

Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 1.

STATE OF MAINE.

Office of the Secretary of State, Augusta, January 2, 1895.

To the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House:

I have the honor to herewith transmit the Report of the Joint Committee of the whole Council and the Board of Trustees of the Insane Hospital under chapter 235, of the Resolves of 1893.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant, NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, Secretary of State.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Legislature of 1895.

GENTLEMEN :— The legislature of the year 1893 passed the following resolves "in relation to the Maine Insane Hospital," which were approved March 29, 1893 :

"Resolved, That the Governor and Council and Trustees of the Maine Insane Hospital be and are hereby directed to take into consideration the condition of that portion of the patients of the Insane Hospital, that may appear to belong to an idiotic class, who are entirely incurable, particularly those that are harmless, with a view to separate such class of persons from the hospital, in order that the accommodations of the hospital may meet the present and future demands of insane persons, by a withdrawal of the first class from the hospital to their proper home or asylum.

Resolved, That the Governor and Council and Trustees of the Maine Insane Hospital are further directed, first, to ascertain the exact number of the idiotic and demented persons now in the hospital, and to report their condition and to further examine into the expediency of constructing additional wings and buildings, and the cost of the same, for the accommodation of the above class, on the grounds of the Maine Insane Hospital, in Augusta, and to report to the next legislature."

In pursuance of the instruction set forth in these resolves, His Excellency, Gov. Cleaves, early in the spring, appointed a committee consisting of representatives of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Insane Hospital and of the Executive Council, to make such an investigation as would best answer the evident intention of the Resolves, and in due time to report results to the joint committee of the two Boards. The committee thus appointed were Frederick Robie of Gorham and R. B. Shepherd of Skowhegan of the Board of Trustees, and F. M. Simpson of the Executive Council. The committee was duly organized, and N. S. Purington of Bowdoin was appointed clerk. It seemed necessary and desirable to ascertain the exact number and condition of the entire insane population of our State, and their prospective wants. These considerations have the closest connection with the present and future usefulness of our Hospital. Thus, we have made an effort to ascertain the facilities which the several alms houses in the State offer for the care and maintenance of the insane, and have endeavored to gather other important facts in order to intelligently consider the just claims of the insane who may need hospital care by public aid, and, we have sought facts and reliable data in order to formulate the best plans to meet the responsibilities with which we are invested. Thus, a circular was duly sent out to the clerks of every city, town and plantation of our State, a copy of which is herewith submitted:

STATE OF MAINE.

Office of the Committee to Inquire into the Condition and Number of the Insane of the State.

Augusta, 1894.

To the Town Clerk of

DEAR SIR:—The last legislature of our State imposed responsible duties upon the Governor and Council and the Board of Trustees of the Insane Hospital, to ascertain if the insane of our State could be better provided for than by the present arrangement.

It therefore becomes necessary to obtain from the several cities and towns of our State, correct data and information which can only be acquired from reliable sources. The Governor and Council and the Board of Trustees of the Insane Hospital have selected a committee consisting of Ex-Governor Robie, Hon. F. M. Simpson and Gen. R. B. Shepherd, to take the matter in charge, and the above committee have selected the town clerks of the several municipalities of the State as the best source through which to obtain the desired information.

Will you, therefore, at your earliest convenience, answer the following questions and thereby contribute to the great interest of humanity? We suggest, in order to get the most accurate information that you consult the several physicians in your vicinity in regard to the questions submitted to you.

Very respectfully,

Clerk of Committee.

Town of

1. Please give names, age and length of mental disease of the insane of your town?

2. State how many are considered dangerous?

3. State how many are considered harmless?

4. How many are comfortably provided for?

5. How many are improperly provided for?

6. How many are cared for in institutions for the insane?

7. State how many have sufficient means for support?

8. How many are partially supported by the town.

9. How many are entirely supported by the town?

10. Have you an almshouse?

11. If so, can you properly accommodate insane or demented persons, and how many.

12. Is your almshouse heated, and how?

13. How many cases of insanity have occurred in your town during the last ten years?

14. Have you conferred with a physician in making the above replies?

Το.....

Town Clerk of.....

POPULATION AND CONDITION OF THE INSANE OF OUR STATE.

We herewith submit a tabulated statement to the several questions answered by the city and town clerks of the municipalities of our State. It is the best source of information we could command, but we cannot vouch that it presents in every respect a full and accurate statement in regard to some of the questions propounded by the committee for public information.

