
FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 45.

R E P O R T

OF THE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE PRISON.

The Joint Standing Committee on the State Prison, in pursuance of a joint order of the Legislature of January sixteenth, authorizing them to visit that institution and ascertain what legislation is necessary thereto to promote the best interest of the State, have attended to that duty and report :

That on the 23d instant the committee visited the prison and was received by its Warden, W. W. Rice, with that warmth and kindness which are the natural characteristics of that gentleman. And after the usual time necessary to become acquainted with the warden and each other, and talk over the various subjects of the prison, and the necessary wants of the same, the committee retired.

On the 24th instant the committee returned to the prison and here were joined by William Wilson, one of the Inspectors, who remained with us through the day and evening. Dr. Chase, its Physician, joined the committee in the afternoon and evening, who together with the Warden and Inspector, gave the committee quite a full detail of the convicts and the manner of discipline, which fully sustains the facts set forth in the several reports of its officers. For further particulars we refer you to that report.

In the evening we were joined by the Hon. Joseph Farwell, Mayor of the city of Rockland, who has been a committee in

previous years to visit and examine into the condition of the prison financially and otherwise, and who takes a deep interest in the prosperity, moral discipline and welfare of the convicts and the prison generally.

We next visited the inside of the prison. We find with the enlargement of the department for cooking, everything admirably adapted to the wants of the institution. We also went through the various industrial departments.

The carriage department since the enlargement, (now 33 by 200 feet, with upper part for paint shop) looks as if business was the order of the day; everything tending to show that the benefits derived from the enlargement are very great.

In the blacksmith shop it is very perceptible they require more room in order to derive that benefit from the labor desirable.

The shoe shop we find in good condition with twenty-three convicts employed.

We find a suitable and commodious chapel, in which school books, black boards, &c., are provided; and we are happy to find that through the untiring zeal and energy of Mrs. W. W. Rice, who has devoted much of her time to the education of the convicts, very commendable proficiency has been made by quite a number in learning to read and write.

In some of these departments was manifest that order and diligence which reflects much credit to its officers; but we are under the impression from what we can learn from the heads of the several departments, that in *some* of them there does not prevail that unanimity of sentiment in regard to the discipline, as should be maintained in an institution of this kind. But we think the *Warden* is striving to bring about that harmony of action so desirable.

The enlargement of the prison, as laid out by the *Warden*, is admirably adapted to the wants of the institution, and reflects credit both to himself and the State.

It was expected the *Chaplains* would meet with us in the evening but on account of the storm they were prevented from doing so, and we will refer to the first part of their report, which says: "In making the annual reports of the two years preceding that about to close, we have felt it incumbent on us to recommend and urge the appointment of a suitable man as *Chaplain* at the earliest practicable day. Our conviction of the importance of such action

is only deepened by another year's experience and observation: We have only been reconciled to the delay in view of the fact that the insecure state of things incident to remodeling and enlarging the prison would have interfered with his work."

In a few months no such consideration will exist, and we most respectfully and earnestly commend to you the views presented in the last report.

We will refer you to the Warden's report, by that you will see that quite a large portion of the convicts are less than thirty years old, and more than twenty of that number less than twenty years old, and many of them will soon be out to mingle in society, and a suitable Chaplain's constant service would be likely to tend to their moral good, we therefore fully endorse the Chaplain's report in regard to the appointment of a Chaplain.

For the health of the prisoners we refer you to the report of the Physician, Dr. Chase, which is fully sustained by our examination.

APPROPRIATIONS.

We will refer you to the Inspectors' report, which is as follows :

| | |
|---|--------------|
| To cover the deficit between last year's appropriation | |
| and the amount expended for building purposes, | \$4,769 66 |
| To complete the work already begun, | 7,000 00 |
| To cover the deficit in current expenses as explained | |
| before, | 6,931 24 |
| To increase the working capital of the Institution, about | 6,000 00 |
| Making a total in round numbers of | \$25,000.00. |

NATHAN PIERCE, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to amend section two of chapter one hundred and thirty-five of the revised statutes relating to the time for which convicts may be sentenced to the state prison.

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

SECTION 1. Section two of chapter one hundred and two thirty-five of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out the word "one" in the second line of said section, and inserting in its place the word *two*, so that the first part of said section shall read as follows, viz :—" Unless otherwise specially provided, all imprisonments mentioned in this title for the term of two years or more shall be in the state prison, and all for a less term in the county jail or house of correction."

SECT. 2. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the state prison.

Resolved, That the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to cover the deficit between last year's appropriation and the amount expended for building purposes; to complete the work already begun; to cover the deficit in current expenses A. D. eighteen hundred sixty-seven, and increase the working capital of the institution.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the joint standing committee on the state prison.

Resolved, That the state treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to pay Nathan Pierce the sum of one hundred and eight dollars, it being for expenses incurred by the committee visiting the state prison the twenty-third of January last.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 21, 1868.

Laid on the table, on motion of Mr. PIERCE, and ordered to be printed.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*