

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 25.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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The Committee on State Prison, to which was referred an order of the Legislaturc authorizing said Committee to visit said institution and report thereon, ask leave to submit the following report.

Per order.

H. H. BURGESS.

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The Joint Standing Committee on the State Prison visited that institution January 20th, accompanied by Hon. M. V. B. Chase of the Council, and inspected the various workshops, outbuildings and store-houses connected with it, and the stock on hand in its various stages of progress, and ascertained as far as possible the wants of the Prison for the coming year.

Your Committee were very favorably impressed with the manner of conducting the financial and business affairs of the Institution by its officers, and with the good order and seeming efficiency of the prisoners. So far as we could judge during our visit, the buildings were generally in a good condition, and the finished stock on hand of such a nature as would meet with a ready sale whenever spring business opens. The working capital of the Prison, growing in the last nine years from \$16,000 to \$119,000, made up from appropriations and gradual accumulations, may seem a large sum for the State to invest, but it must be remembered that there are 125 men to be kept employed in the workshops and if the State would run the business successfully they must be in a position to keep them supplied with stock to work upon, and the time cannot be far distant when the surplus earning can with safety be paid directly into the State Treasury.

The Committee cordially approve of the efforts of the present management in endeavoring to work a reform among the men, and while they do not forget that it is a place of confinement and punishment they also remember that men *go out* of the Prison as well as *go in*, and taking them as involuntary apprentices to the State, they use their best efforts to give them a good trade during their stay, at which they can earn something for the State while there and an honest livelihood on their discharge from prison; and the small per cent. of those who return bear witness to their success; and while the contract system in operation in some States might relieve us of much responsibility, we believe it would virtually defeat the interests of reform.

Your Committee believe that the quarry pit in the yard should be filled up as soon as possible, and in doing it sufficient space should be reserved for a reservoir, which being filled with the drippings from the various surrounding buildings, would furnish sufficient water to be used in case of fire or for general purposes about the Prison; and we would recommend that the Warden turn his attention the earliest practicable moment, to the filling up of said pit, in accordance with the above recommendation. The value of the prison buildings and stock is estimated at about \$250,000, exposed to fire, and virtually no means at hand to put one out if it should get started, and we believe that it would be economy for the State to purchase and keep a steam fire engine and sufficient hose, to be under the care of the Warden of the Prison.

There are some repairs and alterations of the buildings which need to be made and a wall which has been begun on the west side to be completed, all of which in the judgment of your Committee can be completed for the sum of \$3000 in addition to the unexpended balance of last year, and we would recommend the passage of the accompanying resolves.

HENRY H. BURGESS, }  
JAMES A. CAREY, } *Chairmen.*

AUGUSTA, February 7, 1873.

# STATE OF MAINE.

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## RESOLVES in favor of the State Prison.

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*Resolved,* That the sum of five thousand dollars for  
2 the purchase of a steam fire engine and sufficient hose  
3 for the use of the state prison, not exceeding five  
4 hundred feet; also three thousand dollars for the com-  
5 pletion of the wall on the west side of the prison yard  
6 and general repairs and alterations on the buildings  
7 connected with the institution, making in all eight  
8 thousand dollars, be and hereby is appropriated for  
9 the benefit of the state prison.

*Resolved,* That the said engine and hose shall be  
2 under the care of the warden, subject to the approval  
3 of the governor and council.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 7, 1873.

Presented by Mr. BURGESS of Cumberland, and on his motion laid on the table and ordered to be printed with the accompanying resolve.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*