

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*Dedication of the new
Maine State Prison
Thomaston*



“THE GOVERNOR”

Collie given to the Maine State Prison
by
Governor Percival P. Baxter

September eleventh
1924

DEDICATION
OF THE NEW
MAINE STATE PRISON

THOMASTON



SEPTEMBER ELEVENTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR

BOARD OF
PRISON COMMISSIONERS

H. H. HASTINGS, Bethel, *Chairman*
CHARLES S. HICHBORN, Augusta
FRANK H. HARGRAVES, Buxton

WARDEN
LESTER D. EATON

DEPUTY WARDEN
LAWRENCE J. COLGAN

CHAPLAIN
REV. P. J. CLIFFORD

ATTENDING PRIEST
REV. JAMES A. FLYNN, Rockland

PHYSICIAN
ALBERT P. HEALD

Programme

President of the Day

Hon. H. H. Hastings

America

Audience Joining
Professor J. Francis MacNichol, Leading

Prayer

The Chaplain

Address

Hon. H. H. Hastings

Music

"How Firm a Foundation"

Verses 1, 2
Audience Joining

Address

Hon. Charles S. Hichborn

Music

"Joy to the World"

Verses 1, 2, 4
Audience Joining

Address

GOVERNOR BAXTER

Music

"Nearer My God to Thee"

Verses 1, 2
Audience Joining

Personal Reminiscences

Rev. James A. Flynn

Doxology *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Audience Joining

Benediction

The Chaplain



Group taken at Dedication of New Prison

Prayer
REV. PERCY J. CLIFFORD
State Prison Chaplain

All mighty God our Heavenly Father, We are glad and thankful for the privilege of seeing the dawn of this new day for this place. We thank Thee that Thou hast put it into the hearts of Thy servants, the Governor of this State and our Commissioners to show forth the mind of God in dealing with the mistakes and shortcomings of men.

We are glad and thankful that we can all have a part in the building up of this expression of Thy providence and in the carrying out of the plans which Thou art making.

We thank Thee for giving us a Governor who has heart and ability, and for the people of Maine who are so ready to approve any worthy and humanitarian enterprise. We thank Thee for our Commission and for all the good friends who are interested in this welfare work and the building up of clean manhood in all places. Lord, we pray for Thy blessing and guidance upon all our officers and men. We pray for our dear ones from whom we are separated. We pray for those in trouble and affliction, and we pray for Thy richest blessing upon these who show their interest by being here today.

God bless our Commissioners—God bless the State of Maine, and, Dear God, especially we pray for Thy blessing upon our Governor and our friend, Mr. Hichborn.

Help and guide and bless in all the plans which are made for this place, and may all our desires be to Thine Honor and Glory, In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Address of
HON. HENRY H. HASTINGS
Chairman, Board of Prison Commissioners

*Governor Baxter, the Honorable Council, Invited Guests,
Officers and Men of the Institution:*

The Commissioners of this institution have felt that it would be well to interrupt its activities for the day by these exercises, after a full century of its existence, to mark its entry upon a new period of usefulness and uplifting influence, dedicating, as it were, the new plant and equipment moulded and fashioned as it has been upon the old site, to higher and nobler aims and aspirations, on the part of men everywhere.

The event which brings us here,—the fire, which a year ago this coming 15th day of September swept the interior of the yard of every vestige of its antiquated and dilapidated buildings,—every day a menace to the lives therein,—and crumbled to the ground as if built of cardboard, the century-old Bastile, the old west wing, built to withstand the ravages of time and the elements, and saturated with unsavory reminders of the past, whether an honest fire or a dishonest fire,—was a most fortunate happening. Save for its occurrence, not within the lifetime of anyone present could the good people of the state have been rid of this standing disgrace to civilization within this hoary old wall.

Biennially the cry had gone from the institution over to Augusta, “Come over to Thomaston and help us”, but a full realization of the pressing needs of the institution were indeed far in the future.

More than this, and again we were fortunate, not a life was lost. No one was even seriously injured. And a most glorious opportunity was afforded for judging the human being in a crisis, a great crisis. A roaring, scorching fire was sweeping this narrow, close, and confined yard in which were huddled two hundred men. And there was not a man among them disloyal to the institution. All were ready and willing to imperil their lives; volunteers, ready to rush where the flames were hottest, in many cases even blistered and burned their hands and arms in the successful effort to stay the course of the flames which were attacking the brick, modern structures. But for the men, the whole westerly end, in which was the commissary department, the kitchen, the dining-room and blacksmith shop, could not have been saved. All that was best in the human breast manifested itself among the men, came to the surface, and their conduct was an inspiration.

Then, too, there was an opportunity to test the capacity of the officers of the institution, and it was gratifying to know that every man rose to the occasion. Had anyone weakened, the situation would have been lost. It was a source of pride that no one failed.

The buildings were in ashes, no one was harmed, everyone had his head up.

At once, before the smoke had cleared, everyone,—men and officers,—was ready for the task, and there was not the slightest hesitation in attacking the job at hand. Men were everywhere in the yard, working at the edges of the smoking piles of debris, clearing up for the rebuilding. Our chief executive was promptly on the job, the executive department of the state

was functioning most vigorously, with a Governor big enough to go straight to the problem at hand. An executive order was passed at once, furnishing and providing the necessary funds; the new Maine State Prison was on its way.

A delay of weeks, even of months, might well have happened. A less vigorous and courageous chief executive may well have assembled the Legislature, a less business-like and clear-seeing council might have made this assembling necessary, to vote the funds. A building commission would likely have been authorized, also at great expense to the state, had the Legislature ever got a chance to debate and pass an appropriation. In which event, unless our experience had been far different from that of other states in building a like institution, there would have been a long period of tedious waiting and delay.

Save, of course, the very competent and painstaking architects, and the capable contractors, who furnished the building experience, the foremen, the skilled help, and the machinery, the State has not paid a cent in extra salaries. Everyone connected with the institution has simply done more work.

Indeed, no light task, when we consider that there have gone into the construction rising a million new brick,—sixty carloads,—and a million old brick, saved and cleaned by the men,—two millions in all, or, one hundred twenty carloads; 5,775 barrels of cement; 2,671 casks of lime; 4,550 tons of sand and gravel; 521 tons of crushed rock; \$56,889 worth of steel; \$12,135 in lumber; not to enumerate the other quantities of other supplies, innumerable, but the main ones.

By reason of the crowded condition of the buildings the discomfort of the men has been very great, and the work of the officers has been doubled and their duties made trying in the extreme. They are entitled to the highest commendation, and have received the highest commendation of the Board, and it is a pleasure to bestow it in this public way. It is also a pleasure to extend to the men the thanks of the Commission for the very large assistance and the loyal co-operation, willingly and ungrudgingly given, in the rebuilding.

Upon the Warden has fallen the whole care of seeing the job along, doing all the buying, and getting along the materials, hiring and discharging and paying off men and teams, working eighteen hours a day on an average, and that without a murmur, and without any reward save the reward that comes to every man who sees his task well done. In my judgment he is entitled to the lasting gratitude of the citizens of the State. No more faithful service could have been performed had the plant being built and the funds being expended, been his own.

