

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSIONS

A. D. 1851--2.

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Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1852.

# REPORT

OF

## ADAMS TREAT,

*Agent for the Repairs of the Maine State Prison.*

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*To His Excellency, JOHN HUBBARD,*  
*and the Hon. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.*

ON the receipt of my commission as Agent to expend the appropriation authorized under a resolve of the Legislature of the third of June last, entitled a "Resolve making an appropriation for the repairs of the State Prison," I immediately repaired to Thomaston and entered upon the discharge of my duties. The ravages of a disastrous fire had left the Prison in such an exposed and insecure condition, that the Warden, from the urgent necessity of the case, and in anticipation of a legislative appropriation for the purpose, had already commenced rebuilding the guard house, and erected new roofs upon the Prison buildings, and had contracted for the slate with which to cover them.

In view of this state of affairs, I did not deem it advisable to disturb the plans of the Warden. I, however, immediately convened the Inspectors of the Prison, and stated to them my views in relation to the subject, and with their advice I placed at the disposal of Col. Bennett, (the Warden,) a portion of the appropriation, with which to complete the operations which he had begun. Over this part of the business, as well as the erection of the wall and gate-way, I have exercised only a general superintendence, holding Col. Bennett accountable to me for the faithful expenditure of the

funds placed at his disposal. The erection of the dwelling house I took under my immediate and personal superintendence. The guard house, office, and store room, all connected in one building, are now completed. The roofs of the Prison are thoroughly repaired and slated. Three hundred feet of wall, three feet in thickness and ten feet high, made of limestone laid in lime mortar upon a foundation sunk three feet below the surface of the earth, has been built, together with a granite gate-way ten feet in width. A walk, properly railed, is laid upon the top of the wall, furnishing the guard with a good opportunity to pass around the prison yard, and in such a position, that the convicts, when at work in the quarry, or anywhere about the prison enclosures, are at all times under their surveillance. This wall is exclusive of, and in addition to, two hundred and seventy feet which had been previously built. So that there is now completed, of continuous wall, five hundred and seventy feet, extending around the north and east boundaries of the prison yard, and extending across about one hundred feet on the southern side. The remainder of the south side of the prison yard is now enclosed by a high fence made of cedar pickets from eight to ten inches in diameter, and inserted in the ground. This fence has been standing ever since the Prison was built. A part of this fence is much dilapidated, and soon will be insecure. In my judgment, about three hundred feet of wall, similar to that which has been built this year on the east side of the boundaries of the prison yard, should be erected on the west side, in place of the old cedar fence which now stands there. In my opinion, no special appropriation from the treasury will be necessary for this purpose, but it can and ought to be done with convict labor, and the funds arising from an economical and judicious management of the ordinary operations of the Prison. The dwelling house is built upon the plan submitted by B. S. Dean, architect, of Bangor, which plan was approved by the Council and by the Inspectors. It is a commodious, convenient, and substantial building. The walls are of brick, with hammered granite window caps and sills. The roofs are slated. The foundation wall is of limestone,

well and substantially laid in lime mortar, with granite underpinning resting upon the rock foundation around the whole building. There is a good dry cellar under every part of the house, and a large cistern constructed therein. I contracted with Mr. Joseph Andrews to do the masonry, and it has been done, in my judgment, in a thorough and workmanlike manner. The joiners' labor has been performed by Freeman S. Marden, by the day, as principal, aided by as many other hands as could work to advantage under his charge. This work, in my opinion, has been done in a faithful and workmanlike manner. The joiners' work will be completed in a few days, when it will need to be painted. When this is done, all the objects contemplated in the resolve and by my commission, will have been accomplished. All of the prison buildings, together with the enclosures around the same, are now in first rate order, except a small portion of the old fence, which I have previously alluded to; and, in my opinion, will favorably compare with similar institutions elsewhere.

The sum appropriated by the resolve of June last, has been insufficient to discharge the liabilities which I have contracted in carrying out the objects which it contemplated, by the sum of about thirty-six hundred dollars. Believing that the Legislature intended to have the objects completed which were embraced in their resolve, I did not feel at liberty to suspend operations so urgent in their character, although the funds entrusted to me for that purpose were exhausted.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ADAMS TREAT, *Agent.*

AUGUSTA, Jan. 12, 1852.

**STATE OF MAINE.**



IN COUNCIL, Jan. 12, 1852.

Read, accepted, and 500 copies ordered to be printed.

**ATTEST:**

**J. G. SAWYER,** *Secretary of State.*