

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS OF MAINE

1913

BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

For the Year 1912

VOLUME III

WATERVILLE
SENTINEL PUBLISHING COMPANY
1914

REPORTS OF

Committees of the Council

STATE OF MAINE

1911 and 1912



WATERVILLE
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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

*To his Excellency Governor Plaisted and the Executive Council
of the State of Maine.*

The Committee appointed by his Excellency in 1911 to visit the State School for Boys during the years 1911 and 1912 make the following report:

This Institution has been visited frequently by your Committee during the past two years. The different Cottages have been inspected at times when no intimation as to our purpose to the Cottage Masters had been made. Without exception, every detail was found to have been carefully attended to, the quality of the food provided, the serving of the meals, and the neat and sanitary condition of all parts of the Institution have been pleasing to your Committee.

We have been especially gratified at the careful attention to and personal interest in every boy connected with the Institution, which is so apparent on the part of the management, and the general improvement of the boys in the matter of clothing, and appearance, as well as in deportment and courtesy.

We must also refer to the farm which is being well managed and in particular, commend the improvement of the stock, in both Dairy and Piggery. The neatness and general appearance of the Farm Buildings reflect credit on those in charge.

To Mrs. Annie Deering, the lady visitor of the Committee, much credit is due for her devotion and the faithful interest she has taken in the discharge of her duties. Every month, without waiting for the other members of the Committee, she visited the Institution, moving freely among the boys and encouraging them with a word of cheer. The boys have found in

her a friend and for much of whatever good has been done by the visiting Committee, Mrs. Deering is responsible.

Your Committee would express to Superintendent and Mrs. Dunn, and all others, its obligation for the courtesy and welcome that have always been shown them.

FRANK A. PEABODY,
ALFRED S. KIMBALL,
EDWARD B. WINSLOW.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON STATE
PRISON.

To his Excellency the Governor, and the Executive Council.

The undersigned the Visiting Committee to the State Prison have made frequent visits to the institution, for the purpose of becoming thoroughly familiar with the discipline, treatment, sanitary conditions, and business management of the several departments connected therewith; it is undoubtedly true in the opinion of the Committee that the increasing demand for, and use of the automobile has rendered the profitable operating of the carriage department more difficult than formerly, but the excellence of the work has enabled the Warden to maintain a fairly good trade, the Broom Department, Blacksmith Shop, and Painting Department, are still carried on as usual, much custom repair work being carried on, but the Harness Department the most important of all shows a gratifying and decided growth; taken by the present management when it was at a very low ebb, with no orders and very few sales being made, the first eleven months showed an aggregate business of about thirty nine thousand dollars which during the present year has been increased to about sixty thousand dollars showing the confidence of the trade in the product of this shop. Your Committee believe that the Trustees of the various State Institutions which require merchandise of the character of the product of any of the departments of this institution should so far as possible purchase their supplies which are manufactured here on equal or better terms of course, thus giving employment to this class of unfortunate inmates, securing we feel sure merchandise fully up to the commercial standard and at rates as low or even less than in the open market, thereby securing to the State the advantage in both ways. In this connection we

wish to say that the health of the inmates has been good and the death rate very low as compared with many former years. The Warden has the good will of the men in a remarkable degree, which is manifest in the regularity with which they perform their allotted tasks and the small amount of friction found in the several departments, which has been a source of gratification to your Committee as well as to all others officially connected with the institution.

Respectfully submitted,
ALFRED S. KIMBALL
CHARLES L. TURGEON,
Committee.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEE ON STATE LIBRARY.

The present State Librarian, Herbert E. Holmes, was appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Executive Council in February, 1912, and took charge of the State Library February 23, 1912. The library has been growing steadily during the past few years, had reached and passed the 100,000 mark in number of volumes, and was doing fairly well the work it was contemplated it should do. But there was need of improvement in order to make it still more an aid to the State Government and to the whole people of the State.

Some of these improvements have been accomplished in the past ten months. A few will now be noted.

The law governing the library required that it shall keep in touch with the work of other State Libraries, and other large libraries throughout the United States, and that it shall also keep in touch with and be an aid to the various public libraries in Maine.

A most efficient means for both the above objects is by publishing a quarterly library Bulletin for exchange and distribution, as other State Libraries do. In the year 1911, one Bulletin had been published, but since February 1912 the Bulletins have been published regularly each three months. This Bulletin is especially helpful to the smaller libraries as it keeps them informed of what the State Library is doing and what it can do to help them.

