

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)

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS OF MAINE:

BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

DEPARTMENTS  INSTITUTIONS

FOR THE YEAR

1901

VOLUME II.

AUGUSTA
KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT
1901

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

JOHN F. HILL

TO THE

Legislature of the State of Maine

JANUARY 3, 1901.

AUGUSTA
KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT
1901

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

At the dawn of a new century, bright with hope and promise of the future, we have assembled here to consider the condition and requirements of the State, whose sovereign people we represent. Devoutly grateful for the many blessings which we have received through the beneficence of Him who ever watches over us with fatherly care, we implore His guidance and aid in the discharge of the important duties devolving upon us.

The decade just passed has been one of great prosperity for the State. The development of new industries, and the growth of those already established, have given employment to large numbers of people, and greatly increased the population and wealth of those towns which have been the centers of activity. More than five hundred and twenty-eight miles of new steam railroads, and over two hundred and twenty miles of electric railroads have been constructed, giving the communities through which they pass greatly improved transportation facilities, and aiding immeasurably in the development of those portions of the State thus opened up to easy and convenient travel.

Some of our shipyards, which have for a long time been idle or nearly so, have again started into life, and to-day this industry is in the most satisfactory condition for years. With the passage of the Frye shipping bill, so ably advocated by our distinguished junior senator, Maine will assume that position in the construction of vessels of every kind, which the skill of her builders and mechanics and her favorable situation as a maritime State entitle her to hold.

Our State has become the summer home of thousands of the well-to-do people of other sections of the country, and the pleasure-resort of many more, who appreciate the health-giving quali-

ties of our invigorating atmosphere, and delight in the rugged beauties of our seashore and mountain scenery. This is a source of great revenue to the people of the State, in many ways, and is constantly increasing.

Maine's growth, though not rapid, is substantial and permanent in its character, and the State never occupied a stronger position, in every way, than it does today. Labor is remuneratively employed, while capital is active, and, as a rule, receiving satisfactory returns. Every condition is as favorable as we can reasonably expect, and gives promise of continued development and prosperity.

**State
Finances.**

The reports of the State Treasurer will show that the total receipts of the treasury during the two years ending December 31, 1900, were \$3,798,923.03. The amount of cash on hand December 31, 1898, was \$154,723.73, making the whole amount available for this period \$3,953,646.76. The amount disbursed during this time was \$3,754,767.75, leaving a balance on hand December 31, 1900, of \$198,879.01. This sum, however, is barely sufficient to meet obligations immediately payable, and is no more than should be in the State Treasury, if the demands upon it are to be promptly met.

The State tax paid by the cities, towns and organized plantations for the years 1899 and 1900 amounted to \$1,815,901.96. When we take from this the school fund, and the mill tax repaid to the various cities and towns, the net sum retained by the State is found to be \$766,742.63. Of this, \$450,168.50 was paid by the twenty cities of the State, \$224,923.79 was paid by the towns and organized plantations, and \$91,650.34 was paid by the wild lands. It will thus be seen that the twenty cities have paid into the treasury \$450,168.50 more than they have received from the school fund. 239 towns and plantations, or 47 7-10 per cent. of the whole number, have received from the school fund more than they have paid into the State Treasury; and it is found that the average net rate of State tax of the twenty cities was \$1.56 3-5 on each \$1,000.00 valuation, while for the towns and organized plantations the average rate was 66 1-2 cents, or divided on the basis of popula-

tion, there was an average of \$4.05 1-2 paid on each poll by the cities, and of 91 3-4 cents on each poll in the towns and organized plantations.

In this connection it is interesting to note the principal sources of State revenue, outside of the State tax paid by cities and towns, and the amount received from each. An examination of the treasury accounts shows that during the past two years the tax on Savings Banks has amounted to \$851,566.06, the tax on Railroads was \$323,052.32, on Telegraph and Telephone Companies \$32,888.48, on Express Companies \$10,032.67, on Insurance Companies \$131,405.62, on collateral inheritances \$54,226.64, on new corporations \$71,565.00; other taxes and miscellaneous items \$308,284.28; a total revenue of \$1,783,021.07 from these sources.

