

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1855.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1855.

REPORTS

OF THE

Trustees, Treasurer & Superintendent

OF THE

STATE REFORM SCHOOL,

AND OF THE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON SAME,

1855.

AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS.
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TRUSTEES' REPORT.



R E P O R T .

THE Trustees of the State Reform School, in obedience to the requirements of the Act of the 23d March, 1853, respectfully submit to the Governor and Council, for the information of the Legislature, their first annual report of the condition of the Institution.

The first annual report of the Trustees should, regularly, have been made in the month of December last. At that time, however, the Board had not been so far filled as to justify, in the opinion of the members appointed, its permanent organization; and as the School had been open for a very short time only, it was deemed proper to postpone a formal report to the time for making the next annual report. The Trustees, however, caused a statement of the condition of the Institution to be laid before the Legislature at its last session, through a committee appointed by that body to visit it in April last, in order that they might be apprised at an early day, of what had been done in putting the School in operation.

At the date of the report in April last, there had been but twenty five boys admitted to the School. There have been now received, one hundred and seventeen, and accessions are constantly made to its number, as its purposes and results are becoming known to the public. At the close of the year upon which we are now entering, it is estimated that it will have received at least two hundred. They will now soon begin frequently to be discharged, by expiration of the term of sentence, or as reformed, or bound out as apprentices; but we confidently believe, that in less than two years, the School will be filled to its largest capacity.

As was to have been expected, the counties in the more immediate neighborhood of the Institution, were the first to avail themselves of its benefits; but we have now boys from eleven of the counties of the State.

If the State Reform School was, in its inception, looked upon by many of our citizens as an experiment, it can now no longer be so regarded. Time has not yet been allowed fully to test its practicability and usefulness; hardly to make the public acquainted with its actual results; but that it is destined to become one of the most useful, economical and popular Institutions of the State, we cannot doubt. Its design is obvious and readily understood; it is to arrest the young criminal early in his career; to draw him aside from the temptations which have led him to crime, and to place him under such influences as shall reform and fix his character, and make him a good man and a useful citizen. The punishment of the offender is, of course, under such a system, altogether a secondary thing. His reformation is what is sought; and he is detained and disciplined till that is so far supposed to be accomplished, as to render it expedient and safe to dismiss him, and no longer. The youth of the State, commencing a vicious life, grow up to be its adult criminals—many of them its great criminals; almost all of them idle, mischievous and useless members of the community. Our purpose is to reclaim them while they may be reclaimed, that we may not have to incarcerate and punish them, when they can only be incarcerated and punished.

The people of Maine tax themselves every year for the support of Common Schools, to a greater amount than the whole annual State tax, because they know that a government dependent for its success and existence, upon the intelligence of its citizens, must at any cost provide for the instruction of its youth. The young that are leading vagrant and criminal lives, it should be, it would seem, the first care of a government thus dependent, to stay and direct. The number of them, while it is comparatively small, and so reached and

controlled with the more facility, is large and potent for harm. Shall not the State do a good and politic work when it thus places itself as a father and guardian over its neglected and erring children?

Institutions for the reformation of juvenile offenders, though new with us, have in many of the States of our Union, become the established governmental policy. There are two in New York; one in the city of New York, and one in the Western section of the State. The House of Refuge, in the city, was opened in 1825, was rebuilt in 1853, and will accommodate about 1,000 boys and girls; the whole number it had received in June, 1853, was 5,611; the number remaining in the House at the last named date, was 413. The Western House of Refuge is at Rochester; it was built by the State at a cost of \$150,000, and is now being enlarged; it was opened in 1849; has admitted 340 boys, its present number being 206. There is also a Juvenile Asylum in New York city, arranged for 600 boys. There are two Houses of Refuge in Pennsylvania; one in Philadelphia, and one in the Western part of the State; the first named was opened in 1828, and was rebuilt in 1853; there has been expended upon the buildings about \$350,000. That in Western Pennsylvania is now about ready for occupation, and is intended for 120 boys; it cost \$100,000. There are three establishments of the kind in Massachusetts, and one in contemplation, designed exclusively for girls. The State Reform School at Westboro', has now about 550 inmates; it was founded in 1848 at a cost of \$175,000. The House of Reformation at South Boston, will accommodate about 100 boys. The Farm School on Thompson's Island, though not strictly a penal institution, is devoted to the reformation of juvenile delinquents; it will accommodate about 100 boys. In Connecticut, a State Reform School was opened in 1850; its present number is about 100, but it will be capable of admitting, when completed, 200 more. In Rhode Island, the Providence

Reform School was opened in 1850; its present number is about 100. In this State, it is provided by law, that the Trustees may receive boys and girls without trial, the parents paying the expense of their support in the School. In Ohio, the Cincinnati House of Refuge was erected in 1850, at the cost of about \$175,000. In Maryland, a House of Refuge is now erecting, not far from Baltimore, calculated for about 300 boys. The State of Missouri is about establishing a House of Refuge in St. Louis. In New Orleans, one has been in operation some years. In Virginia, and also in the District of Columbia, institutions of a similar description are in contemplation.

In different parts of Europe large provision is made for the reform of juvenile offenders; in England, Scotland, France and Germany, and at other points on the continent. It was stated by Lord Brougham, in the British Parliament, in 1847, that, out of 521 convicts, received since 1839 in the institution at Metray, in France, 144 had been placed out in various situations; that 7 of this number had relapsed; that 9 were of doubtful character; but 128 were conducting themselves to the full satisfaction of the parties with whom they had been placed. He adds, that in consequence of the great success of the experiment at Metray, there had been 12 other similar establishments founded in France. Lord Brougham on the same occasion called attention to the reports of the Magistrates of Liverpool, upon the punishment and treatment of juvenile criminals. It seems, that, out of a community of about 300,000 persons, there were 51,000 convictions for offences, for the then last seven years; that 5,500 of those convicted were under 17 years of age; that one-fifth of that number had been committed on an average, 5 times each, during three years. Out of 10,000 cases of juvenile offenders, the Magistrates had investigated 14 taken at random. It was found that each individual of the 14 had been apprehended, on an average, 15 times; that the cost of pros-

educating these 14 persons had been about \$4,000, or about \$300 an individual; while the expense of supporting the Warwick Asylum for eight years, divided by the number who had been reformed at that Institution, was about \$100.

In some investigations made in Massachusetts, in 1845, before the Reform School at Westboro' was established, it was found that about 300 boys were annually sentenced to prison for crime, in that State. With a population nearly as large as that of Massachusetts at that time, it may be fairly presumed that in our State, there are boys committed to prison every year, more than can be received in an establishment of the capacity of that at Cape Elizabeth. These boys must, at all events, be taken care of at the public charge. Probably no more economical mode can be devised than that the Legislature has provided, though the punishment merely, and not the permanent reformation of the offender, were had in view.

