of receiving the pay for it when accomplished. In all such cases, the Wardens seem to have fulfilled their part of such contracts in good faith, agreeably to the spirit and letter of their agreement; but instead of receiving the pay for it, this amount is accounted for, year after year, either as stock on hand or amount due from individuals, but after a while is put into the hands of an attorney for collection, where it is constantly a bill of expense, and after a series of years, perhaps after it has been abandoned on the books as worthless, or otherwise disposed of, may return in the form of an execution, which in its turn, requires constant attention and some expense to keep it alive.

If individuals would pay their liabilities to the prison, with any thing like reasonable promptness, there would be no need of calling upon the treasury even for officers' salaries. The Inspectors are confident that under the prudent management of the present Warden, the prison could meet every demand from its own resources, were it not for the time, trouble and expense, that is too frequently spent in collecting debts; but still it will not do to abandon the barter trade, as the sales for cash alone would be exceeding small.

It will be necessary, in the course of the present season, to rebuild the northern gateway leading into the prison yard, as the old one is very rotten; and the Inspectors would advise that a permanent stone gateway be erected instead of the present wooden one. The dwelling house must soon be repaired, as it is very leaky, and its durability and safety would be much increased by covering the roof with slate instead of wood. So long as buildings and fences are constructed of wood, the State must be at constant expense in keeping them in repair.

It appears from the present situation of the prison, that its income has paid its expenses and \$2,522 40 towards the officers' salaries, which amounts to \$5,783 83 for the last sixteen months. There has been received from the treasury the sum of \$5,681 for the payment of salaries (except the Warden's); but \$1,235 of this amount was for the quarter ending December 31, 1844; the amount of salaries for the quarter ending in March, 1846, has not been received. In addition to the above sum paid toward of-

ficers' salaries, should be added the amount paid for conducting the suit in Massachusetts; then taking into consideration the increased expense for fuel for two winters, while the profits of the summer cannot be shown, the pecuniary situation will be good.

The report of the Chaplain will present the manner in which the religious services have been conducted during the past year.

The attention of the different officers to their various duties, has been such as to meet the entire approval of the Inspectors.

In the amount due to individuals on books, in the annexed tables, is included the balance due to Mr. Carr, the Warden, amounting to \$2,641 69.

BENJ. F. BUXTON, } *Inspectors of*  
 GEORGE A. STARR, } *Maine*  
 STEPHEN BARROWS, } *State Prison.*

Maine State Prison, May 11, 1846.



*To the Inspectors of the Maine State Prison :*

GENTLEMEN :—During the past year, religious services have been performed in the chapel twice on the Lord's day—one at eight A. M. the other at three P. M.,—and I am happy to say, that attention and good order have generally characterized those devotional seasons. While it is to be feared, that some of the unfortunate inmates, “have sold themselves to work wickedness,” yet others I have reason to believe, have under the word preached, felt a restraining and enlightning influence which cannot fail to benefit them, both for time and eternity ; having found the “way of the transgressor hard,” they feel determined to reform.

Our Sabbath School has been conducted as usual, in which nearly one half are brought under instruction.

The present construction of the Prison gives me a good opportunity for personal conversation with them at the door of their cell, which seasons have been deeply interesting to myself, and I trust, not without profit to them.

My visits to the sick in the Hospital, have been thankfully received.

As many of them appear interested in reading, I would respectfully recommend an addition to the Prison library.

In humble reliance on Divine aid to assist me in this unpromising field of ministerial labor, and cheered with a hope that my past services have not been altogether in vain, but at the last great day, I shall meet some who will regard this Prison as the place where they began to “think of their ways, and turn their feet into the divine testimonies.”

I remain, respectfully yours,

**JOB WASHBURN,**

*Chaplain of the Maine State Prison.*

Thomaston, May 7, 1846.