The original purpose in the mind of the Legislature when the State Library was founded was that it should be a help to the members of the Legislature, in the work of law-making. As the library grew and developed it in time became a large law library and general public library. The original idea was lost sight of and neglected. The present Librarian has inaugurated

a movement to bring it back to its original purpose, without at all neglecting its other and general purposes.

A Legislative Reference Bureau has been established by means of which any information needed by the Legislature to assist them in the work of law making is made quickly available. Information as to what is being done or proposed to be done in other states is collected and collated, and is ready for the use of any member or committee of the Legislature. The Librarian has arranged with the Librarians of the other states whose Legislatures are in session at the same time as the Maine Legislature to receive from those states copies of all bills and reports of a public nature in exchange for like bills and reports of our Legislature.

The department of Traveling Libraries has been kept up to the standard of other states and is better than most. The traveling libraries consist each of fifty books, thirty of late and standard fiction, twenty of works of a general nature. The purpose of the traveling library law is intended to be educative, primarily, but the libraries are also a Heaven sent blessing in many a remote community where books are scarce and hard to get. For the benefit of these communities especially, books of late modern fiction are purchased, to be read along with the heavier works of general literature. The fee for obtaining a traveling library is only \$2.50 and one may be kept six months. Clubs are formed to apply for a library and thus the expense is divided.

There are 176 traveling libraries available for use. 228 libraries have been sent out from November 1, 1911 to November 1, 1912. The demand for them is steadily growing. But there are still many small communities whose people do not yet know that they can get such a library from the State.

We take this opportunity to recommend that some means be taken to advertise the traveling libraries in every place in the State. The State Librarian, should be authorized to expend a small part of the traveling library appropriation, if necessary, in advertising them. Library advertising is not new, it has been done in other states.

The general reference work of the State Library is doing well. One assistant has charge of the reference room, and it

is her duty to help all callers who are studying or making researches by directing them to the right literary sources for information. A large number of such calls come by mail and are answered by mail and the needed books are loaned to responsible persons for three weeks.

The history of our state is important, and every means should be taken to preserve it. The State Librarian has had a show case set up in a prominent place in the Library and has placed on exhibition whatever interesting and valuable exhibits relating to our history that he has found, or has had given to the Library by generous citizens.

It is recommended that the State purchase or have built a better and more ornamental glass case for this purpose in the Library, one large enough to accommodate a good-sized display, something similar to what may be seen in large libraries in other states.

The department of the law library is well kept up. One of the most competent law book men in the country has lately said that it is in such fine shape that no other State Library surpasses it.

We recommend that the Legislative Reference Bureau, before mentioned be continued and made permanent and that it should receive a reasonable appropriation from the Legislature to further its special work.

G. C. KILGORE,
ALFRED S. KIMBALL,
WESTON LEWIS,

Committee on Library.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON STATE
BENEFICIARIES AND PENSIONS.

*To His Excellency Frederick W. Plaisted and Members of the
Executive Council:*

The Standing Committee on State Beneficiaries and Pensions submit the following report:—

At the beginning of 1911, Major George E. Dodge of Carmel was appointed Pension Agent, serving for 21 months until his death. Major Dodge was a veteran of the Civil War having been promoted for meritorious service. Methodical, kind, obliging, with a heart full of sympathy for the veterans and their dependents, he listened attentively to appeals for help, and wisely adjusted the monthly rates, with an eye, both to the relief of the suffering and the welfare of the commonwealth. He served the State faithfully and well, and his death was a loss to the department.

During the last quarter of 1912, the office has been filled by Kingsbury B. Piper, Esq., who was named as agent, upon the death of Major Dodge, October 1st. Mr. Piper has proven systematic and efficient, and has given good satisfaction.

For detailed statement of expenditures of the office, etc., for the years 1911 and 1912, see Report of Pension Agent.

STATE PAUPERS.

This Department has become so expensive, and so susceptible to abuse, that we wish to particularize somewhat, in order to make paramount certain phases of the work. While the figures given cannot always be exact, they are nevertheless, sufficiently approximate, to be worthy of consideration.

In 1910 the amount expended for paupers was \$57,872.72.

The present Administration has paid as a deficiency for the years 1909 and 1910, nearly all being for 1910, \$36,261.80, making a total for the year 1910 of \$94,134.52.

The amount paid for the year 1911 was \$78,997 81.

For the year 1912, the last quarter's bills not all being received, (est.) about \$76,000.

The appropriations made for this department during the past three years have been as follows:—

APPROPRIATIONS.

1910	\$60,000 00
1911	60,000 00
1911 (Deficiency for 1909-'10)	40,000 00
1912	75,000 00

EXPENDITURES.

