

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1853.

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**Augusta:**  
WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1853.

SENATE.....

.....No. 4.

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SECOND REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

FOR THE REPAIR OF THE

INSANE HOSPITAL,

1852.

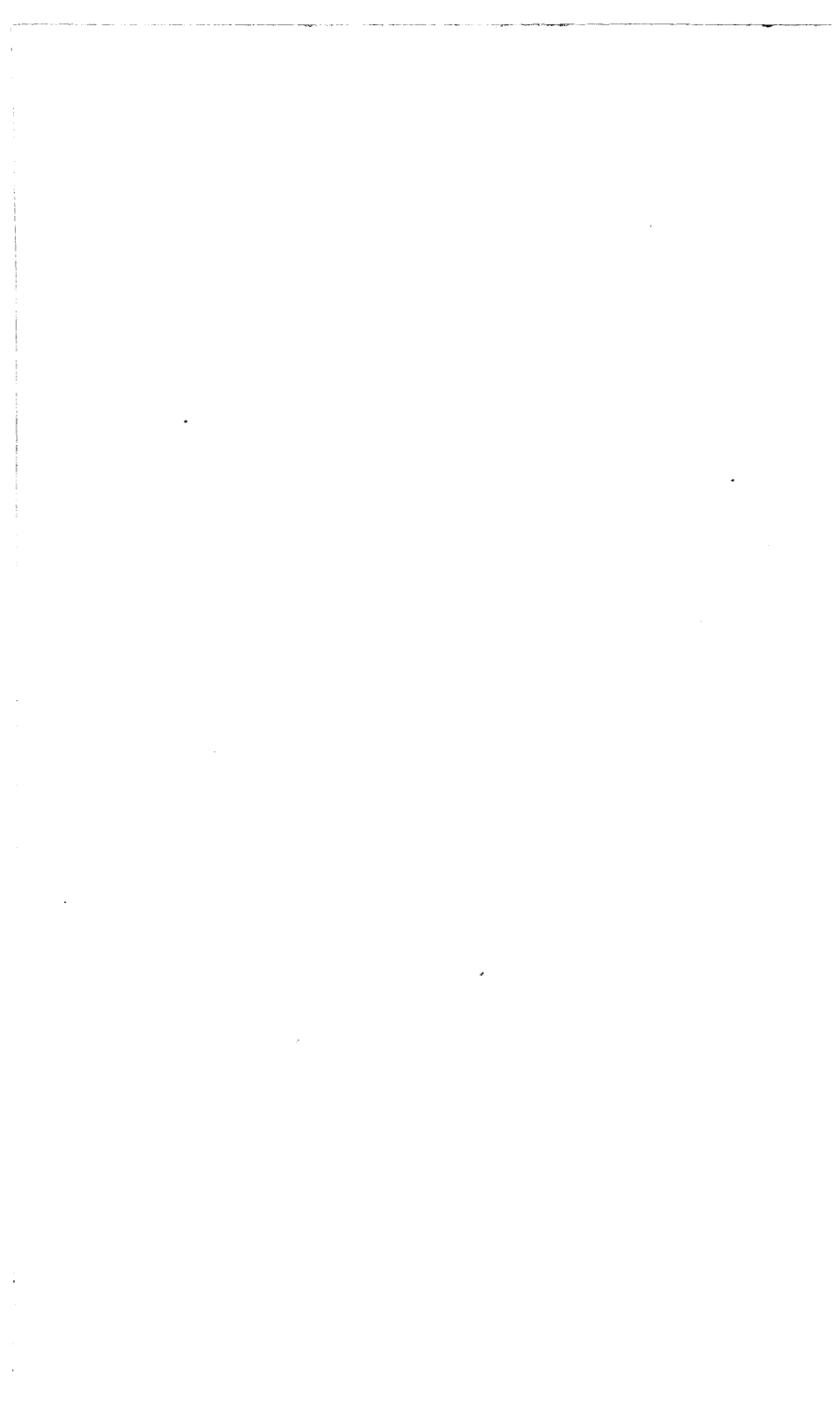
TO THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

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AUGUSTA:

WHEELER AND SIMPSON, PRINTERS.

1853.



# REPORT.

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*To Hon. Samuel Butman, President of the Senate, and  
Hon John C. Talbot, Speaker of the House of Representatives :*

In the report made to the Legislature by the undersigned, at the commencement of the last session, a full statement was exhibited of their proceedings, under the resolve of the preceding session, appropriating the sum of Twenty-five Thousand Dollars for the reconstruction and repair of the Insane Hospital.

They endeavored, in that report, to give to the Legislature precise and accurate information in regard to the progress of the work, and of the manner in which the Commissioners had discharged the duties entrusted to them ; and as the reconstruction and repair of the building had been but partially accomplished, a carefully prepared estimate of the additional appropriation that would be required to complete and furnish the building was appended thereto.

