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# FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 16.

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The Joint Standing Committee on the Reform School, having visited that institution agreeably to an order of the Legislature, and disposed of the other business referred to them, present the following

## REPORT.

On Thursday, January 30th, 1868, your Committee visited the State Reform School at Cape Elizabeth, and spent part of two days and a night at the institution. They mingled freely with the inmates of the School, conversing with them alone, and in the presence of the officers, observing them carefully while at play, at work, at their meals, at their studies, at their devotions, and in their dormitories. They improved every moment while there to gain all possible knowledge of the practical operation of the mental, moral and physical influences brought to bear upon the scholars. The Committee also examined the building in all its departments, the barn and outbuildings, the brick-yard and the farm as far forth as the season of the year would permit. They also inquired carefully into the duties of the employés, from the Superintendent to the Watchman, and into the faithfulness of each and his personal adaptation to his particular duties. To mention in detail all that your Committee noticed would require more space than is allowed to a Report of this character. They therefore say in general terms, that in the opinion of your Committee the State Reform School is a success, and that it is being faithfully and successfully managed by the present Board of Trustees and Corps of Officers, and that the money appropriated by the State for that institution is economically and faithfully expended, and that it is yielding a rich return—not a return in dollars and cents only, but a return in that which is far more valuable to a Commonwealth, viz., the elevation of the intellectual and moral character of that

portion of its citizens who in youth are inclined to waywardness and crime. Here the homeless, neglected and outcast juvenile offender, who might otherwise be a despised tenant of a prison house, comes and finds a home under the fostering care of the State; here he finds friends; here he learns that kindness and integrity will beget respect; he learns to respect himself, and feels that he is respected by others; he learns too that labor, endurance and faith are necessary to success in every position in life; and by degrees he girds on this manly armor, and at a proper time he goes forth from the School a reformed, self-relying and upright citizen. This of course is not true of every one who leaves the School, but the tendency of the teaching and discipline is to make such of all, and if only a tithe of its recipients are thus elevated, the State receives ample return for the material aid which it bestows. The wealth and happiness of a nation is in the character of its people.

While your Committee have much to praise and nothing to condemn in the management of this institution, they nevertheless see some points in which, in their judgment, improvements may be made, and they suggest the following:

They recommend that the diet of the boys be improved by giving them a greater variety of food, and more meat or milk, particularly the latter, and to this end they advise the keeping of more cows on the farm.

They recommend that the dormitories be kept warmer in the cold season, and that the temperature be regulated by thermometer.

They recommend that a uniform style of dress be adopted, and that all new clothing be purchased or made in reference thereto.

They recommend that the most scrupulous neatness be exacted of every boy.

They recommend that some systematic mode may be adopted whereby the history, character and success of each boy after he leaves the School may be obtained and preserved, so that the Legislature and the people at large may learn from year to year the amount of good this institution is doing.

They recommend that the Trustees continue the office of Secretary and Treasurer, but that the salary be reduced to one hundred dollars or less.

They recommend that the records and books of the institution, for the present, be kept in one of the towers on a level with the

lower window, so that they may be easily and speedily removed in case of any fire which may threaten their destruction.

The Committee examined carefully into the proposed improvements for which special appropriation is asked by the Trustees and Superintendent, and they see the necessity for these improvements, and they believe it will be good economy to make them; they therefore recommend the appropriation of the following sums, viz. :

For addition to barn, . . . .	\$600 00
“ reservoirs and sewers, . . . .	700 00
“ tile kiln, . . . .	200 00
“ support of School, . . . .	14,942 60
“ library, . . . .	100 00
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	\$16,542 60

This amount is one thousand seven hundred and sixty dollars and fifty cents less than was the appropriation last year.

FREDERICK G. MESSER,  
 ALEXANDER FULTON,  
 J. G. HAMBLIN,  
 G. S. PALMER,  
 G. E. DOWNES,  
 JOSEPH H. GILPATRICK,  
 JAMES NORTON,  
 MAX FOSTER,  
 DANIEL FIELD,  
 STILLMAN TARBOX.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the State Reform School.

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*Resolved*, That the sum of six hundred dollars for  
2 addition to barn ; also seven hundred dollars for reser-  
3 voirs and sewers ; also two hundred dollars for tile  
4 kiln ; also one hundred dollars for library ; also four-  
5 teen thousand nine hundred and forty-two dollars and  
6 and sixty cents—making sixteen thousand five hun-  
7 dred and forty-two dollars and sixty cents—be and  
8 hereby is appropriated for the benefit of the State  
9 Reform School for the fiscal year ending April first, in  
10 the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and  
11 sixty-nine.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 12, 1868.

Reported by Mr. MESSER, from Committee on Reform School,  
and on motion of Mr. BROWN, laid on the table and ordered to  
be printed.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary*.