\$100,000.00 has been paid on the public debt during the past two years, the amount of the State's bonded indebtedness now being \$2,103,000.00, a reduction of \$516,300.00 since 1890.

The State has outstanding temporary loans to the amount of \$350,000.00, some part of which should be paid during the coming year. There should be a sufficient increase in the State revenues to provide for the gradual payment of the whole amount and to insure an adequate balance in the treasury to enable the State at all times to meet its obligations fully and promptly, without resorting to temporary loans.

Pledged to an economical administration of the State govern- **Taxation.**
ment, to a readjustment of the prevailing system of taxation and the enactment of measures which will lead to a more just and equitable valuation and assessment of all forms of property, the people demand and expect that we will discharge our trust in harmony with the letter and spirit of our respective party platforms. No excuses which can be offered will be deemed a sufficient reason for a failure to do our full duty in the faithful fulfillment of the pledges which have been made. Upon us will properly rest the blame if we are recreant to our trust; ours will be the credit and honor of faithful and devoted service. The people have confidence in you whom they have chosen to represent them here. They expect a fearless, conscientious discharge of

every duty devolving upon you, and that you will maintain the high traditions of patriotic service and unselfish effort for the common welfare which have ever characterized the Legislatures of Maine.

The question of taxation is the most important subject demanding your attention. The urgent necessity of securing greater revenues for the State, to enable it to meet legitimate and necessary demands upon the treasury and to provide for the payment of existing temporary loans, makes some action on your part imperative.

Under our present system, the farmer, often handicapped by unfavorable conditions; the merchant, with his capital invested in his stock of goods; the mechanic and laborer, striving to pay for their homes; and the owner of every form of visible property, already bear too great a share of the public burdens. An increase in the rate of the State tax, therefore, cannot be considered; but other forms of property, now escaping taxation altogether, or paying only a part of what they should justly and equitably bear, must be required to contribute their fair proportion of the cost of supporting our government, whose manifold advantages are shared by all, and whose existence not only makes the ownership of property possible, but gives permanence and security to its values.

Realizing your earnest desire to do everything in your power to promote the common welfare, I present this important subject, well knowing that your determination to do your full duty will lead you to give it your early and earnest attention. I am confident that every interest, individual as well as corporate, will be dealt with fairly and justly, and that, as a result of your deliberations, you will formulate some legislation to more nearly equalize the burdens of taxation among our citizens.

It is not probable that you will be able to frame measures that will be wholly above criticism. No system of taxation has ever yet been devised that realized the ideal by bearing with absolute equity upon all classes of property. This fact, however, will not deter you from doing everything in your power to attain so desirable a result.

The people confidently expect that the promise of economy in public expenditures will be fulfilled; and the party which has been entrusted with the management of State affairs will be held strictly responsible for any excessive or unwise appropriations. It is for you to determine what sums are necessary for the reasonable requirements of the various State departments and institutions, and what aid shall be given to such other objects as, in your judgment, should receive legislative assistance and encouragement. Not a dollar more than is required for the efficient administration of the public service should be appropriated. **Appropriations.**

These various matters, I am persuaded, will receive your most earnest consideration. While there is no call for parsimony, I am confident that you will always exercise your judgment, fearlessly and conscientiously in the expenditure of the people's money, and that you will refuse to grant needless or unwise appropriations as unhesitatingly as you will vote them to objects worthy of promotion and support.

The report of the Superintendent of Public Schools shows a constant and gratifying advancement in our educational interests. **Education.** The total amount of the State school fund and mill tax for the current year was \$520,019; the amount of school money raised by the towns was \$818,001; a total of \$1,338,020 available for the support of the common schools, as compared with \$910,523 for the same purpose in 1880, an increase of \$427,497 or nearly forty-seven per cent.

The Normal Schools are doing most excellent work, and the importance of having teachers thoroughly instructed and trained in their duties is being recognized by all. About thirty per cent. of our teachers are Normal School graduates.

There are 722 school children in thirty-three unorganized townships, for whom schools are maintained as provided by the statute, at a cost, during the past year, of \$2,382.13. Of this, \$1,280.57 was paid from the State appropriation, \$969.56 was interest on land reserved, and \$132.00 the per-capita tax.

