

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE NO. 649

House of Representatives, March 10, 1915.

On motion by Mr. Fossett of Portland House voted to substitute the printed bill for the original and the same was ordered printed under joint rules.

FORTUNAT BELLEAU, Clerk pro tem.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE in favor of altering and enlarging the State Prison
at Thomaston.

Resolved, That the governor of the state and four others
2 to be appointed by him, two of whom shall be members of
3 each of the leading political parties, are hereby constituted
4 a commission and are directed to take immediate steps to
5 obtain plans and specifications for an alteration and en-
6 largement of the present state prison at Thomaston and to
7 provide ample, convenient, sanitary and suitable accommo-
8 dations for the inmates and officials of said prison, for pres-
9 ent and future needs; and said commission shall thereupon
10 proceed and contract for, prosecute and superintend the
11 construction and completion of the enlargement and altera-
12 tions of said prison. And in its discretion said commission

13 may purchase additional land for said prison, for agricul-
14 tural purposes.

That the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars be and here-
16 by is appropriated for the year 1915; and the further sum
17 of twenty-five thousand dollars for the year 1916, for the
18 purposes of this resolve, the same to be expended under the
19 direction of said commission and for the reasonable ex-
20 penses of said commission, which expenses shall be fixed
21 and determined by the governor and council and audited by
22 the state auditor.

Provided that said commission shall not proceed to make
24 any expenditure or contract therefor until they shall have
25 first obtained a contract or contracts from responsible par-
26 ties to complete the work of enlargement and alterations of
27 said prison for a sum not exceeding the amount herein
28 specified less the sum said commission in their discretion
29 may decide to expend for said land. Which contract shall
30 be secured by a bond, which shall be approved by a major-
31 ity of said commission; provided further any balance of
32 said appropriation for 1915, unexpended at the end of the
33 year, shall not lapse but may be expended during the year
34 1916.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

There are in the State Prison one hundred and eighty cells which are four feet wide, seven feet long and six and one-half feet high. The bunks are 22 inches wide and are fastened to the wall in order that the prisoner may get into his cell, and when they are turned down it leaves a space of about 20 inches between the wall and the bunk. They are arranged without regard to architecture, sanitation, ventilation. No sanitary arrangements except a slop bucket, which is allowed to remain in the cell in some instances nearly twenty-four hours. The blacksmith shop is quite badly out of repair. These cells are built of cut granite, are independent of the main building and can be removed without disturbing the construction of the building. We ask for 200 steel cells, seven feet wide and eight feet long with a flush closet and a lavatory in each. Necessary repairs on the blacksmith shop. A fire escape for women. Changes in the wood shop. Bath room and dispensary. Necessary painting and land, if need be, for agricultural purposes.

We have assurances from reliable contractors that this can all be done within the appropriation called for.