

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1858.



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1858.

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# THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.]

[No. 9.

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## REPORT

OF THE

# Committee on State Reform School.

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IN SENATE, February 12, 1858.

The Joint Standing Committee on the Reform School has, in obedience to an order of the Legislature, visited that Institution and investigated its affairs, and ask leave to

### REPORT:

That from the examination they were able to make, the general management and discipline of the School, are, in the opinion of your Committee, well adapted to promote the objects for which it was established. The policy of excluding juvenile transgressors of the law from the society and influence of older offenders, and restraining them in places where they can be favored with proper mental and physical training, connected with a good moral and religious example, appears to be a sound one. The present seems to be an age prolific with young transgressors; and Legislatures to be loudly

called upon, to do all they can to reform the youthful transgressor, and check the present alarming tendency to vice and crime amongst the youthful portion of community. Probably no better means to accomplish this, can be found, than to subject young offenders to the discipline established in the Reform School. In our own Institution, the object aimed at by the Superintendent, and others entrusted with its control and oversight, is, properly to educate the mental and physical, and strengthen and control the moral faculties of the boys committed to their care. To this end, the boys are required to exercise themselves, both mentally and physically; *idleness* is not allowed in, or about the Institution. It is not attempted, in this Institution, to furnish the inmates with the means of education in the higher branches of learning, but to instruct them in those branches which will fit them for the proper discharge of the common duties of life. The School is graded, and divided into four departments, each department having one teacher. In one or the other of these departments, each boy spends four hours every day in study and recitations. We saw the boys engaged in their school rooms, and heard some of their recitations. At such times their deportment was generally good, and their recitations performed as well as could be expected, considering their previous history and character.

They are furnished with preaching once on each Sabbath, and have instruction in the Sabbath School. From what we could learn, we think the Superintendent aims, at all times, to give those under his care, proper moral and religious instruction; and to impress upon their minds the importance of acquiring and maintaining a character of sobriety, truth, and sound morality.

In order to the maintenance of health, the boys are required to have a proper regard for personal cleanliness. To this end also, as well as to accustom them to habits of industry, and to the earning of something towards their support, they are required, when in health, to labor daily, either in the kitchen, work-shop, or on the farm. As yet, their earnings have amounted only to a trifling sum, when compared with the sums annually expended by the State for the support of the Institution; but your Committee would indulge the hope, that upon a general revival of business, and as the farm becomes more productive, the income and expenditures will more nearly approximate each other.

There are, at the present time, connected with the Institution, in the capacity of Superintendent and other officers and employees, whose salaries are paid by the State, twelve males and eight females, viz :

1 Superintendent,		at a salary of \$1,500 per annum.
1 Assistant Superintendent, who		
also acts as a Teacher,		“ 400 “
3 Teachers,		“ 300 each “
1 Overseer of Shops,		“ 240 “
2 Farmers,		“ 216 each “
1 Man of general work,		“ 216 “
1 Baker,		“ 260 “
1 Treasurer,		“ 200 “
1 Chaplain,		“ 100 “
1 Matron,		“ 250 “
1 Female Teacher,		“ 156 “
1 Instructress in Chair Shop,		“ 156 “
2 Seamstresses,		“ 156 each “
1 Laundress,		“ 156 “
1 Chamber Girl,		“ 104 “
1 Cook,		“ 104 “

The salaries of these officers and employees amount to the sum of \$5,330 per annum.

We carefully examined the Treasurer's account for the year ending April 1, 1857, and found the same regularly and properly vouched. We also examined the bills of purchases, which constituted a very large proportion of these vouchers, but could not discover that they were made up of improper items; or that an unreasonable price had been paid for the articles purchased.

The daily bill of fare, allowed the boys for each day in the week throughout the year, is as follows, viz :

For *Monday*. Breakfast—wheat bread with coffee or chocolate, milked, and sweetened with molasses. Dinner—corned beef, potatoes, rye and Indian bread, and such other vegetables as are raised on the farm; for drink, water. Supper—boiled rice and molasses,

with the remains of the coffee or chocolate left in the morning for a drink. The drink is the same on every day of the week.

