

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS OF MAINE

BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

Public Officers <sup>and</sup> Institutions

FOR THE YEAR

1891.

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VOLUME II.

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AUGUSTA:

BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1892.

MAJORITY AND MINORITY REPORTS

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

ON THE

REMOVAL

OF THE

Maine State Prison.

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AUGUSTA :  
BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.  
1891.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN COUNCIL, January 6, 1891.

Received and 500 copies ordered printed.

ORAMANDAL SMITH. *Secretary of State.*

## MAJORITY REPORT.

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*To the Governor and the Executive Council of Maine:*

The undersigned, a majority of a Commission appointed by virtue of a Resolve (chapter 176) of the 64th Legislature, "to inquire into the expediency of the removal of the Maine State Prison to some other place than that in which it is now situated, and to investigate and recommend in regard to a proper place therefor, the buildings and arrangements necessary to carry out such removal, and the probable cost of the same, and report to the Governor and Council for the information of the next Legislature," respectfully submit the following:

It will be seen upon an inspection of the Resolve that the duties of the Commission were two-fold: First, to inquire into the expediency of the removal of the Prison to a new site; second, to investigate and recommend in regard to a proper site, the buildings and arrangements necessary to carry out a removal, and the probable cost thereof.

It is evident that the duty of recommending a new location for the Prison is contingent upon our finding a removal to be expedient. As, in our opinion, it is not expedient, we have no recommendations to offer with reference to a new site, or the necessary buildings and arrangements to carry out a removal.

Our duty, however, to report to the Governor and Council for the information of the legislature makes it proper for us to present for their consideration the results of our labors, and our reasons for the conclusions to which we have arrived.

To enable your Commission properly to perform the duties assigned them, it has been necessary to thoroughly examine into the condition of the Prison, its general management, the condition of its inmates, and to some extent its financial operations. Several visits for this purpose have been made to Thomaston, at one of which (October 7, 1890), through notices published in four of the principal newspapers in the State, opportunity to be heard was afforded to all persons interested in the subject matter.

In order that intelligent comparisons might be made, the Commission also found it necessary to investigate the condition and management of similar institutions in other states. For the purpose of such comparisons the prisons at Charlestown, Mass., and Concord, N. H., and the reformatory at Concord, Mass., were visited during the month of October last.

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We have carefully considered the various reasons assigned for the removal of our State Prison in previous reports upon the same subject matter, and those presented in arguments before the Commission at the session of October 7th, and have endeavored, in our investigations, to discover any others which might be deemed essential. We enumerate them, with a statement of the facts as we have found them to exist in each particular :

*1st. It has been claimed in previous reports of some thirty years ago, and it was argued before the Commission, that the present location is geographically unsuitable.*

Objections to the exact geographical location of the Prison do not seem to us to have great weight, if abundant conveniences for economical access from all parts of the State exist, and if facilities for economical transportation for all purposes to and from other states are provided.

It is hardly necessary for us to allude to the fact that arguments in support of a change of location which might have been sound thirty years ago, do not apply to the present

date, or to the present condition of things. The stage line to Bath, then in existence, has given way to good railway facilities, (with three passenger trains and one freight train to and from Boston daily) which are constantly improving, and under the present management give promise of extension and still greater improvement in the future. A daily line of steamers to and from Boston and Bangor, landing at a point four miles distant, and others daily to and from nearly every point navigable in the State during the greater portion of the year, with a line of steamers to and from New York direct, have superseded the single semi-weekly line from Boston and Bangor of 1860.

It is doubtful if any other locality in the State has the advantage of cheaper freight and passenger rates than Thomaston and its vicinity. Competition between steamers, railroads and sailing craft has had a tendency to provide advantages in this respect which are enjoyed by but one or two other localities in Maine.

The total number of convicts received at the Prison for the year ending November, 1889, was fifty-four, from the jails of fourteen different counties in the State. The total cost of transportation, including passenger fares and board during transit of convicts and officers accompanying them, was \$372.97, or an average of only \$6.91 for each convict. The total freight account for the same year was \$2,113.20, and this amount includes the cost of transportation of nearly all the subsistence stores, and of raw material for manufacture, (including broom stock from the West) to Thomaston, and the freight charges on the larger portion of the manufactured products, which were delivered in Boston under contract.

