

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1850.

Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1850.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INSPECTORS
OF THE
MAINE STATE PRISON.
1850.

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[Published agreeably to Resolve of March 22, 1836.  
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Augusta:
WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.
1850.

REPORT.

To his Excellency the Governor, and the

Honorable Council of the State of Maine:

THE Inspectors of the Maine State Prison submit the following
REPORT:

Mr. William Bennett, the new warden, entered upon the duties of his office on the first day of April of the present year, after taking the oath of office, and giving bonds as the law directs. Some one of the inspectors have made constant weekly visits at the prison, since their appointment. The operations of the prison have been carried on since the last year, without important changes in its management, either in the department of labor, or the discipline of the convicts.

The efficiency of the present warden in its management, will compare favorably with his able and distinguished predecessor.

The number of convicts now in the prison, is seventy-five.— Much larger than for a series of years.

The following tables will exhibit an account of the stock on hand, made and appraised by the commissioners, on making over the property to the new warden, on the first day of April current. Also an account of the same as taken and appraised by the inspectors on the thirtieth instant.

The inspectors estimated the property rising \$1,800 less than the commissioners. We feel confident our estimate is not too low.

The difference in the commissioners' and our estimate, was mainly upon the manufactured articles on hand. Undoubtedly the valu-

ation made by the commissioners, was a fair price for the articles at the time they were manufactured, but inasmuch as a large portion of the articles were manufactured many years ago, they have become impaired, unfashionable, and unsaleable, consequently we believe their value diminished. Should the warden deem himself controlled in his sales by the valuation of the commissioners, we are decidedly of the opinion that the property would remain a dead weight, and continue a wasting and unavailable capital; on the contrary, could he realize the prices as estimated by the inspectors, we have advised him that it would be for the interest of the state to make speedy sales.

Previous inspectors and wardens have frequently urged upon the state the necessity and importance of extending and rebuilding by a permanent stone wall the yard enclosing the prison. The wooden fence is now much decayed, and consequently insecure and unsafe. And in view of the increase of convicts, we earnestly recommend an appropriation by the legislature of \$2,000 for the purpose of building a permanent wall enclosing the prison; a portion of this sum is needed for necessary repairs on the prison buildings. With this amount, we believe the prison will be able to pay its expenses for the current year, exclusive of officers' salaries. We have made a careful examination of the debts due the prison, and we find one half, at least, are almost, if not altogether worthless. Consequently we have urged upon the new warden the necessity of giving short credits, and enforcing prompt payments in all future operations.

It will be understood that we attach no blame to previous wardens, for, doubtless the debtors to the prison, were at the time considered responsible. Some have died insolvent, others have since become bankrupt.

In large and crowded prisons, differently constructed from ours, it might be wise to classify the convicts, by removing the young offenders from associating with the hardened criminal, but here each prisoner is confined in a separate cell by night, and constantly and vigilantly watched while at work in the day by a faithful overseer,

where all conversation is strictly forbidden, and all violations of this salutary rule promptly punished. All the officers and overseers of the prison, unite in opinion, that those convicts who are confined for life, are not more disorderly than those who are confined for shorter periods, and the annexed schedule of offenses and punishments kept by the prison clerk, confirm this opinion. And any such a classification would be attended with a large outlay of expense, and call for an increase of officers.

We therefore would not advise any such classification at present.

Accompanying this, is the report of the chaplain of the prison. We think favorably of his recommendaton for an increase of the prison library.

The inspectors unite in opinion, that the officers and overseers of the prison have faithfully performed their duties to the state, and proved themselves to be able, diligent and efficient.

HERMON STEVENS,	}	<i>Inspectors of the Maine state prison.</i>
STEPHEN BARROWS,		
PETER FULLER.		

Thomaston, April 30, 1850.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

To the Inspectors of Maine State Prison :

GENTLEMEN :

You are aware that the undersigned commenced his services as chaplain, very recently.

His acquaintance with the convicts during the short time that has elapsed, enables him to say but little of their intellectual and moral condition. So far as any reasonable judgment can be formed, many of them possess enough of good moral principle to render religious and moral instruction the hopeful means of reform. There is reason to believe that in the case of several individuals their misfortune has had the effect to awaken in them some suitable regard for their highest interest, though in every case the circumstances connected with a confinement in prison renders hope of permanent reform less positive than when men have their liberty, yet there seems to be enough of encouraging promise to stimulate the heart of those whose duty it is to administer for their intellectual and spiritual benefit to put forth zealous and diligent effort in their behalf.

Religious exercises on Sabbath morning and afternoon have been regularly sustained in the chapel, and most of the convicts have been visited weekly at their cells, such other duties have been performed during the week as seemed consistent with the daily engagements of the convicts.

