

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1847.

AUGUSTA:

Wm. T. JOHNSON,.....PRINTER TO THE STATE

1848.

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 11.]

[SENATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTORS OF MAINE STATE PRISON.

To the Governor and Executive Council of the State of Maine :

The Inspectors of the Maine State Prison respectfully submit the following

REPORT:

The whole number of prisoners is seventy, and they are situated as follows :

Laborers in quarry,	13	In smith shop,	7
Shoemakers,	30	Wheelrights,	6
Tailors,	3	Cooks,	2
Washers,	2	Waiters,	2
Lumpers,	1	Sick in hospital,	4
		Total,	<hr/> 70

This is an increase of ten prisoners since the last annual report, and it will be seen by the tables annexed, that eleven of the convicts are sentenced for life, and one awaiting the execution of sentence of death.

During the past year the conduct of the prisoners generally has been good, and mild punishment by solitary confinement for a few days, has in most cases had the effect, to subdue the disorderly, but in a few cases it has been found necessary to inflict an additional punishment, by compelling some of them to wear a chain and clog, nor can it be expected while the number of convicts for life is as large as it is at present, and they are allowed to associate with other prisoners, that order can be maintained without occasionally inflicting more severe punishment than a few days solitary confinement.

There appears to be a great difference of opinion at present, among those who have given the subject of prison confinement and discipline much care and attention, whether the plan of solitary labor, or working in company during the day and lodging separately at night, is best calculated to sustain the health, and reform the prisoners.

Each of these systems has strong advocates, and much has been said and written upon the subject, and the interest that has been manifested cannot fail to exert a salutary influence upon the prisoner, and improve prison discipline, as the defects of each system are carefully watched and commented upon by the advocates of the other, and every opportunity is improved to obtain a correct account of the mental and physical health of the convicts.

Without advancing an opinion as to the comparative merits of the different systems, the Inspectors feel confident that those who are sentenced for life should not be permitted to associate with those who are confined for only a short time; they should not be situated so as to enable them to exert an influence upon those who may in a short time, be in a situation to assist them from the outside of the prison walls.

It is nearly impossible for an overseer to prevent the prisoners from occasional conversation while they are allowed to be together; the expense of keeping such prisoners separately, would undoubtedly be greater than as they are now situated; but taking into consideration the influence they exert upon young convicts who are in prison for a short time, instilling into their minds feelings of re-

venge, stimulating to disobedience and insubordination, subjecting them to frequent punishment, thereby souring their minds towards the officers, preventing them from application to their work, thus depriving them of the advantage of a trade when they leave the prison, whereby they might be enabled to find useful employment—preparing them for associating with their former companions in idleness and dissipation, almost securing their return after a short absence—the whole expense of the prison would not probably be increased by the change.

During the year the chaplain has been faithful in the discharge of his duty, and seems anxious to reform those who are under his care; for the success that has attended his labor, the inspectors would refer to his report annexed.

The cells are all furnished with a bible, and the prisoners are supplied with books from the library; the cells are well lighted, affording a good opportunity for reading after they are confined for the night.

The clothing of the convicts is good and comfortable, and much care is taken by the officers to preserve cleanliness: the bedding is often washed, and the prisoners are required to keep themselves clean, and not to soil their beds or cells unnecessarily; and as the cells are well ventilated and thoroughly swept every morning, the air is always perfectly good. Much advantage has been gained in keeping the cells clean by discontinuing the use of tobacco by the prisoners; they have never been allowed to use it since the erection of the new prison.

The food of the prisoners is good and furnished to them in sufficient quantity; they have rye and corn meal bread, or corn meal pudding and molasses for breakfast and supper, and beef and potatoes or bread, pork and beans, or fish, pork and potatoes for dinner; in addition to this, they are supplied through the year with hot coffee with their dinner.

The warden's dwelling house is in a bad condition and should be repaired during the present season. The roof leaks badly, and the porch is about tumbling down. The inspectors recommend that when the building is repaired, the ends be rebuilt with stone, and

the roof covered with slate, that it may not be in danger of fire in case the wooden shops in the prison yard should be burnt ; not only does the security from fire require the change, but the interest of the State would be advanced by getting clear of a constant bill of repairs, owing to the decay of the wooden structure. The situation of the warden's house is such that the porch is almost indispensable, as a part of the house is rendered nearly useless, on account of having the light shut out by the new prison.

Upon a careful review of the whole operations of the prison during the time that the present warden has had charge of its affairs, the inspectors are assured that nothing has been wanting on his part to secure the safety and add to the comfort of the prisoners ; nor has he left any thing undone which would in any way promote the interest of the State.