Material for subsistence or manufacture is delivered at Thomaston at prices as low as can be obtained at wholesale by any dealer in the State.

*2d. That the Prison should be located near some commercial center, with opportunity for sale and consumption of manufactured material in a home market.*

We find that no prison in the New England states depends to any extent upon or uses a home market for the disposal or consumption of its manufactured products. The New England prisons proper confine the labor of convicts almost exclusively to what is termed "prison products," and find such a course more profitable to the respective states, and of greater benefit to the inmates. The prison at Charlestown, Mass., operates upon the larger variety of industries, and although disposed of to wholesale dealers in Boston, the products go largely South and West. The Concord, N. H., prison manufactures bedsteads for southern and western sale. Those at Vermont and Connecticut manufacture shoes, exclusively for southern and western markets, and that at Rhode Island, boots and shoes, wire works and chairs, largely for same markets.

We are convinced that wherever located, the Maine Prison, to avoid conflict with free home labor, and to assure self sustaining management, must depend upon distant markets for the disposal and consumption of its manufactured products.

*3d. That the condition of the Prison buildings proper is such that further large expenditures upon them can not be justified.*

The exterior of the main building (solid masonry,) is in good condition, and so far as we have been able to discover, will require but small expenditure for repairs. The interior, while some improvements are suggested, is in equally as good condition. In this connection it may be well for us to state, that but a very insignificant portion of the large appropriations made by the State for several years has been applied to repairs. It is found upon examination of the books that but \$5,000 of the State appropriations have been used for this purpose during the past ten years, or an average of but \$500 each year, upon all the buildings and property owned by the State at Thomaston, including the main and work buildings, walls inclosing the yard, warden's residence, repositories, and tenement houses occupied by the officers, etc. The



balance of the appropriations for that period has been used chiefly to meet the cost of experimenting and operating upon unprofitable manufactures, the loss upon poor accounts, and to liquidate previous indebtedness. So far as we are able to judge from the books, the same is true to a great extent of the appropriations of several years previous.

The present condition of the Prison buildings proper, taking into consideration the insignificant amount expended upon them for several years, is strong evidence of great thoroughness in their original construction.

*4th. That by reason of defects in construction and sanitary arrangements, and of the surroundings of the Prison, the health of the convicts is endangered.*

We do not find that there has ever been within the Prison walls a case of typhoid fever, malaria, diphtheria, or other disease naturally following imperfect sanitary arrangements. We are sure no other New England prison, and we doubt if any in the country, can exhibit a similar record.

The following statement of the death rate of different prisons in the New England states for the past ten years is of particular interest in this connection :

	Average number of inmates each year for 10 years.	Total number of deaths in 10 years.	Death rate.
Vermont.....	96	10	1.04 per cent.
Maine.....	167	21	1.25 " "
Rhode Island.....	102	21	2.05 " "
New Hampshire.....	181	38	2.10 " "
Connecticut.....	269	77	2.87 " "

We have omitted the Massachusetts prisons, the convicts of that state having been removed from Charlestown to Con-

cord and back again during the period for which the death rate is given, and it would be difficult to decide what portion of the rate should properly be assigned to each locality. The statistics are given for ten years, as prior to 1880 the Vermont prison suffered severely from typhoid fever and malaria, the death rate prior to that date having been considerably larger than the figures above given. The sanitary arrangements of the Vermont buildings have since been improved upon with good results.

It should be remembered that in Vermont, and in some of the other states, capital punishment is still in practice. On the date of the report of November, 1889, there were thirty-nine convicts in the Maine Prison, under life sentence. Of the twenty-one deaths during the past ten years, seven were of convicts committed for life. One death occurred at the age of ninety-two, one at seventy, and four between the ages of fifty and sixty. Men must die sometime, whatever their conditions and surroundings. We think a better system of sewerage could be adopted, for which there is excellent opportunity at a very reasonable cost. But the statistics demonstrate that no defects in this direction now exist, which have an injurious effect upon the health of the inmates.