The plant is finished, save only one tier of cells which the executive department felt we must get along without till the strong box of the State was less depleted, but this morning we are officially informed that authorization for same has been voted by this Council. We think it is as good a plant as is possible to build considering its location, its cramped spaces, and its cost. If the state had had a hundred-acre tract and a couple of millions in money to invest in the plant it might have, of course, been constructed and made more commodious and pretentious, but the buildings are ample for our needs,—comfortable,

sanitary, airy, and well-lighted. There is room enough for every man in the institution to work in comfortable and healthful surroundings, the living and sleeping quarters are convenient and sanitary. The cost of its construction has come so close to the original estimate on which our allowances were based as to be almost uncanny in its approximation.

It is a pleasure for the Commission to express to the executive department its high appreciation of its generous, prompt, and unfailing support. We have been favored with the utmost confidence on its part and hampered in no way. We trust and we hope we have in no particular violated the confidence reposed.

In presenting Mr. Hichborn, Mr. Hastings said,

In the winter when the days were shortest, when the weather was the coldest, when the elements were most adverse, the time in the whole year when, the whole plant being under way, the work moved along most slowly and discouragingly, and all we had to hearten us was the good cheer of the Warden, there came along the resignation of Mr. Boynton from the Board. Mr. Boynton had been upon the Board since its inception and was a stanch, reliable, experienced man, the nearly member of the Board; but his winters must be spent in the south and he felt that the exactions of the building program required a third member who could be on the grounds at frequent intervals.

Mr. Hargraves and myself felt and knew that we had lost a seasoned adviser and an enthusiastic co-worker, always with the interest of the state and the welfare of the men at heart.

Along came his successor. A full lifetime, for the ordinary man, of good works, good deeds, behind him,—restless and resistless,—his very soul burning and flaming with love for his fellowman,—and most of all unfortunate fellowman,—lavish of his time and strength and honest enthusiasm,—with a new field of endeavor before him and most eager to explore.

In six short months he has mastered the details of the institution, knows every man in it by his first name, and has become a leader in modern thought touching penologic matters. He will deliver the address for the Board. I present your friend, Hon. Charles S. Hichborn.

Address of
HON. CHARLES S. HICHBORN
at Dedication of the Maine State Prison, Sept. 11, 1924

"Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord,
my Strength and my Redeemer".

Mr. Chairman and my Fellow-men:

"This is the day which The Lord hath made:
let us rejoice and be glad in it".

Standing in his presence, and here by his leave, I should be unjust to myself and unmindful of my duty, did I not first pay personal tribute to His Excellency, Governor Baxter,—the moving genius of this wonderful work.

Statesman and Student of Truth,—Leader and Lover of men,—the State of Maine never had an abler chief,—she never knew a truer man.

Devoted to Her interests, loyal to Her traditions, wise in counsel and brilliant in execution,—big-brained, big-hearted, and white-souled,—he has builded himself a home in the hearts of the People of this State, without regard to sex or party or rank or station.

It is right that he be thus honored, for

"in all His diadem
No star shines brighter than the Kingly man,
Who nobly earns whatever crown he wears;
Who grandly conquers or as grandly dies,
And the white banner of his manhood bears,
Through all the years, uplifted to the skies".

His presence here is of far-reaching significance and thoughtful men everywhere will pause to note it.

What does it mean, you men of keen perception?

Out of what travail was it born?

And what shall be its outcome?

Ah! my friends,

I anticipate your answer!

It means that his great heart overflows with sympathy; that his mighty intellect is enlisted in the cause of human betterment; that under his leadership the State of Maine is taking her proper place in the vanguard of the ranks of progress; is tearing down the strongholds of bitterness and of prejudice, and is setting up the standard of Helpfulness on the ruins thereof. And out of it will come such a quickening of moral purpose,—in here and out there,—that no pen can portray its possibilities, and no heart can comprehend its worth.

It is a great pleasure to me, and I deem it a great honor, to participate in the formal opening of this regenerated Institution,—in whose structural rebuilding you men have played such a faithful part,—and into whose helpful future we look with such unfaltering trust.

“Through wisdom is an house
builded; and by understanding
it is established”.

Here is visible and tangible evidence of the birth of a New Dispensation;—here is testimony that the State, though Sovereign, is not a tyrant, but a mother;—that in ceaseless vigil she watches over her own;—that she courts, for all her children, a more abundant life; that she is determined that *this* shall be the best place

of its kind in all the Country, and that when a man has spent his day here, he shall go back into the World, better fitted to withstand its manifold temptations,—strengthened and upbuilt—physically, mentally and morally,—and resolute in his purpose to keep his feet upon the way of Life: Yea! and those other feet that he may save from stumbling!

Happy, thrice happy, shall we be if our efforts shall bring such measure of success that we can match every discharge with a certificate of character,—fashioned within this Home, a credit to this Institution and a blessing to all concerned.

And remember this, my friends,—we cannot succeed,—here or elsewhere,—unless there be, deep-lodged within our heart of hearts, a reliance upon Almighty God.

Truly, "There is no wisdom nor
understanding nor counsel,
against the Lord".

"He that keepeth the Command-
ment keepeth his own soul".

It is useless to commend the work of the hand unless we dedicate, also, the heart.

These piles of stone and steel shall pass away:
but the things of the Spirit shall endure forever.

* * * * *

One day, across my pathway, was blown this anonymous verse. There is in it so much of truth and trust, that in faith and hope I give it unto you.

It is entitled

THE SEED

What a wonderful thing is a seed!
The one thing deathless forever!
Forever old and forever new,—
Forever faithful and ever true,—
Fickle and faithless never.

Plant lilies and lilies will bloom;
Plant roses and roses will grow;
Plant hate and hate again will spring;
Plant love and love to you will bring
The fruit of the seed you sow”.

Life,—civilization, organized society,—it’s a complex thing: and yet how easily its perplexities would *resolve themselves* if we but exemplified, in our daily conduct, the wonderful story of the seed;—and if, into the mystical web of our lives, we wove the fadeless and faultless fiber of the Golden Rule!

But Oh! this human nature of ours!

We follow the will-o’-the-wisp of pleasure! We acknowledge blind leaders,—and Him, Lord God of Hosts, we *do* forget,—we *do* forget!

Fortunately for us, His love has blazed a home-path,—His law is a lamp unto our feet,—and Justice and Mercy find habitation within His throne.

And if we need God’s law, we need, also, man’s law,—the crystallized sentiment of Society,—the guiding and restraining power of the State.

That law, also, must be respected, and its saving grace must be made manifest.

Peace, order, public safety,—the protection of our families and the preservation of our homes,—demand it.

To discuss that proposition were to discount your intelligence.

That is not our mission.

We come to lay foundation; to stimulate hope; to nourish aspiration; to show you that we are interested in your welfare, and because we believe that, not by force,—for that is useless,—but by teaching the dignity and safety of labor, by inculcating the homely virtues of the simple life, by instilling in your hearts the principles of truth without cant and liberty without license, we can assist you along the road to law-abiding, self-respecting citizenship.

We propose to make this indeed a *school* for citizenship, and not what friend MacCormick calls a “Graduate School of Crime”!

We think much less of what *has been*, and much more of what is *to be*;—much less, of the iron-bar, and more, much more, of the helping hand.

Our aim is not to see what we can do *to* you, but what we can do *for* you.

