

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1866.



AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1866.

REPORTS

OF THE

WARDEN AND INSPECTORS

OF THE

MAINE STATE PRISON,

AND OF THE

PHYSICIAN AND CHAPLAIN.

1865.

Published agreeably to a Resolve approved February 23, 1865.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1865.

OFFICERS.

WARREN W. RICE, *Warden.*
CYRUS MAXEY, *Deputy Warden.*
ASA PERKINS, *Clerk.*
WILLIAM FITZGERALD, *Overseer of Carriage Shop.*
HOWARD MORTON, *Assistant do.*
ISAAC H. BURKETT, *Overseer of Paint Shop.*
ISAIAH C. YORK, *Overseer of Blacksmith Shop.*
JOSEPH H. HARDY, *Overseer of Shoe Shop.*
HENRY MAXEY, } *Assistants do.*
EDWIN WEEKS, }
THOMAS J. RIDER, *Guard.*
JAMES H. PIPER, *do.*
WILLIAM P. BUNKER, *do.*
A. A. FALES, *do.*
ELIAS THOMPSON, *do.*
JAMES E. STIMPSON, *Night Watch.*
CHARLES T. CHASE, *Physician.*
CLERGYMEN OF THOMASTON, *Chaplains.*

WILLIAM WILSON, } *Inspectors.*
ISAAC S. SMALL, }

WARDEN'S REPORT.

To the Governor and Council of the State of Maine:

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to submit the following report of the affairs of the State Prison for the year ending November 30th, 1865.

The number of convicts at the beginning of the year was seventy-eight: which was reduced during the year to sixty-five, and has increased since to seventy-eight again, making an average of seventy-two for the year; eighteen less than the average of last year.

They have as a general thing been industrious and obedient, and as a whole have conducted themselves with a remarkable degree of propriety. Occasionally it has been found necessary to punish, as I presume will always be the case, but I am happy to be able to say, that these occasions have been very rare, and trust they will continue to become less and less frequent. I believe that with a more liberal and consistent deduction from their term of service for good behavior, and kind, intelligent, and uniform management by officers in charge of convicts, it will very rarely be found necessary to resort to what would really be called punishment, in order to secure that respectful obedience by convicts, which is so indispensable in an institution of this kind.

The income of the Prison, derived wholly from its earnings during the year amount to \$16,334.04, and the expenses including salaries for the same time have been \$16,249.72, leaving a balance in favor of the Prison of \$84.32. This result, though the gain is less by more than \$3000, than that of last year, is I think as favorable as could be expected, considering the high cost of living and the small number of convicts, and must be satisfactory to the Inspectors inasmuch as in their last report they estimated a deficiency of \$3,350 for the year. The earnings this year average \$226.86 for each convict, against \$225.75 for each convict last year.

The new shoe shop, to build which an appropriation was made,

has been built at an expense of \$2,999.47, and adds very much to the comfort, convenience and appearance of the Prison. It is a substantial two-story building, sixty-four feet long by thirty-three wide, with a good cellar under the whole. The upper story is occupied for the manufacture of boots and shoes, and I have finished off the major part of the lower story for a chapel, which was very much needed; and the balance makes a commodious store-room. I have also rebuilt and picketed the walk with iron pickets around the Prison yard at an expense of \$501.28.

Many more repairs and improvements are needed, and it will take some years yet to get the whole Prison, and buildings connected therewith, into good respectable condition. It is proposed this year to undertake to build a new stable, with shed and slaughter house attached; new piggery 64 X 16 feet, a wood house 60 X 25 feet, a lumber room 64 X 17 feet, and two cisterns to be built of brick and cement, besides a piece of wall in place of the old unused wooden gate to the Prison-yard, which by age has become weak and unsafe. An appropriation of at least \$3500 will be necessary to meet the expenses of these improvements, which I think any reasonable person, acquainted with the circumstances, would consider absolutely indispensable.