The Trustees have the satisfaction of laying before the Governor and Council, for the use of the Legislature, a full report of our able and indefatigable Superintendent, containing a variety of interesting and valuable information, upon the condition of the School, and upon the general subject of the reformation of juvenile convicts.

The Superintendent's Report is required by law to state the offence for which each pupil was sentenced. The tables furnished by him contain also some account of the habits of the boys, before they were admitted to the School, by which it appears, that the greater portion of them have been committed to it, not so much, because they happened to be detected in the commission of particular offences, more or less aggravated, but because they were leading vicious lives. For example, Table 10 of the report shows that out of 117 committed, 106 were "untruthful, 96 profane, 95 truants from school, 68 in the habit of using ardent spirits, most of them to intoxication, 96 idle and without regular employment, and

that 56 had been previously arrested." It is evident, too, from the table referred to, that a very large number of them were under bad home influence, or under none at all.

The Trustees would call attention to the recommendation of the Superintendent, that as a general rule, the boys sent to the school be committed during minority. Most of the convicts now in the school, have been sent there for shorter terms. The object of the Legislature in establishing the Reform School was not so much to punish criminals, as to improve and reform them. Punishment may be summary, and does not necessarily require time for its accomplishment. Reform is, from the nature of the case, a work of time. If the first infliction of the penalty of the law upon a wrong-doer does not effect the purpose of the public, a second, and usually a more severe one, is imposed. Reform, if complete, is perfect in itself, and may therefore claim, as it requires, a longer period of time to effect it. How much time is, in a particular case, requisite, is left, by the Act of establishing the Reform School very much to the discretion of the managers of the Institution. Whether, in ordinary cases of imprisonment, the criminal shall remain confined a longer or shorter time as a punishment, depends upon the character of the offence of which he has been convicted; how long the offender, who is committed to a school whose business it is to reform him, shall be retained in it, depends rather upon the character of the delinquent himself. Besides, it is found that in cases of commitment for short terms, the convict is constantly looking forward to the end of the term of sentence, near at hand, when he will be discharged from what he regards as a punishment, and not to a radical change of character, upon which, he ought to understand, he must rely for a release from confinement, as well as for success in society, to which he is again admitted.

The public is hardly aware, probably, how large a proportion of the boys who have been subjected to the discipline and influence of Institutions of this kind, are permanently reclaimed. An instance,

not so rare as it might seem, is mentioned in the report of the Superintendent, of a boy committed to the School for a highly aggravated offence, who has so far obtained the confidence of the officers, that he has been put in charge of a division of the pupils, both in the work-shop and school-room. We understand, also, that the boy in question has been allowed to go home, a distance of some sixty miles, to visit his friends. It is within our own knowledge, that the boys are frequently permitted to leave the farm unattended, and we are informed, that in no such instance of indulgence granted and confidence reposed, has there been an attempt to escape. About one-third of "the family," the Superintendent states, may, he thinks, be safely trusted to go into the city, a distance of about four miles, alone, on business of the school. It is proper and but just to that excellent officer, to say, that so far as we are advised, in no other institution of the kind, with the exception of that at Westboro', which was for some years under his superintendence, has so much reliance been placed upon the "truth and honor" of the boys as in ours; and that in no case has the "honor" of the School suffered by these indulgences.

The "State Reform School" having been founded, and thus far supported by the Legislature, it is unquestionably its purpose to appropriate for its future maintenance such sums as it shall be satisfied are demanded for that purpose.

A large sum has been expended, as is well known, upon the building erected in 1852-3, upon the tract of land, purchased by the city of Portland, and conveyed to the State for that object. The tract contains about 160 acres, and though very much "run out," before the State came in possession of it, is capable of being made a valuable and productive farm. There are, however, no out-buildings upon it at all adequate to the business of the establishment, its barns consisting of some old and partially decayed buildings, found upon it at the time of its conveyance to the State.

We beg leave to call attention to the actual state of these buildings and to the recommendations of the Superintendent in this regard. Detailed estimates, and a plan of a structure, such as he thinks is required, will be found in the accompanying report.

To meet the current expenses of next year, and the cost of erecting a building according to the plan and estimates referred to, we think there will be required the sum of nineteen thousand eight hundred dollars, viz:

For provisions and groceries,	\$6 900
“ clothing for boys,	1 500
“ fitting up school-room, and furniture for 100 additional boys,	1 750
“ furnishing Chapel with seats, &c.,	200
“ partitioning off a room for Hospital,	200
“ better security for some of the windows,	300
“ farm and improvements about buildings,	1 200
“ salaries of officers and laborers,	4 500
“ expenses of Trustees,	400
“ incidental expenses,	650
“ fuel and lights,	1 000
	<hr/>
	\$18 600
Deduct estimated receipts for labor of boys,	1 800
	<hr/>
	\$16 800
Add estimated cost of barn,	3 000
	<hr/>
	\$19 800

The estimate for fitting up the school-room covers the following items :

For 100 seats and desks, with maps and teacher's desk,	\$320 00
“ 100 iron bedsteads,	400 00

For 100 beds and bedding,	810 00
“ seats, tables and other furniture, for boys' dining room,	} 220 00
	<hr/>
	\$1750 00

The estimates for Farm, and improvements about the buildings, embrace farming tools and stock, 250 apple trees, 100 pear and other fruit trees, raspberry, currant and strawberry plants for the garden, 200 or 300 shade trees to set around the building and upon each side of the road leading from the highway to the house, and about 300 rods of picket fence on the road and about the proposed barn. If no barn should be built this year, a considerable outlay must be made upon the old buildings to make them fit and safe for use.

Incidental expenses include repairs about the building, postage, books for the school, &c., &c.