The pupils in these schools range from five to twenty-one years of age, and, in several instances, married men and women

have taken advantage of the opportunities thus offered to obtain an education.

It is unnecessary for me to call your attention to the important work being done by such schools. But for their existence many of the children now enjoying their advantages would grow up in ignorance, and a much larger per cent. of them would ultimately become a public charge. The furnishing of such instruction is in harmony with the established policy of the State to provide school privileges for all. As a rule, the people are anxious to have the schools established, the children are prompt and regular in their attendance and apply themselves with great industry to their tasks. The good work which is being done by the schools of this class should be extended and made more efficient if the State is to do its duty to that portion of its citizens dependent upon it for educational advantages.

The special appropriations made for the academies and seminaries lapse with the present year; and if these appropriations are to be continued, I am inclined to the opinion that they should be made permanent, under certain definite restrictions. Under existing circumstances, a school having a zealous and skillful advocate in the Legislature may be able to secure a liberal appropriation in excess of its actual requirements; while another, equally worthy, but less fortunate, must be content with a comparatively small amount. The grade of the school maintained and the number of pupils receiving instruction should always be considered, and I doubt the wisdom of assisting in maintaining an academy in a section of the State where high schools of a high grade are provided. It is an injustice to the State to allow any of these academies to use the amount appropriated in increasing their endowment, instead of providing more and better instruction to the pupils who attend them; and under no circumstances should the sum appropriated for such institutions be taken from the fund provided for the common schools.

It is exceedingly gratifying that so strong an interest is being manifested in the public schools. The children, teachers and parents are assisting in improving and enlarging school-grounds,

beautifying schoolrooms, and providing books of art and standard literature.

The work accomplished along these lines has been very extensive and gratifying. It has greatly stimulated general interest in the schools, promoted harmony in management, and resulted in much better work being done by all concerned.

The teachers' institutes and summer schools have not only improved the general character of the instruction in our State, but, to an extent that was not anticipated, have stimulated teachers to attend our higher institutions of learning, and thus enabled them to acquire the scholarly attainments necessary to the highest success in their calling.

The State University is in a prosperous condition, having about 360 students, of whom more than six-sevenths are residents of this State. Its most popular courses are those in engineering, and the best equipped those in agriculture; but the scope of its work is of the very broadest character, and also includes a classical course, a similar course without Greek, a scientific course without Latin and Greek, a course in preparation for medicine, and courses in chemistry and pharmacy. The School of Law, located in Bangor, has been well received, and is gaining the approval of those well qualified to judge of its work.

**The
University
of
Maine.**

Nearly two-thirds of the income of the University is derived from the General Government, the remainder being provided by the State. It having been the policy of the State to reduce students' expenses as much as possible, the receipts from this source are comparatively small. The trustees have used the funds available to secure teachers, apparatus and facilities for instruction, rather than to construct large and expensive buildings, and have been governed by the restrictions of the United States appropriations which forbid the use of any part of these funds for the erection or repair of buildings.

During the past two years the trustees have constructed a drill-hall and a gymnasium, now nearly finished, which will be paid for by private subscriptions, and it is understood that the Legislature will not be asked for any assistance in its completion.

An astronomical observatory has also been built, and a large telescope set up. The equipment in electrical engineering and in the natural sciences has been largely increased, and the buildings of the agricultural department have received extensive repairs and additions.

The trustees in their report will urge the erection of a building for the department of mechanical and electrical engineering, to contain recitation-rooms, drawing-rooms, iron-working and carpenter shops, a foundry and forge shops. They state that the building now in use was erected when the University had a comparatively small number of students; that it is a cheap wooden structure inadequate for the purpose, and in bad repair; and that no appropriation for the erection of a building has been made for ten years, although since that time the number of teachers and students has increased threefold. The equipment of the University is thoroughly creditable, and it unquestionably affords an exceptional opportunity for young men and women to secure an education at a very moderate cost. You will, I am sure, give its interests careful attention, and take such action as the needs of the institution and the financial condition of the State seem to warrant.

Agriculture.