For information in regard to the moral, religious and sanitary condition of the convicts, I will refer you to accompanying reports of Rev. Mr. Mason, in behalf of the clergymen of Thomaston officiating as chaplains, and the physician, Dr. Chase, all of whom have faithfully and ably performed their respective duties.

In conclusion I would acknowledge my obligations to the Honorable Governor and Council, and Board of Inspectors, for their coöperation and kindness, since I have had charge of the Prison; also to the Deputy Warden, Clerk and other officers of the Prison for the faithfulness with which they discharged their duties, which are often times difficult and perplexing.

Respectfully submitted,

W. W. RICE, *Warden.*

Maine State Prison in account with the State of Maine. Dr.

1865.			
Nov. 30.	For stock and tools on hand Nov. 30, 1864,		\$27,771 31
	balance of convicts discharged account,		398 20
	transporting convicts "		317 06
	officers' salaries "		7,687 33
	fuel and lights "		1,127 67
	clothing "		1,151 71
	expense "		1,369 48
	subsistence "		3,252 51
	building and repairs "		3,722 23
			<hr/>
			\$46,797 50

Per contra,

Cr.

1865.			
Nov. 30.	By stock and tools on hand,		\$23,008 97
	balance of fees from visitors account,		306 90
	lime quarry "		24 00
	shoemaking "		6,309 95
	carriage department "		13,731 25
	balance against,		3,416 43
			<hr/>
			\$46,797 50

WARREN W. RICE, *Warden.*

KNOX, ss.—December 9th, 1865.

Personally appeared Warren W. Rice, and made oath that the above account by him subscribed is true, to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Before me,

GEORGE W. FRENCH,

Justice of the Peace.

Convicts.

Number of convicts Nov. 30, 1864,	78	Received since July 2, 1824,	1,586
Received since,	30	Discharged on expiration of sen- tence,	1,067
	108	Discharged on writ of error,	1
Discharged on expiration of sen- tence,	20	Pardoned,	361
Pardoned,	6	Died,	51
Escaped,	3	Removed to Insane Hospital,	7
Died,	1	Removed to Alfred Jail, sen- tence commuted,	3
	30	Escaped and not retaken,	18
			1,508
Present number, Nov. 30, 1865,	78		78

Crimes.

Larceny,	27	Robbing the mail,	4
Conspiracy,	2	Obstructing railroad,	1
Burglary,	5	Manslaughter,	2
Murder,	12	Robbery,	4
Arson,	8	Receiving stolen goods,	1
Assault to kill,	4	Rape,	2
Assault to ravish,	2		—
Incest,	3		
Uttering forged bills,	1	Aggregate,	78

Convicts in the State Prison November 30, 1865.

