

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)

DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1859.



AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1859.

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE]

[No. 7.

STATE OF MAINE.

In compliance with the instructions of the Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on the State Reform School, have visited that Institution and ask leave to present the following

REPORT:

That from such examination and investigation, as they were able to make, of the general management of the institution, its arrangements, its discipline and instruction, the careful, appropriate and able administration of its government, we are decidedly of the opinion, that it is so far accomplishing the objects for which it was established, as to entitle it, to be regarded as a cherished charity of the State. Its utility in promoting the well being of society, its philanthropy towards its inmates, cannot well be dispensed with, it is an adjunct of the government, which merits its fostering care and liberal support.

The average number of boys in the school for the past year, has been, two hundred and twenty-nine; the present number is two hundred and fifteen, gathered mostly from our cities and large towns, they are of the wayward, the neglected, the homeless, the vagrant, and may generally, be regarded, as *but juvenile* offenders rescued from the contaminations of idleness and evil communications. Here they find an educational asylum, where they are subjected to a strict but kind discipline, taught to respect themselves, to respect their fellows and superiors; subjected to a systematic division and devotion.

of time, to rest and sleep, in their separate rooms, to different departments of labor, mechanical, farming, domestic; placed under moral and religious instruction, and enjoy proper exercise and recreation. We saw them in their several working apartments actively and cheerfully prosecuting their work; we saw two hundred of them together in the yard for exercise and recreation, in their sports with the football, &c., in which they engaged with as much hilarity and zest as boys elsewhere would do; we saw their orderly manner of entering their dining-room and their apparent enjoyment of their repast. The school is judiciously graded, there are three classes, in separate apartments, instructed by one female and two masters. We heard their recitations in the ordinary branches taught in our common schools, in which they exhibited a strong desire of emulation; the exercises were all highly creditable and in the judgment of your Committee, they would not suffer in comparison with most of our common schools.

There was a manly propriety of deportment, an absence of servile fear, a marked attachment to the Superintendent and Teachers, a rendering of a willing cheerful obedience. Our observations of the working of the arrangements and discipline of the institution were highly gratifying; and we regard them as eminently adapted to produce a healthy, physical, intellectual and moral development.

Several of the Committee addressed the boys in words of advice and encouragement, reminding them of their favorable condition, for reform of character, under the protection of the State, and the confident expectation that their pupilage would fit them to become good members of society.

Of the financial department, your Committee can only say, that so far as relates to the books and accounts of the past year, as made up and exhibited in the Treasurer's and Superintendent's report of 30th November, 1858, that we examined them carefully, and found them well vouched and correctly cast; but whether or not the expenditures have been judiciously made, your Committee are without the means of an opinion, in the absence of the late Superintendent, Mr. Lincoln, under whose administration most of the expenditures have been made.

The edifice with all its well adapted apartments, was found to be in the best order, presenting an aspect of neatness and comfort.

The barn and its appendages we regard as extravagantly large and expensive, and its comparative emptiness, together with the statistics of the last year's productions of the farm, constrain your Committee to express some fear that the farming may have been of an experimental character, and their expectation, that the Superintendent will make such practical use of these experimental expenditures, as may refund some part of the outlay. We apprehend that it has been in this department, that a large amount of funds have disappeared without any adequate return. We therefore recommend this subject to the careful consideration of the authorities of the institution.

We regard the present Superintendent as eminently qualified for the successful administration of the affairs of the institution, and the Teachers and other officers, that came under our observation, as filling their places with interest and ability.

In conformity with the suggestions of the Trustees and Superintendent in their late annual report, and also with orders submitted by the Legislature, in reference to amending the enactment relating to the Reform School, approved 27th March, 1858, your Committee have given them a careful consideration, and ask leave to report a bill, which is herewith submitted.

JOHN N. SWAZEY, *Chairman.*



STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND
FIFTY-NINE.

AN ACT relating to the Reform School.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

SECTION 1. Section one of an act additional to chapter one hundred and forty-two of the Revised Statutes relating to the Reform School, approved March 27, 1858, is hereby amended, by striking out in the first line of the first section, the word "eleven" and inserting the word "ten."

SECT. 2. Section two of said act is hereby amended, by striking out in the first line of said second section the word "eleven" and inserting the word "ten."

SECT. 3. Section four of said act is hereby amended by adding thereto the following words, "and when any written notice provided for in this section shall be duly made out, superscribed and directed to the said Aldermen and Selectmen, deposited in the Post

6 Office in Portland, and the postage prepaid, it shall
7 be a sufficient notice."

SECT. 4. Section five of said act is hereby amended
2 by striking out the first sentence, and inserting the
3 words, "At any time after three months from the
4 time of giving the notice required by section four, the
5 Superintendent may in his own name, for the use of
6 the State, sue for and recover of such city or town,
7 the expenses incurred for the clothing and subsistence
8 of such boy, not exceeding one dollar per week up to
9 the time of his commencing any suit therefor."

SECT. 5. Sections six, seven and eight of said act
2 are hereby repealed.

SECT. 6. Section ten of said act is hereby amended
2 by adding thereto the following words, "*provided* the
3 person to whom said Overseers shall request any boy
4 to be bound out, shall be, in the opinion of the Trus-
5 tees, a suitable person to take charge of such boy, and
6 shall give such bond, as shall be approved of by the
7 Trustees."

SECT. 7. No action brought by the Superintendent
2 in his official capacity shall abate by his ceasing to be
3 in office, but his successor upon notice may assume
4 its prosecution in his own name as plaintiff. All
5 actions founded on any contract of any kind whether
6 in writing or under seal, or not, heretofore made, or

7 that hereafter may be made, with any Superintendent
8 in his official capacity may be brought by the person
9 being Superintendent, at the time of the commence-
10 ment of the suit, and in his name as plaintiff. All
11 actions for injuries done or occasioned to the real or
12 personal property of the State, appropriated to the
13 use of the Reform School, and under the care of the
14 Superintendent, in his official capacity, may be prose-
15 cuted in the name of the person who is Superintend-
16 ent at the commencement of such action. The Su-
17 perintendent may, with the consent of the Trustees,
18 submit any controversy, demand or suit, to the deter-
19 mination of one or more arbitrators or referees.

20 When a new Superintendent is appointed and ac-
21 cepts the office, all the books, accounts and papers
22 belonging to the Reform School shall be delivered to
23 him, and he shall be vested with all the powers, and
24 subject to all the obligations with regard to any con-
25 tracts that his predecessor would have been vested
26 with, or subject to, if no change had taken place in
27 the office.

SECT. 8. This act shall take effect, when approved
2 by the Governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, Feb. 19, 1859.

Laid on the table, and 350 copies with the accompanying Bill,
ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

ATTEST:

JOSEPH B. HALL, *Secretary.*