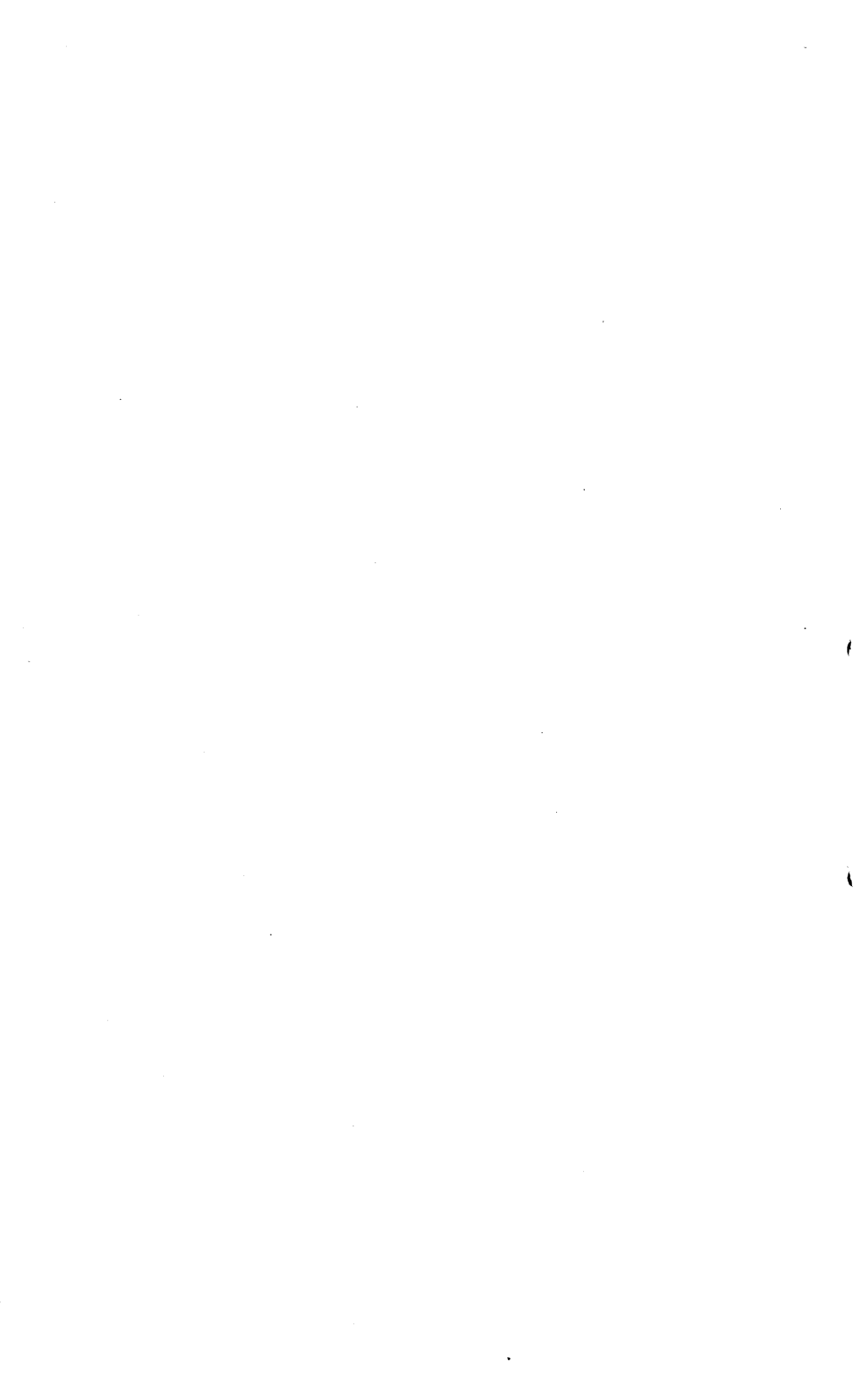
For an account of receipts and expenditures, for the year terminating 30th November last, the trustees refer to the Report of the Treasurer, herewith transmitted.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY CARTER,
OLIVER L. CURRIER,
JAMES T. McCOBB,
JOSEPH H. WILLIAMS,
WM. A. RUST,

} *Trustees of the
State Reform School.*

CAPE ELIZABETH, Dec. 19th, 1854.



TREASURER'S REPORT.



REPORT.

To the Trustees of the State Reform School.

THE Treasurer respectfully presents the following

REPORT:

The Treasurer charges himself as follows:

For amount received from the State		
Treasurer,	\$12,000	00
For amount received from boys' labor,	287	00
" " " " " articles sold		
from Farm,	459	74
	<hr/>	\$12,746 74

He credits himself for the following payments:

For books, stationery and printing,	\$226	13
" clothing for boys,	1,329	65
" furniture and bedding,	1,275	66
" fuel and lights,	991	76
" general improvements and repairs,	919	99
" salaries of officers,	1,819	48
" provisions and groceries,	2,746	86
" postage,	22	50
" wages and labor,	964	00
" farming tools, stock and improve- ments on farm,	1,707	98
For Trustees' expenses,	429	80
" miscellaneous,	313	53
	<hr/>	\$12,746 74

“Books, Stationery and Printing,” include a set of blank books for the records of the Institution, and books, slates, paper, &c., for the school room.

“Furniture and bedding,” embrace the expenses of school and dining-room furniture, bedsteads and bedding for sixty boys, the building having been furnished for fifty only, when the School was opened.

“Fuel and lights,” include the expense of fuel for two winters. (the present and last.)

“Improvements and repairs,” show the cost of raising the yard wall, providing fixtures for the shoe-makers’ shop, and general repairs.

“Farming tools and stock,” embrace the cost of 5 cows, 2 horses, 8 swine, 1 large two-horse wagon, 2 horse carts and harnesses, 146 fruit trees, the expense of grading the grounds, and making a road, and a set of farming tools.

Respectfully submitted,

J. T. McCOBB, *Treasurer State Reform School.*

CAPE ELIZABETH, Nov. 30th, 1854.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



REPORT.

To the Trustees of the State Reform School:

GENTLEMEN:—By Section 15th of the “Act to establish the State Reform School,” it is made the duty of the Superintendent to present a detailed report of the affairs of the School for the year ending on the last day of November in each year.

In obedience to this requirement, I present this, my first annual Report.

On the fourth of April last, I made a statement of the condition of the Institution at that date, which was published in connection with that of the Committee of the Legislature on the Reform School.

In order to comply with the letter of the Statute, this Report will embrace the time from Nov. 14th, 1853, to Nov. 30th, 1854.

The following tables have been prepared to give valuable statistical information in a convenient form for reference :

TABLE 1.

Showing the number received, and the general state of the School from Nov. 14th, 1853, to Nov. 30th, 1854, inclusive.

Whole number received,		117
Discharged by order of Trustees, ,	1	
“ “ expiration of sentence,	3	
	—	4
Number remaining Nov. 30th, 1854,		113

TABLE 2.

Showing the Admissions, Discharges and Number at the close of each month, since the Institution was opened.

	Admissions.	Discharges.	No. at close of Month.
November, 1853,	5	0	5
December, "	5	0	10
January, 1854,	6	0	16
February, "	2	0	18
March, "	6	1	23
April, "	9	0	32
May, "	15	0	47
June, "	6	0	53
July, "	9	0	62
August, "	18	0	80
September, "	8	0	88
October, "	15	0	103
November, "	13	3	113
Total,	117	4	

TABLE 3.

Showing by what Authority Committed.

By Supreme Judicial Court,	14
" Portland Municipal Court,	26
" Bangor Police "	22
" Gardiner " "	12
" Augusta Municipal " "	6
" Hallowell " "	5
" Bath " "	7
" Belfast Police "	1
" Justices of the Peace,	24
Total,	117

TABLE 4.

*Showing the Term of Sentence in all Cases of Commitment.
since the School was opened.*

During Minority,	45
For seven years,	3
" five	10
" four	17
" three	15
" two	15
" one	12
	<hr/>
Total,	117

TABLE 5.

Showing the Offences for which Committed.