1910	\$94,134 52
1911	78,997 81
1912 (Est.)	76,000 00

The pauper department of the State of Maine, presents many peculiar and interesting features.

Many of those applying for help, apparently have no pride in the matter, and while they would almost consider it a disgrace to be aided by a town, rather regard it an honor to be assisted by the State.

In localities where several families are receiving assistance, some of them exhibit a pride in getting all they can, and have an apparent jealous feeling, if they know that other families receive more help than they.

State paupers are remotely scattered in different sections, and their care and oversight is necessarily attended with great expense. As a rule the Overseers of the Poor have been careful and painstaking in the handling of these cases, receiving them into their almshouses, where such exist, for a reasonable compensation. In the smaller towns and plantations, where there are no almshouses, the expense is somewhat greater.

Many families and individuals reside upon plantations, where the base of supplies, are in towns many miles distant, in some instances 20 or 25 miles, so that the oversight of the assessors is very difficult, and the delivery of supplies very expensive.

In one colony, which cost the State for one quarter, nearly \$500.00, the supplies were furnished by a town 25 miles distant, and for more than 18 months, the State had no definite knowledge of conditions existing, as no overseer had visited them during that time.

This class of people being poorly sheltered, and with no faculty of caring for themselves, are very susceptible to sickness, and when such occurs, the expense of nursing and medical attendance is very large.

Some of these people have been paupers for years, being a drain upon the treasury of the State, allowed to live remotely from settlements, being indolent, even when able to work, and encouraging around them a thriftless, lazy gang, to help them in consuming supplies furnished by the Commonwealth.

In some instances, large bills are allowed to accumulate, especially in cases of sickness or accident, before the State is notified, the patients having been placed in hotels, private houses, or private hospitals at a large cost, when some arrangement should have been made to remove them to a public hospital, where the expense could have been lessened by at least one half.

Could suitable arrangements be made to congregate these families and individuals, greater comfort and ease could be given to the sick and feeble, work and oversight be provided for those that are able, and many of them could become self-sustaining.

Among these State wards, are quite a number who are afflicted with incurable diseases, as cancer, tuberculosis, etc., who cannot be admitted to any public hospital, and the only method to be adopted in their care, constitutes a big item of expense.

Some of these paupers are women, who having been married, have become divorced or widowed, drifting from town to town, bearing illegitimate children, one of them having five by as many different men, all taking the settlement of their mother, and increasing the pauper population of the State.

To remedy these evils, and to better conditions already existing, we would offer the following suggestions:—

1st. A law compelling the filing of affidavits, in the State Department, immediately upon the furnishing of aid, so that the State may know early of the case, and advise with the overseers, as to the best method of handling them.

2nd. The same authority that is given to Overseers of the Poor, should be given to the Governor and Council, so that they may order the removal of families, to any locality they may designate.

3rd. The establishing of a State Farm, with which could be connected a Hospital for the sick and infirm, and where those who are able, could be made to work under proper supervision, and thus contribute to their own support.

If this farm could be established near the School at Pownal, the medical men who have supervision over the School, could also supply these wards.

4th. A State Overseer of the Poor, who would devote his whole time to this department, working under the direction of the Governor and Council.

There has been heretofore, and some are existing at the present time, certain pauper colonies that have been for years a disgrace to the adjacent communities and a blot upon the State. We refer particularly to Malaga Island, Athens, and Frenchboro.

MALAGA ISLAND.

Upon the records in the Council Chamber appears the following under date of May 26, 1902:—

To support of persons upon Malaga, and
 Bear Island adjacent to Phippsburg. \$118 27
 (The following explanation appears on the Record:)

The above supplies were furnished during March and April 1902, by reason of the extreme destitution of the inhabitants of these Islands, it not being possible to fix the liability for their support on any town, the State furnishing the relief as a matter of humanity. (No evidence on file.)

On record is also the following:—

June 27. To support of persons stated above to June 1, 1902.....	\$48 00
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Probably on account of their destitution, and the fact of the State helping them as a matter of charity, a genealogy was compiled, as a report to Governor John F. Hill, March 17, 1902, by C. V. Minot, Jr., of Phippsburg, Maine.

During the years 1903 and 1904, no record appears of any help from the State, and it is stated that during those years, the town of Phippsburg helped the inhabitants, without being reimbursed.

