

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING THE

EXTRA SESSION OF 1853, AND SESSION OF 1854.



Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1854.

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

NO. 19.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON INSANE HOSPITAL.



THE Joint Standing Committee on Insane Hospital, to which was referred the report of the Trustees, Steward and Superintendent of the same, report, that we have visited the institution, and with a watchful regard, have examined all its internal arrangements and general management, and the facilities for the convenient and efficient administration of the duties of its several departments, and are willing alike to express our gratitude to those who projected, as well as to those who founded, this great and humane institution, the pride of our State, and the admiration of philanthropy itself. And we are happy also to believe, that the munificent designs and the most sanguine anticipations of its early friends and benefactors are being successfully realized, and that this institution, under the guidance and care of its present board of officers, will compare in usefulness and success, favorably with any institution of the kind in any of our sister States. The beneficent effects of the institution upon the community, as well as upon its inmates, were

never exceeded in any former period of its existence; and the causes which, heretofore, have operated to prejudice the public mind against it, are entirely removed. The economical and wise policy pursued by the Trustees; the extensive experience, scientific attainments, gentlemanly deportment, and unwearied attention of the Superintendent; the prompt and just exhibit of the Steward and Treasurer; the good quality and condition of all the provisions and other articles on hand for the use of the inmates, and the general neatness and fidelity of the assistants, justly entitle this institution to the fullest confidence of the people of this State.

Your committee commend a wholesome vigilance on the part of all those who have the care and supervision of the concerns of the institution, that no abuse shall be allowed to creep in which may tend to impair either its efficiency in the restoration of the insane, or the confidence of the community. And your committee believe that the officers have exercised a wise discrimination in the selection of persons employed at the institution, and that a higher degree of intelligence and a higher standard of moral requisites are necessary and essential to the efficient discharge of the duties devolving upon them, than are usually to be found in that class of the community from which they are selected, or whose services can usually be obtained for the compensation afforded.

The great object to be attained by an institution of this kind is to improve and restore the unfortunate insane, incident to which, is their own personal safety, comfort and convenience. But this is not all. The public are to be secured from their depredations and annoyances; and to accomplish these purposes it has required large expenditures and the wisdom of years. Charity has, from time to time, opened its munificent hands, and the heretofore rigid policy of States has been relaxed, and their attention turned to this subject as a legitimate duty and a matter of general public concern.

The whole number of patients under treatment during the last two years, ending November 30, 1853, was two hundred and

eighty-one, of whom eighty-one had *recovered* and twenty-five improved.

The whole number of rooms suitable for female patients are not more than 52, and none of these are suitable for the *worst* class of patients. This class now occupy the building called the Cottage, a single view of which, is enough to arouse any one to the propriety of providing a more suitable place for living beings to inhabit; and it is no matter of wonder to us that the officers report that they shall rejoice when the day comes to abandon it.

There are at this time, April 12, 1854, 65 female patients, and a continual application for the admission of more. In view of the present exigency and the approaching necessity, the Trustees have recommended an appropriation for the erection of a new north wing to compare with the south wing, which will complete the edifice according to the original design. At the request of the committee, the Trustees have furnished an estimate of the cost of the labor and materials for said building, which is herewith submitted, amounting to the sum of \$29,288.64, together with a resolve appropriating thirty thousand dollars, eighteen thousand of which is to be expended the present year, in the purchase of the necessary materials, and in building the foundation and outer structure of the same, and the balance is proposed to be paid next year in completing said building. The outlay may to some, at first, seem large and onerous; but when the amount of the labor and the extent and permanency of the structure, and the benefit arising from the same, are duly considered, your committee confidently believe that this objection will at once be overlooked, and that the necessary appropriation will, as a matter of imperative duty, be cheerfully made. Who is there among us, who has had any acquaintance at all with raving maniacs, that would not pay the share allotted to him, (which will average but about 25 cents to each tax payer in the State,) to provide a suitable place within the State, where such persons could be placed, and thus rid their neighborhoods of the fear and danger of their outrages; while

at the same time, their friends might entertain the most confident assurance that they would be cared for in the best possible manner; where they would never suffer from cold, and where excessive heat would be counteracted by a healthful circulation of air; where they would be provided with suitable food, the best facilities for cleanliness, and have all the benefit of constant medical care and attendance?

