

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 60.

STATE OF MAINE.

The Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature, to which were referred the Reports of the Warden and Inspectors of the State Prison, have, agreeably to an order of the Legislature, visited that institution, and report themselves well pleased with its general management.

The convicts looked healthy and clean and were found at work in the various departments with an apparent interest in their employment that attracted our attention and somewhat surprised us.

We were well pleased with the new carriage and paint shop, which seems to be a necessity for those uses, and also for storage of lumber from the weather, for which purpose there is abundant room in the basements; and feel that the money, granted by the last Legislature, has been judiciously and economically expended.

We inspected the wall of the prison by walking upon it its entire length, and found about one-third of it flagged with split stone, cemented in the joints, in good and safe condition; while the other two-thirds are destitute of flagging, exposed to the water which, in freezing, is badly injuring the wall by displacing the smaller stones of which it is composed, while the wood work, which supports the iron pickets upon the top, is so decayed as to be easily torn off by the hand, making increasing vigilance necessary to prevent the escape of prisoners. We think a suitable appropriation should be made by the Legislature to repair the wall and make it safe; also appropriations for general repairs, improvements and deficiencies, which will be enumerated in their proper places; after which, your Committee believe there will be no further need of help from the State for years at least, but that the prison will be self-sustaining.

The efforts to make it a reformatory, as well as penal institution, are well appreciated by us. Such a result is not to be secured wholly by the religious and educational advantages which they there enjoy, but largely by the useful trades they learn, and which they will in many cases carry out into the world with them to prove a shield from vice.

Our opinion of the officials of the prison, is well expressed by your Inspectors, who say: "We feel that we should not do justice to a most excellent public officer, should we close this report without expressing our approbation of the general management of the prison by Warden Rice, who has discharged the irksome duties of the position to the satisfaction of all interested in the success of the institution. The subordinate officers of the prison, also, are entitled to commendation for the manner in which they have performed the duties of their positions."

Nor would we close without paying our tribute of respect to Mrs. Warden Rice, who has, to a very great extent, devoted herself to the welfare of the inmates of the prison, at times being personally acquainted with every one of them, visiting them in sickness and sorrow and administering to them kinds words and motherly attentions, reviving recollections of a good home in the minds of those who have ever had one, and to others revealing glimpses of a higher life than that of sin and selfishness.

EDMUND RUSSELL,
WM. W. CROSS,
B. C. STONE,
N. S. ALLAN,
A. K. GILE,
A. M. WARREN,
S. F. LYFORD,
BENJAMIN BUTLER,
GEO. S. BERRY.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of state prison.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated

2 the sum of twelve thousand dollars for the uses of the

3 state prison, as follows :

4 Deficiency, six thousand two hundred and twenty-

5 one dollars and forty-three cents, \$6,221 43

6 To finish workshop, six hundred dollars, 600 00

7 To repair wall, two thousand dollars, 2,000 00

8 To repair prison, fifteen hundred dollars, 1,500 00

9 To build stable, five hundred dollars, 500 00

10 To make reservoir, two hundred dollars, 200 00

11 For general repairs, eight hundred and seven-

12 ty eight dollars and fifty-seven cents, 878 57

13 For school books to be expended under direc-

14 tion of the teacher, D. J. Starrett, one

15 hundred dollars, 100 00

\$12,000 00

STATE OF MAINE.

In SENATE, February 19, 1875.

Submitted by Mr. RUSSELL, from the Committee on State
Prison, and on his motion laid over to be printed.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*