Agriculture will always be our most important industry. It gives employment and support to more than half our population; and whatever serves to advance its interests and bring greater prosperity to our farming communities is a benefit to the whole State. The growth of our cities and manufacturing centers, and the increased volume of summer travel coming into Maine every year have created better home markets for our farm products; but the great resources of the State are not yet fully appreciated. The constant development of our magnificent water-power, much of which has never been utilized, and the more general adoption of improved methods of agriculture, must result in still greater prosperity in the years to come.

The influence of the Grange has been a potent factor in the advancement of our agricultural interests, and has added greatly to the pleasure and profit of farm life.

The Board of Agriculture is doing a work of inestimable value and importance. The large number of farmers' institutes which have been held during the past year, have everywhere been well attended, and great interest has been manifested in this work by the farmers of the State, who have given it their cordial support. I am persuaded that these meetings and the general work of the board have done much to stimulate and encourage the ambitious and progressive farmer by bringing to every community a knowledge of the best and most productive methods of modern agriculture.

Maine is just beginning to make a reputation for her dairy products. There are 49 creameries and 14 cheese-factories in the State, utilizing the product of 30,000 cows; and this represents only a small part of the whole dairy interest.

It is felt by many of our most successful and progressive dairymen, who appreciate the great importance of this industry and the benefits which would accrue to the State by its development, that the work of the Board of Agriculture should be still further broadened and extended by the creation of a dairy bureau, which shall have an executive officer whose duty it shall be to attend closely to educational dairy work, and to the enforcement of the law against the sale of imitation dairy products.

You will be asked for an appropriation for this purpose, and I am confident that a request made in the behalf of so important an interest will receive your generous consideration.

Intemperance is such a fruitful source of misery, pauperism and crime, and its multitude of victims is so great a burden upon the sober and industrious citizen, that it is the duty of a government to control and restrict the liquor traffic in every legitimate way. By a provision of its constitution and by statute laws, which with overwhelming majorities its citizens have repeatedly sustained at the polls, the State of Maine stands opposed to the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. The deliberate adoption of this policy by a people naturally careful and conservative in their judgments was the inevitable result of a moral evolution which recognized the demoralizing and far-reaching evils of intemperance, and sought to eradicate them from the

**The
Prohibi-
tory
Law.**

community; and embodied the conviction that a traffic which took men from the ranks of productive industry, robbed them of their sober faculties, destroyed their self-respect and made them a burden and menace to those who had the right to look to them for support and protection—a traffic which filled the poor-houses, prisons and asylums with human wrecks, and imposed its greatest misery upon the innocent and helpless—was hostile to the public interests and wholly contrary to the spirit and purpose of a Christian civilization.

Fifty years ago, the so-called "Maine Law," prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, was placed upon our statute books, where it still remains. While it has not accomplished all that its advocates and supporters hoped for, it has been a powerful force in the development and promotion of a healthy temperance sentiment among the people of our State. How marked and gratifying this advance has been will clearly be shown by a comparison with the conditions existing seventy-five years ago. Then, liquor was largely manufactured in our State, while its sale was as common and looked upon in much the same light as the traffic in dry-goods and groceries. Abstinence was the exception rather than the rule. The drink habit, in varying degrees, was so general as to excite little if any comment, and intemperance was more or less prevalent in every community.

The temptations to drink were everywhere visible, and too often found victims in the best youth of our State. To-day, in a large majority of our country towns, there exists practical prohibition, and the law against the liquor traffic is as well enforced as against other forms of crime. Even in our cities and larger villages, where the liquor interests are most active and aggressive, and where the law is most persistently violated, it has not failed to exert a restraining and salutary influence; and has been a power in stimulating and promoting that intelligent and vigorous public opinion which is the support of all effective law, and without which any legislative enactment must fall far short of its purpose.

In a community where the official power is delegated from the people, public servants rarely rise superior to public opinion

in their sense of duty. It is, therefore, essential that officers charged with the enforcement of law and the protection of society should be constantly sustained, in the faithful discharge of their obligations, by an active and healthy public sentiment.

There has long been a feeling, on the part of many of our most intelligent and progressive citizens, that the present fee system should be revised or modified; and that those public officials now receiving compensation for their services wholly or partly in fees should be paid a definite and fixed salary, that the people may know exactly what their servants receive. **The Fee System.**

This may not be practicable in every instance; but there certainly is no good reason why any officer should receive more than a reasonable remuneration for his services, or more than he would be paid if employed in a private business involving the same degree of responsibility, and requiring similar capacity.

