

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1864.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1864.

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 17.

REPORT.

The Joint Standing Committee on the State Prison, to which were referred the reports of the Warden and Inspectors of that institution — and pursuant to a joint order of the Legislature of January 27th, authorizing said Committee to visit said prison, to ascertain what legislation in relation thereto is necessary to the best interests of the State — have attended to that duty, and ask leave to Report :

That on the 12th inst. the Committee visited the prison — were received very cordially by the Warden, who extended to them every possible facility for prosecuting the object of their visit. That we found the prison, cooking department, and hospital in good order, and tidy in appearance. The carriage shop in good repair, spacious, well arranged, and admirably adapted to the purposes for which it is used. The shoe-shop is inconvenient and much out of repair, and in order to carry on the manufacture of boots and shoes in this shop with a prospect of success, its repair is indispensably necessary. This shop repaired in the manner indicated in the Warden's report, will be convenient, comfortable, and well adapted to the manufacture of boots and shoes. The blacksmith shop also must be repaired and remodelled inside, in order to carry on the business with facility and profit. It needs a new roof, new windows and more of them, and for convenience the location of the forges should be changed ; but if not changed the chimneys should be rebuilt, as more smoke now escapes through the doorway and cracks, than through the chimneys. Your Committee would therefore recommend an appropriation of one thousand dollars for

repairs on shoe shop, blacksmith shop, and other necessary repairs about the prison: and one thousand dollars to be applied to the general expense account of the prison for the present fiscal year.

In times like the present, it is absolutely necessary that the Warden should have put into his hands a sum of money as a working cash capital. With money to stock the workshops and purchase subsistence and clothing for the prisoners, your Committee do not hesitate to say that, in their judgment, the present Warden will make the prison self-sustaining. We therefore recommend an appropriation of ten thousand dollars to be placed at the Warden's disposal, for a working cash capital for the State Prison.

By a resolve of 1860, the office of Resident Chaplain was established with a salary of four hundred dollars a year. Your Committee are informed that a contract can be made with the clergymen of Thomaston to officiate in rotation for the sum of two hundred dollars per year; and while no detriment is apprehended from the change, a saving to the State will be made of two hundred dollars per annum. We therefore recommend the repeal of the resolve, chapter 382 of the resolves of 1860, and that the Warden be authorized to contract with the clergymen of Thomaston, at an expense not to exceed two hundred dollars per year.

The attention of the Committee was called by the Warden to an act relating to the discipline of the prison, and a deduction of time from the sentence of such prisoners as shall faithfully observe all the rules and requirements of the prison; and on examination of said act, an amendment seems to be necessary in order that the time commuted to prisoners for good conduct may be more equal. We therefore recommend an amendment to said chapter 16th of the acts of 1858, and the passage of the resolves which are herewith submitted, appropriating the sums and for the purposes hereinbefore mentioned.

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL ELLIOT, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES in favor of the State Prison.

Resolved, That the sum of one thousand dollars is
2 hereby appropriated for the repair of the shoe and
3 blacksmith shops, and other necessary repairs of the
4 state prison, and also one thousand dollars to be ap-
5 plied to the general expense account of said prison for
6 the current year.

Resolved, That the sum of ten thousand dollars is
2 hereby appropriated for a working capital for the state
3 prison.

Resolved, That the sums appropriated by the fore-
2 going resolves be placed at the disposal of the warden
3 of the state prison, on or before the first day of April
4 next.

Resolved, That chapter three hundred and eighty-two
2 of the resolves of eighteen hundred and sixty is here-
3 by repealed, and the warden is hereby authorized to
4 contract with the clergymen of Thomaston to officiate
5 as chaplains in rotation to the state prison at a sum
6 not exceeding two hundred dollars per year.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 2, 1864. }

On motion of Mr. HINKS of Bucksport, laid on the table and
350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

HORACE STILSON, *Clerk.*