*Tuesday.* Breakfast—hot brown bread. Dinner—beef soup thickened with the broken bread left at previous meals and vegetables; brown bread. Supper—wheat bread.

*Wednesday.* Breakfast—same as Monday. Dinner—pork with baked or stewed beans, and bread. Supper—same as Tuesday.

*Thursday.* Each meal same as Tuesday.

*Friday.* Breakfast and Supper—same as Monday and Thursday. Dinner—fresh or salt fish, with potatoes.

*Saturday.* Breakfast—same as Friday. Dinner—same as Tuesday. Supper—mush and molasses.

*Sunday.* Breakfast—same as Tuesday. Dinner—boiled rice and molasses. Supper—wheat bread and plain ginger-bread.

On holidays, a better diet is allowed.

In order to ascertain whether extravagance or waste has been permitted at the Institution, we divided the aggregate of the purchases made for food and clothing, by the whole number of boys to be supplied; and find as the result, taking the most important article purchased for clothing, viz. satinet, that it will give each boy about nine yards per year. From this material, all the outside garments, worn by the boys, are manufactured. This article varies in price from *forty-two to fifty-seven cents* per yard.

In making a like division of the more material articles purchased for provision, we find as the result, the following daily allowance of provision for each boy, omitting fractions, viz.: Meats of all kinds, fish included, four and one-third ounces; lard, two-thirds of an ounce, including butter; flour, one pound and one ounce; rye and Indian meal, eleven ounces; white beans, one-fourth of a gill; rice, two-thirds of an ounce; molasses, three-fourths of a gill; to which should be added two bushels of potatoes and five pounds of sugar per year for each boy. This computation is made without making any deduction from the gross amount of provisions purchased, for what is consumed by the family of the Superintendent and the other officers and hands employed about the Institution; in all, numbering upwards of twenty persons, who are boarded at the expense of the State;—had such a deduction been made, that left for the consump-

tion of the boys would have been still less. The aggregate of the purchases, at first sight, appears large; yet when we take all things into consideration, it may be unjust to infer, that there has been either extravagance or culpable waste. It should, however, be borne in mind, that much of the cooking for the Institution is performed by the boys, over whom the Superintendent, from the multitude of duties devolving upon him, cannot always exercise that supervision which may be requisite to ensure against losses from waste, or the improper use of articles of food. We would therefore recommend, that the Trustees should be required to appoint a Steward, to whom should be committed the custody of all articles purchased for food or clothing; and who should have the oversight and management of the cooking done at the Institution, and account to the Trustees for the disposal of all articles that shall come into his possession. In order that the Superintendent may be further relieved of a portion of the present duties he is required to perform, and thereby be enabled to devote himself more exclusively to the management of the inmates of the Institution, we would also recommend, that the Trustees should be required to appoint some suitable person as overseer of the farming operations, whose duty it shall be to direct these operations, make all purchases of farming implements and tools needed on the farm, together with all kinds of seeds needed for sowing or planting; have the oversight and management of the stock, make purchases and sales of the same, and of other productions of the farm; and account with the Trustees, in such manner as they shall direct.

Though your Committee do not attempt to question the wisdom of that policy which attempts the reformation of juvenile offenders, by confining them in places separate from old and hardened felons; and while they would recommend that the Legislature should make ample provision for placing that portion of the young, who have *actually been guilty of the commission of crime*, in situations where they may be subjected to proper restraint, and be within the influence of such discipline and instruction as will be most likely to produce in them a thorough reformation of character; yet they would also recommend, that the State should so guard its reformatory institutions, that they shall not become the receptacles of im-

proper subjects. Your Committee are of the opinion, that boys who have committed no crime, but who, perhaps, may have occasionally played the truant; or may have had the misfortune to have been born with less than a common share of intellect; or may have an unkind father-in-law or mother-in-law; or may have at some time made too much noise in the street, or violated some other municipal or police regulation; or may be unable to maintain themselves, and require support from some city or town; ought not to be committed to the Reform School, to be maintained at the expense of the State;—And perhaps it might be as well, or better, to exclude very young boys from this Institution, although they may have committed some act, which, when committed by a person of maturer years, would constitute crime. Such children would, in the opinion of your Committee, be quite as likely to be reformed at home amongst their relatives and friends, as at the Reform School. It is no argument in favor of sending such children to this Institution, that they are poor; the overseers of the poor, in each city and town in the State, are now bound by law to furnish proper homes for such poor children.