County.	Names.	Sentence—Yrs.	Crimes.	When Committed.	Place of Birth.	Age.	No. Com.
U. S. Court,	Allen, Charles	10	Robbing the mail,	June 30, 1862,	Wells,	27	1
Penobscot,	Beckett, Robert	6	Larceny,	March 6, 1863,	Ireland,	38	3
“	Bean, Ransom K.	4	“	March 6, 1863,	Bethel,	44	1
Knox,	Blake, William D.	To be hanged.	Murder,	May 18, 1863,	Brooksville,	40	1
Washington,	Barry, Patrick	4	Assault to ravish,	Oct. 30, 1863,	Ireland,	23	1
Penobscot,	Belcher, Charles	1	Larceny,	Sept. 4, 1865,	Bangor,	18	1
Aroostook,	Brown, Hiram K.	6	Incest,	Oct. 25, 1865,	New Brunswick,	41	1
“	Betts, Ephraim	2	Larceny,	Oct. 25, 1865,	St. Johns,	53	1
Cumberland,	Baxter, William	3	Robbery,	Aug. 12, 1865,	Baltimore,	24	1
Hancock,	Card, George J.	1 6 mo.	Larceny,	Nov. 9, 1865,	Ellsworth,	23	1
Penobscot,	Corliss, William	Life.	Rape,	Oct. 26, 1863,	Portsmouth,	41	1
Sagadahoc,	Cripps, Charles	“	Murder,	Sept. 13, 1855,	Brunswick,	42	1
Oxford,	Coffin, John B.	5	Manslaughter,	Sept. 14, 1861,	Lovell,	26	1
Piscataquis,	Chase, Albert	3	Larceny,	Oct. 5, 1865,	Sebec,	17	1
Lincoln,	Colson, James	2	“	Oct. 17, 1865,	Gardiner,	24	1
Knox,	Dunton, Zealor	2	“	Oct. 30, 1865,	Lincolntonville,	24	1
Franklin,	Doyle, Lawrence	To be hanged.	Murder,	May 18, 1864,	Cape Briton,	31	1
U. S. Court, &c.,	Devine, William	1 6 mo.	Ship larceny,	Sept. 8, 1864,	Ireland,	21	1
Androscoggin,	Downing, Timothy	5	Arson,	Feb. 16, 1865,	Minot,	62	1
York,	Duffy, Andrew	5	Larceny,	Oct. 17, 1865,	Ireland,	27	1
Washington,	Downes, John	Life.	Burglary,	Nov. 9, 1865,	No. 10,	22	1
“	Elliot, Mary	To be hanged.	Murder,	Oct. 20, 1864,	Ireland,	64	1
Penobscot,	Fernald, John	3	Larceny,	Sept. 9, 1864,	Kittery,	54	1
Cumberland,	Fernald, William	1 2 mo.	“	April 12, 1865,	Corinna,	17	1
Hancock,	Grindle, Richard	6	Incest,	May 16, 1860,	Sedgwick,	41	1
Androscoggin,	Griffin, Patrick	To be hanged.	Murder,	May 17, 1862,	Ireland,	40	1
Oxford,	Gilman, Ephraim	4	“	Aug. 27, 1863,	Denmark,	25	1
York,	Gray, Fairfield	5	Assault to ravish,	Oct. 12, 1864,	Berwick,	25	1
Cumberland,	Glancey, Charles	1 6 mo.	Assault to kill,	Dec. 31, 1864,	Ireland,	24	2
Penobscot,	Herrin, Bowman	Life.	Arson,	Aug. 27, 1863,	Exeter,	40	1
Sagadahoc,	Howes, James	3	Larceny,	Sept. 1, 1865,	Boothbay,	32	3

Convicts in the State Prison November 30, 1865, (Continued.)