*5th. That the Prison buildings are not, in their construction and arrangements, adequate to meet the requirements of "prison reform," and cannot be improved upon in this respect without extraordinary cost to the State.*

It is urged that Maine has not kept pace with other states in this direction. We have been referred to Massachusetts as an illustration of this fact. Several years ago, as we are informed, a committee of physicians pronounced the Charlestown prison, "unfit for human habitation." A short time after the new prison at Concord, Mass., was built, and that at Charlestown abandoned. Still later the Charlestown buildings were re-opened, and on the date of the report for the year ending 1889 they contained 575 inmates. Both of the Massachusetts institutions are well patronized—that at Con-

cord, according to the last report, containing 664 convicts, a total of 1,239 confined in the two prisons. Massachusetts has been obliged to wrestle with the question of sufficient accommodations, as well as that of general prison management. Our Maine Prison will accommodate 230 convicts, and there is sufficient opportunity for extension of, and additions to, the cell apartments, should necessity require additions or extensions in the future. But the average number of inmates for the past ten years has been but 167, or 63 less than the buildings now provide accommodations for.

We cannot avoid the conclusion that the Prison at Thomaston, with such improvements as we shall hereafter mention, can provide its inmates with facilities for their comfort and general welfare, which will not suffer in comparison with others in New England, especially if the real interests of society are considered to the same extent as the views of theorists simply.

In a paper upon "Prison Management," by Charles Dudley Warner, published by the Elmira, (N. Y.) Reformatory, the writer gives the results of his extensive investigations into the condition and management of prisons. His views upon the matter may be of interest. He writes :

"The effort has been to improve prisons and the physical condition and environment of prisoners. This effort has been directed by sentiment, rather than upon principles of economy and a study of human nature. It has been assumed that if convicts were treated with more kindness, if they were lodged in prisons well warmed and well ventilated, light and airy, in cells more roomy and comfortable, if they had better food and more privileges (graduated on good deportment,) they would be more likely to reform and lead honest lives after their discharge. This move was dictated by philanthropic motives, and I am far from saying that it is all wrong. But it has not produced the results that were expected; and it seems to me the revolt in the public mind against what is called the 'coddling' system is justified by the facts and results."

He affirms it as his opinion, based upon thorough investigations, that there "is very little difference between our worst prisons and our best in the effect produced upon convicts as to reformation or reduction of the criminal class."

He compares the effect in this direction upon the inmates of the prisons at Connecticut and Rhode Island. The former is "an old establishment, patched up from time to time, and altogether a gloomy and depressing place. It is well managed, however, and made to pay about its running expenses; and many of the alleviations of prison life are applied there, a library, occasional entertainments, a diminution of time of sentence for good conduct, and so on, whatever such a place is capable of in the way of comfort consistent with the system." The latter is "a handsome granite building with all the modern improvements. Perfectly lighted and ventilated, with roomy cells, a common mess room, a model hospital, a more than usual varied dietary, and all the privileges that humanity can suggest as consistent with discipline and security, it is as little gloomy and depressing as a State Prison well can be." He expected the "improved physical conditions to show some moral and physical uplift in the men," but was totally disappointed. "The two prisons might change inmates and no visitor would know the difference. You might expect just as little improvement in the one as in the other." He adds, "The conclusion was forced upon me that, so far as the real interests of society are concerned, nothing is gained by converting prisons into comfortable hotels."

The interior walls inclosing the cells of the Maine Prison are of limestone and granite. The walks leading to the different tiers of cells are of granite, and all of the floors of the apartments in which the cells are located, and the space between the two occupied by the kitchen, etc., are of the same material. The management is entitled to credit for the neatness of the buildings and cells. The latter, as well as all the walls inclosing them, are carefully cleaned and white-washed. The floors, through frequent washing, are scrupulously clean, and retain no moisture, and an air of cleanliness

and order is maintained which can but have a salutary effect upon the health and general welfare of the convicts.

The cells are sufficiently large to admit of the prison cot, and such other furniture as is necessary. No difficulty is experienced in maintaining a comfortable temperature in the cells during the summer months, while in the winter season they are as comfortable as it is possible that those of any prison can be made.

The hospital is sufficiently large and convenient for all the purposes of the Prison. The ventilation of this room can be improved upon at small cost. The dispensary in connection with the hospital is exceedingly well arranged and supplied.

The chapel for religious services, unlike those in some other prisons, is located in a separate building; but we doubt if the convicts are injured by the exercise and fresh air obtained on a day the remainder of which is spent in the cells. This room is not so elaborately frescoed and adorned as some we have seen in other prisons; but it is sufficiently commodious and comfortable, and as well appointed as the average place of worship for other people in the State.