For Larceny,	78
" breaking and entering with intent to commit a felony,	3
" being a common runaway,	21
" truancy,	4
" assault,	3
" malicious mischief,	5
" malicious trespass,	1
" riot,	1
" cheating by false pretences,	1
	<hr/>
Total,	117

Many of those committed as common runaways, have been frequently imprisoned for larceny and other crimes.

TABLE 6.

Showing the Alternative Sentence of all Committed.

Five years in State Prison,	2
Four " " " " " " " " " " " "	2
Three " " " " " " " " " " " "	2
One " " " " " " " " " " " "	7
Six months in House of Correction, or Jail,	1
Three " " " " " " " " " " " "	2
Two " " " " " " " " " " " "	17
One " " " " " " " " " " " "	1
Sixty days " " " " " " " " " " " "	4
Fifty " " " " " " " " " " " "	2
Thirty " " " " " " " " " " " "	58
Twenty " " " " " " " " " " " "	8
Fifteen " " " " " " " " " " " "	1
Ten " " " " " " " " " " " "	4
One hour " " " " " " " " " " " "	1
Fine and cost,	3
Not sentenced alternatively,	2
Total,	117

TABLE 7.

Showing the Number of Admissions from each County.

<i>Cumberland.</i>	{ Portland,	27
	{ Bridgton,	1
	{ Gorham,	1
	{ Westbrook,	1

<i>Franklin.</i>	{	Kingfield,	2	3
		Rangly Plantation,	1	
			—	
<i>Hancock.</i>	{	Sedgwick,	1	1
			—	
<i>Kennebec.</i>	{	Augusta,	8	27
		Hallowell,	6	
		Gardiner,	10	
		Pittston,	1	
		Monmouth,	1	
		Manchester,	1	
			—	
<i>Oxford.</i>	{	Hiram,	1	2
		Waterford,	1	
			—	
<i>Penobscot.</i>	{	Bangor,	25	28
		Oldtown,	1	
		Veazie,	2	
			—	
<i>Somerset.</i>	{	Mercer,	1	2
		Hartland,	1	
			—	
<i>Sagadahoc.</i>	{	Bath,	7	8
		Richmond,	1	
			—	
<i>Waldo.</i>	{	Belfast,	1	1
			—	
<i>Washington.</i>	{	Eastport,	2	3
		Calais,	1	
			—	
<i>York.</i>	{	Saco,	8	12
		Biddeford,	3	
		Kennebunkport,	1	
			—	
Total,				117

TABLE 8.*Showing the Nativity of all Committed.*

Born in Ireland,	7	
“ England,	2	
“ New Brunswick,	5	
“ Nova Scotia,	1	
“ Canada,	1	
Born on the Atlantic Ocean,	1	
Foreigners,	—	17
Born in Maine,	77	
“ Massachusetts,	8	
“ New Hampshire,	7	
“ Vermont,	2	
“ Rhode Island,	1	
“ New York,	3	
“ Virginia,	1	
“ Florida,	1	
	—	100
		—
Total,		117

Of the one hundred and seventeen committed, seventeen were born in foreign countries.

Of the one hundred reported born in the United States, eighty-two are of American parentage, fifteen of Irish parentage, two of English, and one of Scotch.

TABLE 9.*Ages of Boys when Committed.*

Seven years of age,	1
Eight “ “	1

Nine years of age,	3
Ten	13
Eleven	11
Twelve	10
Thirteen	17
Fourteen	26
Fifteen	18
Sixteen	12
Seventeen	4
Eighteen	1
	<hr/>
Total,	117
Average age, 13 1-3 years.	

TABLE 10.

This table is introduced to show some facts connected with the Moral condition of Boys when received, and the Home Influences under which they have lived.

Whole number received,	117
Have parents, one or both of whom are, or have been,	
intemperate,	56
" lost their father,	41
" lost their mother,	32
" fathers, mothers, brothers or sisters, who are, or have	
been, in prison,	31
" step-fathers or mothers,	32
Who were idle or had no steady employment,	96
" have been much indulged,	21
" have been much neglected,	46
" have been truants from school,	95
" have been Sabbath-breakers,	90
" have been untruthful,	106

Who have been profane,	96
“ have slept away from home in sheds, carts, boxes, &c.,	67
“ have drunk ardent spirits, most of them to intoxication,	49
Have been previously arrested,	56
“ been imprisoned for crime,	39
“ never regularly attended Sabbath School,	56
“ never regularly attended day school three months in succession,	20
“ been in the habit of using tobacco,	75

The information contained in the above table, has been gathered from officers in whose charge the boys were brought; from parents and other reliable sources, and from the acknowledgement of the boys themselves.

Where *habits* of boys are referred to—such as profanity, lying, &c., only those are included that have been of long continuance.

“Previous arrests” include all arrests for criminal offences.

Many other facts in relation to the companionship of boys might be introduced, which would show in a painful light the influences one bad boy has in corrupting those who associate with him unrestrained in the street.

TABLE 11.

Inventory of Stock on hand, November 30, 1854.

3 bbls. flour,	a \$10 50	\$31 50
267 lbs. rice,	5 1-2	14 29
200 bushels potatoes,	80	160 00
3 bushels beans,	1 75	5 25
50 bushels beets,	30	15 00
17 bushels turnips,	25	4 25
192 lbs. chocolate,	10	19 20
84 lbs. sugar,	7 1-2	6 30
44 pounds coffee,	12	5 28

20 lbs. tea,	a 40	\$8 00
669 lbs. pork,	7 1-2	50 18
250 lbs. corned beef,	6	15 00
62 lbs. soap,	7	4 34
341 heads cabbages,	4	13 64
50 gallons molasses,	24	12 00
25 gallons vinegar,	11	2 75
19 gallons oil,	70	13 30
60 tons coal,	8 50	510 00
11 dozen socks,	3 50	38 50
150 yards prints,	7	10 50
440 yards sheeting,	12 1-2	55 00
620 yards cotton cloth,	7 1-2	46 50
250 yards blue satinete,	57 1-2	143 75
260 yards mixed satinete,	37 1-2	97 50
185 yards denims,	12 1-2	23 12
304 yards ticking,	11 1-2	34 96
100 yards burlaps,	8	8 00
57 yards seliceas,	10	5 70
52 pairs shoes,	80	41 60
Needles, buttons, thread, &c.,		10 00
114 Iron bedsteads,	3 87	441 18
125 single beds and bedding,	7 25	906 28
11 double beds and bedding,	38 00	418 00
All other furniture,		1600 00
150 suits boys' thick clothes,	4 00	600 00
100 suits boys' thin clothes,	1 50	150 00
Books in the school,		100 00
46 tons hay,	18 00	828 00
4 tons corn fodder,	6 00	24 00
8 cows, 1 yoke of oxen, 3 horses, 5 swine,		925 00
Wagons, carts, harnesses and farming utensils,		542 00
Stock and tools in carpenter's shop,		51 00

Stock and tools in shoe shop,		\$44 00
213 bushels carrots,	a \$0 30	63 90
110 bushels corn,	1 05	115 50
		<hr/>
		\$8213 49

Nearly thirteen months have now elapsed since the Reform School was opened to receive the erring and misguided. Since that time, one hundred and seventeen have been committed to its care and discipline;—one hundred and thirteen now remain in our family;—four have been discharged, three by expiration of term of commitment, and one by order of Trustees.