County.	Names.	Sentence—Yrs.	Crimes.	When Committed.	Place of Birth.	Age.	No. Com.
Oxford,	Hale, John	4	Larceny,	Aug. 27, 1863,	Waterford,	74	2
Somerset,	Hunt, Granville	2	"	Oct. 9, 1865,	Brighton,	20	1
Cumberland,	Jordan, Barney	Life.	Burglary,	March 8, 1857,	Ireland,	19	1
Washington,	Jones, Francis X.	3	Conspiracy,	Oct. 20, 1864,	St. Louis,	20	1
Cumberland,	Jones, James	1	Larceny,	April 12, 1865,	St. Andrews,	16	1
Androscoggin,	Knight, George	To be hanged.	Murder,	Sept. 24, 1857,	Poland,	40	1
Kennebec,	Knowlton, Hosea	4	Larceny,	Feb. 16, 1865,	Appleton,	35	4
Sagadahoc,	Kelley, Norman J.	2	Assault to kill,	Sept. 1, 1865,	Montpelier, Vt.,	32	1
Penobscot,	Leaver, William S.	7	Arson and larceny,	Sept. 23, 1863,	Portland,	27	1
York,	Littlefield, Rufus	Life.	Rape,	Feb. 11, 1862,	Kennebunk,	39	2
Penobscot,	Litchfield, Vincent	10	Incest,	March 11, 1862,	Lewiston,	43	1
Cumberland,	Lamb, Joseph W.	6	Arson,	Aug. 27, 1863,	Windham,	28	1
Aroostook,	Mathews, James	To be hanged.	Murder,	Aug. 9, 1854,	Virginia,	54	1
Washington,	Maxwell, Joseph	5	Larceny,	May 22, 1863,	Dover,	59	2
U. S. Court,	Martin, George	10	Robbing the mail,	June 26, 1863,	New York,	27	1
Penobscot,	Murphy, Thomas	20	Robbery,	Sept. 4, 1865,	Ireland,	27	1
"	O'Brien, Julia	5	Receiving stolen goods,	Aug. 27, 1863,	"	40	1
Cumberland,	Peterson, William H.	5	Burglary,	Aug. 27, 1861,	Philadelphia,	28	1
Androscoggin,	Preble, Joel C.	To be hanged.	Murder,	Oct. 22, 1861,	Whitefield,	29	1
Waldo,	Peters, Albert	6	Larceny,	Nov. 6, 1862,	Warren,	24	2
Washington,	Phillips, William	3	Conspiracy,	Oct. 20, 1864,	Ireland,	30	1
Waldo,	Perry, Seth	10	Manslaughter,	Oct. 23, 1865,	Milo,	28	1
Franklin,	Rundlett, Charles H.	36	Assault to kill,	Nov. 6, 1858,	Mt. Vernon,	30	1
Androscoggin,	Richards, Nathan	11	Burglary and larceny,	Feb. 21, 1861,	Wayne,	45	5
Penobscot,	Runnells, George W.	7	Assault and robbery,	March 11, 1862,	Machias,	20	1
Knox,	Rawley, Almira	4	Arson,	Nov. 13, 1862,	St. George,	49	1
Cumberland,	Ragan, John	3	Larceny,	Aug. 27, 1863,	Biddeford,	19	2
Franklin,	Richardson, Samuel	To be hanged.	Murder,	May 18, 1864,	Temple,	54	2
Penobscot,	Ramsdell, William H.	3	Larceny,	Feb. 27, 1865,	Trescott,	24	1
Somerset,	Rose, William	2	"	Oct. 9, 1865,	Fairfield,	36	1
Waldo,	Roberts, Levi	2	"	Oct. 23, 1865,	Brooks,	28	1

York,	Smith, William B.	To be hanged.	Murder,	Feb. 11, 1855,	Hyde Park, Vt.,	24	1
Cumberland,	Sweetser, Charles	"	Arson,	Aug. 27, 1861,	Portland,	32	2
U. S. Court,	Sargent, Andrew	10	Robbing the mail,	June 30, 1862,	Wells,	24	1
"	Sargent, Josiah	9	"	June 30, 1862,	"	18	1
Cumberland,	Stickney, John C.	4	Passing forged order,	Jan. 4, 1863,	Grafton,	24	1
Penobscot,	Sullivan, Michael	3	Larceny,	Aug. 27, 1863,	Bangor,	17	1
"	Sullivan, Patrick	5	"	Sept. 4, 1865,	Chelsea,	23	1
York,	Smith, Calvin	6	A common thief,	Feb. 9, 1864,	Jackson,	28	1
Cumberland,	Smith, William	3	Robbery,	Aug. 12, 1865,	Andover,	23	1
"	Seamron, Edward	1	Larceny,	Aug. 12, 1865,	So. Thomaston,	26	1
"	Thorn, Thomas	To be hanged.	Murder,	May 17, 1843,	Long Island,	24	1
Franklin,	Thompson, Asahel H.	20	Burglary,	May 18, 1864,	Phillips,	28	1
Lincoln,	Waltz, George	7	Arson,	Feb. 5, 1862,	Nobleborough,	58	1
Somerset,	Waterman, John	3	Assault to kill,	April 4, 1863,	Anson,	35	1
Kennebec,	Willia, William S.	10	Arson,	Sept. 29, 1865,	New York,	50	1
York,	Willard, Horace P.	15	Obstructing a Railroad,	Oct. 17, 1865,	Alfred,	55	2

INSPECTORS' REPORT.