The convicts have the advantage of a well selected library, and a teacher is furnished by the State to instruct the inmates in such branches of education as each individual case may demand or desire.

The dietary is as varied as that of the average prison in the country, and is superior in quality to that of any we have visited.

Notwithstanding some defects to which allusion will hereafter be made, a careful observer of the Thomaston convicts, their surroundings and their treatment, can not fail to be impressed with the facilities and conveniences which are furnished for their comfort and their advancement mentally and morally. Improvements in this direction can undoubtedly be made, but not of so extensive a nature as to require large expenditures of money, or the construction of a new Prison to secure them.

It is very doubtful if but a small percentage of our convicts were accustomed, before entering the walls of the Maine Prison, to the comforts and care for mind, body and morals which have since been furnished them, and which they have since received. And it is equally as doubtful if liberated to-day, they would provide as good for themselves.

It is hardly probable that a single alms-house in the State (whose inmates may be guilty of no other crime than misfortune and poverty), will compare with our Prison in the conveniences, comforts and care provided.

We are not called upon, we presume, to discuss the question whether it is not the duty of sentimentalists to exercise greater solicitude over unfortunates who are in danger of choosing the alternative of the Prison for the alms-house, than over the same unfortunates after they have become criminals, and whether a comparison of the interest manifested by these same good people in the alms-house and the Prison, does not justify the conclusion that, in their estimation, misfortune and poverty are greater crimes than murder, theft, and arson.

*6th. That the work buildings, while sufficient for the two principal industries now operated upon, are not adapted to a diversity of industries, it having been claimed that the greater the diversity, the more profit to the State, and the greater the opportunity for enabling each convict to obtain a trade to which he is best adapted, and by which he can earn an honest living after liberation.*

We have already alluded to the fact that New England prisons limit their industries to the smallest number practicable. And these industries are generally limited, also, to such branches of trade as require the least skill to operate. Such a course is now pursued after a long and unprofitable experience in the opposite direction. Practical men, with large experience in prison management, are unanimous in the opinion that it is only by such a plan that a prison can be made self sustaining. An illustration of the value placed

upon average convict labor, in general manufacturing pursuits by men having practical experience with it, is given in the fact that New Hampshire boards and clothes its convicts, and furnishes the necessary overseers, leasing its labor employed at a price not exceeding fifty cents per day for each able-bodied man, Connecticut, leasing the labor of its able-bodied convicts at twenty-five and fifty cents per day. As we have before intimated, we are convinced that it has been chiefly through experimenting and operating upon manufactures to which such labor is so little adapted, that the drafts upon our State Treasury have been made necessary in recent years.

The carriage industry may serve as an illustration. We do not overlook the fact that by several of the reports this industry has shown a margin of profit. But that is easily accomplished—on paper. It has only been necessary in the yearly appraisals to fix the value of the carriage stock (raw material and manufactured or partly manufactured goods) on hand, at a sufficiently high figure to meet the cost and show a margin. But after the manufactured goods have been disposed of, or when the valuation of the finished goods and the raw material has properly been reduced to fifty per cent. of that first placed upon them, and the finished goods to a still smaller percentage of the actual cost, an appropriation from the State has been necessary. It is contrary to the experience of other prisons that prison labor can be employed with profit upon the variety of mechanical work required in the carriage industry, and an investigation of the books will demonstrate that it has not been accomplished in Maine. And when to the excessive cost of manufacture by convicts, the shrinkage in values by change in styles, and the cost of superintending and expenses of sale (the limited number of convicts now employed on carriages requires the services of four overseers and one salesman, at an aggregate salary of \$4,500 per year,) is added the large amount of money lost in worthless accounts through the same industry, during the past several years, it is surprising that with such labor,

engaged upon such industries, with such financial management, the demands upon the State for appropriations to meet deficiencies have not been still greater.

The suggestion of the warden that the carriage industry be abolished and the labor of the convicts applied exclusively to harnesses and brooms, is in keeping with the policy pursued by other states, and we are convinced that such a course will result in bringing the Prison to a point more nearly self-sustaining. The cost of superintending and sale for these two industries will be but \$2,800 yearly, and it should be borne in mind that the institution is now subjected to this same cost, in addition to that required for the carriage manufacture.