The warden has invariably rendered every facility to the inspectors to enable them to obtain a perfect knowledge of every transaction connected with the prison ; he has frequently invited members of the legislature living in the vicinity of the prison, to examine its situation, and has always expressed a perfect willingness to have its affairs investigated by a committee of the legislature, and was anxious that the committee appointed by the House at the last session of the legislature, should examine the whole affairs of the prison, and the inspectors are satisfied that had that committee visited the prison, the warden would have rendered every assistance in his power, to enable the committee to have made a thorough investigation of its resources and liabilities.

The inspectors can see no good reason for extending the tables and designating every note and account belonging to the prison, as this course would only increase the report without giving any additional light upon its situation, unless it should be accompanied by persons acquainted with the pecuniary situation of every individual who may be indebted to the prison.

It cannot be expected that all the accounts of the prison can be collected ; as it is situated like any trading establishment, it not unfrequently happens that persons indebted to the prison, although perfectly responsible at the time they became indebted, afterwards

become unable to pay, and the prison must necessarily loose the debt, but the inspectors are confident that every precaution is taken by the warden to secure the State against loss on account of bad debts.

The inspectors find that the stock in the various departments, amounts to \$17,056 56 ; by adding to this the balance of notes and accounts in favor of the prison, amounting to \$7,041 79, it will show the present resource of the prison to be \$24,108 35 ; although this cannot all be considered available, yet enough should be realized from it to carry on the operations of the prison without any appropriation by the legislature.

Agreeably to the requirements of law, the inspectors revised the code of by-laws and regulations of the prison about five years since, and forwarded their doings to the governor and council for approval ; as they were never returned, such additions have been made to the old code of regulations, from time to time, as have been deemed necessary for the government of the subordinate officers and prisoners.

The warden has received \$5,254 50, from the State treasury, being the amount of officers' salaries for this year and the last quarter of last year, which was unpaid at the time of making up the last annual account.

The inspectors recommend that a committee of the legislature should visit the prison for the purpose of examining its situation ; they do not make this recommendation from any want of confidence in the management of the warden, or because they have any doubt of the correctness of every thing connected with the prison, but are led to it by the action of some members of the last legislature, showing a want of knowledge in relation to the business operations of the prison.

By a resolve of the last legislature, the warden was called upon for a detailed statement of the account of stock as taken by the inspectors ; this account is kept by them and not by the warden ; a call was also made for the warden's private account, while the law allows no such account ; the warden being charged with all sales, and credited with all purchases.

The inspectors are satisfied that the financial affairs of the prison are in as good situation as they have ever been, and believe that this is clearly shown from the fact that the warden has always been able to meet every demand against the prison as soon as it became due, without ever having called for an appropriation from the State treasury, or reducing the amount of stock to any extent at any time.

The stock at present amounts to \$9,503 95, more than when he took charge of the prison ; while this is the situation of the stock, the balance due from individuals on notes and accounts has been increased from \$1,926 71, to \$7,041 79. It must be evident that had the inspectors overvalued the stock about the prison from year to year, its situation would before now have become very much embarrassed. Instead of having pursued such a course, and agreeably to the request of the warden, they have endeavored to keep the stock rather below its cash value, and the sales of manufactured articles will show that they have sold for a larger sum than they were appraised in the account of stock.

The inspectors acknowledge their obligations to Mr. Perkins, (the clerk,) for assistance rendered in the examination of the books and in making up the tables ; all the subordinate officers are faithful in the performance of their duty, kind to the prisoners, ever ready and willing to afford every opportunity for information ; and are careful of the property in their respective departments.

BENJ. F. BUXTON, } *Inspectors of*
 GEORGE A. STARR, } *Maine*
 STEPHEN BARROWS, } *State Prison.*

Maine State Prison, May 21, 1847.

To the Inspectors of the Maine State Prison :

GENTLEMEN :—During the past year we have had two religious exercises in the chapel each Lord's day. Attention to the word preached, (except in a very few instances,) has been still and solemn, such as could not fail to impress the speaker, that although he was addressing convicts in a state prison, yet there were some in whom existed a conscience susceptible of feelings, that there remained a tender spot that could be reached by the sword of divine truth. This fact is further proved when in personal conversation with them at their cells.

Although some give painful evidence of great hardness of heart, and others of being adepts in the art of deceiving, yet there are cases, and some during the year, where I have had good evidence of genuine sorrow for sin, and that resolutions to amend was from the heart, in humble reliance on divine aid. Many, I have no doubt at times, feel determined to do better, whose resolutions scarcely outlive their term of confinement, and in many cases expire much sooner.