RECAPITULATION.

| Counties. | Number of insane. | Considered dangerous. | Considered harmless. | In hospital. | Can properly care for harm- less insane in almshouses. | Towns with almshouses. | Towns without almshouses. | Towns reporting insane. | Towns reporting no insane. | Properly provided for. | Improperly provided for. | With means of support. | With partial means for support. | With no means for support. | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|----------------|
| Androscoggin Aroostook. Cumberland Franklin Hancock Kennebec. Knox Lincoln Oxford Penobscot Piscataquis Sagadabc Somerset Waldo Washington York | $\begin{array}{c} 79\\ 43\\ 169\\ 29\\ 56\\ 131\\ 75\\ 26\\ 56\\ 109\\ 28\\ 28\\ 28\\ 78\\ 59\\ 51\\ 116\end{array}$ | $11 \\ 13 \\ 66 \\ 13 \\ 22 \\ 44 \\ 37 \\ 11 \\ 16 \\ 14 \\ 10 \\ 14 \\ 10 \\ 14 \\ 27 \\ 30 \\ 26 \\ 57 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 10 \\ 1$ | $\left \begin{array}{c} 68\\ 30\\ 103\\ 16\\ 34\\ 87\\ 38\\ 15\\ 40\\ 65\\ 18\\ 14\\ 51\\ 29\\ 25\\ 59\end{array}\right $ | $\begin{array}{c} 40\\ 17\\ 71\\ 18\\ 29\\ 64\\ 42\\ 19\\ 23\\ 47\\ 12\\ 19\\ 9\\ 30\\ 34\\ 70\\ \end{array}$ | $ \begin{array}{c} 61\\ 20\\ 120\\ 1\\ -\\ 48\\ 6\\ 8\\ 49\\ 69\\ 2\\ 14\\ 50\\ 51\\ -\\ 61\\ \end{array} \right. $ | $\begin{array}{c} 10\\ 4\\ 21\\ 1\\ 3\\ 17\\ 3\\ 18\\ 19\\ 3\\ 5\\ 5\\ 11\\ 10\\ 3\\ 21\\ \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c c} & 4 \\ & 64 \\ & 5 \\ & 24 \\ & 31 \\ & 13 \\ & 14 \\ & 17 \\ & 21 \\ & 45 \\ & 20 \\ & 6 \\ & 28 \\ & 16 \\ & 50 \\ & 6 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{c} 11\\ 24\\ 23\\ 16\\ 16\\ 24\\ 13\\ 12\\ 19\\ 29\\ 13\\ 9\\ 24\\ 21\\ 22\\ 26\\ 26\\ \end{array}$ | $\begin{vmatrix} 3 \\ 44 \\ 3 \\ 9 \\ 18 \\ 6 \\ 4 \\ 6 \\ 20 \\ 35 \\ 10 \\ 2 \\ 15 \\ 5 \\ 31 \\ 1 \end{vmatrix}$ | $78 \\ 40 \\ 169 \\ 27 \\ 53 \\ 130 \\ 73 \\ 26 \\ 55 \\ 107 \\ 26 \\ 28 \\ 75 \\ 58 \\ 51 \\ 114$ | | $ \begin{vmatrix} 12 \\ 19 \\ 46 \\ 8 \\ 12 \\ 19 \\ 20 \\ 8 \\ 10 \\ 22 \\ 11 \\ 8 \\ 20 \\ 12 \\ 7 \\ 27 \\ 27 \\ 27 \\ 12 \\ 7 \\ 27 \\ 12 \\ 12$ | $\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$ | $55 \\ 16 \\ 86 \\ 13 \\ 35 \\ 29 \\ 13 \\ 35 \\ 66 \\ 5 \\ 14 \\ 31 \\ 39 \\ 39 \\ 68 \\$ | SENATE -No. 1. |
| Insane criminals, at prison Insane State beneficiaries, at hospital. Private patients, at hospital | $\begin{array}{c}1133\\20\\75\\64\end{array}$ | 441 159 | 692 | 564 139 | 560 | 150 | 364 | | | 1110 159 | 23 | 271 64 | 235 | 627 95 | |
| | *1292 | 600 | 692 | †703 | 560 | 150 | 364 | 302 | 212 | 1269 | 23 | 335 | 235 | 722 | |

*U.S. census 1890 gives 1,299.