Since the preparation of that report, the work has been steadily prosecuted, and but for the insufficiency of the appropriation granted by the last Legislature, would have

been completed before the close of the last year. The whole of the work upon the exterior has, however, been performed, and the main house and the old south wing finished and occupied. A portion of the labor upon the new wing was under contract prior to the passage of the resolve for the additional appropriation, and though it was quite certain that the sum appropriated would be inadequate to defray the whole cost of the repairs, the Commissioners could not arrest the work upon that part of the building, as they would have done if no contracts had previously been made. The work, therefore, has gone on, under contracts highly advantageous to the State, and is now so far advanced that, aside from the cost of warming, plumbing and furnishing, no great expense will be required to fit it for occupancy.

The amount expended up to this time is \$47,142 -- being an excess over the appropriations, of \$7,142. The Commissioners were obliged, either to incur the responsibility of exceeding the appropriation, or of suspending the work altogether until another year, and thereby to disappoint the general expectation that accommodations for an additional number of patients would be provided before the closing of that year. Upon the advice of the Executive, they concluded to proceed to the extent of finishing and furnishing the main building and the old south wing; and by so doing, have not only essentially added to the comfort of those then in the Hospital, but provided rooms for the accommodation of forty-eight additional patients.

With the above named sum, the Commissioners have rebuilt or repaired the entire structure, much of the exterior and interior masonry having been removed to the

foundations, and nearly all the remaining walls requiring extensive repairs. The whole of the work has been done in the most substantial manner, and many improvements which, it is believed, will conduce to the safety and comfort of the inmates, adopted. Considerable additional room has been gained, by finishing the basement and attic stories for purposes for which they were respectively suited; and the accommodations for cooking, washing, baking, &c. are greatly improved and enlarged.

All the finished apartments of the building have been provided with plain, strong furniture; and as the rooms are numerous, and the whole of the old furniture had been destroyed by the fire, the expense of refitting them, even upon the most economical scale, was considerable.

The Commissioners have the satisfaction to state, that the establishment is now supplied with an abundant quantity of pure water. The aqueduct, leading from a copious fountain a mile and a quarter in rear of the Hospital, and which had before failed to convey the water, has been wholly removed, a new and better route adopted, and the excavations so made as to admit of laying the conduit upon a uniformly descending grade from the fountain to the Hospital. Much of this is laid with new and heavy pipe, and is so thoroughly and carefully done as to justify the belief that no further trouble or expense will be required. The water is carried into all parts of the building, from the basement to the attic, and hot and cold water is plentifully supplied to the kitchens, wash rooms, bakery, and the bathing rooms and closets of all the galleries. Two reservoirs, containing one hundred hogsheads each, have been constructed in front of the building, filled by the waste water from the fountain and

the droppings from the roof, and are so constructed and placed as to be readily accessible in case of fire.

In their report of last year, the undersigned expressed a decided opinion that means should be provided for warming the entire building by steam, and that by adopting the most approved mode of applying it, the greatest security, efficiency, and ultimate economy would be attained. Estimates of the cost of fitting up such an apparatus, prepared by the most experienced and scientific mechanics, were annexed to their report, and may now be referred to. No appropriation having been made to meet such an expenditure, the Commissioners have provided such means of warming the portion of the building recently finished, as the means at their disposal enabled them to do; and though every precaution has been taken to guard against danger from fire, they are in every respect inferior to those recommended in their report.

The new south wing must either be warmed by steam, or flues for furnaces built up from the cellar. It was supposed that the boiler and pipes formerly used might be repaired; but upon further examination of the large iron pipes, the most of them are pronounced worthless, and if that mode is again tried, must be renewed.

The north wing of the building, being the only part that escaped the ravages of the fire, is in need of extensive repairs. The doors are nearly all broken and injured, the plastering has fallen off in several of the rooms, and the plumbing requires entire renewal. These repairs should be made as soon as the new south wing is fitted for occupancy, and before the institution is again crowded with patients. The furniture in that part of the building is also much injured by long use, and most of it must be replaced.



The Commissioners estimate, that to supply the deficiency of the last appropriation for expenses heretofore incurred, to complete the finish of the new south wing, for putting in additional windows, glazing inside guards, finishing the bathing rooms and closets, painting and plumbing, for repairs necessary upon the north wing, for furnishing both, and for warming by steam, (using the old boiler, which is considered to be uninjured, and such of the pipe as may be good,) the sum of Seventeen Thousand Dollars will be required.

If the Legislature, however, should adopt the suggestions contained in last year's report, with regard to warming the whole building, an additional appropriation, sufficient to cover the estimate then made, would be required.

H. J. ANDERSON, }  
JOHN W. DANA. } *Commissioners.*

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, Feb. 7, 1853.

ORDERED, That 500 copies of the foregoing Report be  
printed for the use of the Legislature,

LOUIS O. COWAN, *Secretary.*