*To His Excellency the Governor and the
Honorable Council of the State of Maine :*

Agreeable to custom and the requirements of law, the Inspectors of the Maine State Prison present you with their Report for the year ending Nov. 30th, 1865.

It affords us great pleasure to be able to state that the financial condition of the Prison, though not so *apparently* favorable as it appeared in our last Report, is nevertheless much more so than we anticipated. As in the preceding year, the Institution has paid all its current expenses, including the salaries of the subordinate officers, leaving a balance of eighty-four dollars and thirty-two cents (\$84.32) in favor of the State. This balance is less than it was last year. This was to be expected, even with the same excellent and efficient management on the part of the officers, that characterizes their administration during the previous year. It will be remembered that we intimated in our last Report, that it would not be prudent to calculate on the same results for the coming year, that had crowned the past year. Time has shown that we were correct. The year has been a peculiar one. In illustration of this, we cite you to the Report of the Connecticut State Prison, which declares that while for years past that Institution has paid expenses, this year it has fallen behind nearly \$6000.00. The balance in favor of our State has been reduced this year, not by any want of ability, prudence or devotion on the part of the officers, but by circumstances beyond their control. These circumstances are as follows :

1st. A large reduction in the number of prisoners, and consequently in the earnings of the Prison. Last year we commenced with 112 prisoners, and the number never fell below 78. This year we commenced with only 78, and have been reduced during the year as low as 65. While the number of prisoners, and so of laborers, has been thus reduced, there has not been, and could not

be, any corresponding reduction in the expenses of the Institution. So far as it relates to lighting and warming the buildings, and guarding and overseeing the prisoners, these have necessarily continued to be the same; while in relation to officers' salaries, they have been increased. This was not only just, *but absolutely necessary*.

2d. In addition to the reduction of prisoners, and so of the earnings of the Prison, and the increase of officers' salaries, another item must be taken into account, in comparing the present balance with the balance of the preceding year. Last year our gains were augmented somewhat, by the advance in prices of stock on hand. This year, there has been no such advance in prices, but instead of this, prices have receded. We are satisfied that if these facts be duly considered, it will be conceded that under the circumstances, the Institution is in as prosperous a condition, as it was last year.

We are fully convinced that the present mode of conducting the business affairs of the Prison, is the correct one, and every way to be preferred to the *contract system* adopted in other States. We regard it no longer problematical, but a settled fact, that the Prison should, and can, on the present plan, maintain itself without expense to the State, under ordinary circumstances.

We suggest that the increased prosperity of the Institution is largely due to a more humane and kindly treatment, than has heretofore obtained in the discipline of the Prison. While no single rule or principle of that discipline has been suspended or modified, appeals to self-interest and the remaining latent manhood of the prisoners have been substituted for harsh rebukes and stern unfeeling threats of punishment. The results have been surprising. More labor has been educed from prisoners, better feeling has prevailed among them, and order has been maintained with much much less of rigorous punishment than ever before.

This matter is at the present time absorbing much of our attention as well as the attention of the Warden. In our judgement far too little consideration has been given to the reformation and moral culture of those subject to Prison influences. More has been thought of bringing them into subjection to Prison discipline for the time being than of preparing them in connection with such subjection, to return to the world and to society well-meaning, law-respecting, law-abiding citizens.

Thus the principal object of Prison discipline has been punish-

ment rather than correction. Both these objects in our opinion should be carefully regarded.

The appropriation of last year of \$3500, for the erection of a shoe shop and repairing and picketing the wall, has been applied to these purposes with due respect to economy, and the improvements are of great advantage. There is still needed a new barn with L attached, wood-house, piggery, lumber-house, and two cisterns. A little more remains to be done on the shoe shop. The necessity for these improvements is imperative and pressing, as well for the advantage of the Prison, as the honor of the State. We therefore earnestly recommend an appropriation of thirty-five hundred dollars (\$3500) for these purposes.