We want to help you, as *we*, too, need help, to love light and hate darkness; to love good and hate evil; to love man and fear God.

To this end I promise the activity of every resource at our command.

This is “our job” and God helping us all we shall not fail.

And saying “all”, I *mean all*.

Out into the new-time, or back into the old;—out into the sunlight, or back into the gloom;—up onto the mountain-top, or down into the depths;—up, on the Way to Heaven, or down, on the road to hell,—we all go together!

Rules we must have, and discipline, physical and intellectual, must be maintained.

Anything else means failure.
An Organization without rules is hopeless.
An Army without discipline is useless.

But rules will be made for mutual benefit; and discipline will be such as wisdom and experience and sanity and good judgment indicate to be the best for the Institution and best for you.

It will be the discipline which spells success; it will be *reformatory*, and not *deformatory*;—it will be *constructive* and not *destructive*.

Two hundred men living together present some problems, I know; but they are *not* problems that cannot be solved by the reasonable and seasonable application of common sense.

We shall contribute, towards their solution, all the heart and all the conscience with which we are endowed. We shall consider them sympathetically and, I hope, understandingly.

We shall treat men as creatures with souls.

The door of development will swing wide open, and the gateway to advancement will be never closed.

Let us take up our burdens with courage and with faith.

Let us remember that we all react upon one another: that no man liveth unto himself alone: that we are all members of a great human Brotherhood in which the good or ill of one is the good or ill of all;—the rights and privileges of one, the rights and privileges of all.

Together let us demonstrate that

“Stone walls do not a prison make,
nor iron bars a cage”.

No man is really imprisoned unless his soul is enchained.

Obedience to law, the virtues of kindness and forbearance, of fidelity and of truth, are as never-failing here as they are in the World outside.

And here, and there, and everywhere, *they bring their reward*. And *the opposites bring*, also, *their reward*!

For us and for you the path of duty lies straight before us, and blessed shall we be if we walk therein.

We cannot strive at perfection; *that* is too much to expect: for we are all human.

But taking these several truths into our hearts, opening our eyes to a new day,—you and we,—turning our backs upon the past, and making stepping-stones of our dead selves, we shall build our way unto higher things; we shall earn our right and title to worthy manhood,—and train ourselves to be trusty soldiers of the King of Kings!

Speaking now, for myself, for I am comparatively new, among you, I consecrate myself to this holy purpose!

The Great Exemplar of Human Brotherhood has touched my heart and called me to His Service!

I realize my weakness; but I pray God to give me wisdom and strength and courage and vision,—that I may be worthy this Service, worthy the approval of the Great Executive who has given me this opportunity,

and worthy the confidence of the splendid men who are my associates:—men whom you may trust,—men whom you may honor,—men whose integrity and capacity are recognized and respected by every citizen of this good State.

Take *me* as you have taken *them*;—help *me* to help *them*;—help *us* to help *you*;—and taking us all together, give unto us your confidence, swear unto us your loyalty, and pledge unto us your support.

Open your hearts and open your lips! Speak! tell us,—tell us truly,—will you do it?

(The men, with a roar, YES! YES! We will! We will!)

Hear Ye, Mr. Chairman! Hear Ye, Your Excellency! for *that* is the trumpet-sound that, from the hilltop of Expectation, heralds the birth of a New Day!

Verily,

The long, long night is ended and
"Joy cometh with the morn!"

* * * * *

And now we want to take up with you certain very definite and practical things.

After careful study we have agreed upon certain Rules which we desire to put into operation.

Please note that these are Major rules: Minor rules will come later.

After explaining them, we propose to leave them for you to consider, and we shall assemble you again, one week from today, and ask for your decision as to *your* part.

Remember, these suggestions are only tentative: they seem to *us* wise; they depend on moral force for their fulfilment.

They appeal to man's highest qualities;—they reflect the most considerate thought.

They are conceived in your interest and in the interest of the society to which, sooner or later, you must all return.

They will be adopted if and when you severally pledge your honor to do your part toward making them a success.

If they work well,—if they stimulate loyalty and increase fidelity,—we shall then be encouraged to take another step; if they fail, then we *all* fail, and prison reform will be slaughtered in the very house of its friends!

Conversation

Man is essentially a social being. Unsocial conditions are unnatural and unwholesome. If carried to extreme they are demoralizing and brutalizing.

Of course we want nothing of this sort to develop here; and so, in our humanizing process, we begin at the beginning, with

Proposal No. 1.

Men will be permitted, if they are diligent and faithful, to carry on a reasonable amount of conversation, in the various shops and working quarters,—being required to abstain from arguments,—to neither discuss, propose nor enter into, any agreement or conspiracy to in any way interfere with the orderly

operation of the Prison,—and to studiously avoid the use of obscene or profane language or indulgence in boisterousness of any kind.

Your own good sense will guide you, in this respect, and you will, we are sure, be careful not to take advantage of this privilege.

Men will not be allowed to stop, when meeting one another in the yard, but may, and will be expected to, exchange a polite salutation.

It costs nothing to be a Gentleman.

When marching, either inside or out, following customary military discipline, no talking will be allowed. A soldierly bearing always commands respect.

No. 2. Chapel

The Chapel is primarily for the worship of God, for the invocation of His blessing, and for the consideration of those things that belong to the scul.

Every man, unless excused by the Warden, must attend service every Sunday; provided that those of the Catholic Faith will be required to attend on the third Sunday of every month, only.

Men will observe such rules of conduct here as are expected in all churches in the Land.

No. 3. Dining Room

After being seated at tables in the Dining Room conversation will be allowed, under same conditions as provided for elsewhere, until such time as the signal is sounded, when all conversation will immediately cease.

No. 4 Recreation

During the summer months, on Saturday afternoons and on Sundays after service, men will be taken to the athletic ground, where they will be free to enjoy themselves as they may elect and under their own direction.

Line will be formed at call of bugle, and march be made directly to the ground.

Bugle will sound five minutes before close of recreation period, when men will suspend their sports and fall in line as soon as may be.

They must all be in line and ready to march at second bugle call.

They shall have such additional recreation hours on working days as may be found feasible.

Recreation means something more than pleasure; it means, also, health. Every man, therefore, unless specially excused or otherwise ordered, must go to, and remain on, the Athletic ground, during the recreation periods. They will not be allowed to stroll or to segregate.

If at anytime the weather forbids out-side recreation, and on every Saturday and Sunday afternoon during the cold season, the officers will endeavor to present some sort of in-door entertainment.

Recreation on the athletic grounds will be permitted on all holidays, as on Saturdays.

Profane or obscene language here and everywhere within the Prison is absolutely prohibited.

No. 5 Singing

We have full faith in the uplifting influence of music; it is therefore provided that one evening in the week the men shall be assembled in the Chapel for mass singing.

We hope to make this a real feature of institutional life.

No. 6 Compensation

And now, my friends, I am coming to perhaps the most important thing of all.

We are dealing with the question of manhood, and we believe that one of the essential things in the development of character and of self-respect is honest, manly toil.

And we believe, further, that toil should bring its compensation: that *if* compensated, to some degree, you will learn to appreciate the value of labor and so be lifted to a higher plane of spirit and of efficiency,—the spirit and the efficiency which you must have when you again stand upon your own feet, and are compelled to bear a man's part, in the work of the World.