For the purposes of the two industries to which it is proposed to limit the labor of the Prison, the main brick building is well adapted and ample, with room to spare. This building is substantially constructed, and is or can easily be made entirely suitable for the introduction of steam power for the industries named, or others which may be found more feasible or profitable.

One or two of the small wooden buildings in the yard are practically worthless. The others are suitable for all the purposes for which they are used, and considering the insignificant portion of the State appropriations applied to their repair for several years, are in good condition. If new and more modern work buildings should be required, or deemed advisable in the future, there is ample room in the yard for their erection, at a cost as economical as on a new site.

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There is great need of better laundry and bathing facilities. A portion of one of the best buildings can be spared for this purpose, and an estimate of \$1,500 is made as the cost of finishing it to meet the necessary requirements in this direction. Steam heat should, as an economical arrangement, and as a protection against fire, be introduced into the main



and work buildings. All the buildings are now heated by stoves. An estimate of \$4,500 has been received from responsible parties as the cost of suitable steam apparatus, complete in the buildings. We have not been able to discover, however, that any improvements are necessary or advisable which cannot be furnished at the old plant, or for the present buildings, at the same or less cost than in a new prison on a new site.

The water supply for domestic purposes, and for the extinguishment of fire, is ample, and of the best possible quality. The facilities affording protection against fire (if steam heat is substituted for stoves) are better than those of any prison we have visited, or whose affairs we have investigated.

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We have not failed to give due consideration to the much discussed quarry excavation. It may be candidly admitted that this excavation is an undesirable feature in the Prison yard. It is about 400 feet long, about 190 feet wide, and from 35 to 65 feet deep, partially filled with water the entire year. At one time it was a receptacle for nearly all the sewerage of the Prison. Its condition has recently been improved, however, by the flow of fresh water from the motor in the work shop on the north side, and by drainage through a siphon on the south. Notwithstanding the violation of sanitary law which the existence of this excavation would seem to imply, we cannot find that it has ever produced injurious effects upon the health of the inmates of the Prison. The health statistics demonstrate this very conclusively. We have made a careful study of the discussions of this topic in previous reports, and while we find frequent expressions of opinion that "the quarry excavation must go," have discovered that each report commences or concludes with the invariable statement of "no malaria, no typhoid fever, no diphtheria," and a "general state of good health."

We think a system of sewerage could be constructed at a very moderate cost, adapted to the needs of the Prison, and

obviating all the imaginary dangers of this excavation. The facts are, however, that even in its worst state, and before its condition had been improved upon as we have indicated, no evil results have ever followed its existence.

An estimate of \$3,500 has been received as the cost of filling the "cavern" to the present water level, if it should at any time be deemed advisable.

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We are convinced that with the following expenditures the Prison property in its present location can be put into condition to meet all reasonable demands upon it, regard being had to every interest involved :

For providing steam heat to buildings.....	\$4,500 00
For providing a system of sewerage.....	2,000 00
For repairs and changes in buildings.....	3,500 00

To avoid any possible danger from the quarry excavation, the following estimates have been made :

For draining quarry excavation.....	3,800 00
For filling same to water level.....	3,500 00

Total.....	<u>\$17,300 00</u>
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We have made extensive investigations into the cost of prisons of recent construction. That at Concord, N. H., is considered in many respects a model in its line, and has accommodations for about 250 inmates. We were impressed, however, with its scant protection from fire. All of the floors of the buildings, except those of the cells, nearly all of the ceilings, the walks leading to the different tiers of cells, and several other portions of the interior are of wood. That the impression we received was well grounded is demonstrated by the fact that the buildings narrowly escaped destruction by fire during the present year. A large portion of the roof was destroyed, and the rooms so far as the second floor badly damaged. The Concord buildings and site cost \$235,000. We are satisfied that a new Prison for Maine, as

well protected from fire as that at Thomaston, including warden's residence and work buildings, would require an expenditure of \$300,000, in addition to what could be realized from the sale of the present property.

Assuming that the State could borrow at four per cent., an annual interest charge of \$12,000 or more would be the result of such an expenditure. This annual interest for less than two years would pay for every improvement suggested; and if at the expiration of two years it shall be deemed expedient to construct a new Prison on a new site, the State will not have lost a dollar by the experiment.

