

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 50.

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATE PRISON.

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The Joint Standing Committee on the State Prison, having visited that institution in pursuance to an order of the Legislature, ask leave to present the following Report :

On Thursday, February 17, 1870, your Committee visited the State Prison for the purpose of examining the institution and to inquire into its management. Your committee spent the whole of the following day, in company with the warden and other officers of the institution, in visiting the different workshops connected with the prison, for the purpose of observing the convicts while at work in their respective departments. We were forcibly struck with the interest which the convicts manifested in their work, and their productions for durability and for style are not surpassed by any workshop of the kind in the State.

We were highly pleased with the discipline of the prison, which, under the able management of Mr. Rice has been carried to a high degree of perfection.

Your committee can but regard it as very fortunate for the State that they have secured the services of a warden whose head and heart so eminently fit him to discharge the many and responsible duties which belong to a man in his position. He has secured a degree of discipline among the convicts highly satisfactory, not by any harsh and tyrannizing conduct, but by treating them as human beings, though fallen for a time they may be, but yet way down in whose hearts there may and no doubt does linger those throbbings of a better life which sin and crime may for a time have crushed.

The State owes a debt of gratitude which money cannot remu-

nerate, to Mrs. Rice for the interest which she manifests for the educational and moral improvement of the convicts, spending a large portion of her time in the prison for this purpose, without any remuneration except the consciousness of doing good. And we legislators neglect an imperative duty if we fail to provide a Chaplain to the institution, which will not only morally but pecuniarily be a benefit to the State.

It will be observed by examining the report of the inspectors, that the appropriations asked for are small in comparison with those of former years, and those mostly for building purposes, viz :

To cover deficit for building purposes the past year . . . .	\$1,071
Complete work already begun . . . . .	2,000
Pay for repository purchased . . . . .	1,900
General repairs . . . . .	800
Building harness shop and wash room . . . . .	1,730
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Making a total of . . . . .	\$7,500

Your committee are very strongly impressed that an increase of the working capital at the disposal of the warden is indispensable to the financial success of the institution in years to come. It has been found by examining the reports of those States which lease the labor of their convicts, that the capital invested for manufacturing purposes should average \$1,000 per man, while that of Maine does not average quite \$300 per man; and you will find from a careful examination of the report of the inspectors, the difficulties and embarrassments that the warden is subjected to on this account. And your committee have carefully examined into the subject and have given it much thought, and after careful deliberation, for the purpose of making the institution a successful one financially, have unanimously recommended an increase of capital to the extent of \$25,000.

GEO. E. MINOT,  
HENRY E. HAMMOND, } *Chairmen.*

## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the State Prison.

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*Resolved,* That the sum of one thousand and seventy-  
2 one dollars, to cover the deficit for building purposes  
3 the past year, also two thousand dollars for the com-  
4 pletion of the work already begun, also nineteen hun-  
5 dred dollars to pay for repository purchased, also eight  
6 hundred dollars for general repairs, also seventeen  
7 hundred and thirty dollars for building a harness shop  
8 and wash room, and also twenty-five thousand dollars  
9 to increase the working capital of the institution,  
10 making in all thirty-two thousand and five hundred  
11 dollars (\$32,500), be and is hereby appropriated for  
12 the benefit of the state prison.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 3, 1870.

Read, and on motion of Mr. MINOT laid on the table and ordered to be printed, with the accompanying resolve.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*