And so believing, with the warm approval of Governor Baxter and his wise Council, we are to try the experiment of putting you on a wage-earning basis, pending action by the incoming legislature, and we shall go before the legislative body with the result of this experiment as a basis for our recommendation.

As soon as we can get our books and account sheets prepared,—which will probably be within 10 days after, and if, these rules are adopted,—we propose to pay every man,—for every day that he works, and regardless of what his duties may be,—a wage of 30 cents per day, advancing him to 40 cents and to a maximum of 50 cents, as he may prove himself efficient enough to warrant it. He will thus, by his own skill and his own fidelity, be graduated from the third into the second and up to the first class.

Out of every man's earnings one-half shall be sent to his family, if he has one, or having none, to such

beneficiary as he may elect, payable on the 15th day of every month, in such sums as may be due on the first day of current month; and

30 cents per week while in third class,
40 cents per week while in second class,
50 cents per week while in first class,

shall be credited to the man, himself, and may be expended by him at the Prison store for such articles as the rules permit. Or he may, in his discretion, send it to his family, or beneficiary.

The *balance* of his earnings shall be held by the Commissioners in a fund, and be paid to him on his release, as hereinafter provided.

In case of parole one-half the fund accumulated for him shall be paid, through the Probation Agent, at the time of his parole, and the balance at completion of his sentence, or earlier in the discretion of the Commissioners.

In case of death a man's entire accumulated fund shall be paid to such beneficiaries as he may have directed.

In case the release fund at expiration of sentence in any case shall equal or exceed \$300.00 it may, in the discretion of the Commissioners, be paid 1-3 at release, 1-3 in two months and 1-3 in four months.

For disobedience to any rule or regulation, or failure to observe any requirement made by any proper authority, the Warden, as a fine therefor, may withhold from wages such amount, and make such assessment, and order such demotion, as he thinks the offense may warrant: provided that no fine shall lie against the

release fund, nor be assessed against future earnings for a period longer than one month beyond current month,—except for gross breach of discipline,—in which case the time may be indefinite, and the release fund may be reduced, but in no case to less than twenty-five dollars, and open to rebuilding as the authorities may direct.

Full report thereof shall be made to the Commissioners at next regular meeting, for final adjudication, and they may approve, suspend or remit such fine, or assessment, or both, wholly or in part, as they may deem best.

Let us see how this will work out:

At 30c per day a man would earn \$1.80 per week

Of this, 90c will go to his family, or \$46.80 per year
 30c will go to his credit, or 15.60 “ “
 60c will go to his release,
 fund, or 31.20 “ “

At 40c per day he would earn \$ 2.40 “ week

\$1.20 would go to family, or 62.40 “ year
 .40 to his credit, or 20.80 “ “
 .80 to his release fund, or 41.60 “ “

At 50c per day he would earn \$ 3.00 “ week

\$1.50 would go to family, or 78.00 “ year
 .50 to his credit, or 26.00 “ “
 1.00 to his release fund, or 52.00 “ “

Suppose a man serves in first class for five years, without deduction, (and we hope every man will strive for that class, and try hard to have no deduction)

he will have sent to family \$390,
 he will have had for his own use 130,
 he will have in his release fund 260.

Of course these figures are based on your being well and able to work every day; and for his own benefit, every man *must* work every day unless excused by the Warden, for sufficient reason.

In case of death, pardon, commutation, parole or expiration of sentence at any time, within twelve months after the adoption of this Rule, term of service, in such case, shall be deemed to have been not less than one year, and benefit of a year's release fund, as of the class in which the man has, in the opinion of the Warden, faithfully served the major part of his time, shall accrue and be paid as hereinbefore provided.

This will provide at least a full year's release fund for every faithful man now in the Prison, and any other such man who may hereafter actually serve less than one year.

Here is a proposal of real merit: it represents real value; it belongs to the living present and the promising future; it sounds the knell of the hopeless past; it is justice dethroning injustice; it is life supplanting death!

Be it said, this will cost a good deal of money?

Possibly. But if so, thank God the men and women of this State think more of the strength of the heart-beat than they do of the size of the bank account.

Our *chief* concern is the making of men, and *not* the making of money.

But, strange as it may seem at first glance, we do not *expect* it to cost *anybody* a penny.

Frankly, we expect you to earn it, by high-grade work and by increased production.

We say, if we pay you, you will take more interest in your work; if you take more interest you will work harder; if you work harder you will *produce* more; if you *produce* more we can get more for your products; and out of that increased income we can pay your wage.

A simple business proposition; and as business men we believe you will make it a success.

As humanitarians, and as loyal citizens of this State, we believe that the benefit which must come to you, and must come to Society *through* you, and through the aid that will thus be given to your families, will compensate the *State* and will reward *you*, an hundred fold.

Make this a *success*, you men of brain and brawn,—demonstrate its wisdom,—that the legislature may give it the great seal of its approval and make it the permanent policy of this State.

No. 7 Punishment

No fine, penalty, punishment, or restraint, of any kind, shall be adjudged or ordered by any person other than the Warden, or, in his absence, the Deputy Warden, nor without hearing.

Provided that the Warden, Deputy Warden, or, in his absence the Acting Deputy, may, in his discretion, order the party against whom complaint is made, restrained in his cell until the Warden, or in his absence, the Deputy Warden, can give the hearing.

Hearing shall be given within twenty-four hours and party complained against shall be given full opportunity to present defense.

The Representative herein-after named shall attend, and may participate in, such hearings.

There will be no partiality, and no vindictiveness; there will be no other purpose than the teaching of that obedience to law and that respect for authority and for the rights of others, which are world-wide requisites of good citizenship.

We propose to give every man a "Square deal", and we have a right to expect, and we *do* expect, a "Square deal" in return.

No. 8 Welfare and Honor League

To aid in making these and all other Rules a working success, and to further develop the interest of this Institution, it is proposed to form a League for mutual helpfulness.

It will have to be limited, in the beginning, of course, because we are treading upon new ground.

If you are willing to pledge yourselves, as we shall hereafter indicate, we shall not only adopt the rules already mentioned, but we shall permit you to elect five of your men,—at least one of whom shall be a "life-man",—to act as Governors, to serve for the period of one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

They shall be eligible to re-election.

These Governors shall be privileged to meet for conference one hour every week.

They shall choose a Chairman and a Secretary.

Their doings shall be recorded and their Record Book shall be kept in the vault, with the other prison books.

The Governors shall supervise the conduct of the men on the Athletic grounds, shall have power, thereon, to enforce the rules and regulations, and shall have

entire charge of recreational activities,—subject to the approval of the Warden, who will be authorized to grant such appropriation of funds at his disposal as he may deem wise and just.

Representative

The Governors shall elect one of their number as Representative, to serve for the period of six months. His election shall be certified to the Warden and Commissioners and he shall not be elected to two consecutive terms.

The Representative shall meet the Commissioners at such hour as the Board may designate, at the regular monthly meetings, for conference, and for such reports as he may desire to make.

He may confer with the Warden at any time between 9 and 3 o'clock, upon request made through the Deputy Warden.

He shall attend hearings as hereinbefore indicated, and without loss of time.