It is undoubtedly true that many public officials who are paid by fees do not receive an excessive or unreasonable compensation, but even here the public interest would probably be best served by the payment of a salary commensurate with the service rendered.

I commend this matter to your careful consideration, knowing that whatever action you may take will be dictated by a desire to serve the best interests of the whole people.

The question of improved highways is one of great interest and importance to the whole State, and especially to the people of the country towns. **Good Roads.**

Good roads shorten the distance to market, increase the value of contiguous property, and are potent factors in the development of every community. Although there has been a vast improvement in our transportation facilities during the past twenty years, through the building of new railroad mileage, there has been little improvement in our highways, along which there will always be a large amount of traffic; and it would seem that the time has come when we should adopt some definite and effective plan for the improvement of our main thoroughfares.

I do not regard with favor a State highway commission, or any similar plan which would take from the towns any part of the

control which they exercise over their roads, and cost an undue proportion of the sum which would be likely to be devoted to road improvement; but it has seemed to me that some plan of State aid might be devised which would be effective and practical in its operation, and would gradually result in greatly improved highways throughout the State.

The cost of really good roads is beyond the means of most towns; improved highways must come first, and in my judgment they can only come through State and perhaps county aid. Such a distribution of the cost would make the municipal burden small when compared with the immense benefits which would be derived from it.

**Savings
Banks.**

On the 27th day of October, 1900, the total assets of the 51 Savings Banks of this State amounted to \$71,076,211.67. The resources of the 17 Trust Companies were \$13,295,402.92. Add to this the resources of the 33 Loan and Building Associations, amounting to \$2,862,178.53, and we have a total of \$87,233,793.12, an exhibit in every way creditable to the progress and enterprise of our State.

There were 180,914 depositors in the Savings Banks whose balance was less than two thousand dollars, the total amount of this class of deposits being \$53,558,629.84; while the number of depositors having a balance of two thousand dollars or over, was 5,413, and the total amount of these deposits was \$13,681,809.23. These figures clearly show that the money held by our Savings Banks belongs largely to people of moderate circumstances.

The whole number of depositors in Savings Banks and Trust Companies, and shareholders in Loan and Building Associations was 213,980, a gain of 11,428 during the past year. If we take from this total the 6,019 demand depositors in the Trust Companies, it will be seen that nearly one-third of the entire population of the State are directly interested in our various savings institutions. The aggregate amount of their capital, if apportioned among the people of the State would give about \$125 to each person, or nearly \$600 to each family.

In 1860 the deposits in our savings banks were only \$1,466,-457.56, in 1880 they had increased to \$23,277,675.32, while at the present time they amount to \$67,240,439.07. This is a gain in the last twenty years of \$43,962,763.75, or nearly 200 per cent, and in forty years of \$65,773,981.51, or about 5,000 per cent.

This remarkable showing is the strongest possible proof of the prosperity of the State, and forcibly demonstrates the industry, thrift and economy of the people of Maine. The Savings Banks, which, as a rule, have been characterized by a conservative, conscientious and able business management, have had the confidence of the public, and have encouraged the saving of a large portion of the money now entrusted to their care and which might otherwise have been expended needlessly.

The tax on Savings Banks deposits has been a source of large revenue to the State, the amount paid during the past year being \$448,827.93, an increase of \$128,434.21 over the sum paid in 1890.

The report of the Bank Examiner will give you a detailed account of the condition of each institution.

There is still a balance due the State from the General Government, on claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred in equipping troops for the war with Spain, amounting to \$62,300.48. The original amount of these claims was \$87,434.80, on which has been received \$25,134.32.

**The
National
Guard.**

Of the regular military appropriation for the year 1898, \$27,-227.07 was applied to war expenses, and is included in the claims against the United States, having been expended under orders from the War Department.

A supplementary claim for reimbursement of the State for property destroyed by order of the Secretary of War, that had been condemned by a Board of Survey convened by his orders, which amounts to \$5,310.65, has been filed with the War Department.