†Number in hospital varied during year from 706 to 680 on December 1, 1894.

We recognize the faithful and diligent service of our clerk, N. S. Purington.

CONSIDERATION OF THE SAME SUBJECT.

The U. S. census returns of 1890 gives 1,299 as the insane population of our State. We find also by the same census enumeration that we had, of the idiotic class, 1,351. Many of this number should be considered insane, and possibly the number of the insane by this means would reach 1,600. We find 703 of our citizens as the number returned as cared for in the Insane Hospital, and it is correct.

The number with "no means of support" is returned as 727. The real number is much larger, and these insane persons are, or may become, the wards of the State, and their condition makes the strongest appeal to our sympathies, as well as to our obligations as citizens of the State. It would seem hazardous to consider 692, or one-half of our insane population "harmless," as tabulated by our municipal clerks; for the experience who care for the insane demonstrates that insanity creates uncertainty, and in many instances develops an unexpectedly vicious and treacherous character. We are hardly prepared to believe that our almshouses can in a humane manner care for the 500 of our harmless insane, many of whom are extremely filthy and need the most careful attention. We should properly consider the fact that while we have 150 almshouses we find 360 of our towns are without almshouses and have no suitable facilities to care for the insane. But very few of our public almshouses have commodious buildings. The number improperly provided for is stated at twenty-three.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE IDIOTIC AND DEMENTED, WHO ARE HARMLESS.

The committee made a special and careful examination of the idiotic and demented class, who are patients in the Hospital and are entirely incurable, particularly those who are harmless with a view to separate such persons from the Hospital by sending them home, in order that the accommodations of the Hospital may as far as possible meet the present and future demands of other insane persons asking for admission, according to instructions given us as set forth by the provisions of chapter 235 of the public acts and resolves, approved March 29, 1893. We find during the summer months, by our direction, that the trustees of the Hospital and the superintendent made a very careful examination of the condition of the inmates of the Hospital; for the purpose of eliminating therefrom harmless and imbecile patients, under the authority of chapter , section 9, of the Revised Statutes, which is substantially in accordance with the procedure asked for by the legislative resolves of 1893. The result of the examination of the condition of the inmates of the Hospital disclosed the fact, that there were in the Hospital from the several municipalities in the State twenty-one male patients and twenty-two female patients, a total of fortythree patients, of the special class heretofore designated, that might be taken from the Hospital and sent home. The superintendent regarded this plan for relieving the Hospital from its crowded condition with distrust, for the circumstances and conditions that surround an individual are different away from the Hospital, and therefore their condition and acts at home cannot well be determined. We are obliged to report that of forty-three patients considered harmless, which

we found most suitable to be eliminated from the Hospital there were but seven patients that were sent home. For in thirty-six instances, it was found that the towns where such patients resided had no suitable accommodations, and were unable to make proper provisions for their care and support. In many instances it seemed inhumane to send an insane person without the sympathy of friends where no suitable preparation could be made for their maintenance or care. So this course of lessening the crowded condition of the Hospital must be considered impracticable. Of the seven persons that were sent home two of the number have been returned. From these efforts it is apparent that there can be no reasonable expectation that the number of inmates of the Hospital can be diminished by eliminating therefrom any more of its present population. Special efforts have been made from time to time to send those cities and towns that have suitable almshouses such patients as could be properly cared for and considerable has been accomplished in this direction, but the securing of further accommodation from this procedure for new patients seems to be nearly exhausted.

THE CAPACITY OF THE HOSPITAL.

The committee also made a personal examination of all the wards and rooms of the Hospital, in order to ascertain accurately its normal capacity for the proper care of its inmates; also made a further examination of the corridors of the several wards after the patients had retired for the night, in order to learn by personal inspection the exact number of inmates who were occupying sleeping cots made up for that purpose in the space used by them during the day for sitting, walking and recreation. We find that the normal capacity of the Maine Insane Hospital for patients in detail is as follows:

| Capacity of W | Vings for | Male | Patients. |
|---------------|-----------|------|-----------|
|---------------|-----------|------|-----------|

| First wing First wing | $15 \\ 14 \\ 15$ | 44 |
|---|------------------|-----|
| Second wing Second male Middle second male Lower second male | 16 16 16 | 48 |
| Third wing | 17 17 17 | 51 |
| Ward center dormitoryMale Old chapel Lower ward | $\frac{10}{18}$ | 10 |
| | 18 14 | 36 |
| Pavilion | $\frac{14}{13}$ | 41 |
| Harlow building Harlow building Upper ward Middle ward Lower ward | 20 20 20 | 60 |
| Total capacity for males | - | 290 |

| rotar | capacity | TOI. | mates | ••• | ••• | •. • | ••• | ••• | ••• | • • | •• | ••• | • • | ••• | • | Z 9 |
|-------|----------|------|-------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|---|------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Capacity of Wings for Females.