Your Committee would therefore recommend, that a law should be enacted, excluding from the Reform School, all children under *eleven* years old. They would also recommend, that all idiotic children, of whatever age, should, in like manner, be excluded. They would further recommend, that when any boy is sentenced to the Reform School for idleness, truancy, Sabbath-breaking, vagrancy, or the breach of any police or municipal regulation, his parents or guardians, if able, otherwise the town where he has his settlement, shall be required to pay the expense of his maintenance while at said School. They would also recommend, that every boy now in said Reform School, who, if about to be committed, would be excluded by the foregoing rules, shall be discharged therefrom; also, that all boys now in said School, who would be required to be maintained by parents, guardians, or towns by such rules, shall also be discharged therefrom, unless provision shall be made for their future maintenance therein by such parents, guardians or towns.

If the Legislature should see fit to adopt the recommendations of their Committee, they believe that the number of the inmates to be



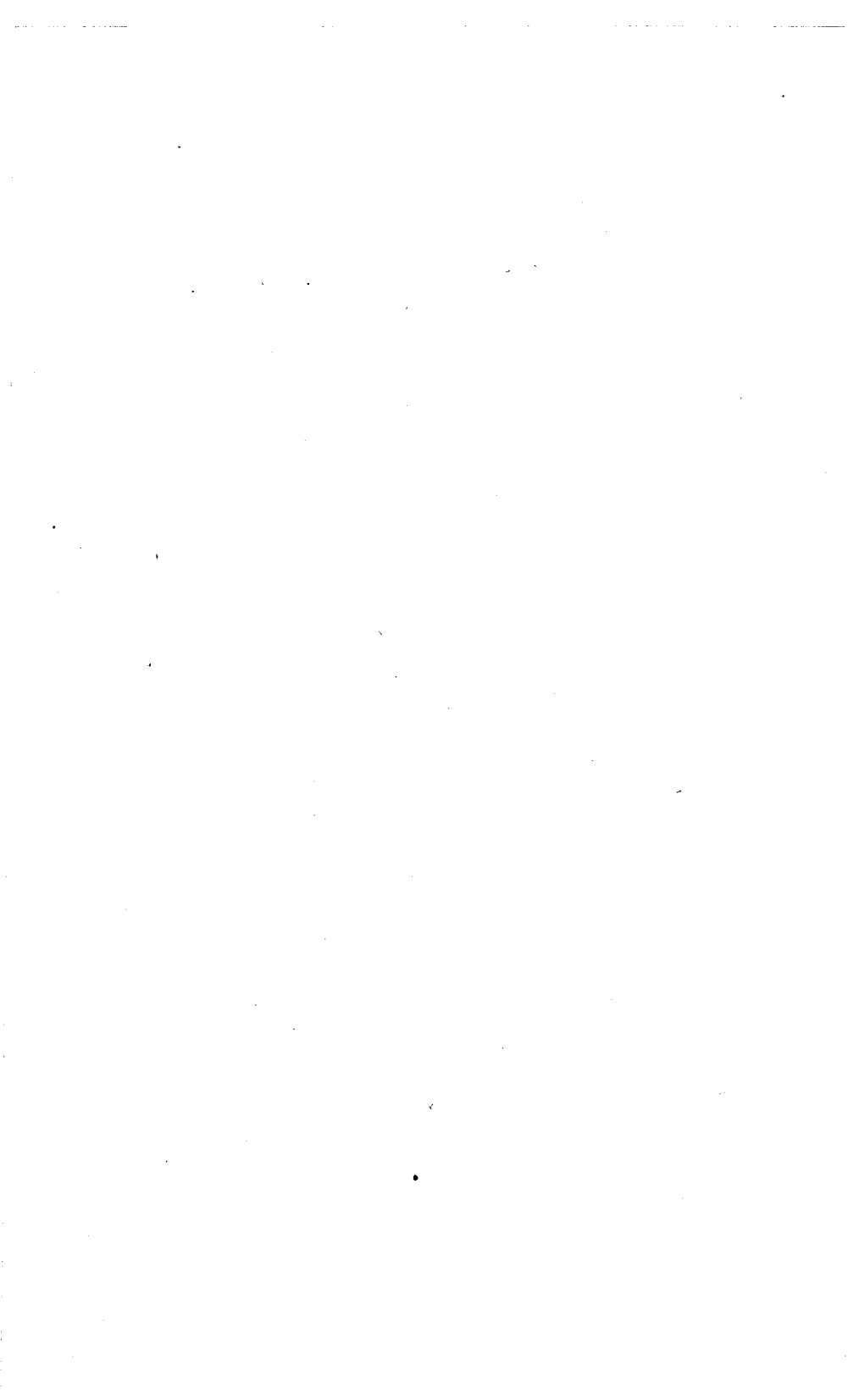
STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