The Governors shall appoint five men as Monitors, subject to the approval of the Warden, whose duties it shall be to assist in keeping order everywhere, and to impress upon their fellows the importance of obedience to rules and fidelity to duty.

The Governors shall appoint one of the Monitors as Chief Monitor.

He shall supervise the activities of the other Monitors under the direction of the Board of Governors.

In the Dining Room there will be ten tables with a Governor or a Monitor at the head of each, and each such Governor or Monitor will be expected to see that the men at his table observe the rules of decorous and orderly conduct.

All Rules inconsistent herewith will be repealed by the adoption hereof.

This, my friends, is the beginning.

It is subject to change or revocation and there is, of course, a possibility of improvement.

For instance, we hope the time may come when the matter of discipline may be safely intrusted to your hands: not as a substitute for the Warden, but as an assistance to him.

The essential thing is that it is a *human* proposition, in that it recognizes human longings, and undertakes to respond to human needs; it is an *uplift* proposition, because it deals with the betterment of human-kind.

You see, therefore, why we call it an Honor and Welfare League,—because every man will be on his honor, and every man will be interested that not only his own conduct, but the conduct of every other man, be such as will promote the welfare of all,—even as *misconduct* will discredit all.

It is organized not for our benefit but for *your* benefit,—for the benefit of your families, and for the benefit of Organized Society, of which you will yet come, we trust, to be an honorable part.

It is a measure of self-government, and that means self-control.

Therein lies the essential of free manhood.

“He that is slow to anger is
better than the mighty; and
he that ruleth his own spirit
than he that taketh a City”.

Pledge

As a part of this programme we shall ask you to take the following

Pledge

I solemnly promise to do all in my power to promote the interests of this Institution and the welfare of the men committed to its charge; that I will cheerfully obey, and faithfully endeavor to have others obey, the Rules and Regulations of the Constituted Authorities; that I will endeavor to promote among the men, a spirit of good will and fair dealing; and that to the limit of my ability I will try to so strengthen my character that when my term is finished, I may go back into the World better fitted to bear the responsibilities of life and to be a law-abiding faithful citizen.

To all which I pledge my honor as a man.

This, my friends, is *your* part.

This is co-operation,—this is team-work; and you know it's team-work that wins the game.

The proposition is in your hands; the responsibility is upon you.

I fancy, now, that I can read your answer in your upturned faces!

But we want you to deliberate calmly and conscientiously,—because to pledge one's honor is a serious thing; and when you come to us next week we hope to hear such shout of approval as will echo through all prisondom,—as will cheer all fellow-sufferers,—as will touch all hearts and awake all souls,—as will move us one step nearer to the Kingdom of Him who recognized all men as His Brothers,—Yea! as will open all ears to the Voice that has rung down the Centuries,—

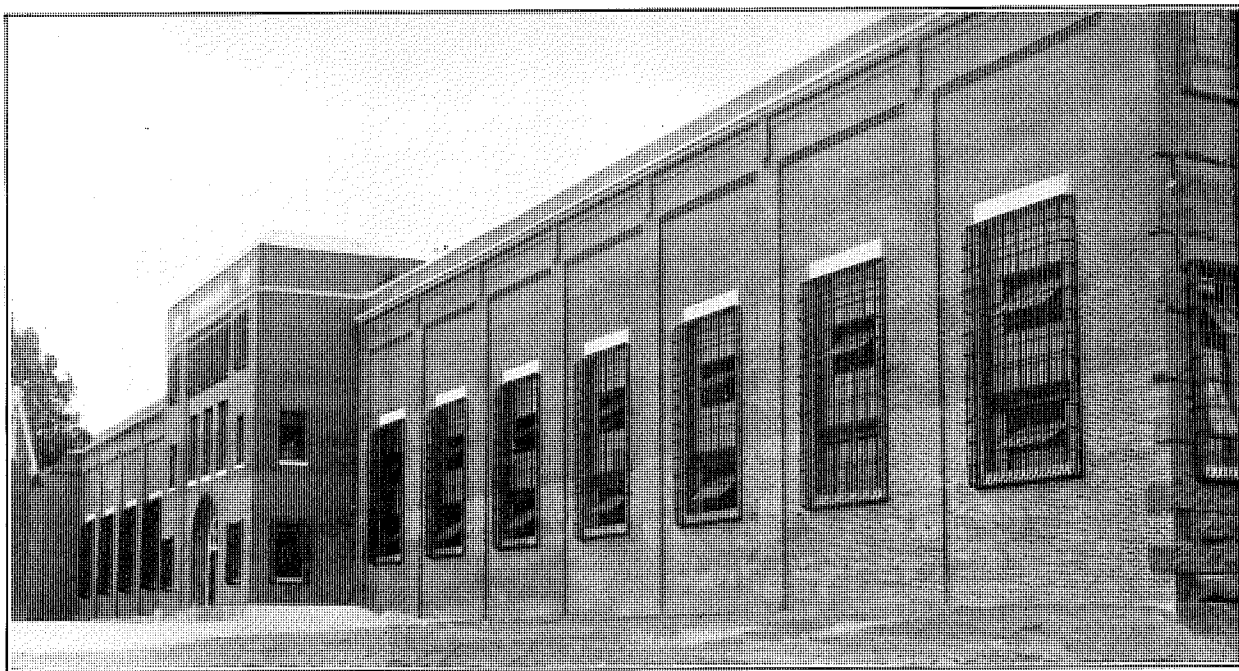
“Inasmuch as ye have done it
unto the least of one of these,—
My brethren,—ye have also done
it unto Me”.

For your courteous attention and evident sympathy,
I thank you most sincerely.

NOTE.—Referring to the word “Family”, in Proposal No. 6 the Commissioners will interpret it as meaning only

1. Wife, if not divorced
2. Children
3. Mother
4. Father

giving precedence in the order here given.



Front of New Prison showing Administration Building in the Center

Presenting Governor Baxter, Mr. Hastings said,

An administration of conspicuous endeavor, honorable and remarkable achievement, in four years of good deeds can have no more comforting accomplishment on which to look back, in the years to come, than this lasting monument, sufficient for the needs of the state till the coming of the millennium when men no longer shall transgress. Concerned with large and exacting duties, its chief executive has had time to inspect thoroughly the institutions of the state, and extend his interest and unfailing sympathy to the most humble ward.

I have the pleasure and the honor of presenting Governor Baxter.

Address of
PERCIVAL P. BAXTER, *Governor of Maine*
at the Dedication of the New Maine State
Prison, Thomaston, September 11, 1924

*Chairman Hastings, Commissioners, Guests, Officials and
Fellow-men:*

When the news came over the telephone that the old State Prison was on fire, and later that it had been completely destroyed I thought that the State of Maine had been visited by a dire calamity. For a moment I could not see that the disaster was a blessing in disguise. When however I came here the next day and saw the smoking ruins I realized that Providence had taken matters into Its own hand and had decreed that the old buildings were unfit for human habitation. An emergency confronted us, and without waiting for legislative sanction I determined upon a definite course of action. Immediately the Prison Commissioners and myself set to work to build a prison that would be both a credit to the State, and a decent place in which human beings could live and work.