The Institution has not been open a sufficiently long time to show fully its results, except so far as they appear in the improved condition of those now under its immediate influence. There has been a marked change in the character of a large number of the boys that have been with us long enough to test the influence exerted upon them here.

Generally the “public sentiment” of the boys is good; most of them are in favor of good order and wholesome discipline, and are willing to aid in sustaining it, both by precept and example.

By table seventh, it will be seen that twelve boys have been committed for one year. Such short terms of commitment will frequently have the effect to remove the delinquent from our care before his mind has had opportunity to receive much benefit from the moral discipline of the School, so that he will be as liable to fall into crime after he leaves as before he was committed.

A reform school is not properly a *prison* for *punishment*, but an institution for reform. It is better, therefore, that commitment be during minority, or a term approaching to it. The Trustees will then exercise the power the law gives them, to discharge or apprentice, as the good of the boy seems to require; he will not be finally discharged unless the Trustees are well satisfied he is radically reformed; if apprenticed, he will still remain under the restraining

influences of the officers of the institution, the Trustees here taking the place of parent, and retaining a hold, both on the apprentice and the master, to whose care they have entrusted them.

It is not our purpose to keep boys in the school for any longer period than is needful to fit them for apprentices to some useful employment; neither do we intend teaching them while here, the business they will necessarily follow for a livelihood. This would require a great outlay of capital, and would be found impracticable. If they remain here a term sufficiently long to complete the trade or occupation they had commenced with us, the advantages of the institution must be confined to a comparatively small number of those for whose benefit it is intended.

Our present plan is to school, discipline, and morally and religiously train them, as a means of correcting their bad habits, and preparing them for usefulness in life. When so far improved as to be thought proper subjects for discharges or apprenticeship, they will be discharged and returned to their friends, or apprenticed to respectable persons of good moral character, remote from their former corrupting influences.

In this connection we wish to call the attention of the farmers and mechanics of this State to our system of apprenticeship, and its actual operation. In the coming spring we shall have a number of good boys who will be in every respect suitable for apprenticeship. We hope those who are interested in promoting the improvement of these youths, will be willing to aid us in procuring suitable places where they can learn a trade, or with good farmers. Judicious persons in every town may do us much good, by a little effort in this direction. Applicants for apprentices must present a certificate of good moral character from the Selectmen of the town where they reside, and also, when convenient, from the Clergyman, whose church they are accustomed to attend.

When this system is successfully carried out, it will readily be seen that the Commonwealth is accomplishing a great work through the agency of the Reform School, in removing those boys who

from various causes, have commenced a bad life which was fast preparing them for the State Prison, to the quiet pursuits of a rural country town, away from the associations which have proved such a source of temptation to them, where they may be fitted to become useful and respectable citizens, and have an *elevating* influence upon society, instead of dragging others down to infamy with them.

It will be seen by recurring to table No. 6, which shows the alternative sentence of all the boys committed, that thirteen must have been sent to the State Prison, had there been no Reform School to receive them. Twelve of these show unmistakable evidence of improvement; all except one, have made very good progress, both morally and intellectually. One of them I will notice more particularly. The boy referred to, was committed for an aggravated offence—had been before imprisoned for crime, and much addicted to dishonesty and drunkenness. Soon after he was received, he became convinced of the wickedness of his past course, and made strenuous efforts to improve. He now feels that the Reform School has saved him from the State Prison; and shows his gratitude by an earnest desire for improvement in every respect. He has steadily progressed in character, so that now he very acceptably occupies the situation of assistant teacher, having the charge of about fifty boys both in school and shop.

We may reasonably ask what would have been his condition to-day, had he been sent to the State Prison, instead of the Reform School?

We have had no *escapes*—attempts have been frequently made by new comers, but in no case by others.

HEALTH.

The health of the boys has been truly remarkable. Not a case of serious sickness has occurred since the school was opened—very rarely has a boy been laid aside from his labors even one hour by sickness. No physician has visited us professionally, except in

one case to advise in regard to the *sanity* of a boy of weak mind when received. Not a case of disease of the eyes, so common in public institutions, has occurred in the slightest degree.

At the present time there is not one of the hundred and thirteen boys comprising our family, who is not in perfect health.

EXPENSES.

Provisions of every kind have been exceedingly high, during the entire year, which has necessarily increased the cost of supporting the Institution. This being our first year, we had nothing in store at its commencement—the farm was not fully stocked, so that stock, teams, carts and farming tools had to be purchased, and fuel and lights for two winters, (the last and the present.)

The building was only furnished for fifty boys; the increase in number has required furniture, including beds and bedding, and school and dining room furniture, for sixty more boys.

It is now desirable to furnish our chapel and provide some suitable room for a hospital. It is probable the number of boys before the close of another year will reach two hundred. If so, bedsteads, bedding, school furniture, &c., must be provided for one hundred in addition to what we now have. In fact our number has so increased of late, that a contract has been made to furnish fifty iron bedsteads, which is not yet completed.

DISCIPLINE.

As our system of discipline and mode of management was fully explained in my statement of April 4th, 1854, I take the liberty of inserting the following extract:

“To enforce discipline, we adopt the grade system; believing this to be the most efficient and impartial; producing better results than any other. By it, every one takes that position among his companions, to which he is entitled by his daily conduct and character. He has the same motives placed before him that exist

in society at large—for his standing among his associates is made to depend in a great measure upon his daily conduct.

The system consists of four grades—First, Second, Third and Fourth—the first being the highest. When a boy is received, he is placed in the third grade; if his conduct is bad and he does not heed proper admonition, he is degraded to the fourth. A manifest desire for improvement will promote him to the second, and then to the first. There is also a subdivision of the first grade called the *Class of Truth and Honor*, a degree denoting the highest rank in school.

As a punishment, we degrade from a higher to a lower, and for encouragement, for praiseworthy effort to improve, promote to a higher. The influence of these grades is felt and applied, alike in the school room and play ground, in the shop and on the farm. Upon most it has a much greater effect than severe corporal punishment. It leads him to the placing of true value upon character; as the grade number shows his moral standing in the school.

Punishment is not inflicted at the time of the offence, but in every department a record is kept of all acts of misdemeanor, as well as of all cases worthy of commendation; and this account is settled in the presence of all the boys every evening, when the offender has an opportunity to express his feelings or make explanation after the excitement has passed away.

A record is then made of the conduct of each in a book kept for the purpose. From this record book the grades are reorganized weekly. Corporal punishment is inflicted only in the fourth grade, and then as a last resort."

