

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1865.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1865.

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 19.

The Joint Standing Committee on the State Prison, pursuant to a joint order of the Legislature of January 14th, authorizing said Committee to visit said prison, to ascertain what legislation in relation thereto is necessary to the best interest of the State, have attended to that duty, and ask leave to

REPORT:

That on the 9th inst., the Committee visited the prison, and were very kindly received by the Warden, whose aid in making known and exhibiting to them the condition of the prison in its various departments contributed materially to the furtherance of the object of their visit.

Upon a very careful and we believe a thorough examination, we found every department of the prison in such condition as to reflect high credit upon the officers under whose control it is now conducted.

The convicts seem to labor with that care and diligence as if they were to receive the full products of their labor; and this together with the discreet financial management accounts for the fact, that the prison instead of being an expense to the State of from \$8,000 to \$15,000 annually, as formerly, has during the past year fully sustained itself and earned an additional amount of about \$4,000.

The carriage shop and new blacksmith shop are well constructed and admirably adapted to the purposes for which they were intended; the shoe shop is old and in a dilapidated condition, cold and very dark on foggy and cloudy days, and badly arranged. The articles manufactured in these shops are of a superior quality, and do not compare unfavorably with similar articles manufactured in any other part of the State.

The construction of a new shoe shop on a line with the blacksmith shop, with a room for the storage of stock and manufactured articles, and also the construction of a new piggery, the present one being old and in an unsuitable condition for use, are earnestly recommended.

The expense of the erection of these buildings, with other necessary repairs, would require an appropriation of \$3,500. It is also recommended that the wall of the prison be picketed to more effectually prevent the escape of prisoners.

While the cooking of the prison is now exceedingly well and neatly conducted, we are of the opinion that if a large portion of it should be done by the heat of the steam which is necessary for warming the prison, it would be attended with diminution of expense.

The manner in which the affairs of the prison are now conducted by the present able and efficient Warden entitle him to great credit; and we are of the opinion that the compensation now allowed him is much less than the value of his services to the State. We are also of the opinion that the compensation of other officers of the prison should be increased. We, therefore, recommend that provision be made by law, by which the Inspectors, with the approval of the Governor and Council, may fix anew and regulate from time to time the compensation of the various officers of the prison, whenever they shall deem it advantageous to the interest of the State.

Respectfully submitted.

E. J. HALE, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the state prison.

Resolved, That the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars
2 is hereby appropriated for the building of a shoe shop
3 and piggery, and other necessary repairs of the state
4 prison, to be paid out under the direction of the gov-
5 ernor and council.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 17, 1865.

Laid on the table on motion of Mr. HALE, and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*