| (| Upper first ward | 13 | |
|-------------------------|--|-----|------------|
| First wing | Middle first ward | 13 | |
| | Upper first ward Middle first ward Lower first ward | 14 | 4 0 |
| (| Upper second ward | 13 | |
| Second wing $\ldots $ | Middle second ward | 16 | |
| - (| Upper second ward Middle second ward Lower second ward | 19 | 4 8 |
| Third wing | Upper third ward | 17 | |
| Third wing $\ldots $ | Middle third ward | 17 | |
| | Lower third ward | 16 | 50 |
| (| Upper ward Middle ward Lower ward | 14 | |
| Pavilion $\ldots $ | Middle ward | 14 | |
| | Lower ward | 13 | 41 |
| (| Upper ward | 20 | |
| Sanborn building | Middle ward | 20 | |
| - (| Upper ward Middle ward Lower ward | 20 | 60 |
| Total capacity for fema | ales | ••• | 239 |
| Total capacity of Hosp | oital | | 529 |

We find sleeping on cots in the several halls: In the male wards, 81; in the female wards, 93; in sleeping apartments used beyond their normal capacity, 23. Total, 197.

The Hospital, according to its original design was constructed for the accommodation and care of 529 patients. We find December 20th, in the Hospital 677 patients, so that there would seem to have been at that date insufficient quarters for about one hundred and forty-eight patients. This fact is more than verified by our finding 197 patients sleeping outside of rooms intended for that purpose, or crowding those already occupied. The maximum number of patients at any one time in the Hospital during the past two years has been 714, so that at this time there must have an overcrowded condition of the Hospital represented by 185 patients.

THE IDIOTIC AND DEMENTED CLASS OF THE INSANE IN THE HOSPITAL.

By virtue of the directions given in the Public Resolves, the committee made a personal examination of the mental condition of the inmates of the Hospital, and with the assistance of Dr. Sanborn, the Superintendent, we are enabled to give an accurate tabulation of the several classes found in our Hospital. A summary of the same would seem to answer the purpose. We find in the male department, violent and unmanageable and nearly all chronic cases, ... 325 patients In the female department representing the same

| condition | 291 | " " |
|---|-----|-----|
| In the male department we find manageable | | |
| and convalescent | 49 | |

In the female department we find manageable

| and convalescent | 2 2 patient s. |
|--|------------------------------|
| Total | 687 patients. |
| The number representing insane is | 30 |
| While the chronic idiotic class represent in | |
| numbers | 8 |
| | 38 |

The chronic demented class represents a very large number, for nearly all in the Hospital are demented in a greater or less degree.

We find that those specially noted as demented number 143.

It is safe to say that more than two hundred idiotic and demented patients can be eliminated from the Hospital, and cared for in a separate building erected for that purpose.

INFORMATION GAINED BY VISITING OTHER STATE INSANE Asylums.

By the advice of the Trustees of the Maine Insane Hospital, the committee visited some of the larger insane asylums of New England, with a view of ascertaining what had been done, and what was contemplated to be done by our sister states for their insane population. It seems desirable to engraft into our policy, as far as practicable, such improvements as the research and experience of others may suggest, and also obtain such facts and information as will be of benefit to the State, and our increasing population of the insane. We strive and seek intelligent advice in forming an opinion how best to provide for our insane, and for the overcrowded condition of our Hospital, and to meet like responsibilities with which we are confronted. President Robie of the Board of Trustees, accompanied by Dr. Sanborn, the Superintendent