We are here to dedicate these buildings to the cause of the brotherhood of man. So long as men err, so long will it be necessary for the Sovereign State to maintain an institution such as this. Its purpose however is not to revenge or to punish, it is to help; not to break, but to make men. The old Mosaic law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth long since has been discarded by right thinking persons. Today the State says to you men, you have been convicted

of wrong doing but if hereafter you will do your part, the State will do its part and will help you out of the evil times in which you have fallen.

It is strange that in all the centuries of what we call the Christian Era our eyes and our understanding have been opened so slowly and unwillingly! The prisons of the past, and Maine's was no exception, were shocking places. No greater blot can be found in the record of man's relation to man, than in the histories of the grim fortresses in which both innocent and guilty men have been confined. If the walls of the old institution that once stood upon this spot could speak, they would tell a tale that the people of Maine would be loath to believe.

Gradually prison conditions in this country are changing for the better, and certainly a new day has dawned for the prisoners of the State of Maine; a day of promise and of hope. The people of Maine, acting and speaking through their Executive officers, have determined that the mistakes and indifferences of the past shall be no more.

The Commissioners of this Prison are men of ideals, yet at the same time they are eminently practical. They appreciate that this institution presents many troublesome problems, but they propose to meet and overcome them. The service these men render to the State is entirely unselfish and their motives are lofty. To them every man here is a study of absorbing interest. They seek to help each one of you, and the State of Maine is fortunate to have three men so well qualified for this great work.

The plans outlined to you here today by Commissioner Charles S. Hichborn, on behalf of himself, his associates and myself, prove to you men that we are

here to help you, and that it now, to a very considerable extent, rests with you to shape your own future. These plans have been worked out after careful study and thought. They are based on the principle that the uplifting hand should be extended to every man, and that every one of you is a man, notwithstanding the fact you are confined within prison walls.

When I look into your faces I say to myself, and I have told this to audiences all over this State, that you are more to be pitied than condemned, and that the State owes you a duty that cannot honestly be avoided. If it were given to us to look into men's hearts, to analyse their motives, and to understand the handicaps of their early environment we then could judge more wisely and act more fairly. All of us however are hampered by limited vision, and so can but do the best with such vision as is given us.

You men know, as I do, that outside of prison walls many men go free though their offences may have been quite as serious as were your own. I say this not in mitigation of what you may have done, but that you may know that we, as well as yourselves, understand the realities and injustices of life. You are paying the price, and for this I respect you, while many others often escape their just dues. No doubt you are embittered when you think of these things and you have reason to be, but human society is not, and cannot be founded on absolute justice.

I have said a new day is dawning here at Thomaston and I want you men to feel this in your hearts. I also want the wardens, the guards and all those connected with this prison to feel it. The Governor and Prison Commissioners may make new rules and in doing so

may have the best of intentions, but without the genuine cooperation of all the groups here, wardens, guards and prisoners, our plans may be of no avail.

As much depends upon the attitude of the officers of this institution as upon the prisoners themselves. There is one test that prison officials should apply to their conduct toward prisoners, and that is "To do unto others as one would wish to be done by". Let officials adopt the point of view of the prisoners and then govern their actions accordingly. I can think of no place where the Golden Rule should be more scrupulously applied than here. Let officials never forget that the prisoner is a man like themselves, perhaps with a wife and children, relatives and friends, who believe in him and who somewhere are waiting for, and would forgive and comfort him. There will be a different atmosphere within these walls once this feeling is instilled into the hearts of those who manage and guard this place.

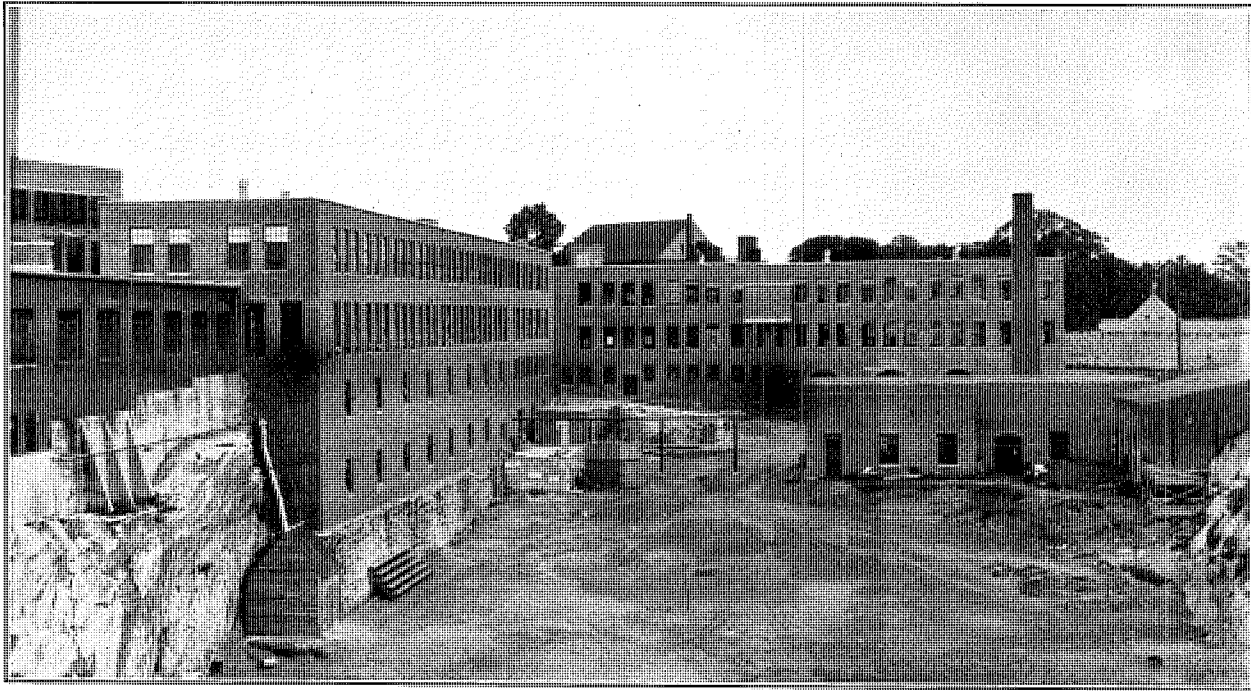
A warden or guard who uses profanity, or who strikes a prisoner, except in self defense, is an unfit man to have dominion over other men. There is no place for him here at Thomaston. Discipline is absolutely necessary but discipline must be founded on respect for authority and not upon fear of punishment. Those who exercise authority must themselves be above reproach.

Men who have charge of a prison are given almost absolute power, but such power if entrusted to unfit men, is easily abused and at all times must be held in check. A man cruel and abusive to a horse or dog is cowardly and beneath contempt, just as is the man who takes undue advantage over one of his fellows

who is so placed that he has no redress and cannot defend himself. Reform must be upon the outside and among the administrative offices of an institution like this, as well as within its walls. Paper reform is valueless, whereas real co-operation from the Warden to the humblest prisoner, and a genuine interest on the part of all to improve conditions is what is needed here.