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supported by the State, would be nearly or quite reduced one-half; and as a consequence, the expenses of the Institution for the coming year would be reduced in nearly the same proportion.

Your Committee would therefore recommend the passage of the bill and resolve herewith submitted.

SAMUEL W. JONES, *Chairman.*



# STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND  
FIFTY-EIGHT.

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AN ACT additional to chapter one hundred and forty-two  
of the revised statutes, relating to the reform school.

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

SECTION 1. When any boy of eleven years of age  
2 and under the age of sixteen years, is convicted of an  
3 offense punishable by imprisonment in the state prison,  
4 not for life, or in the county jail, except for the offenses  
5 hereinafter enumerated, the court or justice before  
6 whom he is convicted may sentence him to the state  
7 reform school, or to the other punishment provided  
8 by law for the same offense. If the sentence is to the  
9 reform school, it shall be conditioned that if he is not  
10 received or kept in the reform school for the term  
11 prescribed by his sentence, he shall then suffer such  
12 lawful alternative punishment as the court or justice

13 orders; *provided*, that nothing in this act shall au-  
14 thorize the commitment of any boy to the reform  
15 school, who is deaf and dumb, non compos, or insane.

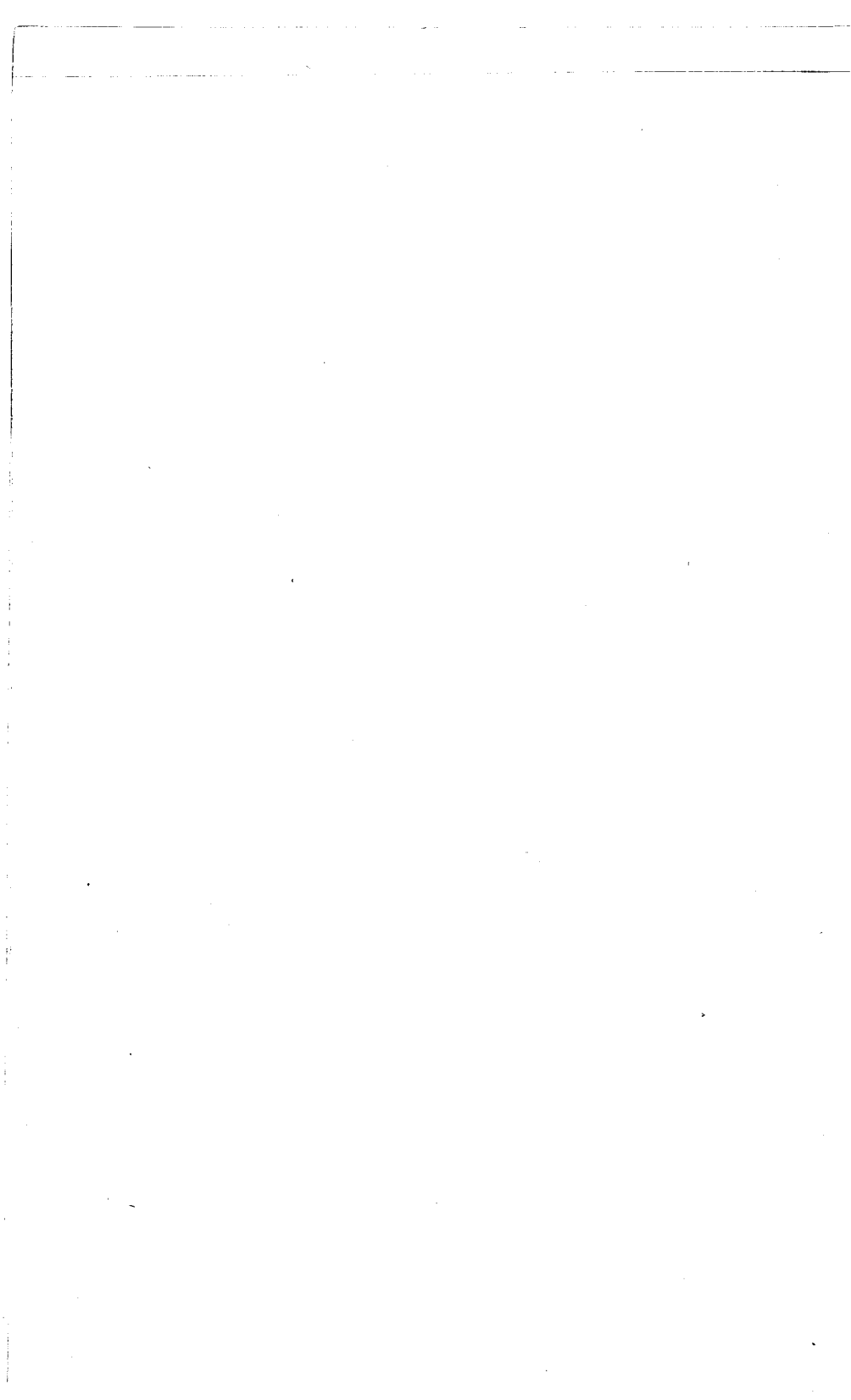
SECT. 2. When any boy between the ages of eleven  
2 and sixteen years is convicted of larceny where the  
3 property stolen does not exceed one dollar in value,  
4 of assault and battery, malicious mischief, malicious  
5 trespass, Sabbath breaking, riotous conduct, disturb-  
6 ing the peace, embezzlement, cheating by false pre-  
7 tences, vagrancy, truancy, or of being a common run-  
8 away, drunkard, pilferer, night walker, or of having  
9 violated any police or municipal regulations of any  
10 city or town, punishable in the county jail or house  
11 of correction, the court or justice may sentence him  
12 to the reform school, or to the other punishment pro-  