*Statement of Receipts and Expenditures in the various Departments from Dec. 31, 1844, to April 30, 1846.*

<i>Wheelwright Department.</i>			
1844. Dec. 31,	To stock and tools on hand, To charged to department since,	4,579 40 2,589 62	7,169 02
1846. April 30,	By stock and tools on hand, By credit to department,	5,370 84 3,889 60	9,260 44
	Balance in favor,		\$2,091 42
<i>Shoemaking Department.</i>			
1844. Dec. 31,	To stock and tools on hand, To charged to department since,	1,810 40 9,776 97	11,587 37
1846. April 30,	By stock and tools on hand, By credit to department,	4,781 91 10,678 14	15,460 05
	Balance in favor,		\$3,872 68
<i>Blacksmiths' Department.</i>			
1844. Dec. 31,	To stock and tools on hand, To charged to department since,	982 80 943 19	1,925 99
1846. April 30,	By stock and tools on hand, By credit to department,	1,286 53 1,944 52	3,231 05
	Balance in favor,		\$1,305 06
<i>Lime Quarry Department.</i>			
1844. Dec. 31,	To stock and tools on hand, To charged to department since,	2,675 14 1,034 25	3,709 39
1846. April 30,	By stock and tools on hand, By credit to department,	1,875 11 2,811 05	4,686 16
	Balance in favor,		\$976 77

## STATE PRISON.

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*Statement of Receipts and Expenditures—(Continued.)*

<i>Team Department.</i>			
1844. Dec. 31,	To stock and tools on hand, To charged to department since,	325 33 779 12	
			1,104 45
1846. April 30,	By stock and tolls on hand, By credit to department,	465 00 669 33	
			1,134 33
	Balance in favor,		\$29 88
<i>Subsistence Department.</i>			
1844. Dec. 31,	To stock on hand, To charged to department since,	890 42 3,954 72	
			4,845 14
1846. April 30,	By stock on hand, By credit to department,	1,275 39 589 47	
			1,864 86
	Balance against,		\$2,980 28
<i>Fuel and Lights Department.</i>			
1844. Dec. 31,	To stock on hand, To charged to department since,	59 15 1,183 79	
			1,242 94
1846. April 30,	By stock on hand, By credit to department,	111 30 24 16	
			135 46
	Balance against,		\$1,107 48
<i>Clothing Department.</i>			
1844. Dec. 31,	To stock on hand, To charged to department since,	985 42 1,021 23	
			2,006 65
1846. April 30,	By stock on hand, By credit to department,	1,252 86 335 76	
			1,588 62
	Balance against,		\$418 03

*Statement of Receipts and Expenditures—(Continued.)*

<i>Expense Account Department.</i>			
1844. Dec. 31,	To stock on hand,	914 64	
	To charged to department since,	1,215 68	
			2,130 32
1846. April 30,	By stock on hand,	1,018 95	
	By credit to department,	101 24	
			1,120 19
	Balance against,		\$1,010 13

## STATE PRISON.

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*Balance in various Departments.*

Balance in favor of Wheelwright department,	2,091 42	
Balance in favor of Shoemaking department,	3,872 68	
Balance in favor of Blacksmiths' department,	1,305 06	
Balance in favor of Lime Quarry department,	976 77	
Balance in favor of Team department,	29 88	
		8,275 81
Balance against Subsistence department,	2,980 28	
Balance against Fuel and Lights department,	1,107 48	
Balance against Clothing department,	418 03	
Balance against Expense Account department,	1,010 13	
		5,515 92
Balance in favor of Income department,		\$2,759 89

*Receipts and Expenditures not included in above tables.*

Received from visitors, . . . . .	144 49	
"    convicts admitted, . . . . .	6 45	
"    building and repairs, . . . . .	35 22	
		186 16
Expended for convicts discharged, . . . . .	439 04	
"    building and repairs, . . . . .	684 61	
		\$1,123 65