Bible classes for the summer season are just being formed. A good degree of taste for reading prevails among the convicts in general. A large portion of them, evidently so far appreciate the

Bible as to give it a constant reading, some among them have a scientific knowledge of music, and are capable of imparting instruction in that branch, while there are those who, with an indefinite amount of stated instruction and practice, may soon be qualified to form a good choir for the chapel services. Several are desirous of receiving instruction in reading and other rudiments of learning, encouraging them to give all possible attention to those exercises, seems adapted to promote good order among them, their mental and moral improvement and their present and future happiness. The chaplain with the warden and other officers of the prison are disposed to faithfully employ those very natural facilities for promoting ends so desirable for the prisoner, and so full of favorable promise for the public good. But success in a great measure depends on being furnished with the means adequate to the purpose. On examining the prison library it is found that there are only eighty-three volumes in all in such condition as renders it possible for them to be used; those volumes are nearly all small, about one half of them adapted to the minds and capacities of children only.

The Bibles furnished for the cells in many cases are of very obscure type, and have also become much soiled by usage, so that in dark weather and near the close of the day, it is very difficult if not impossible to read them; there are no school books or other apparatus for the class which it is made the duty of the chaplain to instruct in the rudiments of learning, belonging to the prison; there are no singing books nor hymn books except a few soiled and torn copies of each, furnished some time since, gratis. With means so inadequate, but little can be done compared with what might otherwise be effected towards carrying forward the humane and benevolent design of those who have legislated in behalf of the prisoner.

As therefore the statute provides that the chaplain, under the direction of the inspectors, may purchase annually an amount of books and other requisites, not exceeding fifty dollars, the undersigned would respectfully suggest whether it is not absolutely necessary that that amount be immediately expended in supplying the above

deficiencies. He would also suggest that some efficient method be adopted for preserving the books from being torn and otherwise injured by the convicts.

With humble reliance on the blessing of God, the kind assurances of the coöperation of the warden and his officers, and a confident belief that the unhappy inmates of our prison will be duly remembered in the councils of our rulers and in the prayers of the christian community, more is anticipated in behalf of their improvement in the future, than can be affirmed of the short period of the chaplain's official experience in the past.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL SMALL, *Chaplain.*

PUNISHMENTS.

1849.		
May	4. Manness Morse, gazing at visitors and insolence,	4 days solitary.
"	12. John Holland, for writing on the walls of shop,	2 do.
"	14. Jno. Q. A. Trenholm, for destroying work and cutting scale,	5 do.
"	15. C. Richardson, for whistling and other noises in cell,	2 do.
"	18. Henry Brown, for insolence,	4 do.
June	4. Isaac Spencer, for keeping his cell dirty,	7 do.
"	8. William P. Clement, for insolence,	1 do.
"	23. George Buxton, for noise in his cell,	4 do.
July	10. George Moore, for talking,	8 do.
"	11. John Q. A. Trenholm, for noise in his cell,	7 do.
"	11. Thomas Sharkey, for noise in his cell,	2 do.
"	11. Isaac Spencer, for talking,	6 do.
"	16. John Oaks, for idly gazing around the shop,	1 do.
Aug.	7. George Moore, for talking,	4 do.
"	8. William Bell, for disrespectful demeanor,	1 do.
"	12. William H. Storer, for resistance and insolence,	5 do.
"	18. John Q. A. Trenholm, for fighting,	5 do.
"	18. James Murray, for fighting,	4 do.
"	23. George Moore, for talking,	8 do.
"	23. Zina H. Soule, for feeding a man in solitary,	2 do.
"	29. Manness Morse, for talking,	9 do.
"	30. Thomas Sharkey for insolence,	8 do.
Sept.	3. George Moore for stealing from a convict,	2 do.
"	3. Thomas Thorn, for noise in his cell,	4 do.
"	4. Henry Sawyer, for talking,	2 do.
"	4. James Todd, for talking,	2 do.
"	11. Isaac Spencer, for resistance and boisterous language,	1 do.
"	12. Isaac Spencer, for furiously assaulting the Deputy Warden, and wounding him severely in the face with a knife,	solitary.
"	13. Isaac Spencer, for the foregoing attack, was punished by stripes and was remanded back to solitary to remain for an indefinite time.	
"	13. Robert Beckett, for idleness and insolence,	10 days solitary.
"	14. C. Richardson, for a long course of insolence, noise, &c., in his cell, was punished, having his rations stopped,	7 days solitary.
"	19. Manness Morse, for talking,	5 do.
Oct.	9. Thomas Sharkey, for disobedience,	4 do.
Nov.	13. John D. Williams, for fighting,	5 do.
"	13. Charles Kenza, for fighting,	5 do.
"	14. William P. Clement, for noise in his cell,	1 do.
"	28. C. Richardson, for whistling,	2 do.
Dec.	10. John Oakes, for talking,	1 do.
"	10. Gerry Averill, for talking,—recorded,	1 do.
"	29. Jonathan Chadwick, for insolence and laziness,	3 do.