In view of the facts as we have found them to exist, and as we have endeavored to present them, we cannot, consistently, recommend the abandonment of the State property at Thomaston, and the expenditure of so large an amount as the purchase of a new site and the construction of a new Prison would require.

In conclusion, we wish to call attention to the excellent discipline and general good order maintained at Thomaston, for which the officers are entitled to great credit, and to express our appreciation of the courtesy of the warden, and the assistance furnished us by him in our investigations of the affairs of the Prison, and to the officers of the Charlestown and Concord, Mass., and Concord, N. H., institutions for similar courtesies extended.

E. H. LAWRY,  
W. H. JUDKINS.

December 31, 1890.



## MINORITY REPORT.

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*His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Council:*

One of the first duties that devolved upon the founders of our new Commonwealth, was to establish a State Prison. It was to be their first public institution. Accordingly Daniel Rose and Benjamin Green were duly appointed to collect information and investigate the subject of the punishment of convicts and the establishment of a State penitentiary.

After considering the matter one year, Daniel Rose delivered this very remarkable oration: "State prisons should be so constructed that even their aspect might be terrific, and appear like what they should be, dark and comfortless abodes of guilt and wretchedness. No mode or degree of punishment which ever has been or which ever can be adopted is in its nature so well adapted to purposes of preventing crime and reforming a criminal, as close confinement in a silent solitary cell, in which, cut off from all hope of relief during the term for which he shall have been sentenced; the convict shall be furnished with a hammock on which he may sleep, a block on which he may sit, and with such coarse, though wholesome food as may be best suited to a person in a situation designed for grief and penitence; and shall be favored with so much light from the firmament, as may enable him to read the New Testament, which shall be given him as his sole companion and guide to a better life. There his vices and crimes will become personified, and appear to his frightened imagination as the co-tenants of his dark and dismal cell. They will surround him as so many hideous spectres, and overwhelm him with horror and remorse." This was the

ideal prison of nearly seventy years ago; built according to this pattern under the supervision of the said Daniel Rose and is the much investigated prison of to-day.

A very brief synopsis of the reports of inspectors and committees later on, will give a consensus of opinion concerning that institution to the present time. The people had begun to see that a big blunder had been made. December, 1825, the inspectors say that the results from causes wholly out of their control do not fully accord with the pleasing anticipations entertained by them at the commencement of the year. February, 1830, Governor Hunton says in his message, "I would particularly recommend the examination of the causes which have rendered our State Prison so expensive as compared with other states. If the location is such that the prison cannot by the best management, be rendered other than a perpetual and heavy expense to the State, the sooner the Legislature knows it, the better." 1835, eleven years after the Prison was built, Governor Dunlap appointed a commission with Hon. Wm. D. Williamson at its head, to consider the Prison and its interests. One year later they reported, recommending that a new Prison be built in the vicinity of the State House in Hallowell. Same year, the Warden in his report says that the cells are so constructed that no warmth could by any means be communicated to the convicts.

1837, Governor Dunlap in his message, says, "the Prison seems to have been constructed with a view to inflict the greatest punishment in the shortest time, and at the least expense." The same year the inspectors call attention to the ill designed and inconvenient construction of the Prison. 1842, the inspectors say in their report, "the cause of humanity calls aloud for reform and in vigorous and emphatic words ask for, or rather demand, a new prison.

1843, a new wing was built to the Prison, costing some \$13,500. 1844, the Warden says in his report, "we now have as good a Prison as is in the Union."

1852, the Warden says in his report, that Maine has now as good a Prison as the world affords.

1862, the Warden says, that the Prison was built on the Auburn plan, but owing to the early day of its construction, was poorly ventilated, the air always impure, frequently very bad, and at times insufferable.

In confirmation of the above, I wish here to introduce

#### A NEW WITNESS.

The facts of personal experience, are the most stubborn of all facts. I give here the words of a man of intelligence and truth whose word, those who know him, will not question for a moment; notwithstanding in an evil hour he became amenable to our laws. After speaking in the highest terms of praise of the excellent management of the Prison, under our efficient Warden, he says in regard to ventilation, "the most repulsive feature is not the bucket, it is rather the lack of ventilation, or rather the subjection of the man to either hot or cold drafts, or none at all. The great lack in our Prison is light and air. I was first put into a cell and stayed there two years, where I could neither eat, or read a word without a lighted lamp. In the summer my cell was intolerably hot, all the evenings and on Sundays, I was used up. In the winter, I was so cold that I had to go to bed to be warm. The men in the upper tiers were roasted and below they were shivering." These defects can only be remedied by rebuilding the Prison and substituting steam heat in place of coal stoves.