13 vided for the same offense in the manner prescribed  
14 by the preceding section; *provided*, that the expense  
15 of transporting such convict to the reform school, and  
16 of his subsistence and clothing during his imprison-  
17 ment, shall be defrayed by the city or town where  
18 such convict resides, if within this state, otherwise by  
19 the city or town where the offense is committed.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the court or justice  
2 before whom any boy is convicted of any offense speci-  
3 fied in the preceding section, to certify in his mittimus

4 the city or town in which such boy resides, if known,  
5 and the city or town where the offense was committed,  
6 and such certificates shall in all cases be sufficient  
7 evidence in the first instance, to charge the city or  
8 town where said convict resides, or the city or town  
9 where the offense was committed, with the expense of  
10 such boy at the reform school.

SECT. 4. It shall be the duty of the superin-  
2 tendent upon the commitment of such boy, to notify  
3 the aldermen of any city, or the selectmen of any  
4 town, liable as aforesaid, in writing, by mail or other-  
5 wise, of the name of the boy committed, the offense  
6 with which he is charged, and the duration of his  
7 sentence. He shall also issue a similar notice to the  
8 aldermen of any city and the selectmen of any town  
9 having a convict now under sentence at the institu-  
10 tion for any offense embraced in the second section of  
11 this chapter, and such city or town shall be liable for  
12 the support of such convict, after such notice, in the  
13 same manner as is herein provided for convicts to be  
14 hereafter admitted.

SECT. 5. The superintendent, in his own name for  
2 the use of the state, shall every three months demand  
3 and recover of such city or town the expense incurred  
4 for the clothing and subsistence of such convict, and



STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 12, 1858.

ORDERED, That 350 copies of the foregoing report, and bill and resolve accompanying, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

ATTEST:

JOSEPH B. HALL, *Secretary.*