*Statement of Stock and Tools.*

1844.			
Dec. 31,	Amount of stock and tools as per stock book,		13,222 30
1846.			
April 30,	Amount of stock in Wheelwright Depart'nt,	5,370 84	
	"    "    Shoemaking    "	4,781 91	
	"    "    Blacksmiths'    "	1,286 53	
	"    "    Lime Quarry    "	1,875 11	
	"    "    Team    "	465 00	
	"    "    Subsistence    "	1,275 39	
	"    "    Fuel and Lights    "	111 30	
	"    "    Clothing    "	1,252 86	
	"    "    Expense account    "	1,018 95	
			17,437 89
	Balance in favor of this year,		\$4,215 59

*Statement of Notes and Accounts.*

1844.			
Dec. 31,	Amount due from individuals on notes and accounts, . . . . .		9,308 58
	Amount due to individuals on notes and accounts, . . . . .		3,118 18
	Balance in favor of prison, . . . . .		\$6,190 40
1846.			
April 30,	Amount due from individuals on notes, . . . . .	1,070 02	
	Amount due from individuals on books, . . . . .	11,019 76	12,089 78
	Amount due to individuals on notes, . . . . .	2,606 41	
	Amount due to individuals on books, . . . . .	5,788 59	8,395 00
	Balance in favor of prison, . . . . .		\$8,694 78

*Statement of Convicts.*

Number of convicts in prison Dec.	Whole number of convicts received since July 2, 1824, . . . . .	881
31, 1844, . . . . . 75		
Received since, . . . . . 29		
	104	
Discharged on expiration of sentence, . . . . . 38	Discharged on expiration of sentence, . . . . . 654	
Pardoned, . . . . . 4	Pardoned, . . . . . 134	
Died, . . . . . 2	Died, . . . . . 26	
	Escaped and not retaken, . . . . . 7	
— 44	Remaining number, . . . . . 60	
Remaining number, . . . . . 60		— 881

*Crimes.*

Adultery, . . . . . 4	Murder, 2d degree, . . . . . 1
Assault to kill, . . . . . 1	Murder, sentence commuted, . . . . . 1
Arson, . . . . . 4	Murder, awaiting sentence of death, . . . . . 1
Burglary, . . . . . 5	Passing counterfeit money, . . . . . 1
Forgery, . . . . . 3	Rape, . . . . . 1
Larceny, . . . . . 37	
Lewd and lascivious cohabitation, . . . . . 1	Total, . . . . . 60

## STATE PRISON.

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*Ages of Convicts when committed.*

From 10 to 20 years, . . . . .	11	From 50 to 60 years, . . . . .	3
From 20 to 30 years, . . . . .	25	From 60 to 70 years, . . . . .	1
From 30 to 40 years, . . . . .	12		
From 40 to 50 years, . . . . .	8	Total, . . . . .	60

*Term of Sentence.*

During life, . . . . .	7	For 3 years, . . . . .	5
For 15 years, . . . . .	1	For 2 years, . . . . .	14
For 12 years, . . . . .	1	For 1 year, 6 months, . . . . .	4
For 10 years, . . . . .	2	For 1 year, . . . . .	5
For 7 years, . . . . .	1	Sentenced to be hanged, . . . . .	1
For 6 years, . . . . .	1		
For 5 years, . . . . .	11	Total, . . . . .	60
For 4 years, . . . . .	7		

*Number of days occupied by Convicts in different Departments from Dec. 31, 1844, to April 30, 1846.*

In Quarry, . . . . .	3,207	Washers, . . . . .	537
In Smiths' Shop, . . . . .	1,673	Waiters, . . . . .	673
In Shoe Shop, . . . . .	13,200	Lumpers, . . . . .	1,310
In Wheelwrights' Shop, . . . . .	2,964	Hospital, . . . . .	1,141
Tailors, . . . . .	1,412	In solitary confinement for punishment, . . . . .	226
Cooks, . . . . .	872		

STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 19, 1846.

*Ordered,* That 350 copies of the Report of the Inspectors of the State Prison be printed for the use of the Legislature.

SAMUEL BELCHER, *Clerk.*