The appropriation made last winter for salaries of subordinate officers has not been drawn, as the income arising from the business of the Prison, has been sufficient to cover expenses.

We estimate the expenses of the Prison for the year 1866 as follows :

Expense account,	\$1,000 00
Clothing,	1,500 00
Fuel and lights,	1,700 00
Subsistence,	4,500 00
Building and repairs,	300 00
Outfit for discharged convicts,	600 00
Transportation of do	500 00
Officers' salaries,	8,000 00
Medecine and books,	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$18,200 00
Probable income,	17,800 00
	<hr/>
	\$400 00

The condition of the prisoners, so far as food and clothing are concerned, has been much improved. The Reports of the Warden, Chaplain, and Physician, will accompany this, and each will give detailed accounts of their respective departments.

Annexed is a table exhibiting account of the stock, tools, &c., on hand, at the close of the present year.

WILLIAM WILSON, }
I. S. SMALL, } *Inspectors.*

THOMASTON, Nov. 30th, 1865.

Statement of Net Profits and Expenditures in the different Departments from Nov. 30, 1864, to Nov. 30, 1865.

CARRIAGE DEPARTMENT.			
1865.			
Nov. 30.	DR.	For stock and tools on hand, Nov. 30, 1864,	\$13,230 99
		For purchased since,	12,267 23
			\$25,498 22
	CR.	By stock and tools on hand,	13,045 92
		By amount of sales,	25,998 48
			39,044 40
		Net gain,	13,546 18
<hr/>			
SHOEMAKING.			
1865.			
Nov. 30.	DR.	For stock and tools on hand Nov. 30, 1864,	7,247 74
		For purchased since,	4,908 34
			12,156 08
	CR.	By stock and tools on hand,	3,418 75
		By amount of sales,	11,218 29
			14,637 04
		Net gain,	2,480 96
<hr/>			
FEEES FROM VISITORS.			
1865.			
Nov. 30.	CR.	By balance of account,	306 90
		Amount received,	
			306 90
<hr/>			
LIME QUARRY.			
1865.			
Nov. 30.	DR.	For stock on hand Nov. 30, 1864,	418 30
			418 30
	CR.	By stock on hand,	394 30
		By amount of sales,	24 00
			418 30
			000 00
<hr/>			
EXPENSE ACCOUNT.			
1865.			
Nov. 30.	DR.	For stock on hand Nov. 30, 1864,	2,354 99
		For purchased since,	1,624 00
			3,978 99
	CR.	By stock on hand,	2,712 40
		By amount of sales,	254 52
			2,966 92
		Amount expended,	1,012 07

Statement, (Continued.)

		CLOTHING.		
1865.				
Nov. 30.	DR.	For stock on hand Nov. 30, 1864, . . .	\$1,126 05	
		For purchased since,	1,600 80	\$2,726 85
	CR.	By stock on hand,	1,459 05	
		By sales and for U. S. convicts and for convicts discharged,	449 09	1,908 14
		Amount expended,		818 71
FUEL AND LIGHTS.				
1865.				
Nov. 30.	DR.	For stock and tools on hand Nov. 30, 1864,	1,236 40	
		For purchased since,	1,203 39	2,439 79
	CR.	By stock on hand,	681 72	
		By amount of sales,	75 72	757 44
		Amount expended,		1,682 35
SUBSISTENCE.				
1865.				
Nov. 30.	DR.	For stock on hand Nov. 30, 1864,	1,977 44	
		For purchased since,	5,039 56	7,017 00
	CR.	By stock on hand,	1,137 98	
		By amount sales and board to United States convicts,	1,787 05	2,925 03
		Amount expended,		4,091 97
BUILDING AND REPAIRS.				
1865.				
Nov. 30.	DR.	For stock on hand Nov. 30, 1864,	179 40	
		For purchased since,	3,769 57	3,948 97
	CR.	By stock on hand,	158 85	
		By amount of sales,	47 34	206 19
		Amount expended,		3,742 78
CONVICTS DISCHARGD.				
1865.				
Nov. 30.	DR.	For balance of account,	398 20	
		Amount expended,		398 20
TRANSPORTING CONVICTS.				
1865.				
Nov. 30.	DR.	For balance of account,	317 06	
		Amount expended,		317 06

INSPECTORS' REPORT.