The Legislature of 1899 provided for the payment of bills for medical attendance, medical supplies and nursing of sick soldiers, who served in the State's quota and were treated outside of authorized hospitals during the period preceding their muster

out, and whose expenses were not provided for by Act of Congress. There has been no Congressional action on these claims as yet, and many of them are held in the Surgeon-General's Office, pending such action. It seems only just that some provision should be made for their payment.

No annual encampment was held in the year 1899, the regular military appropriation for that year being used in reuniforming and reequipping the State troops. This was fully accomplished and the militia of this State is now in excellent condition, and well equipped for State service.

All of the organizations that make up our National Guard should be maintained on a practical footing. They should be armed, equipped and organized in accordance with the requirements of the volunteer army, that the State may be ready, when called upon, to place an efficient force of well-disciplined men in the field.

Since the last session of the Legislature, one division of Naval Reserves has been organized. It fully maintains the credit of the National Guard, and on its first cruise taken on the U. S. S. "Prairie" last September, the reports of the officer in command of that ship indicate that it made a record seldom, if ever, equalled by a Naval Reserve organization during its first year.

The experiment of regimental camps was tried at the last annual encampment with very gratifying results. The health, absence of intemperance, and conduct of the men in camp were most satisfactory. The organizations now authorized seem ample for the service, and to fully meet the requirements of the State. Maine does not require a large force, but her troops should be of the best. While we earnestly pray that their services will not again be necessary, we should always be prepared for any possible emergency that may arise.

State Pensions. The obligation which we owe to those brave and patriotic men, who, by their courage and valor, preserved the Union and perpetuated the greatest and grandest government that the world has ever known, can never be fully discharged. The small pensions paid by the State to those veterans of the Civil War requiring aid and assistance, or to their widows and orphans, is a fit-

ting recognition of their devotion and sacrifice, and relieves many homes from suffering and want. You will cheerfully appropriate such sums as may be necessary for this purpose, that no one of them shall suffer from privation.

There are at the present time seventy children in the Bath Military and Naval Orphan Asylum, the largest number for many years. Twenty-four have been admitted during the past year. This is a well-managed institution, and merits the support which it has received from the State.

**Bath
Military
and
Naval
Orphan
Asylum.**

The constant increase in the number of sportsmen who come to Maine each year, to spend their vacations in hunting and fishing, conclusively demonstrates the wisdom of protecting and preserving the fish and game of our State, and is a sufficient warrant for the large sums of money which have been expended for this purpose.

**Inland
Fisheries
and
Game.**

The past season has been the most successful one in the history of our fish and game interests. Including the amount paid transportation companies, it is estimated that during the year 1900 at least five millions of dollars was expended by more than fifty thousand visitors to our forests and inland lakes.

The report of the Commissioners of Inland Fisheries and Game which will shortly be presented to you, contains much interesting and valuable information and deserves your careful consideration.

The sea and shore fisheries directly and indirectly give employment to about twenty thousand people, and have an invested capital of nearly \$3,000,000.00. The total value of the various products when ready for market is about \$6,000,000.00 annually. The great importance of this industry has not been fully appreciated. Any measures calculated to promote its interests should have special attention.

**Sea and
Shore
Fisheries.**

For many years there has been a gradual increase in the number of patients in the Maine Insane Hospital. Its legitimate capacity is 583 patients; but on Nov. 30th, 1900, it had 771, or 188 more than the number for which it has proper accommodations. This is an increase of 38 in the past two years. It will thus be seen that the management of this institution has long

**The
Maine
Insane
Hospital**

been obliged to care for many more patients than it was originally designed for.

The hospital has been in existence for sixty years, and the oldest departments are much out of repair. They should be thoroughly reconstructed and put in good condition, to enable the institution to show the best results and maintain a proper standard of efficiency.

As the hospital is soon to be relieved of its overcrowded condition by the removal of some of its patients to Bangor, this would seem to be a favorable opportunity for making such repairs and improvements as you may deem necessary.

The trustees earnestly recommend some action, and will ask for an appropriation for this purpose.

**The
Eastern
Maine
Insane
Hospital.**

As a result of the marked advance in every kind of building material, the appropriation for the completion of the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital, made by the Legislature of 1899, proved insufficient for this purpose. Inasmuch as the discontinuance of the work would largely increase the cost of its completion, and probably postpone until another year the relief of the present overcrowded condition of the Hospital at Augusta, it was determined by Governor Powers that the building should be finished without interruption, in order that the institution might be available for use within a reasonable period.