Long experience has convinced us that the most successful means of reforming this class of boys, is a kind, rather than a severe treatment—a system of rewards, rather than of punishment. Our bearing towards them should be that of a tender parent towards a delinquent child. Indeed it should be our aim to render the establishment as far as possible, a well governed christian family.

In this way we can acquire that confidence and moral control over them, that will enable us to trust them abroad without much fear of their betraying the confidence reposed in them.

We have allowed greater liberty to the boys than ever before, and fully believe the tendency has been to inspire most of them with a higher appreciation of proper efforts to rise in the estimation of the community, by right conduct; and to lead them to make greater efforts to overcome their bad traits of character, than any other course of training would have done.

We have had a serious evil to contend with in carrying out this system, in the improper advice and influence of persons they meet in the street, who attempt to induce them to break their "word of honor" or pledge, and run away—frequently saying to them "why do you not run away?" "You will never have a better chance."

The above and similar language has been often held with boys who have been permitted to go abroad, upon giving their pledge that they would return at a specified time.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

In the school room we have endeavored to secure persevering habits of study. We have sought to make it attractive, and render self control voluntary as far as possible.

The branches taught in school are the same as those usually pursued in the common schools of this State.

Most of the boys when received are very ignorant, owing to their habits of *truancy*, or total neglect of school.

During a part of the year we have had no teacher, the Superintendent filling that situation in addition to his other duties. At no part of the year has there been but one teacher employed, though the number of boys has been so large that we have been obliged to avail ourselves of the services of some of the larger boys.

LABOR.

We divide our labor into three departments, farming, mechanical and domestic.

Farming not only includes the ordinary labor of the farm, but all out-door employment—such as grading the grounds around the buildings, making roads, &c.

Mechanical employment embraces labor in the shoemakers' and tailors' shop.

Domestic includes washing, ironing, cooking, baking, scrubbing and miscellaneous work about the house.

The number employed in each department at the present time is as follows:

In the shoemakers' shop,	49
In the tailors' "	24
On the farm,	16
Washing and ironing,	8
Cooking and baking,	8
Scrubbing and miscellaneous work,	8
Total,	113

At this season of the year, less are employed on the farm, and more in the shop, than in the summer.

FARM.

The want of sufficient help in the early spring, and the extreme dry weather, (which reduced our corn and potato crop one half.) have prevented us from obtaining as large crops as we hope to hereafter.

Grading the grounds around the building, and making an avenue to approach it from the public highway, has taken much of the time of our out-door force, so that we have been able to make but few permanent improvements on the farm.

Much will be required to be done in future to put the farm in a profitable state of cultivation. Most of the land needs underdrain-

ing—the fences ought to be rebuilt and fruit trees set. Much of this kind of improvement can be gradually accomplished by the labor of the boys without extra expense, except for materials.

The amount charged as expended on farm account may need a little explanation. The expense of grading and making the road has been charged to this account, because the work has been done by the men, teams and boys employed upon the farm. An accurate account has been kept of the value of the labor performed on these improvements. It amounts to \$655.38. The men and teams have carted all the coal, provisions and bricks, for which has been credited to the farm account, \$105. So that there is charged to the farm account for labor performed by the farmers and teams, which is in no way connected with farming, \$760.38. It being the first year of operations, we were obliged to purchase a new set of tools, such as shovels, hoes, scythes, &c., two horses, five cows, eight swine, two horse carts, one two-horse wagon, 146 fruit trees, &c., which has much increased this account. Most of these articles, however, are now on hand and will be for use hereafter.

In this connection I wish to call your attention to the condition of our barns and other out-buildings.

We have three barns, one of which is a storage barn about three-fourths of a mile from the Institution; the other two are at an inconvenient distance from us, and so much decayed that they are unsafe for use. We have no proper shelter for carriages, tools and wood—no store-house for the Institution—no piggery or suitable granary. We very much need a large building in the vicinity of the Institution which shall combine all these conveniences in one, so that all can be easily under the immediate supervision of the Superintendent.

It will be better economy for the State to erect a building suitable for all these purposes than to build separate for each.

I have drawn a plan and made estimates for a building of this description, which I beg leave to submit. The proposed building

is 130 feet long, 46 feet wide, with wings projecting from each side of one end, 32 feet by 30.

The barn proposed has a cellar under the whole for storage of vegetables for the stock and inmates of the Institution, and for the shelter of manure.

It will contain convenient accommodations for the stock and products of the farm; a piggery where all the slops of the establishment may be profitably used; a store room for the storage of flour, &c., needed in the Institution; a room for the shelter of wood; a granary, tool room, carriage house, and shed for the shelter of all farm vehicles, when not in use; a horse shed, boiling room and carpenter's shop.

All the above are very much needed. We have, for example, no piggery whatever, and no cellar about the premises large enough to safely store during the winter sufficient vegetables for our own use.

It is proposed to erect the building in a plain, durable manner, of wood, with a stone foundation.

Should you think proper to recommend an appropriation for this purpose, I would suggest that if the matter could be decided early in the session, it would enable us to save much expense by having the winter to prepare for it.

We estimate the cost, according to the accompanying plans, to be \$3,000.

The following are the products of the farm :

52 tons hay,	a \$18 00	\$945 00
6 tons corn fodder,	8 00	48 00
260 bushels potatoes,	80	208 00
130 bushels corn,	1 05	136 50
241 bushels carrots,	30	72 30
53 bushels beets,	30	15 90
20 bushels turnips,	25	5 00
4 bushels beans,	1 75	6 00
600 pumpkins,	3	18 00

729 pounds pork,	8	58 32
85 pounds veal,	7	5 95
10 pounds butter,	25	2 58
20 pounds poultry,	10	2 00
425 cabbages,	4	17 00
2565 gallons milk,	a \$0 14	\$359 10
3 barrels apples,	1 50	4 50
75 cords wood,	5 00	375 00
Garden vegetables for the season.		25 00
		\$2,304 07

During the year there has been performed by the boys who have been employed on the farm 4740 1-2 day's labor, (of six hours,) of which 2041 1-2 were in grading the grounds around the Institution, and 474 in making an avenue to approach it from the highway, leaving 2225 day's labor in the ordinary operations of the farm and permanent improvements upon it.

SHOE SHOP.

Your attention was early called to the subject of providing some mechanical employment for the boys, not needed in the cultivation of the farm or other parts of the Institution. After making inquiry in regard to various kinds of business suitable for boys, it was decided to introduce shoemaking; it being simple and requiring but small outlay for tools and fixtures.

A contract was made with Jona. Brown & Son, commencing on the first day of September last, to continue three years. Forty-nine boys are now employed in this shop. The number under this contract may be increased to one hundred if necessary.

TAILOR'S SHOP. .

In this department, the clothing and bedding for the establishment is made by about twenty-five small boys under the instruction of a seamstress.

