

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 38.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REFORM SCHOOL.

Agreeably to an order of the Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on the Reform School have visited that institution, and herewith submit their report.

In accordance with arrangements previously made, your Committee, with several invited guests—members of the Legislature—visited the State Reform School on Thursday and Friday last, (February 17, 1870.) At Portland we found a conveyance waiting to take us to the school at Cape Elizabeth. Arriving there about three P. M., we were met and kindly greeted by two of the trustees, and the superintendent, Hon. E. W. Woodbury. No time was wasted. We examined first the work shops; saw the boys at their work; conversed with them freely. They seemed very glad to see us; were cheerful and appeared happy. In their school rooms they appeared extremely well, showing care and ability in their teachers, and a desire to learn on their part, which was very gratifying to the Committee. It was apparent to the Committee, however, that another school-room and teacher is needed, in order to reach the best results desired by the State, and that the appropriation asked for this purpose by the trustees should be made. The present management aim to make the institution a school to reform and elevate, and as little of a prison as possible under the circumstances, which your Committee approve. Your Committee examined all the buildings connected with and belonging to the institution, especially those parts needing repairs and alterations, as shown us by Mr. Woodbury, and we believe they are such as should be made.

System and neatness prevails in all the departments. The

superintendent blends kindness and firmness in his government, and appears to have the love and respect of the children in a remarkable degree. The boys were clean and tidy in their personal appearance, showing the care that is bestowed on them in this important particular. They also appeared in excellent health, and when out in the yard at play appeared very much as other school boys do of their age, noisy and happy.

Your Committee believe the institution is worthy of the fostering care bestowed upon it by the State, and under the present management good results will be obtained.

Your Committee have inquired into the wants of the institution, and believe the appropriation asked for by the trustees is needed to produce the results desired by the State. We have therefore voted to report a resolve appropriating in aid of the State Reform School fourteen thousand and fifty-six dollars (\$14,056,) which is submitted with this report.

In conclusion your committee wish to say that they were favorably impressed with the peculiar fitness of the Superintendent, E. W. Woodbury, for the management of such an institution, and that the commendation of him by the trustees is well deserved.

JOHN B. NEALLEY,	}	<i>Senate.</i>
F. LORING TALBOT,		
J. A. BUCK,		
DANIEL STICKNEY,	}	<i>House.</i>
JOHN MAY,		
ANDREW LEIGHTON,		
JOHN WHITNEY,		
E. A. DUNCAN,		
GEORGE S. BERRY,]	

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the state reform school.

Resolved, That the sum of eleven thousand three
2 hundred dollars for the ordinary expenses of the
3 school, for painting the building one thousand dollars,
4 for repairs of basement one thousand dollars, for to
5 make additions to the library one hundred dollars,
6 fitting up a new school room to accommodate fifty
7 boys two hundred dollars, for furniture, seats, desks,
8 &c., three hundred dollars, for pay of an additional
9 female teacher one hundred and fifty dollars, making
10 in all fourteen thousand and fifty-six dollars, (14,056,)
11 be and is hereby appropriated for the benefit of the
12 state reform school for the fiscal year ending April
13 first in the year of our Lord one thousand eight
14 hundred and seventy.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 25, 1870.

• Read, and on motion of Mr. NEALLEY, laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*