

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 5.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 22, 1874. }

WHEREAS, By reference to the Message of the Governor and the annual Messages of the Governor for several successive years last past, the impression has been given to the Legislature and to the people of this State, that the State Prison at Thomaston, has been and still is a source of revenue to the State more than paying the current expenses thereof;

And WHEREAS, it nowhere appears from the reports of the State Treasurer for a number of years past, that any amounts of money have been paid into the Treasury as the profits accruing from the management of said Institution;

And WHEREAS, in the Reports of the Inspectors, there are no accounts giving in detail the items and amounts of annual additions to the stock and working capital of said prison, or giving particular items or value of stock on hand;

And WHEREAS, there is no official report of the amount of salaries or compensation to the several officers and employees connected with said prison;

And WHEREAS, the salaries or amount of compensation paid to several of said officers is not fixed by law but left to the discretion of the Inspectors of said prison, and no report or official document shows the sum or sums allowed by said Inspectors as salary or compensation to said officers;

And WHEREAS, it appears by the Message of the Governor that a serious loss to the property of the State occurred by reason of a fire some time after an account of stock and property at said prison had been last taken;

And WHEREAS, charges have been made and published in some of the leading newspapers of the State, showing that the State Prison is by no means a source of revenue to the State or self-sustaining, and that no account or report of the amount of salaries or compensation paid to officers or employees of said prison has appeared;

And WHEREAS, it appears by the acts and resolves of the last past ten years that large appropriations have been made from the Treasury in favor of said prison, and no detailed account of the expenditure of said moneys has been communicated to the Legislature; therefore

Ordered, That ——— ———, be a Committee of this House, whose duty it shall be to investigate fully all the affairs of said prison connected with management thereof since the first day of January, 1864, to ascertain the number and names of all persons for each year since that date, connected with the management of said institution, or in any way employed and paid as officers or employees thereof; also in what capacity employed and the amount of compensation or salary paid annually to each of them. Whether any officers or persons have been employed without authority of law; the amount annually paid into the State Treasury from said prison; the amounts annually appropriated and paid in favor of said prison during said last ten years, together with the manner in which appropriations have been expended and for what purposes; also what improvements have been made. The time and cause or origin of said fire and circumstances connected therewith; whether it occurred before or after an account of the stock and property had been last taken by the Inspectors, the amount of all property and stock belonging to the State at said prison and the uses made thereof, as near as may be ascertained for each of the last ten years since January 1st, 1864, and also the amount of all such property and stock and the uses thereof, now on hand, giving in full and detail the several items, together with the present cash value thereof; also inquire into the sanitary condition of said prison and the treatment of the inmates thereof. And that said Committee have authority to send for persons and all books and papers in their judgment deemed necessary, and be directed and instructed to report on the aforesaid matters as soon as may be.

AMENDMENT "A."

Amend by providing for the appointment in the usual method, of a committee of three on the part of the House, and two on the part of the Senate.

Read and passed as amended per sheet "A."

Sent up for concurrence.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
 January 23, 1874. }

The committee provided for in the foregoing orders on the part of the House, are Messrs. Talbot of East Machias, Knowlton of Skowhegan and Morrow of Bangor.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*

AMENDMENT "A."

Amend by striking out all after the word ordered and insert the following :

That the Committee on State Prison be instructed to investigate all the affairs of said prison connected with the management thereof since the first day of January, 1864, to ascertain the number and names of all persons for each year since that date, connected with the management of said institution, or in any way employed and paid as officers and employees thereof. Also in what capacity employed, and the amount of compensation or salary paid annually to each of them. Whether any officers or persons have been employed without authority of law ; the amount annually paid into the treasury from said prison ; the amount annually appropriated and paid in favor of said prison during said last ten years, together with the manner in which appropriations have been expended, and for what purpose. Also what improvements have been made ; the time and cause, or origin of the late fire, and

circumstances connected therewith. Whether it occurred before or after the account of stock and property had been last taken by the inspectors; the amount of all property and stock belonging to the State at said prison, and the use made thereof, as near as may be ascertained, for each of the last ten years since January 1st, 1864. And also the amount of all such property and stock, and the uses thereof, now on hand, giving in full and detail the several items, together with the present cash value thereof. Also to inquire into the sanitary condition of said prison and the treatment of the inmates thereof. And the said committee have authority to send for persons and all books and papers in their judgment deemed necessary.

And said committee is authorized to appoint a sub committee if deemed expedient, and report of the result is to be made to this Legislature as soon as may be.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 24, 1874.

Pending the amendment "A," offered by Mr. WEBB of Kennebec, laid on the table and ordered to be printed with the amendment, on motion of Mr. FOSTER of Oxford.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*