

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTIETH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 37.

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REFORM SCHOOL.

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Agreeable to an order of the Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on the Reform School have visited that institution and herewith submit the following report, to wit :

On Thursday, February 2, 1871, your committee visited the Reform School at Cape Elizabeth. Arriving at Portland by noon train, teams were found in readiness to convey them immediately to the institution. Being informed that the scholars were at this hour engaged at their usual labors in the work-shops, they at once proceeded to visit the several departments in which they were thus employed.

Your committee were pleased not only with the discipline here manifest, but also with the skill and assiduity with which the inmates performed the work assigned them. The children appeared cheerful and happy, were neatly and comfortably clothed, and uniformly testified to the kindness and care of their several overseers.

They also visited the scholars while engaged in their studies and recitations, and witnessed with pleasure the proficiency and attainments pertaining to the several classes—being of that character to prove satisfactorily to their minds the faithfulness in performance of duty as well as the necessary qualifications and worth of their teachers.

Your committee remained at the institution over night, and the following day until nearly noon were engaged in minutely observing and personally enquiring into its practical operations. They noticed that the food of the scholars was of good quality and ample in quantity—but would recommend that a greater *variety* be served them—that certain days in each week a change of diet be made,

more nourishing food be given them, thereby relieving in a measure the *sameness* of their meals as now served, and supplying the necessary changes demanded by the appetites, general health, and proper growth of the children. Attention was called by the Superintendent to some few changes lately made in their meals, but a farther substitution is earnestly recommended.

Your committee were surprised at the large number of boys found here of so young an age—apparently from six to twelve years old. They believe a change of hours of study and labor should be made during the winter months. Under the present system these hours are the same during the entire year; all the inmates are obliged to arise at 5½ o'clock A. M., and retire at 7½ o'clock P. M., thus being from their beds fourteen hours. They believe that if the time of arising should be one hour later, (during which hour lights must now necessarily be used throughout the entire institution), and one hour less each of labor and study be performed daily, thereby giving them one hour each additional for sleep and recreation, this change to apply only to the winter season, or six months in the year, it would be promotive of health and nearly if not quite as economical as at present.

Your committee are of the opinion that the present mode of heating the building is insufficient to meet the requirements and wants of the children; they recommend a greater amount of clothing to be immediately furnished in their sleeping apartments. It appears impossible under the present arrangements to warm the dormitory and large class room beneath so but that the scholars must necessarily suffer from cold during the extreme winter weather. They believe the health, as well as comfort of the boys demand an improvement in this respect, and that economy and safety also demand it, therefore, they recommend that the steam-heating apparatus asked for in the Report of the Superintendent and Trustees be introduced into the institution, believing that the State will in a very few years save in cost of fuel alone a sufficient amount to defray the expense thereby incurred, and lessen much the liabilities and risks of fire attending the present system, encumbered as it is with some twenty stoves and furnaces.

Your committee were highly pleased with the Superintendent and his general management. He appears to be a very able and efficient man for the position, and together with the Matron is highly esteemed by the children, and seemingly have the welfare

of all truly at heart, receiving the cordial aid and support of the other officers.

This institution must inevitably cost our State each year a considerable amount for its support and maintenance, yet so worthy an enterprise should not be allowed to suffer for want of proper aid cheerfully bestowed, to be judiciously and economically expended.

Having examined carefully the proposed improvements for which an appropriation is asked, your committee are unanimously of the opinion that the following sums should be appropriated, to wit:

For current expenses for the ensuing year, eleven thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars.....	11,950
Allowance for library, one hundred dollars.....	100
For putting in steam-heating apparatus, five thousand three hundred and twenty-five dollars.....	5,325
Total amount.....	<u>\$17,375</u>

O. HAYFORD, Sr.,  
 S. E. SMITH,  
 GEO. E. MINOT,  
 BENJ. ROBINSON,  
 JOSEPH KNIGHT,  
 LUTHER PERKINS,  
 FOUNTAIN RODICK,  
 NAHUM MOORE,  
 PHILLIP C. JONES,  
 JAS. M. FISH,

} Committee.

# STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the state reform school.

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*Resolved*, That the sum of eleven thousand nine hundred fifty dollars for the ordinary expenses of the school ; to make additions to the library, one hundred dollars ; for introducing steam-heating apparatus, five thousand three hundred twenty-five dollars ; making in all seventeen thousand three hundred and seventy-five dollars, be and is hereby appropriated for the benefit of the state reform school, for the fiscal year ending in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two.

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# STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 7, 1871.

Presented by Mr. HAYFORD, of the Committee on Reform School, and on his motion laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary*.