The following is the amount of work done in this shop:

Made 130 jackets,	Made 122 aprons,
“ 210 pairs pants,	“ 118 sheets,
“ 181 “ suspenders,	“ 36 hats lined,
“ 240 “ sheets,	“ 96 bed ticks,
“ 233 pillow cases,	“ 116 towels,
“ 97 bed spreads,	“ 103 handkerchiefs,
“ 57 pillows,	“ 31 pairs mittens,
“ 26 holders,	“ 13 caps,
“ 10 bags,	“ 5 table covers,
“ 9 curtains,	“ 7 frocks,
“ 45 pillow ticks,	“ 88 comforters.

Whole number of articles made 1964.

Repaired 546 jackets,	Repaired 38 aprons,
“ 817 pairs pants,	“ 24 pairs mittens,
“ 717 “ socks,	“ 33 caps,
“ 482 shirts,	“ 9 pillow cases,
“ 11 frocks,	“ 17 comforters.

Whole number of articles repaired 2694.

MORAL INSTRUCTION AND LIBRARY.

Our daily religious exercises consist of morning and evening devotions, together with such personal conversation from time to time as circumstances will permit.

On the Sabbath, the morning is occupied in learning passages of scripture—the afternoon in one religious exercise, and the evening a Sabbath school, in which we are assisted by a gentleman and lady in our vicinity, who kindly volunteered their services.

We have also occasionally had the very acceptable services of clergymen in the vicinity, who have preached to the boys on Sabbath evenings, to whom we tender our grateful acknowledgments.

All funds received for the purchase of books for a library have been expended for that purpose. There are in the library, at the present time, about two hundred volumes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

We make our acknowledgments to some unknown *friend*, who kindly sent us twenty dollars with the request that it be expended in the purchase of books for the library; to Honorable Hannibal Hamlin, for valuable Congressional documents; to Miss Rachel Neal of Portland, for a map of Maine and some books; to William Hyde & Son, of Portland, for books; to the publishers of the Youth's Companion of Boston, for three volumes of their valuable paper; to Joshua L. Baily, Esq., of Philadelphia, for a package of books; to the American Sunday School Union, through their Agent, F. A. Packard, Esq., for a package of books, and to the Maine Bible Society for a constant supply of bibles.

In addition to the books of the library, we have supplied as many papers for the boys as we consistently could: as they take much interest in them, especially if published in the part of the State from which they come.

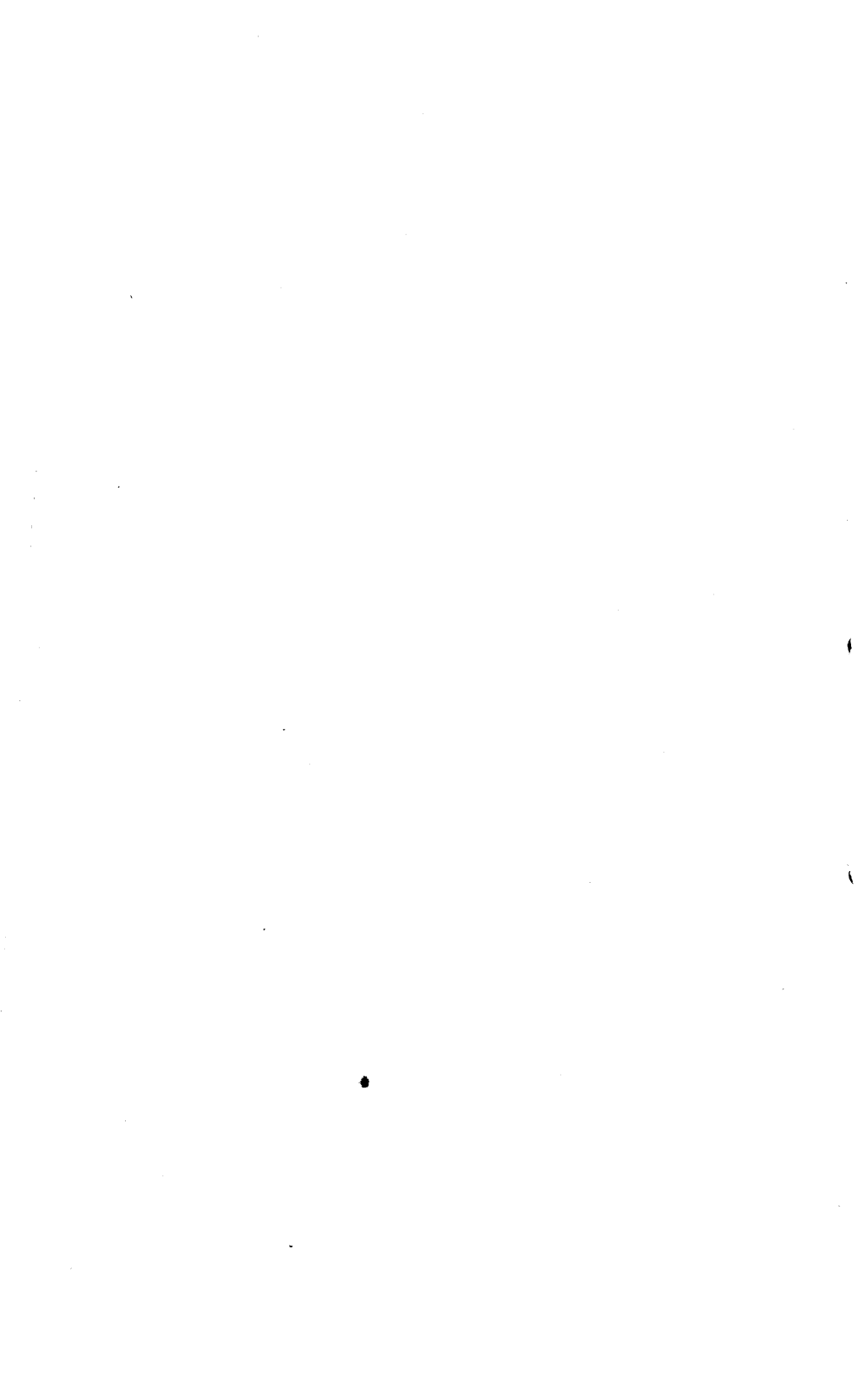
In conclusion, permit me gentlemen, of the Board of Trustees, to express my sincere gratitude for your kindness and sympathy, ever manifested to me in the performance of my duties.

To all those who have been employed in the various departments of the School, I am grateful for their faithfulness in the performance of duty, and their co-operation in all plans designed for the good and happiness of our youthful family.