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Statement, (Continued.)

1865.	OFFICERS' SALARIES.				
Nov. 30.	DR.	For balance of account,		\$7,687 33	
		Amount expended,			\$7,687 33
		RECAPITULATION.			
		Carriage department, gain,	13,546 18		
		Shoemaking, "	2,480 96		
		Fees from visitors, "	306 90		16,334 04
		Expense account, loss,	1,012 07		
		Clothing, "	818 71		
		Fuel and lights, "	1,682 35		
		Subsistence, "	4,091 97		
		Building and repairs, "	3,742 78		
		Convicts discharged, "	398 20		
		Transporting convicts, "	317 06		
		Officers' salaries, "	7,687 33		19,750 47
		Balance against the Prison,			3,416 43
		Expense rebuilding and picketing walk, \$501 28; expense of new shoe shop, \$2,999 47,	3,500 75		
		Balance in favor of Prison,			84 32
		NOTES AND ACCOUNTS.			
		Due the Prison on old notes,	368 00		
		" " on old books,	1,033 29		
		" " on new notes,	3,105 02		
		" " on new books,	17,457 94		21,964 25
		The Prison owes on old books,	272 21		
		" " on new books,	3,155 20		3,427 41
		Balance in favor of Prison,			18,536 84

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

*To His Excellency the Governor, and the
Honorable Executive Council of the State of Maine:*

GENTLEMEN:—I hereby transmit my report of the physical health of the convicts in Maine State Prison, for the year ending November 30th, 1865.

The inmates of this Institution have been very free from sickness the past year, and at present remain so. There has been but one death, that of John Damery, of dropsy.

The subject of prison diet, considered with a view to its healthfulness, as well as to economy, is of the first importance. One object of prison discipline is reformation of the convict, and as "sound minds are in sound bodies" found, the State fails in its duties to its unfortunate charges, if it does not provide the regimen best suited to secure the greatest, practicable measure of health to the convicts.

This regimen, so far as ventilation of cell, and shop, is now very well answered in this Institution. But there is yet a deficiency in our diet table, necessitated in part by the want of proper culinary apparatus; to secure which, the introduction of steam, for cooking, as well as warming purposes, would prove the most economical.

Formerly corn meal has been the only farinaceous article in the diet table of this prison; wheat flour has during the past year been added with very marked improvement in the health of the convicts:

Without going, on this occasion, into a discussion of the relative value of the different grains as articles of diet, I will cite the fact, that experiments, upon an extensive scale, have of late been made in the work houses of England, whereby wheat meal is shown to be the most economical, as well as health-giving of farinaceous food, while prisoners fed upon corn meal have lost their vigor and strength, yielding more readily to the influences predisposing to disease.

This subject challenges our attention more particularly at this

time, as a visitation of cholera to our shores, is one of the events most to be expected during the coming summer. Municipal authorities in all our cities are instituting those sanitary reforms, which coming within the scope of their powers, promise the most security against the disease; and as cholera visits all climes, from torrid to frigid, where, upon the coast of Greenland, it appeared in 1849 on board a whale ship, it becomes all to exercise, not in fear but with becoming prudence, that care which will prove instrumental in averting so dire a scourge.

And as in the prison we have the all important advantage of regulating diet, I would urge the propriety of substituting wheat meal for corn meal in the diet table of Maine State Prison.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHAS. T. CHASE,
Physician of Maine State Prison.

