

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. 28.

The Joint Select Committee appointed to visit the Cony U. S. General Hospital ask leave to

REPORT.

It was well understood by the Legislature that the Cony U. S. General Hospital is an institution established by the General Government and is conducted by its authority. It was with no purpose to interpose the authority of the State nor in any manner to interfere with the legitimate working of the Hospital that your Committee made its visit. It was known that nearly a thousand sons of Maine, who had returned from the field of conflict sick, or wounded or disabled, were stationed within a short distance of the State House, and that thousands of the hearts of our citizens, and fond mothers in our Israel, vibrated with interest and thrilled with affection towards these young heroes. To give a response to these our constituents as to the welfare of those who in the love of country and in the fear of God had been sent forward to save the life of the nation, was far deeper than any question of rights, or any delicacy of authority. The heart demanded the action, and the head readily yielded its consent.

The Hospital is located in the city of Augusta, on a hill-side with an eastern declivity, about half a mile west of the State House. The situation is eminently healthy and salubrious, and cannot be surpassed by any locality in the State.

The grounds are ample for all purposes required.

The buildings are constructed of wood, and number in all twenty-eight, and are well boarded and shingled outside and lathed and plastered inside, and are furnished with suitable heating and ventilating apparatus and with all the desirable modern and scientific army arrangements. For details see appendix.

Each ward room, of which there are nine, is capable of accommodating about sixty patients, with the requisite number of nurses and attendants to supply all reasonable wants. The wards which are used as dormitories are well warmed and ventilated, and cleanliness pervades every department of the entire establishment.

An abundance of pure spring water is furnished to each ward by an aqueduct built expressly for the purpose. The washing and ironing is accomplished by the aid of a steam engine. The ordinary blank forms required are printed within the hospital by a small press adapted to such uses.

A library of about three hundred volumes has been furnished by a few of the citizens of Augusta. Newspapers and periodicals have been furnished by the contributions of citizens. There is a covered ambulance furnished by the government for the use of the hospital.

The Hospital is in charge of George Derby, Surgeon of U. S. Volunteers, assisted by the following :

O. N. Bradbury, A. A. Surgeon U. S. A. and Executive Officer.

J. W. Toward, A. A. Surgeon U. S. A.

S. H. Merrill, " "

P. C. Porter, " "

C. W. Snow, " "

The medical skill employed is of the highest character, with large practical experience, which is the only safe guaranty of success in hospital practice.

There are sixty-two nurses, fifty of them males, and twelve females. They all appear intelligent, faithful and attentive in the several wards, and seem to exercise all that tender care and devotion to the sick which might be expected in the best regulated families in our State.

There are fifteen cooks, twelve of them males and three females.

The rations are furnished by Capt. W. S. Dodge, Commissary of Subsistence at Augusta, and they include beans, coffee, tea, peas, molasses, sugar, flour, rice, vinegar, beef, mutton, pork, salt, pepper, candles and soap.

Purchases out of the Hospital fund and donations to the Hospital, are made by J. S. Turner, Hospital Treasurer, consisting of butter, onions, eggs, lard, vegetables, milk; fish, salt and fresh; apples, green and dried; ham, &c.

The food provided is all good and wholesome, well cooked and

in abundance. When prescribed as an article of special medication, as highly nutritious and delicate, it is fully equal to that ordered in private practice in our wealthiest families.

The beds are very uniform in their construction, quality and material, and are well suited to rest the weary; and the bed clothing is sufficient for comfort and warmth.

The number of patients is now about eight hundred, and their condition under treatment is all that could be desired, and in most cases it is better than could be provided at their several homes. Beside each bed stands a small toilet table containing such articles as are suited to the several tastes of the occupant. On one may be found a pile of books and tracts; on another some half finished piece of pen-knife mechanism; on another bottles of rich perfumery, with combs and brushes, thus showing very conclusively that, notwithstanding the long absence of the soldier and his great suffering, he still clings to the peculiarities of early life. Many of these articles of use and luxury have been furnished by ladies in different parts of the State.

With all this care for the bodies of the brave men who peril life for their country, when they return from the field of battle, or from loathsome rebel prisons, or sick from the camp, it is a pleasure and a joy for your committee to tell it to those about the family hearth stone where so many deep shadows now fall, and about the family altar where the light of religion shines, that provision is made as well for the soul as for the body. A chaplain is connected with the hospital, and the voice of prayer and of praise mingle as daily incense to heaven. The preacher is there with the word of the Master, teaching the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, and pointing out the way to that better land where no wars or pains shall enter and where God shall wipe away the tears from all eyes.

Sacred songs are sung by organized choirs, and every tender sympathy is awakened to do the most and the best to bridge over all the dark chasms which lie between the severity of sickness and the region of restored health and strength.

As soon as men are restored to health and ready for service, they are forwarded to Galloup's Island, Boston harbor, in squads. There are numerous applications from Maine soldiers in other hospitals to be transferred to the Cony General Hospital, but they cannot be received for want of room for their accommodation.