Respectfully submitted,

W. R. LINCOLN, *Superintendent*.

STATE REFORM SCHOOL, /
Cape Elizabeth, November 30, 1854. \



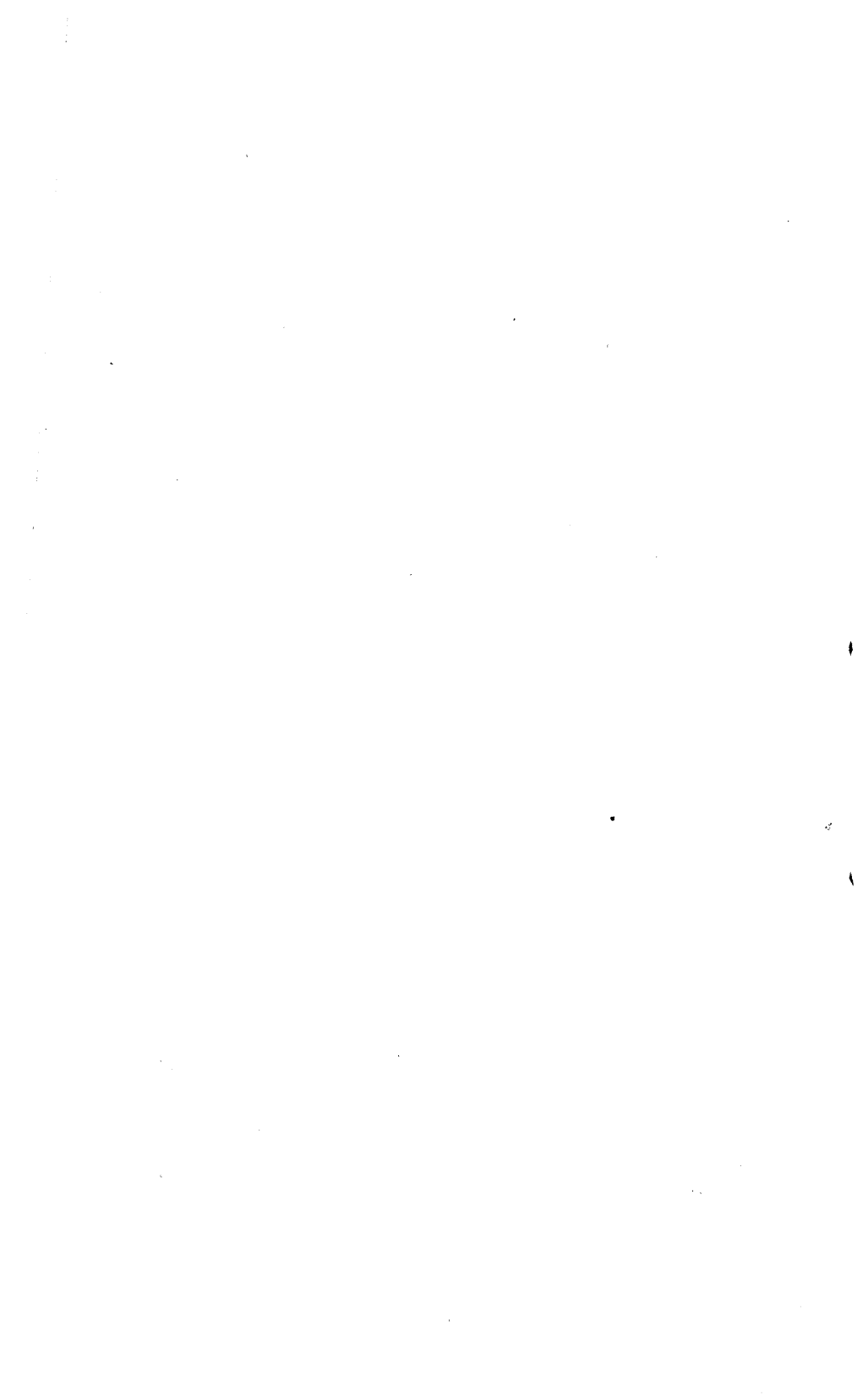
REPORT

OF THE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE

ON THE

STATE REFORM SCHOOL.



R E P O R T .

IN obedience to an order passed by the Legislature, your Committee visited the State Reform School, making as thorough an examination of its condition and workings, as one day would enable them to do, and now by leave,

R E P O R T :

They found one hundred and thirty-eight pupils, brought from nearly every section of the State, enjoying the benefits of the Institution. In the case of the new-comers, a mere glance would serve to convince the observer that the germs of our criminal population were before him—a population for which the community pays and suffers severely, to the more fearful cost and suffering of those who add guilt to misfortune. The possibility that such can be arrested in the outset of their career, and turned into the paths of integrity, usefulness and honor, is sufficient to induce the most arduous trial and to enlist the sympathy and support of the State.

The Committee saw enough to assure them that the Reform School has much more than a possibility of success to encourage its operations. The pupils were inspected in the two schools and in the various workshops. In the former, they seemed orderly, fond of the exercises, and, making the requisite allowances, well advanced in their studies. In the latter, they were cheerful and industrious. Notwithstanding the rigid system which prevails throughout the establishment, contentment and health shone in the youthful faces, and hilarity reigned on the play-ground as completely as if crime

had been abjured, if not forgotten. In their demeanor towards the Teachers and Superintendent, the boys displayed that cheerful obedience which is only the fruit of discipline softened by love. And, in short, every part and influence of the school seemed to the Committee to be signally working out those salutary results which its founders anticipated and designed.

The Committee would call the attention of the Legislature to the importance of changing the financial year of the Reform School. The Act which established the Institution, provides that the annual Report of the receipts and expenditures shall be made in December, embracing the year ending with the last of November preceding. But as the appropriations cannot usually be made in less than three or four months from that time, the officers are not able to wind up affairs and make their estimates, or else they must suffer a deficit till relieved by the Legislature. As a matter of fact at the present time, the school has been carried along from day to day during the winter, on funds supplied by the Superintendent, or raised on securities pledged by him and the Trustees. The State surely ought not to suffer this in a single instance, much less as an annually recurring embarrassment. An Act, therefore, has been prepared, which will change the close of the financial year from November to March, and make an appropriation of \$5,600 to meet the present deficit. It is earnestly hoped that the Legislature will give it a speedy passage.

The Committee deem the estimates of the Trustees to be reasonable and necessary. Especially, would they direct attention to the propriety of that which provides for the erection of a building to serve as a barn, woodshed, storehouse, &c. Something of the kind is absolutely needed—and the plan which the Superintendent submitted to the inspection of the Committee, seemed admirably adapted for the purpose, and as economical as the varied uses of the building and a regard to durability would allow.

The Committee would express their grateful acknowledgments to the Superintendent, Mr. W. R. Lincoln, for the courtesy with which he furthered the objects of their visit; and, without being swayed by that consideration, would testify to his eminent efficiency in discharging the duties of his post. By experience, talent and tastes, he is excellently fitted for those duties, and we trust he may long be found in their quiet, but arduous and responsible sphere.

Per Order,

C. G. CAME.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
February 24, 1855.

ORDERED, That 1,000 copies of the foregoing Report, together with Report of the Trustees and Superintendent of the Reform School, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

H. K. BAKER, *Clerk.*