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

To the Governor and Council of the State of Maine:

GENTLEMEN:—The Chapel services of the Maine State Prison have been conducted during the past year, as provided by an act of the Legislature, by the Clergymen of Thomaston. They have been held in the afternoon, at four o'clock, for about seven months, and at half past three, during the other five. This arrangement, though somewhat confining, and therefore objectionable to the officers and overseers, has been made and pursued as better adapted to the condition and wants of the convicts than any that would assemble them at an early morning hour and then leave them in their cells for the next twenty hours or more. Whether, on the whole, it is the best arrangement possible, we do not feel competent to decide. The convicts are generally pleased with it, and are glad for the coming of the hour, whether desiring the instruction and worship or not. Their attendance has been uniform, their conduct decorous, their appearance as reverential and interested as that of congregations generally *outside of prison walls*. How much they have profited is known only to Him who sees the heart. Truth and motive have not been used without some effect. In not a few instances has the effect been salutary for the time: in some, we doubt not, permanently. It has been the aim of your officiating Chaplains to treat and preach to them as *men*, and not *convicts* and *castaways*; to present such truths and motives as to mankind elsewhere; and so approach them, always, as to inspire the belief that there is hope and cheer for them in the gospel, equally as for others. This has seemed to us the truest, and therefore the surest way to reach and influence them for good. The result has not been all that we could wish, but all it was wise to expect. The men appear less hard, less repulsive. They are less despairing: more hopeful, and readier to be led in the right way. So much at least seems manifest. The Chapel occupied has been the same

unfit, disgraceful apartment, in the attic of the carriage and paint shops, reported in former papers. Of this, through the good sense and efficiency of your excellent Warden, you are now reminded for the last time. A new and commodious one is now fitted and nearly ready to be occupied in the basement of a building just erected, affording every convenience essential to the tastes and comfort of the worshippers. This, though late, is creditable to the State, and grateful to all who are interested in the moral or spiritual welfare of those to be gathered therein.

Of the spiritual condition of the only convict who has deceased during the year, nothing definite can be said, as he died after many weeks of peculiar dementia. In this connection we must be allowed to say, that the provisions made by the State, for the moral and religious culture of these unfortunate men, whom crime has brought here, in our opinion, is very inadequate. It is an *extravagant* economy that gives to them only the meagre services of the resident clergymen, whose hands are full of work for the churches and parishes over which they are pastors. However much our hearts may yearn to see these lost ones elevated and fitted for society again, or for Heaven, it is impossible for us to do what imperatively needs to be done. There are many who need instructing in the very rudiments of Christianity, and of morals too; a work that requires tact, patience, time and toil. Several are unable to read; and are wholly uneducated, except in crime. Others, if encouraged and aided, might be prepared, on the expiration of their sentence, to go forth again into the world, to act a useful and honorable part. A chaplain suited to the position, competent, able, *creditably paid for his services*, seems to us indispensable to the good of the convicts, the honor and increased security of the commonwealth. The philanthropic and self-sacrificing efforts of the Warden's lady do, indeed, substitute something of sympathy for the sick, and instruction for the most ignorant; but this substitution should not be necessitated by a government so enlightened and humane as ours. The spontaneous heart will find occasions enough, after all that can be officially done, to care for the suffering and fallen.

It may not be amiss to say that the Library, which is of great interest and value to the convicts, has received an increment of useful matter from year to year, from the appropriation made for that purpose. Though, at present prices, the increase is much

smaller than previously, or than is desirable. Any such exigency, we doubt not, will be met in the proper way. With the present salutary discipline, and unparalleled financial management of the prison, it is our hope and earnest desire that such counsels may prevail as are manifestly indicated by a true and generous economy, that so all eyes, while they look sadly, may look *hopefully* towards this Institution, founded and maintained for the restraint and punishment of crime.

Respectfully submitted, in behalf of the Clergymen of Thomaston, officiating as Chaplains.

J. K. MASON.

DECEMBER 1, 1865.