It is at a great cost that we maintain our government against the red hand of rebellion which has been defiantly raised and hurled at the life of the nation. But between liberty regulated by law, and slavery with anarchy there was but one choice. We would not be slaves, and we could not be freemen except through the baptism of blood. It is cause of congratulation that the patriotism of the people has flowed fully up to the occasion. The hand of benevolence has been wide opened. Philanthropy has been fully organized, and with results which lift us to a higher and purer civilization. The tenacity of the government to defend its life, furnishes it with a vast power to provide for all its suffering children. A better day is coming and the gray streaks of its dawning already illuminate the horizon, and make glad our hearts. God helping us we will maintain this government, cost what it may.

All which is respectfully submitted.

M. R. LUDWIG, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE relating to Cony United States General Hospital.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to apply to
2 the authorities at Washington for an enlargement of
3 the Cony United States General Hospital at Augusta.

APPENDIX.

No. 1. Ward room—94 by 25 and 9 ft. high. 43 beds. Superficial area for each man, 54 28-43 ft. Cubic ft. for each man, 491 37-43. Matron's room—15 by 9 and 9 ft. high. Ward Master's room—15 by 9 and 9 ft. high. Wash room—15 by 10 and 9 ft. high.

No. 2. Ward room—94 by 25 and 9 ft. high. 42 beds. Superficial area for each man, 55 40-42 ft. Cubic ft. for each man, 502 16-42. Matron's room—15 by 9 and 9 ft. high. Ward Master's room—15 by 9 and 9 ft. high. Wash room—14 by 9 and 9 ft. high.

No. 3. Ward room—140 by 28 and 11 ft. high. 61 beds. Superficial area for each man, 64 16-61 ft. Cubic feet for each man, 706 54-61 feet. Matron's room—14 by 13 and 11 ft. high. Ward Master's room—14 by 13 and 11 ft. high.

No. 4. Ward room—152 by 24 and 11 ft. high. 55 beds. Superficial area for each man, 66 18-55. Cubic ft. for each man, 729 33-55. Matron's room—9 by 8 and 11 ft. high. Wash room—9 by 8 and 11 ft. high.

No. 5. Ward room—122 by 24 and 11 ft. high. 62 beds. Superficial area for each man, 47 14-62 ft. Cubic ft. for each man, 517 30-62. Ward Master room—9 1-2 by 8 and 11 ft. high. Matron's room—9 1-2 by 8 and 11 ft. high. Kitchen (special diet)—9 1-2 by 8 and 11 ft. high. Wash room—9 1-2 by 8 and 11 ft. high.

No. 6. Ward room, &c., similar to No. 5.

No. 7. Ward room, &c., similar to No. 5.

No. 8. Ward room, &c., similar to No. 5.

No. 9. Ward room—74 by 24 and 11 ft. high. 47 beds. Superficial area for each man. Cubic ft. for each man. Wash room and Ward Master's room—19 by 24 and 11 ft. high.

No. 10. Head Quarters—36 by 20—two stories high. First floor—private office—20 by 16. Public office—20 by 20. Second floor—three sleeping apartments for Clerks.

No. 11. Store room—34 by 29 1-2 and 11 ft. high. Knapsack room—44 by 14 and 11 ft. high. Dispensary room—44 by 14 and 11 ft. high. Chief Steward's room—14 1-2 by 12 and 11 ft. high. Chief Apothecary's room—14 1-2 by 12 and 11 ft. high.

No. 12. Mess room, Div. 2. Dining Hall—99 by 24 and 11 ft. high. Cook room—41 by 24 and 11 ft. high. Cook's room—12 by 8 and 11 ft. high. Commissary room—12 by 8 and 11 ft. high.

No. 13. Suttler's.

No. 14. Guard House. Office of Guard—15 by 14 and 10 ft. high. Guard room—15 by 14 and 10 ft. high.

No. 15. Post Office, Printing Office, Library, &c.

No. 16. Surgeon's Quarters—90 by 13 and 9 ft. high, divided into six apartments.

No. 17. Stable.

No. 18. Commissary Building—30 by 20 and 9 ft. high.

No. 20. Bakery—26 by 22 and 8 ft. high.

No. 21. Wash House and Laundry—each 35 by 24 and 11 ft. high.

No. 22. Engine House—19 by 15 and 11 ft. high.

No. 23. Wood Shed—35 by 15 and 9 ft. high.

No. 24. Cook room for 1st division—21 by 30, and 9 ft. high. Mess room for 1st division—31 by 30, and 9 ft. high.

No. 25. Nurse and attendant's quarters—81 by 15, and 10 ft. high. 30 beds. Superficial area for each man, 40 1-2 ft. Cubic feet for each man, 450. Clerk's room—15 by 13 1-2, and 10 ft. high. Wash room—15 by 4, and 10 ft. high.

No. 26. Matron's and laundress' quarters—38 by 17, and 9 1-2 ft. high. Divided into *four* apartments.

No. 27. Old Pest House—40 by 20, and 9 feet high.

No. 28. Quarters for detailed men—60 by 16, and 7 ft. high. 34 bunks for two men each—68 men. Superficial area for each man, 14 8-68 ft. Cubic feet for each man, 98 56-68.

Dead house—12 by 12, and 9 ft. high.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 22, 1865.

Read and accepted, and on motion of Mr. BRADBURY laid on the table and 1000 copies of the same, with the Resolve accompanying, ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*