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of the Maine Insane Asylum, first visited the State House at Boston, and had a pleasant and instructive interview with several members of the state board of trustees of "Lunacy and Charity." This board has special oversight of all the insane of the state, and devotes its time in investigating the wants, conditions, and care of the insane, particularly those residing in the several almshouses, asylums and public institutions of the state, with a view of correcting abuses, if any exist, which may affect the health, comfort and happiness of the insane; and, if necessary, in providing such sources and means of relief by a change in either of the public asylums of the state, as will bring the greatest comfort and welfare to this class of its unfortunate citizens. Massachusetts employs a commission of fifty persons, who are constantly engaged in benevolent and charitable work, and makes an annual appropriation of \$50,000, to defray the expenses incurred by this kind of humane charity. The value of buildings alone which they occupy is stated as worth \$5,073,823.52. The total valuation of the land, buildings and personal property for the care of the insane reaches \$6,744,375.63. The state of Massachusetts has therefore invested about \$1,000 in buildings for each of its insane patients by public or private aid. The total current and ordinary expenses of these institutions annually amount to \$1,055,940.29. If the patients were required to pay this expense, it would take an annual payment for each of about \$188, or \$3.63 per week. The population of Massachusetts. shows that one of every 352 of its inhabitants is cared for in the public insane institutions of the State. Should the same causes and conditions be found and the same ratio exist in the State of Maine as in Massachusetts, we should have the

public care of 1,873 patients. The enumeration of the census of 1890 shows that we had 1,299 insane patients. At the same time we have of our population 1,351 classified as feeble minded, and it would not be strange if a portion of this number should belong to the insane class. Our visit to Medfield, Mass., was very instructive. This hospital is in course of construction, and when completed will accommodate one thousand chronic insane patients of the indigent class. The plans represent eighteen separate buildings each for the accommodation of from forty-eight to eighty-five persons. There are two common dining-rooms for male and female patients capable of seating five hundred each. There are also two workshops. The cost of these buildings when completed is estimated at about \$1,000,000. Dr. Parks, chairman of the board of trustees, a man of long experience in his profession, was also in favor of small hospitals for curable cases, and he recommended the course pursued by Massachusetts in favor of the elimination from the hospitals chronic and curable cases and placing them under one management. The hospital at Middletown, Conn., is a beautiful structure of stone with all the modern conveniences, constructed at a cost of nearly \$1,600,000. No expense seems to have been spared to make it a model institution. The several buildings are so arranged as to admit of a judicious classification of the inmates.

It is one of the largest institutions in the country, with a present population of 1,500 insane patients, with six physicians, and 294 attendants and employes, aggregating 1,800 persons. The Superintendent, however, was strongly opposed to such a large congregation of insane patients, as being very prejudicial to curable and favorable sanitary results and the general interest of all concerned. It is said that the state of Connecticut provides for 1,700 of its insane population in public and private asylums. A recent examination into the number and condition of insane, outside of those cared for at its asylums, reveals the fact, that there were 500 of the insane, idiotic and epileptic class unprovided for, that may require hospital care and treatment in the public asylums. The state contemplates building a new hospital at an early The number of insane in Connecticut cannot be far dav. from 2,000. The population of Connecticut is only 85,172 more than Maine. The logic of this statement would seem to indicate that our insane population must be larger than is generally supposed. The Vermont Asylum for the insane located at Brattleboro has had an existence for over fifty years, and presents a beautiful structure with lovely surroundings on the bank of the Connecticut river. It has a remarkable history, and has been substantially self-supporting. The income from board over and above all other expenses has been sufficient to pay the expense of erecting and maintaining commodious, well arranged and beautiful buildings at a cost of \$383,197.36. This represents only the construction Add to this the personal estate which represents account. \$56,683 and a total property valuation is aggregated of \$439,880.36; of this amount \$10,000 was paid by the founder of the institution, only \$25,000 by the State, and \$34,586.25 by an insurance occasioned by fire. The balance \$363,294.11 has been paid by profits made on the price of board. This has been in consequence of the large remuneration paid for board and medical services by private patients; for the pauper board per week has only averaged during the past fifty years \$2.30. This is a remarkable history of good financial management. The total number of patients in this insti-

tution is nearly 400. The state of Vermont is building a new institution in another locality which will provide for 400 more insane. The insane population of Vermont is tabulated Vermont has a population of 332,422, and will soon at 900. have ample accommodations for 800 insane patients. Maine has a population of 661,086, about twice as large as Vermont. If the same ratio of insanity existed in Maine according to its population as in Vermont there would be a demand of accommodation for 1,600 patients. There may be reasons why this comparison is illogical, but probably a correct examination of all the insane, idiots, epileptics and dipsomaniacs, where the brain is diseased and the powers of the brain impaired, would swell the number needing medical care and attention to over fifteen hundred.

