

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 40.

STATE OF MAINE.

The Committee on State Reform School, to which was referred the matters relating to that Institution, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to submit the following report :

The Committee on the State Reform School, to which was referred the annual report of the Trustees and officers of that Institution, have carefully considered the same, and also in compliance with an order of the Legislature, visited the School on the 22nd and 23d instants, were politely received by the Trustees and officers, shown through the several departments of the Institution, their mode of operation explained, the improvements made last year with the appropriation so generously made to the School by the last Legislature; also pointed out to your Committee the desired improvements still to be made with the sum of money which they have asked for in their report the present year, more than enough for running expenses. The improvements made from last year's appropriation, as shown to your Committee, is one in which the State should rejoice in. The boys are made so much more comfortable in their sleeping room, it being a large hall with three separate departments or grades, all being well warmed and furnished with double cot bedsteads, comfortable and nice. The dining hall has been fitted up with a good and suitable table, covered with a good, durable table cover, and white stone dishes in place of the old tables and tin dishes. They have also repaired and fitted up the steam works, so the building is kept very nice and warm, saving the risk of so many fires about the building.

There are at present in the School, one hundred and forty-six boys, of ages varying from eight to eighteen years, the great

majority being from ten to fifteen years, well dressed with clothes suitable for such a School, respectful, of fair personal appearance and intelligence, and but few of them showing marked traces of mental incapacity or marked criminality.

Your Committee were highly pleased with the appearance of the Superintendent, Mr. Wentworth, and think he is the right man in the right place, and would recommend the Trustees to secure his valuable services as long as he shows so marked ability for the situation he holds.

The boys are divided into three classes for instruction, each class in its own room, with suitable teachers and assistants. The teachers seem to take hold of the education of the boys as though they understood what their part of the work was, and your Committee could see no reason why a boy of fair intellectual qualities should not get an education to fit him for doing business with mankind when he is discharged from the School. The Superintendent has also instituted since last year a grade of three classes, which promotes good behavior, and is some stimulus for the boys to try to reach the first grade, and when once gained to hold their place by good and suitable deportment; it also serves as a punishment suitable for such boys to put them down to a lower grade when they do not conduct themselves as they should, to regain which, they have to serve ten weeks in the lower grade before they can stand as before. We cheerfully recommend the grading system. They also keep a good record of each boy, his age, height and weight, the crime for which he was committed, and in all cases when they leave the School, of the condition of the boy as they hear from him from time to time, what he is doing, and how he succeeds.

In the sewing room we found some twelve or fifteen boys, with a suitable matron to look after them, engaged in making up their clothes for another year, and repairing their old clothes. In this room they have a good sewing machine and knitting machine, which are run by the boys. Three hundred pairs of socks were knit last fall for the use of the boys.

In the chair shop we found the boys divided into two classes. The first class work is done by the best workmen, and is looked after mostly by one of the boys from the first grade of boys appointed monitor, subject to the order of the Manager of the chair work. The second class were under the immediate charge of the Manager of the chair department, and your Committee were

highly pleased with the operation of this work for the boys, believing it to be pleasant and healthful for them.

In the shoe shop we found a good number of boys at work bottoming slippers for outside parties; making and repairing shoes for themselves. In all the departments the boys showed skill and diligence, and as far as your Committee could learn, were willing to do their work well.

Your Committee would recommend to the officers of the School, as far as they can do so consistently, to give the boys some trade whereby they can be able to earn their living after they are discharged from the School. We would recommend putting in some machinery attached to the steam power they now have, that the work of chair manufacturing can be carried on in all its branches, as well as giving permanent employment to the boys.

The condition of the brick yard your Committee were unable, owing to the season of the year, to examine, but as reported by Mr. Wentworth, is of profit to the concern.

The main crop of the farm is hay, the surplus of which is sold for the benefit of the School, still they do something raising corn and early vegetables for market and home consumption. They also raise quite a quantity of strawberries, which can be done at a profit by the boys, and they find a ready market for all they can raise.

The barns and sheds are in good repair; also the carriages and working utensils of all kinds are taken care of by being housed, showing a care by the officers and workmen of the School.

The stock consists of horses, oxen, cows, hogs and pigs, all looking finely, and have the appearance of being well cared for, and to the credit of the boys of the School, the feeding of some sixteen cows are under the care of one of the boys entirely.

The repairs which the Trustees contemplate for the benefit of the School with the surplus of funds asked for in their report over and above the running expenses, which is about fourteen thousand dollars, is to take out the sleeping cells from the other wing of the building and make some rooms for the workmen and teachers, a room for a hospital for the boys when they are sick, a work shop which they very much need, and make some permanent arrangement for furnishing the building with water.

The work done in the building last year is done substantial and in a workmanlike manner, and your Committee feel safe in recommending the amount they ask for to be granted and expended by the present Board of Trustees.

Hoping for your full concurrence, we, beg leave to submit the following resolve.

ALBION DYER,
ALBERT G. FRENCH,
S. N. CAMPBELL,
I. T. McINTIRE,
J. W. EATON,
JOHN D. ANDERSON,
ZOPHER FOLSOM,
LEWIS FROST,
WM. F. HANSON,
NELSON VICKERY.

IN SENATE, February 11, 1875.

Read and accepted. Sent down for concurrence.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*

STATE OF MAINE.

[No. 55.] RESOLVE in favor of the state reform school.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated the
2 sum of eighteen thousand dollars for the uses of the
3 state reform school, to meet the current expenses of
4 the ensuing year, and make the improvements indi-
5.cated in the accompanying report.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 11, 1875.

Reported from the Committee on Reform School, by Mr. DYER
of Franklin, and laid over to be printed on his motion.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*