This action, which was in the interest of true economy and must ultimately result in a large saving to the State, will, I know, commend itself to your good judgment, and meet with your unqualified approval. I am sure you will willingly make the required appropriation to cover this expenditure, as well as for the furnishings necessary to put the institution in readiness for occupancy.

I am convinced that the several appropriations made for the building of this institution have been wisely and judiciously expended. The work has been thoroughly done, the buildings are substantial and permanent in character, and for years to come the cost of repairs will be comparatively small. The institution could not be duplicated to-day for less than 20 per cent. above its present cost. In this connection I desire to commend the faith-

ful, conscientious service of the Honorable Sydney M. Bird, Chairman of the Council Committee on Public Buildings, whose efficient business management and careful oversight of all the details of the work have largely contributed to so successful a result.

It appears from the report of the Prison Inspectors that there were 172 convicts in the State Prison, November 30th, 1900, a decrease of 37 during the preceding year; 58 were committed to the Prison during the year, and 91 discharged by expiration of sentence; three died, and one was pardoned by the Governor and Council. There are 40 life convicts in the Prison, of whom four are women.

**The
State
Prison.**

The large percentage of short-term prisoners whose labor is not a source of profit, and the restrictions of the law which limits the number employed in one class of work, greatly curtail the profits of the manufacturing department. The total gain from goods manufactured last year was \$5,937.74. It cost an average of nine cents per convict per day for the food consumed, which made the total cost of raw material \$6,044.40, or \$106.66 more than the profits of the manufacturing department. In addition to this, the cost of fuel, clothing, transporting convicts, stipends given discharged convicts, interest, and other expenses, amounted to \$10,092.19. You will be asked for an appropriation sufficient to pay all outstanding liabilities, and provide for the necessary running expenses of the prison for the next two years.

The State cannot conduct a manufacturing business here with any degree of success, unless it provides a sufficient working capital to enable it to buy the necessary materials at the very lowest price, and to take advantage of every cash discount.

This is a matter which should have your careful investigation, and I recommend such an appropriation as is necessary to enable the managers of this institution to place its affairs upon a sound business basis.

You will be asked to provide for the establishment and support of a Reformatory Prison for Women. It has been suggested that a building, originally constructed by the United States Gov-

**Reforma-
tory
Prison for
Women.**

ernment for a Naval Hospital on an island near Rockland, and which has never been utilized for that purpose, may possibly be available in this connection. A bill is now pending in Congress which provides that this structure shall be given to the State for this use.

There is a strong sentiment in favor of such an institution, among the friends of philanthropic and reformatory work in our State, who feel that existing conditions are neither in harmony with the spirit of a progressive civilization nor calculated to produce the best results.

It is needless for me to dwell upon the great benefits which would come from such a Reformatory. All must recognize the importance of doing everything possible for the moral uplifting of such women as would here be cared for; and the State may well foster a movement which, while recognizing the need of every just and proper restraint, at the same time aims to make them self-respecting and self-supporting members of society.

I submit this matter to your earnest consideration.

**The
Reform
School.**

Upon a recent visit to the Reform School, I was convinced that the construction of more cottages similar to those already existing is necessary to enable this institution to attain the highest degree of efficiency. This would make possible a better classification of the unfortunate boys who are detained there, and would greatly promote their moral and physical welfare. To-day there are about sixty boys living in two cottages whose conditions and surroundings are all that could be desired. The remainder, about ninety in number, are in the main building, which affords greatly inferior accommodations, as very little money has been expended upon it for many years.

I doubt the wisdom of using this building as a dormitory for so many boys as occupy it to-day, if, indeed, it should be used as a dormitory at all. The cottage plan has been demonstrated to be by far the best for the welfare and improvement of those who are sent to this institution. Many of these boys are merely the victims of poverty and parental neglect, and are friendless rather than criminal, oftentimes being sent to the school on account of

truancy, or some minor offense scarcely more serious in its character.