Since 1904 the State has expended for their support as follows:—

1905	\$57 45
1906	338 52
1907	231 60
1908	629 61
1909	1,089 82
1910	1,170 80
1911	782 89

The amount for 1911, includes a bill for committed and conveying to the School for Feeble-Minded at Pownal, certain of the Inhabitants of Malaga.....	136 80
1912	178 24

In the summer of 1911, the Governor and Council with invited friends, visited the Island as the guests of Hon. E. B. Winslow, President of the Council. The itinerary was Portland, visiting Institutions in that vicinity, a sail down Casco Bay to the Island.

After viewing conditions it was decided at a Council meeting shortly after, that the good of the State and the cause of humanity demanded that the colony be broken up and the people segregated. The inhabitants then numbered about 56, a large part of whom were State paupers. It was decided that to rid the Island of its population, and to prevent further squatting that the State should hold a title to the property. The owners of the Island had endeavored to rid it of its inhabitants, and after an expenditure of \$71, abandoned the idea.

The property was purchased of its owners for \$471, this amount being taken from the Contingent Fund, and a deed received in the name of the State dated September 16, 1911.

In December 1911, Judge Lowell of Bath, with the State officials visited the Island, convened his court, and committed to the School at Pownal seven of Malaga's inhabitants.

In order to use all the inhabitants fairly, the State actually paid to different parties having houses thereon, the sum of \$1,350.00. The inhabitants were also given their buildings provided they would remove them within a given time, and in this manner the island was cleaned up.

EDWARD B. WINSLOW,
GUSTAVUS C. KILGORE,
FRANK A. PEABODY.

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL
FOR FEEBLE-MINDED.

*To His Excellency Frederick W. Plaisted and Members of the
Executive Council:*

The Standing Committee on School for Feeble-Minded for the years 1911 and 1912 submit the following report:—

Our first visit to the School was in February 1911. We found a population of about one hundred and thirty-five, with a per capita cost of nearly seven dollars a week. Upon seeing many of the inmates personally, and scanning the Registry closely, we plainly saw that pupils were being received, whose condition was wholly outside the requisites for admission, and but little attention was being given to keeping the Institution within the scope of its founding.

The Legislature of 1907 passed an Act with the following title: "An Act to Establish a *School* for the Feeble-Minded." Among other things declared in the Act, and showing plainly the chief purpose for which the Institution was established, is this statement.

"Feeble-Minded persons over six years of age, and capable of being *benefitted* by School Instruction shall be admitted, etc." The thought occurred to us at once, that the very essence of the Act was misunderstood, and the population showed plainly, that in the minds of many, it was regarded as a *Home*, rather than a *School*, which the framers of the Act had solely in mind. Taking all things into account, the following facts were evident to your Committee.

1st. The prime object for which the Institution was founded, i. e., receiving those capable of being benefitted by school instruction, was being ignored, as the population consisted to quite an extent, of aged imbeciles, many over forty, and some as high as seventy-five and eighty years of age,—a class of people,

totally deficient mentally, wholly unimpressionable, and incapable of mental improvement.

2nd. Up to that time, no department for study or for manual training had been established.

3rd. Certain sections of the State were well represented among the inmates, while other sections numbered comparatively few.

4th. The per capita cost for maintenance, nearly seven dollars per week, seemed very large. Numerous instances were cited by your Committee, where in their own towns, or in others within their knowledge, this elderly class of people, were given good homes and were well cared for by their towns, at an expense not exceeding \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week.

To bring about results in accordance with the right object of the Institution, and to give an equitable representation to different sections of the State, the Council Committee recommended the following:—

1st. A return to the towns, of which they were resident, of all the aged ones who were incapable of mental improvement, and a filling of the vacancies by feeble-minded, younger in life, who were capable of being benefitted by school instruction. The Superintendent and the Trustees to be the sole arbiters of these selections.

2nd. Establishing as soon as practicable, a school for learning, together with a department for manual training.

3rd. As the Institution was not large enough to care for all who might apply for admission, and in order that each section of the State might be equitably benefitted, candidates suitable for admission should be apportioned among the different counties of the State, in proportion to the number of feeble-minded persons resident therein.

4th. To reduce the per capita cost, listed applicants suitable for admission, up to its capacity, should be received by the School. As far as practicable in these admissions preference should be given to the girls, so that the communities would be better safeguarded, by lessening the likelihood of a new generation of imbeciles. It was also the opinion of the Committee, that State wards should have first choice of admission over others.

Your Committee is pleased to report that the Superintendent and Board of Trustees adopted these suggestions, and for the past year the management of this Institution has been along these lines.