There are some of you who are here under life sentences; again we must face realities. Others are here for long or short terms. Some may be innocent of the charges against them; may be paying the price for others. It also may be, and I believe it is so, that there are men here today who have paid in full for whatever they did and should be set at liberty. I wish that it was within my power to find out just who those men are, and upon my own initiative to give them their freedom. On the other hand there are those who do not yet understand their obligations to society and who do not yet admit that the laws of God and of man must be respected and obeyed. Be that as it may this prison for the time being is your home, and those of us in charge earnestly desire to make it in every way a decent place for you to live in.

The test of the value of this institution is not in the number of broken-spirited, broken-bodied men who remain here, or who go out from here into the world, hopeless, degraded, hard-hearted, perhaps again to fall into disgrace. It is in the number of clean-minded, clean-bodied men who live here or who go out to mingle with their fellow humans as equals, as good citizens, ready and eager to prove their manhood and take their normal places in our every day life.



Looking East across the Athletic field, showing, at left a portion of Blacksmith Shop, Wood and Paint Shop and Broom Shop and at East end the Harness Shop and Warehouse and Engine room.

This prison must inspire hope, not despair, in men's hearts; it should build up, not sap manhood, just at the time manhood is most needed. It is a place where men are to be given a chance to make good citizens of themselves; a place that, if it has done its work well, will leave no mark of Cain upon the men who have sojourned here.

It has been told me that there are only fifteen or twenty prisoners who can be trusted outside the prison walls, but I will not believe it. If that statement be true it is a serious reflection not only upon you men but equally upon the entire prison administration. I want you yourselves to prove its falsity. I believe there are many men here who can be trusted and who should be allowed to work outside these walls. Some of you could even serve as guards and I am confident that you would not fail those who trust you. Once you have organized the principle of local self-government that Mr. Hichborn has outlined, I have no doubt but that marked changes for the better will take place. Self-government, or prison democracy in my opinion will do more toward making you men self-reliant, and fitting you for citizenship, than all the punishments and penalties that can be inflicted upon you.

I have called upon the officers to apply the Golden Rule in their treatment of you and to think of themselves as in your position, and then act accordingly. It is equally necessary for you to mentally place yourselves in the position of the officers. If you do so you will understand that this place at all times must be orderly and under control. It must be clean and wholesome, and proper respect must be shown to

those in charge of you. You men, acting through your own committees must do your part toward bringing about the changes that are so much needed here, and you constantly must keep in mind that this is a social community, apart from the rest of the world it is true, but governed largely by the same standards that prevail beyond and outside these walls.

One of the crucial tests of a prison is found in the number of men confined in "Solitaries". Any man who conducts himself so as to deserve solitary confinement disgraces his fellow prisoners and thereby lowers the morale of this institution. He should be ostracized by those of you who are doing your best to raise prison standards. The first plans submitted to me called for eighteen solitaries, but the commissioners and myself felt this was a reflection both upon you and upon the prison management, from the Commissioners down. We have reduced the number to six and that ought to be six more than we need. There would be something radically wrong with prison morale and prison management if eighteen men, out of a total of two hundred, at one and the same time deserved, or were given solitary confinement.

You wardens and guards now have an unusual opportunity to do something for those less fortunate than yourselves. By broadening your sympathies and doing your utmost to intelligently carry out the spirit of the new regulations, you will render a service to humanity. The time has come for us to discard our old ideas and prejudices and work for the new order. I look to you to give genuine co-operation. If there is anyone here who either is unwilling or unable to do

this, he immediately should sever his connection with this institution. I hope that each and every one of you will do your utmost to make this prison the best, the most human and the most hopeful in the land. Let us all work together so that Maine will be known as the most just and most merciful State of all.

I am confident that the Wardens and the Guards intend to, and will do their part in establishing upon a firm foundation the new order of things. They are men of experience and bear heavy responsibilities, they too realize that a brighter day has dawned in Thomaston and they want to have their share in it. Their burdens will be lightened by the change in the moral atmosphere and the improvement in the material surroundings of this place. I expect much of them and they will not fail me.

Under the guidance of our Chaplain you will be given ample opportunity to study and to fit yourselves for a better position in the community than any that you previously have held. You will find Mr. Clifford eager to help, competent and friendly. He knows human nature even better than you do, and can understand your problems and your needs. Our Parole officer also is a man's man and is doing wonderful work for his brother men. You can trust Mr. Fish implicitly. When the time comes however and you want a friend who cannot speak, but who will understand, sympathize and comfort you, confide your thoughts to one who never yet betrayed his friends, the collie dog.

I want to see the agricultural work of this institution expanded. There should be many more men living and working on the farm and the farm itself should be

increased in area and productiveness. Work at the farm should be given as a reward for faithfulness. Reasonably good results are accomplished now but there is ample room for improvement. There has not been real co-operation between the officers at the prison and those at the farm. It now is time to have it. Through my efforts certain much needed improvements have been, and more are to be made in living conditions at the farm, which in the past has been badly neglected. I want to impress upon officials and prisoners alike that agriculture is one of the most vital and useful parts of our work.

The abolishment of silence at meals will mean much to you. Do not abuse your new privileges. Striped uniforms and the ball and chain have gone, never to return. I hope that silence has accompanied them. The system of paying you for your work is a wonderful step in advance; you no longer are bondmen of the State, you are wage earners. A man who is compelled to work without pay is little better than a slave. It largely depends upon you if the pay system is to be made permanent. Hereafter we do not propose to turn a man out into the world with a cheap suit of clothes and the paltry sum of five dollars in his pocket. We want to build up a fund for you to enable you to care for yourselves honestly and decently until proper employment can be found. Your dependents at home, as well as the Commissioners and myself, look to you "to make good". We have taken this matter into our own hands and are determined to give it an honest trial. If it succeeds we shall, if it is necessary to do so, ask Legislative authority for its continuance.

I would like to see a Band organized here, and a prison newspaper started. These would help pass the

dreary days and build up a wholesome community spirit. Moreover I believe that the restoration of full citizenship should be the reward given to every prisoner whose record entitles him to regain that great privilege, and also that a system of parole for life "termers" should be adopted.

One thing I would have you clearly understand, and that is that the management of this Prison is above and beyond all political or personal influences. This is unusual, for politics today hampers prison work in many states. Those of us at the head of this institution recognize no such thing as "political or personal pull", for we regard such methods as old fashioned and unworthy. As long as the present Governor and Commissioners have anything to say about it every issue that is raised here will be settled upon its merits.

I want you men to feel in your hearts that there is a place in the World for you, a good place, if you will but strive to attain it. This prison is not society's "scrap heap", it is its "repair shop". I want you to see a rainbow of promise hovering over these walls bringing hope into your hearts, and giving assurance to you of brighter days to come after the clouds have melted away.

If I have aided in bringing about a change in the physical, moral and spiritual atmosphere of this institution I shall consider it as one of the chief and most worthy accomplishments of my administration. I earnestly want to help each and every man in this place.

To the People of Maine, to the Wardens, Guards and all those who have in charge the lives and welfare of these two hundred human beings, I say "Let him who is without sin, cast the first stone".

Presenting Father Flynn, Mr. Hastings said,

It is most proper and appropriate that the next speaker should address you this afternoon. He has been doing kind deeds and bringing messages of hope and good cheer to the men of the institution now for many years—ministering to sick and weary hearts.

With great pleasure I present Father Flynn.