The officers of the institution report that there is some defect in the apparatus for furnishing water. But it has been shown to your committee that at all times a sufficient quantity of water may be had at the basement of the building, the only difficulty being in the elevation of the water to the upper part of the same; and this objection occurring only a part of the year, it is thought advisable to remedy, for the present, by mechanical means.

The subject of lighting the Hospital with gas has been highly recommended and favorably considered; but, as no plan has yet been matured for the consummation of that object, it is thought advisable to postpone any action upon that subject for the present. Your committee believe, however, that it will be competent and proper for the Trustees to procure the use of gas for the Hospital without delay whenever a feasible mode of effecting the same shall be suggested to them.

That religious services have a tranquilizing effect upon the minds of insane persons, has been too clearly demonstrated to admit of doubt—a want of which has, in the opinion of your committee, too long been suffered to continue at this institution, and a resolve is herewith submitted authorizing the Trustees to procure the same.

Respectfully submitted.

W. P. HARRIMAN.

ESTIMATE FOR PROPOSED NEW WING,

Similar to the South Wing of the Insane Hospital.

1,512 feet of stone for foundation, 30c. per foot laid,	\$453 60
2,012 ft. of stone for bottom course, 4 ft. wide, 10c. pr ft.,	201 20
217 cords earth to be removed, \$1 per cord,	217 00
12,676 feet of ashler, 33 cents per foot,	4,183 08
Hammered work,	1,000 00
788,950 bricks, laid, \$8 per M,	6,311 60
Window sills,	275 00
Belt and cornice,	243 75
Plastering,	1,500 00
Slating,	790 00
Gutters,	632 00
Castings,	1,000 00
Lumber,	2,556 41
Glass and sashes,	425 00
Hardware,	850 00
Painting,	625 00
Heating apparatus,	2,000 00
Plumbing,	1,125 00
Stone masons' labor,	1,425 00
Joiner work,	3,475 00
	<hr/>
	\$29,288 64

APRIL 1, 1854.

T. C. ALLAN.

APRIL 3, 1854.

MR. ALLAN having had experience in erecting the south wing of the Hospital, and being a practical and good mechanic, acquainted with the cost of labor and materials, we certify that we have entire confidence in the above estimate made by him of the cost of the new wing proposed to be erected, and we believe that an appropriation of \$30,000 will cover all the cost of it.

REUEL WILLIAMS, }
 GEORGE DOWNES, } *Trustees.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE making appropriation for the Insane Hospital.

Resolved, That there be appropriated and paid out
2 of the state treasury thirty thousand dollars, to be ex-
3 pended under the superintendence and direction of
4 the trustees of the insane hospital in building an
5 additional wing to said hospital, of which a sum not
6 exceeding eighteen thousand dollars to be expended
7 the present year in the purchase of the necessary
8 materials and in building the foundation and outer
9 structure of the same, and the balance to be paid out
10 and expended next year in completing said building.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE making appropriation for religious services
at the Insane Hospital.

Resolved, That there be appropriated and paid out
2 of the state treasury one hundred dollars, to be ex-
3 pended under the direction of the trustees of the
4 insane hospital in procuring religious services for the
5 same.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, April 7, 1854.

Ordered, That the Committee on the Insane Hospital, be allowed to procure the printing of their Report, embracing a statement of facts in relation to the appropriation for a new wing to the Insane Hospital.

Read and passed.

Sent down for concurrence.

WILLIAM TRAFTON, *Secretary.*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 8, 1854.

Read and passed in concurrence.

JOHN J. PERRY, *Clerk.*