We most heartily endorse the Act of the Legislature of 1911, in creating a Board of Hospital Trustees, to have charge of the Insane Hospitals and the School for Feeble-Minded. These Institutions are so closely interrelated that they should be under the same Trustee management. Your committee believe that in this way, more good can be accomplished at much less expense to the State, than by separate Boards as heretofore.

Our only source of data, for the number of resident feeble-minded, is in the census returns for 1910, from the Assessors of the different municipalities in Maine. While this census is undoubtedly incomplete, it nevertheless gives an approximate idea of the number, sex, and age of this class of unfortunates. The following is the number and sex, given by counties:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Androscoggin	13	5	18
Aroostook	38	16	54
Cumberland	48	39	87
Franklin	21	10	31
Hancock	31	18	49
Kennebec	30	22	52
Knox	19	13	32
Lincoln	14	16	30
Oxford	35	25	60
Penobscot	52	22	74
Piscataquis	18	18	36
Sagadahoc	9	5	14
Somerset	36	16	52
Waldo	37	16	53
Washington	22	20	42
York	23	15	38
	446	276	722

While the number given above seems quite large, it is believed that the total is not 50% of the actual number resident in Maine. Good authority sets ratio of feeble-minded to the population as

1 : 500, which would give a census of at least 1,500 defectives in the State of Maine.

Your Committee believe that the Law should be mandatory, requiring the Assessors to send annually to the Governor and Council, as correct a list as possible, of the name, age, and sex of all feeble-minded persons resident in their municipalities. We fully realize the difficulty in obtaining a correct list, as people are very loath to give in, as defective, any of their children, but only in this way does the State know with whom they have to deal, and this knowledge would add very largely to the efficiency of the Institution.

We also would be in favor of some law, authorizing and compelling, the municipal officers of the cities and towns to commit or to have committed to this Institution feeble-minded persons, 12 years old or over, girls preferably, who have become dangerous sexually or otherwise, and are not properly cared for at their homes. Recent events have transpired in our State sacrificing life, and costing the State large sums of money, which certainly would show the value of a law like this.

In a majority of cases, the census of 1910 gives the ages of the people, from which is deduced the following facts:—

Of the number given, 498 are over 25 years of age, leaving 224, or nearly the present capacity of the school, under that age; 181, or 1-4 the entire number listed, are over 50 years of age; 124, or 1-6 of the number are over 60 years of age, while 54, or more than 7% of the entire number are over 70 years of age.

If the estimated population of defectives in Maine, 1,500, is correct, and the ages of all, are approximately those in the census returns, 750, these deductions are interesting in showing the fact, that Maine at the present time, has only one-half of the caring capacity for her feeble-minded, who are under 25 years of age.

The Insane Hospitals and the School for Feeble-Minded are so closely related, that we believe the laws transferring from one Institution to the other should be so constituted as to make as little trouble as possible in the interchange of inmates. At the present time the Board of Trustees have authority to order a transference from the Insane Hospitals to the School for Feeble-Minded, while in transferring from the School to the Insane Hospitals, the regular procedure of commitments as in

towns and cities has to be complied with, causing an unnecessary expense and trouble. In relation to this matter your Committee would endorse the suggestions of Dr. Carl J. Hedin, the present Superintendent of the School.

"Until the Institution is large enough to care for all feeble-minded persons within the State, in order to enable us to receive and detain all the feeble-minded who are capable of being benefitted by treatment and instruction, there should be some law, authorizing the Trustees of the Institution to transfer to either one of the two Insane Hospitals in the State the following:—

"1st. Those who are 21 years of age or over who are not capable of being further benefitted by school instruction, but who need custodial care.

"2nd. Those who are 16 years old or over, who have become insane, or otherwise unmanageable at this Institution."

At the present time the school has a few vacancies, through the inability to get commitments for State wards.

The vacancies will soon be filled. With the completion of the Hospital, the capacity of the Institution will be increased to 275.

During the past year, although the population has increased nearly 65 over the previous year, the total cost for maintenance is about \$6,000 less than the previous year, making a per capita cost of about \$4.00 per week. This is partly due to increased farm products.

The progress made at the School, both in study and in manual training, has been very gratifying, and shows what can be accomplished in training defective minds when the proper methods are used.

We would extend thanks for courtesies from the Superintendent and officials of the School. Our relations with the Hospital Board of Trustees have been harmonious and pleasant.

The School is doing good work, and the Inhabitants of Maine may well feel that it is a worthy Institution, and deserves the most liberal consideration at their hands.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES L. TURGEON, *Chairman*,
GUSTAVUS C. KILGORE,
ALFRED S. KIMBALL,

Standing Committee on School for Feeble-Minded.