#### LOCATION.

The Prison never should have been built at the extreme southern limit of the State. No one will question that. It was not intended primarily for a manufacturing establishment, where the question of freights, etc., should be the paramount consideration. Daniel Rose was not so far astray when he said, "they should be so constructed that even their appearance should be terrific". Who ever heard of a crime being

committed in Thomaston? Place it in the central part of the State where everybody can see it.

#### STRUCTURAL DEFECTS.

Are best seen by comparing it with prisons of modern design and construction, e. g., the prison at Concord, New Hampshire. I am no advocate of hotel prisons, punishment without torture, should be the rule. The cells in our Prison are low, narrow and dark; cold in winter and hot in summer. Average size of cells,  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{3}$  feet. Modern prison,  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$  feet, with open-work iron front freely admitting light and air. Our Prison has a 20-inch iron door, the remainder of the front is solid granite. The cells in Charlestown, Mass., prison were similar to ours. Years ago they removed the middle wall and made two cells into one. Next year they will build a new prison, having at great expense procured the plans the present season.

In the last seventy years there has been wonderful improvements in prison architecture, as well as in everything else. Why should Maine lag so far behind in this matter? There has never been a separate prison for females, although time and again demanded. There never has been suitable apartments for bathing and laundry purposes. The buildings are old and much in need of repairs. And finally, more land is called for, and it is imperatively needed. When all these wants are met, we still have the old Daniel Rose prison, on Lime Rock Hill, on account of which has been paid from the State treasury, up to November 30, 1882, in addition to all the earnings of prisoners, \$785,172.18. This vast outlay with such meagre results, would seem to suggest the possibility that a change of some kind might be in the interest of economy, if nothing more.

#### SURROUNDINGS.

The Prison buildings and workshops, as well, are situated by the side of a great yawning cavern or cess pool, formerly the old lime rock quarry, 400 feet long, 145 feet wide and



70 feet deep, into which the sewerage from the Prison and shops, has been running for years. The only outlet being two small iron siphon pipes by which the surface is drained, leaving the sediment not less than twenty feet deep, always remaining a standing menace to the good health of the community and a lasting disgrace to the State. Practically, it can neither be drained or filled, so long as the Prison is inhabited. For the above and many other reasons I respectfully recommend that our State Prison, be removed to some more central part of the State and nearer to the markets of the State. I have examined two sites, either of which would meet all the requirements in the case. One especially, in the central part of the State, containing forty acres of excellent land seemingly designed by nature for such a purpose; doubtless there may be many others equally eligible.

#### BUILDINGS REQUIRED.

Prison proper, house for Warden, separate prison for females, houses for subordinate officers; one or more workshops according to the number of industries pursued, stable and other out buildings.

#### COST OF THE SAME.

Prisons and prison walls are now built of hard burnt brick, laid in Portland cement and lime one-half each, costing much less than granite. Alleghany prison in Pennsylvania said to be the best prison in the country was built by the prisoners themselves. The new prison in Charlestown already referred to, will be built in the same way. The Concord, N. H. prison built in 1880, at a cost of \$235,000, capacity for 250 inmates, we found one of the best modeled of any we visited. Taking that for a basis, I estimate the cost of building a prison somewhat larger with still later improvements, all equipped, for \$250,000; by employing the prisoners in doing the work a saving might be made on those figures. I respect-

fully recommend that an appropriation of \$15,000 be made by the legislature for the purchase and grading of a lot and for procuring the necessary plans for prison buildings.

I am under great personal obligations to the Hon. Wm. A. Wilde, prison commissioner for Massachusetts, for many valuable suggestions. Also to Henry W. Hartwell, Esq., firm Hartwell & Richardson, architects of Boston, for the privilege of examining the plans and drawings for the new Charlestown prison. Mr. Hartwell is utter authority in prison architecture.

JAMES WOODBURY.

BANGOR, December 29, 1891.