Not a few of the convicts have been roving characters both by sea and land, and also intemperate, and (as it is generally with such,) have been regardless of the Sabbath, have but seldom associated with pious persons, or come in contact with the great truths of revealed religion. As I hear some such lament over their past lives, and express gratitude for religious instruction imparted to them, I cannot but feel thankful that the Great Head of the church gives me the privilege of directing this unfortunate class of men to the divine promises, and point them to the Saviour who came to seek and save them that are lost. Each cell is furnished with a bible, and I occasionally distribute religious tracts among them, for which most of them appear grateful.

New books are soon to be added to the present library, which will give them a good supply of moral and religious reading.

With grateful acknowledgments to the God of all mercy, who I trust has made me in some cases instrumental in enlightening the dark, instructing the ignorant, and (would humbly hope,) benefiting undying souls, relying on his special aid in future.

I remain respectfully yours, &c.,

JOB WASHBURN,

Chaplain of the Maine State Prison.

Thomaston, May 1, 1847.

INSPECTORS' REPORT—STATE PRISON. 9

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures in the various Departments, from April 30, 1846, to April 30, 1847.

<i>Wheelwright Department.</i>			
1846.			
April 30,	To stock and tools on hand,	5,370 84	
	To charged to department since,	1,831 52	
			7,202 36
1847.			
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	5,383 49	
	“ credit to department,	3,592 47	
			8,975 96
	Balance in favor of department,		\$1,773 60
—			
<i>Shoemaking Department.</i>			
1846.			
April 30,	To stock and tools on hand,	4,781 91	
	“ charged to department since,	3,051 46	
			7,833 13
1847.			
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	4,377 23	
	“ credit to department,	5,621 80	
			9,999 03
	Balance in favor of department,		\$2,165 66
—			
<i>Blacksmith Department.</i>			
1846.			
April 30,	To stock and tools and hand,	1,286 53	
	“ charged to department since,	670 03	
			1,956 56
1847.			
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	1,271 33	
	“ credit to department,	1,681 60	
			2,952 93
	Balance in favor of department,		\$996 37
—			
<i>Lime Quarry Department.</i>			
1846.			
April 30,	To stock and tools on hand,	1,875 11	
	“ charged to department since,	938 45	
			2,813 56
1847.			
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	2,891 27	
	“ credit to department,	2,142 74	
			5,034 01
	Balance in favor of department,		\$2,220 45

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures—(Continued.)

<i>Team Department.</i>			
1846.			
April 30,	To stock and tools on hand,	465 00	
	“ charges to department since,	538 50	
			1,003 50
1847.			
April 30,	By stock and tools on hand,	465 00	
	“ credit to department,	605 29	
			1,070 29
	Balance in favor of department,		\$66 79
—			
<i>Subsistence Department.</i>			
1846.			
April 30,	To stock on hand,	1,275 39	
	“ charged to department since,	1,927 95	
			3,203 34
1847.			
April 20,	By stock on hand,	252 41	
	“ credit to department,	261 74	
			514 15
	Balance against department,		\$2,689 19
—			
<i>Fuel and Lights Department.</i>			
1846.			
April 30,	To stock on hand,	111 30	
	“ charged to department since,	978 08	
			1,089 38
1847.			
April 30,	By stock on hand,	283 45	
	“ credit to department,	32 16	
			315 61
	Balance against department,		\$773 77
—			
<i>Clothing Department.</i>			
1846.			
April 30,	To stock on hand,	1,252 86	
	“ charged to department since,	369 10	
			1,621 96
1847.			
April 30,	By stock on hand,	1,088 55	
	“ credit to department,	130 72	
			1,219 27
	Balance against department,		\$402 69

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures—(Continued.)

		<i>Expense Account Department.</i>	
1846.			
April 30,	To stock on hand,	1,018 95	
	“ charged to department since,	1,235 12	
			2,254 07
1847.			
April 30,	By stock on hand,	1,043 83	
	“ credit to department,	14 85	
			1,058 68
	Balance against department,		\$1,195 39

Receipts and Expenditures not included in the above tables.

Received from State Treasury, - - - -	5,254 50	
“ “ Visitors, - - - -	111 11	
“ “ Convicts admitted, - - - -	8 47	
“ “ Building and repairs, - - - -	3 50	5,377 58
Expended for officers' salaries due, at commencement of the year, - - - -	972 00	
“ “ Officers' salaries, - - - -	4,189 64	
“ “ Convicts discharged, - - - -	161 91	
“ “ Building and repairs, - - - -	222 18	\$5,545 73

Statement of Stock and Tools.