It is the duty of the State to do everything possible to improve the condition of these unfortunate children, to encourage them in right doing, and to lead them into ways that will develop them into honest, self-reliant and useful citizens. Irrespective of the sentiment of humanity, the careful training of these boys is in the interest of true economy and a sound public policy.

At comparatively small cost the main building could be put in good repair, and it is well adapted for schoolrooms, workrooms, and the general purposes of the institution. I recommend such an appropriation for this work as in your judgment may seem wisest and best.

The report of the Trustees of the Maine Industrial School for Girls shows that there are 165 girls now under the care of this institution. Of these, 61 are in the school, 14 are out at board, 44 are working for their board and 46 are receiving wages. It will thus be seen that more than half of the number are self-sustaining. The girls are taught habits of personal cleanliness and neatness, the laws of health, how to do housework in all its branches, how to knit and sew and make garments, and the common English branches, such as are taught in the public schools.

**Maine
Industrial
School
for
Girls.**

On the 5th of February last, Flagg-Dummer Hall, which was destroyed by fire in the winter of 1899, was again ready for occupancy, greatly relieving the crowded condition of the other buildings. On May 24th, Erskine Hall was burned, together with the small building to the north, known as the office, the fire spreading so rapidly that little of the furnishings of the building or the personal effects of the inmates could be saved. Insurance to the amount of \$11,675.00 has been paid, \$6,687.50 going to the treasury of the school, and \$4,987.50 into the State treasury. This latter sum can become available for rebuilding only through an appropriation by the Legislature.

The burning of this building made 32 girls homeless. They were immediately provided for by being taken into other buildings, and within three weeks 25 of them were placed in private

homes. Board was secured for fifteen of them under twelve years of age at a price so moderate as to increase but slightly the expense of their care to the State.

The policy of placing in private families younger girls, who have committed no offense but are unfortunate in having no suitable homes of their own, has been followed to advantage in other States, and may be worthy of imitation in our own.

You will be asked for an appropriation to aid in rebuilding Erskine Hall, the amount received for insurance being insufficient for this purpose. You will also be asked to provide for other improvements which seem necessary to put the institution in a creditable condition.

The school is doing an important work, and its various needs will, I am sure, receive your careful attention.

**Other
Depart-
ments.**

The reports of the State Assessors, the Railroad Commissioner, the Insurance Commissioner, the Commissioner of Industrial and Labor Statistics, the Secretary of the State Board of Health, and of other State departments, as well as of the trustees of the various State institutions, will give you in detail an account of their work and requirements. It will be your duty to examine, carefully and thoroughly, into the condition of every institution and department, and to determine what amounts are reasonably necessary for their proper maintenance and support. I trust you will not hesitate to refuse any appropriation that seems unwise or unnecessary, and that expenditures will be reduced wherever this is consistent with an efficient service. Our institutions and various governmental departments are, I believe, well managed, and the State is most fortunate in having faithful and competent men in her public service. But it is none the less your duty to thoroughly inform yourself in all these matters, that you may act upon them understandingly, and not rely upon the judgment and opinion of others. It is also due to those who have earnestly and zealously devoted their best efforts to the service of the State, that you should give them the advantage of your counsel and judgment, that all may work together for the common interest and the common good.

I wish to assure you of my earnest desire to cooperate with you in every measure that tends to promote the interests of the State and the welfare and prosperity of its people. The noble example of those high-minded and patriotic men, whose devoted and unselfish public service in the past makes so many of the proudest pages in our history, should inspire us to discharge with honor and credit the difficult and important duties devolving upon us. If we exercise that good judgment, careful foresight and judicious economy so essential to the success of private enterprise, our success is assured; and though all may not endorse the result of our efforts, we should be satisfied with the work accomplished if our own judgment and conscience approve. **Conclu-
sion.**

Confident that you will sustain the proud record of the past, and that your efforts will result in great permanent benefit to the State, permit me to remind you of the importance and necessity of beginning upon the work before you as soon as possible, thus avoiding the danger of hasty and ill-considered legislation in the busy closing weeks of the session.

I trust that you will find your duties pleasant and agreeable, and that when the work of the session has been accomplished you may have the proud satisfaction which comes from a duty conscientiously performed, and a trust faithfully discharged.