Address of
REV. JAMES A. FLYNN

*Your Excellency, Gentlemen of the Commission, Ladies
and Gentlemen:*

I suppose I may be considered, if not as the missing link, at least, as some kind of a link between the new Prison and the old. After eighteen years' connection with prison life in this locality, I am indeed glad to be here today to take part in this inspiring ceremony and to lend my voice to that swelling chorus of gratitude and praise that resounds through these halls. Well may we sing with the Psalmist: "This is the day which the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad therein".

To those of us who remember the old order of things, this new Prison and the changed conditions obtaining within its walls seem like a dream. It is hard to realize that such a transformation has taken place. When, eighteen years ago, I first caught sight of the old building, it reminded me of a whitened sepulchre. There was surely nothing alluring about it. As I approached the entrance, I could not help thinking of Dante, when, in his journey through the infernal regions, he stood before the gate of Hell and saw inscribed above it these dread words: "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here". Ushered into the guard room,—the best room in the institution,—I found it a cold, dreary place. Guards standing or sitting around wore vinegar aspects in order to be in harmony with the grim surroundings. Their chief duty seemed to be to impress on the mind of the incoming convict that he was nobody and would soon be nothing.

After a thorough overhauling in the guard room, the new prisoner was decked out in the prison uniform which had some stripes but no stars in it. His hair was closely cropped and he was introduced to his cell which was a sordid kennel not fit for human habitation. Food was served to him through an aperture at the lower extremity of his cell door. It was of a very indifferent quality with the exception of the bread which was said to be excellent. Few men, however, live by bread alone, and there was little danger of overeating. In due time, he was put to work in one of the departments. The overseers saw to it that he did a good day's work for the State. He could do nothing for himself or for the innocent members of his family who were more or less dependent on his earnings for a livelihood. The result was that he put no heart into his work and shirked when he could.

All conversation among the prisoners was prohibited. When necessary, he might speak to the officials but to nobody else. If he became seriously sick, he was conveyed to a dingy, ill-smelling room without ventilation that was misnamed the Prison Hospital. The Prison Physician made regular visits and gave orders that were rarely carried out. Sometimes, a brother convict was in attendance as a nurse; but usually the sick man was left to himself, to live or die—it made little difference which.

The atmosphere of the whole institution was depressing. No one felt safe. The men had a cowed, suspicious look about them. Even when speaking to one they trusted, they kept their eyes on the ground. One day, a young man came to see me in the dispensary. He was a nervous wreck. I asked him what I could do for him and he told me there was an impor-

tant matter he wished to consult me about but that he was afraid to mention it in that room on account of the dictographs that were hidden between the walls. I knew it was useless to argue with him on that point; so I had to get around the difficulty another way. I remembered that the young man could speak French, and I said to him: "If you are afraid of the dictographs around here, let us talk French. Dictographs understand only English". He told me his story in French, and went back to his work satisfied.

It would be unbecoming, I think, to mar the dignity of these exercises by recalling the severe punishments that were wont to be inflicted for infraction of rules. It is wiser to pass them over in silence. They are gone; and the sooner they are forgotten, the better.

Now, it may be thought by some that what I have said about Prison conditions as they existed when I first arrived on the scene and for some years thereafter, is intended to reflect on the character of the men who in those days were in charge of Prison affairs. Nothing is farther from the truth. The different wardens as well as the members of the Prison Commissions were honest, honorable men. They did their duty as it was mapped out for them. To me, personally, they were always courteous and kind. I would be the veriest ingrate, did I attribute to them any but upright motives. The trouble was, they served under a crude system of prison administration, and the system was crude simply because the science of Penology, if it existed at all, was in its infancy or just beginning to walk. Since then, it has made rapid strides as is evidenced by the new regulations just promulgated.

The first beneficial change in the old prison discipline had to do with the Chapel. It was customary up to that time, for outsiders to attend Sunday services.

They occupied seats on either side of the altar whence a good view of the prisoners might be had. They did not come to pray; they came out of morbid curiosity. It never occurred to them that prisoners have feelings like the rest of us, and that, like most men, they do not want to be on exhibition when saying their prayers. Besides, the minister or priest who happened to be officiating usually had something particular to say to the men that did not properly concern the outside world. Therefore, he had to leave somethings unsaid. Mr. Ham obviated this difficulty by making a rule that Sunday services were to be attended by prisoners only.

The decision to do away with the striped uniform was also a move in the right direction. It eliminated from the prisoners' lives an unnecessary stigma. Dressed like ordinary laborers, they began to look up; they took on a more cheerful air; they felt that after all, they were somebody. Once this rule was put into effect, it was not easy for a visitor to distinguish a convict from an overseer. I remember one day of conducting a priest friend of mine through the different shops so that he might get an idea of what was being done there. On entering the paint shop, he spied a young man who was formerly a member of his flock. Naturally, he wanted to speak to him. As I had to go to the other end of the shop, I told the visiting priest to ask permission of an overseer who stood near a group of convicts a short distance away. When I returned I found him in earnest conversation with his former parishoner. He must have thought that the latter was not getting enough to eat, for he asked him if there would be any objection on the part of the Prison officials if he should send him a box of food. The young man replied that it would be necessary to

get permission from the overseer. Forthwith my friend accosted the same overseer who had given him permission to converse with the prisoner and, after explaining what he would like to do, was courteously informed that there was no objection to his sending the box. On our way home, the reverend gentlemen persisted in singing the praises of the gentlemanly overseer whose urbanity so captivated him. It was amusing to see the look of surprise on his face when I made known to him the fact that the man he had taken for a courteous overseer was in reality a life prisoner.

The yard leave on Saturday afternoons in the Summer was another innovation that effected much real good. Not only it benefitted the prisoners physically but it was also a wise disciplinary measure. Few men in prison cared to be deprived of spending an afternoon in the open once a week. Hence the rules were better kept and the number of infractions reduced to nearly nothing. Great interest developed in athletic sports, and the atmosphere grew lighter and all hearts beat faster. Soon, the yard leave was extended so as to include Sunday afternoons. As was to be expected, some sanctimonious people pretended to be horrified at the idea of allowing prisoners to play ball on the Sabbath. But it is hard to see what harm there was in allowing the convicts to play ball in their own backyard even on Sunday. They in no way disturbed the peace; nor did they give any scandal except, perhaps, to a few pharisees who went about looking for scandal.

The parole system came along in its turn. Despite dire forebodings on the part of some whose vision was necessarily narrow, it worked out surprisingly well. It was the most beneficent and far-reaching attempt

at prison reform that Maine had thus far known. And today, in view of its eminent success, I make bold to ask His Excellency, the Governor, and the members of the Prison Commission to strive manfully for the enactment of a law extending its privileges to some life prisoners under certain conditions.

I have already told you what my impressions were the first time I approached the entrance to the old prison. Today, when I set foot in the lobby of this stately edifice, I was so bewildered that I made a grave mistake. I looked around for a bellboy to take my bag.

You remember reading in English history that Admiral Nelson, just before engaging in a famous naval battle, ran up this signal to his fleet: "England expects every man to do his duty". And we all know how well Englishmen acquitted themselves that day. Today, the Governor of the State comes to this prison and gives utterance to a like message: "The State of Maine expects every man to do his duty". And I take the liberty, your Excellency, in the name of these men here present, to assure you that every one of them will do his duty.