1846. April 30,	Amount of stock and tools,		17,437 89
1847. April 30,	“ “ in Wheelwright department,	5,383 49	
	“ “ Shoemaking “	4,377 23	
	“ “ Blacksmith “	1,271 33	
	“ “ Lime quarry “	2,891 27	
	“ “ Team, “	465 00	
	“ “ Subsistence “	252 41	
	“ “ Fuel and lights “	283 45	
	“ “ Clothing “	1,088 55	
	“ “ Expense account “	1,043 83	\$17,056 56

Recapitulation of balance in different Departments.

Balance in favor Wheelwright department,	1,773 60	
“ “ Shoemaking “	2,165 66	
“ “ Blacksmith “	996 37	
“ “ Lime quarry “	2,220 45	
“ “ Team “	66 19	7,222 87
Balance against Subsistence department,	2,689 19	
“ “ Fuel and lights, “	773 77	
“ “ Clothing “	402 69	
“ “ Expense account “	1,195 39	5,061 04
Balance in favor of income department,		\$2,161 83

INSPECTORS' REPORT—STATE PRISON. 13

Statement of Notes and Account.

1846.			
April 30,	Amount due from individuals on notes and accounts,	12,089 78	
	Amount due to individuals on notes and accounts,	8,395 00	
	Balance in favor of prison,		3,694 78
1847.			
April 30,	Amount due from individuals on notes,	918 16	
	“ “ “ on accounts,	13,192 07	14,110 23
	Amount due to individuals on notes,	2,064 21	
	“ “ on accounts,	5,004 23	7,068 44
	Balance in favor of prison,		\$7,041 79

Statement of Convicts.

Number of convicts in prison, April 30, 1846,	- - - - 60	Whole number of convicts received since July 2, 1824,	- - - 990
Received since,	- - - 28		
	<u>88</u>		
Discharged on expiration of sentence,	- - - - 12	Discharged on expiration of sentence,	- - - 666
Pardoned,	- - - - 5	Pardoned,	- - - 139
Died,	- - - - 1	Died,	- - - 27
	- 18	Escaped and not taken,	- 7
Remaining, April, 1847,	70	Remaining number,	- 70
			- 909

Crimes.

Rape,	- - - - 2	Murder—sentence commuted,	1
Assault with intent to kill,	- 1	“ in second degree,	2
Larceny,	- - - 49	“ awaiting sentence of death,	1
Arson,	- - - - 4	Forgery,	- - - 1
Burglary,	- - - - 4	Polygamy,	- - - 1
Adultery,	- - - - 2	Receiving stolen goods,	- 1
Passing counterfeit money,	- 1		
			<u>70</u>

Ages of Convicts when committed.

From 10 to 20 years,	-	-	8	From 50 to 60 years,	-	-	1
“ 20 to 30 “	-	-	39	“ 60 to 70 “	-	-	1
“ 30 to 40 “	-	-	11				
“ 40 to 50 “	-	-	10	Total,	-	-	70

Term of Sentence.

During life,	-	-	-	11	For 4 years,	-	-	-	8
Sentenced to be hanged,	-	-	-	1	“ 3 “	-	-	-	7
For 12 years,	-	-	-	1	“ 2 “	-	-	-	13
“ 10 “	-	-	-	3	“ 1 year, 6 months,	-	-	-	3
“ 7 “	-	-	-	1	“ 1 year,	-	-	-	7
“ 6 “	-	-	-	2					
“ 5 “	-	-	-	13	Total,	-	-	-	70

Number of days occupied by Convicts in different Departments for the year ending April 30, 1847.

In Quarry,	-	-	-	3200	Waiters,	-	-	-	492
“ Smiths' Shop,	-	-	-	1658	Lumpers,	-	-	-	628
“ Shoe Shop,	-	-	-	8118	Hospital, (sick)	-	-	-	852
“ Wheelwrights' Shop,	-	-	-	2124	Sabbath, (in cell)	-	-	-	2458
“ Tailors,	-	-	-	915	Stormy, “	-	-	-	117
Cooks,	-	-	-	588	Holidays,	-	-	-	254
Washers,	-	-	-	594					



STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, June 21, 1847.

Laid on the table, and 800 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature, and 50 additional copies for the use of the Warden of the Maine State Prison.

DANIEL T. PIKE, *Secretary.*