COST OF STATE HOSPITALS.

It seems it would be in the line of pertinent inquiry, and thereby useful information would be obtained, to ascertain the cost and capacity of a sufficient number of the public hospitals of other states, that we may be better guided in the discharge of our public duty. The committee have ascertained the cost of several of the model public hospitals of the country. The following buildings were erected before the recent war at a cost much less than the cost of present construction, and many of them have since been greatly enlarged:

| | Capacity. | Cost. | patient. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| New York State Asylum, Utica, | 440 | \$517,400 | \$1,185 |
| Maryland Hospital, Baltimore, | 130 | 213,000 | 1,443 |
| McLean Asylum, Somerville, Mass. | , 200 | 321,000 | 1,605 |
| Penn. Hospital for Insane, Phil., | 240 | 330,000 | 1,377 |

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

| | Capacity. | Cost. | Cost per patient. | | | |
|---|------------|---------|----------------------|--|--|--|
| New Hospital for Insane, Phil., | 250 | 325,000 | 1,300 | | | |
| New Jersey Asylum, Trenton, | 250 | 250,000 | 1,000 | | | |
| Butler Hospital, Providence, R. I., | 140 | 116,000 | 828 | | | |
| Maine Insane Hospital, | 175 | 150,700 | 861 | | | |
| Mt. Hope Institution, Baltimore, | 120 | 200,000 | 1,666 | | | |
| Lunatic Asylum, Taunton, Mass., | 250 | 250,000 | 1,000 | | | |
| Michigan Hospital, Kalamazoo, | 268 | 340,000 | 1,1*0 | | | |
| Iowa State Hospital, Mt. Pleasant, | 250 | 359,666 | 1,440 | | | |
| Northampton Hospital, Mass., | 250 | 335,000 | 1,340 | | | |
| Average cost per capita before the war, | | | | | | |
| Average cost per capita with 50 per cent | | | | | | |
| added for increased prices since the war, | | | | | | |

INSANE HOSPITALS IN THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS.

We have been enabled to gather from reports and other responsible sources the cost of the State Hospitals of Massachusetts.

| | Capacity. | $\operatorname{Cost.}$ |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| Worcester Lunatic Hospital, | 800 | \$1,157,779.79 |
| Medfield Lunatic Asylum, | 1000 | 1,000,000.00 |
| Taunton Lunatic Hospital, | 650 | 643,763.55 |
| Northampton Lunatic Hospital, | 400 | $454,\!610.68$ |
| Danvers Insane Asylum, | 700 | 1,604,517.47 |
| Worcester Insane Asylum, | 365 | 216,600.00 |
| Westboro Insane Asylum, | 500 | $527,\!849.51$ |

The above amount includes cost of land and buildings up to date, that is, money which has been appropriated by the State. In addition to this considerable work has been done by different Hospitals out of their own earnings. For instance, the Worcester Hospital has built two circular wards for its suicidal patients at a cost of \$40,000 out of its own

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earnings and at present is engaged in erecting buildings which will cost several thousand dollars more. This of course should be added to the sum total to get the correct estimate. Northampton Hospital is still undergoing extensive and much needed repairs, and will ultimately cost probably seventy-five For the Medfield Insane Asylum's thousand dollars more. new buildings, \$700,000 have been appropriated, and this winter more money will be asked for by the committee in order to complete its buildings either in process of erection or with their foundations laid. In addition to this an appropriation will be required to furnish and equip this institution, also to build barns and other out buildings. In regard to other places used by Massachusetts for the accommodation of lunatics, the State almshouse and the State Farm, the cost of the buildings for the care of the insane is not separated, and it would be difficult to give any correct data. The State of Maine has 700 patients in its Hospital, and has appropriated \$600,000 for its buildings, etc. And about \$200,000 has been added from the earnings of the Hospital for the same purpose.

THE RATIO OF INCREASE OF INMATES OF THE MAINE INSANE HOSPITAL.

A very important conclusion is arrived at when we consider the continued increase of the inmates of the Maine Insane Hospital for the two decades commencing in the year 1870. The ratio of increase forms a basis of calculation of what we may reasonably expect the future will develop.