PUNISHMENTS—(Continued.)

1850.		
Jan.	14.	John Oaks for writing to convicts, 2 days solitary.
Feb.	1.	Oliver D. Richardson, for unnecessary talking, 1 do.
"	3.	Thomas Thorn, for disobedience, 1 do.
"	23.	Charles Libby, for writing and talking, 2 do.
"	26.	William Brannick, for insolence, 2 do.
"	27.	John Oaks, for whistling, 2 do.
Mar.	6.	George Kenza, for selling his comforter, 2 do.
"	6.	Ensign Worthing, for selling his comforter, 2 do.
"	23.	Joseph Woodman, for writing, 2 do.
"	23.	Samuel H. Bell, for talking, 2 do.
April	2.	William Brannick, for disobedience and insolence, 1 do.
"	19.	John L. Morrill, for laughing and gazing at prisoners, 1 do.
"	25.	Henry Sawyer, for fighting, 1 do.
"	25.	Alexander G. Turner, for fighting, 1 do.
"	25.	John Whaling, for insolence, 1 do.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures in the various Departments from April 1, 1850, to April 30, 1850.

<i>Shoe Department.</i>			
1850.			
April 1,	To stock and tools on hand,	2,041 41	
	To charge the department since,	278 79	
			2,310 20
1850.			
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	1,436 67	
	By credit to the department since,	309 14	
			1,745 81
	Balance against the department,		564 39
—			
<i>Wheelwright Department.</i>			
1850.			
April 1,	To stock and tools on hand,	5,771 71	
	To charge the department since,	271 89	
			6,044 60
1850.			
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	5,310 20	
	By credit the department since,	191 87	
			5,502 07
	Balance against the department,		542 53
—			
<i>Blacksmiths' Department.</i>			
1850.			
April 1,	To stock and tools on hand,	1,336 90	
	To charge the department since,	133 20	
			1,470 10
1850.			
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	1,351 37	
	By credit the department since,	300 11	
			1,651 48
	Balance in favor of department,		181 38
—			
<i>Expense Account Department.</i>			
1850.			
April 1,	To stock on hand,	1,146 28	
	To charge department since,	35 59	
			1,181 87
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	983 83	
			983 83
	Balance against the department,		198 04

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures—(Continued.)

<i>Clothing Department.</i>			
1850.			
April 1,	To stock on hand,	1,148 02	
	To charge the department since,	9 55	
			1,157 57
1850.			
April 30.	By stock on hand,	1,114 16	
	By credit the department since,	11 21	
			1,125 37
	Balance against the department,		32 20
—			
<i>Subsistence Department.</i>			
1850.			
April 1,	To stock on hand,	544 92	
	To charge the department since,	101 75	
			646 67
1850.			
April 30,	By stock on hand,	390 74	
	By credit the department since,	11 86	
			402 60
	Balance against the department,		244 07
—			
<i>Lime Quarry Department.</i>			
1850.			
April 1,	To stock and tools on hand,	356 33	
	To charge the department since,	216 26	
			572 59
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	411 58	
	By credit the department since,	17 80	
			429 38
	Balance against the department,		143 21
—			
<i>Fuel and Light Department.</i>			
1850.			
April 1,	To stock on hand,	688 30	
	To charge the department since,	16 68	
			704 98
April 30,	By stock on hand,	404 00	
			401 00
	Balance against the department,		300 98

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures—(Continued.)

		<i>Team Department.</i>	
1850.			
April 1,	To stock and tools on hand,	798 17	
	To charge the department since,	77 49	
			875 66
1850.			
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	643 65	
	By credit the department since,	35 50	
			679 16
	Balance against the department,		196 51

Receipts and Expenditures not included in the foregoing tables.

Received from state treasury,	1,137 50
“ visitors,	8 25
	1,145 75
Expended for officers' salaries,	402 12
“ convicts discharged,	17 52
“ building and repairs,	102 32
	521 96

Statement of Notes and Accounts.

1850.		
April 1,	Amount due from individuals on notes and accounts,	1,4059 12
	Amount due to individuals on notes and accounts,	4,290 73
	Balance in favor of prison,	9,768 39
1850.		
April 30,	Amount due from individuals on notes,	3,424 53
	Amount due from individuals on accounts,	10,862 77
		14,287 30
	Amount due to individuals on notes,	2,462 90
	Amount due to individuals on accounts,	2,654 79
		\$5,117 69