The patients under treatment at the opening of the year 1870 were 363; at the opening of the year 1880, 450; increase in ten years, 87, or $22\frac{1}{2}$ per centum.

Patients under treatment at the opening of the year 1880, 450; patients under treatment at the opening of the year 1890, 673; increase, 223; ratio of increase $48\frac{1}{2}$ per centum.

It will be perceived that the percentage of increase for the year ending 1890 was double that of the preceding decade. In fixing the percentage for the decade ending in 1900 we should take into consideration that the prejudice against an insane hospital has continually diminished; that the friends of the insane are sending a larger number under their care for treatment. It is also better understood, that persons mildly insane are more likely to be cured, if sent to the Hospital during the early stage of insanity. Notwithstanding, during the present decade, every effort has been made to eliminate from the Hospital its increasing population with good success, the number is constantly increasing, with the probability that the population of 1900 will show a large increase in the number of insane for whom provision should be made.

PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSANE.

The danger of serious results affecting the life and safety of unprotected individuals which is constantly occurring in communities where insane and irresponsible persons have their liberty is worthy of serious consideration, and the rights of the sane as well as the welfare of the insane call for the exercise of public prudence in providing suitable and ample accommodations for every insane individual of a dangerous character, that every possible danger to life and property may be averted, and the rights and safety of every citizen may be secured. There is a grave responsibility resting upon all in authority to see that all of the insane in our State are brought under proper restraint, and placed under those salutary influences

which are not only beneficial to the unfortunate insane, but which bring peace and quietness to the community where a person resides. The march of improvement which the study of the insane has produced, has opened a broader field and better prospects for favorable results. And statistics show, that the chances for cure are more reliable and certain where acute cases are early placed under the care and watchfulness of competent treatment. These considerations, and many more that might be named, call for a well directed public benevolence, to the end that suitable and ample accommodations should be made for the maintenance, care, comfort and safety of the insane population of our State. Such a course of action is in close touch with the progressive civilization of the age, and the experience and rules of the wisest judgment and the best political economy.

CONCLUSION.

The conclusions which the investigation of the committee appear to establish, may be expressed in these words. That we have an over-crowded condition of the hospital, represented at times by not less than two hundred patients. That the condition of the acute and curable insane is far better when collected together in numbers not exceeding four or five hundred patients, under one superintendent. That the chronic and incurable insane made up of various mental and physical conditions, but with no hopes of relief, can be well cared for without regard to numbers until the population reaches two thousand, at a reduced cost of maintenance. That the present system and arrangements of the buildings of the Maine Insane Hospital may well be considered complete, but that two additional wings of the same style and character

of those already constructed could be erected and connected thereto by corridors, so that sixty more of each sex could be accommodated, at a cost of \$125,000. In view of the large number to be provided for this may not be considered practicable. That new buildings could be constructed on the grounds of the hospital at Augusta of sufficient capacity for the care of the present existing surplus at said hospital, representing 200 patients. The approximate estimate of the cost of the proposed buildings for the chronic insane, as per sketches submitted, to located on the Hospital grounds at Augusta, Maine, is as follows:

| Total cost of buildings complete with wood floors, | \$115,500 |
|--|-----------|
| For fire proof floors, add to the above, | 12,000 |
| Total cost of furniture | 10,000 |
| Total | \$137,500 |

We do not seem to be called upon to express any opinion in regard to the proposition to build a new Hospital at Bangor. We present such facts and data as we have been able to gather, and leave the matter for the wise consideration of the legislature, with the full belief that the best interests of the State will be conserved, and the large and ever-increasing population of its insane will be humanely and benevolently provided for. The committee make no charges for services in this investigation other than for actual travelling expenses.

FREDERICK ROBIE,

F. M. SIMPSON,

R. B. SHEPHERD,

Committee.

STATE OF MAINE.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, December 20, 1894.

Foregoing joint report of the Committee of the whole Council and the Board of Trustees of the Insane Hospital, under provisions of chapter 235, Resolves of 1893, was presented, unanimously accepted, ordered on file in the office of the Secretary of State, and to be by him transmitted to the next legislature. NICHOLAS FESSENDEN,

Secretary of State.

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STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 2, 1895.

Read, and on motion by Mr. WATERHOUSE of Cumberland laid on the table to be printed.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, Secretary.

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