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EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

New Jersey Reformatory

FOR THE

Year Ending October 31st, 1908

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## COMMISSIONERS.

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THE GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY, *ex-Officio*.

RICHARD H. WILSON, *President*,

GEORGE W. FORTMEYER,

DECATUR M. SAWYER, *Secretary*,

FREEMAN WOODBRIDGE,

FOSTER M. VOORHEES,

HENRY SCHMIDT,

EDWARD D. DUFFIELD,

JOHN HANDLEY.

COMMISSIONERS

- THE GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY  
RICHARD H. WILSON  
GEORGE W. FORTMYER  
DECATUR M. SAWYER  
FREDERICK WOODBRIDGE  
FOSTER M. GOORIE  
HENRY SCHMIDT  
EDWARD D. HARRIS  
KIRK HANDELY

## OFFICERS.

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*Superintendent,*  
JOSEPH WILLIAM MARTIN.

*Assistant Superintendents,*  
CHARLES FREDERICK ABBOTT, JOHN BANKER, RICHARD FRANCIS CROSS.

*Chief Clerk,*  
MANTON DRAKE MARTIN.

*Clerk,*  
LEWIS ELLIS PRICE.

*Chief Engineer,*  
DAVID AVERY CARLEY.

*Assistant Engineers,*  
THOMAS JEFFERSON BIRD, LARS LARSON.

*Military Instructor,*  
RICHARD FRANCIS CROSS.

*Moral Instructors,*  
REV. CHARLES LOWELL COODER, D.D.; RT. REV. MGR. B. T. O'CONNELL.

*Physician,*  
HARLAN PAGE HOUGH, M.D.

*Principal of School,*  
ROBERT JOSEPH SHEARER.

*Storekeeper,*  
ALEXANDER HAMPTON SUTTON.

*Center Keepers,*  
WALTER CHARLES BANKS, *Day*; THOMAS FRANKLYN CONNOLLY, *Night*.

## EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT.

*Chief Parole Officer,*  
CHARLES SANFORD MOORE.

*Assistant Parole Officer,*  
HORACE ANDREW BELL.

*Assistant Bertillon Operator,*  
TIMOTHY FRANCIS McCARTY.

*Instructors,*

ROBERT FISHER ALDEN,  
ADOLPH HENRY BAUER,  
WEBSTER BROOK,  
EDWARD BRITTON CASTOR,  
JOHN EDWARD CONNOLLY,  
CHARLES HENRY HANKINS,  
NELLS HANSON,  
ELIAS SMITH HOOVER,  
JAMES TRUSTUM JAQUES,  
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS JEFFRIES,

FRITZ ADOLPH JOHNSON,  
JAMES DAVID McCALLUM,  
WILLIAM LAWRENCE McCORMACK,  
CHARLES JESSUP MORTON,  
JOHN COYLE O'BRIEN,  
GEORGE ROWLEY,  
JOEL CLARKSON SHARP,  
MORRIS HENRY STORY,  
CHARLES HOFF TICE.

*Guards,*

HARRY OFFERMAN ANDREWS,  
WILLIAM LINCOLN AYRES,  
EDWARD BAKER,  
WILLIAM BAKER,  
PATRICK CAIN,  
JOHN CONRAD CHRIST,  
ROBERT MEAD DRENNON,  
BRUCE LINWOOD DRUMMOND,  
JOHN THOMAS FERRIS,  
JOHN JESSE FOX,  
CHARLES STEWART GANT,  
ELIAS WILSON HARRIS,  
THOMAS HUGHES,  
AUGUSTUS GILBERT HUGHSON,

CHARLES JOHNSON,  
GEORGE McCORMACK MASON,  
MICHAEL JOSEPH McCUE,  
JOSEPH HALSEY MORSE,  
SAMUEL BENJAMIN PARKER,  
WILLIAM HARRISON PARSONS,  
JOHN CLEMENT PLATT,  
THOMAS HARTLEY POOLEY,  
GILBERT ROSTAING,  
JOSEPH FRANCIS RUPPRECHT,  
WILLIAM HENRY SEIP,  
EDWARD SUTTON,  
OLIVER JUSTICE WEST.

# REPORT.

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RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY, November 15th, 1908.

*To the Governor of the State of New Jersey:*

In compliance with the statute creating the New Jersey Reformatory Commission, we herewith present to you our report for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1908. Mindful of the warning of the Superintendent of Reports, we have condensed it as much as possible. Owing to the recent death of the Superintendent, Captain Joseph W. Martin, which occurred on the thirteenth instant, no Superintendent's report is submitted, and so far as possible this report is intended to cover the ground formerly covered by both.

All the details of the receipts and expenditures, population and other statistics which should be given for your information are included in the report of the Chief Clerk appended hereto.

The year has been a busy and eventful one. In January there was an outbreak of diphtheria lasting for more than three months. There were over three hundred cases of the disease, and more than one thousand doses of antitoxine administered by the physicians in charge. Fortunately the disease was of a mild type, and no deaths resulted therefrom. The routine of the Institution was, however, seriously disarranged owing to the necessary measures taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The work in the schools, in the shops, and the military drill were interfered with, which in an Institution of this character is most unfortunate. Aside from the diphtheria the health of the inmates has been uniformly good.

During the year 285 inmates have been released on parole. Of this number only 15 have been brought back to the Institution by reason of failure to keep their parole agreement. These figures tell their own story, and the fact that with the exception

of about five per cent. our parole inmates are keeping their agreements and endeavoring to live upright lives, bears convincing testimony of the usefulness of the work done.

We are still handicapped by the crowded condition of the Institution. It is absolutely essential to proper reformatory work that each inmate shall have a separate room or cell. At the present time over 300 inmates, more than one-half of the present population, sleep and spend their leisure waking hours upon cots located in the corridor, depriving them entirely of privacy or of any of the comforts and conveniences which those having cells enjoy. The hardship inflicted upon these men is difficult to overestimate. The completion of the new wing has been delayed by the contractor beyond endurance, but is now practically completed. If our normal increase continues, within three months from the day we begin to use it every cell in it will be occupied, and the intolerable conditions which we have been subjected to in the past will again be experienced. If work on a new wing were started at once, by the time it was completed it would be largely occupied, and in a short time completely filled. The courts year by year send an increasing number of young men to the Reformatory, evidencing their belief in the good results obtained thereby. New Jersey is growing in population faster than any other State east of the Mississippi river, and with more population an increased number of criminals is inevitable. We cannot impress too strongly the necessity of commencing at once a new wing for the Institution.

The Legislature of this year appropriated the sum of \$15,000 to be used by us "for the erection of a Hospital Building." We at once consulted with the State Architect in regard to the erection of such building. He prepared a very satisfactory plan for the erection of an Administration Building to be placed, as provided in the original plans, in front of and connecting with the present main building, the first floor to be used for administration purposes and the second floor for hospital purposes.

The Commission, if they had felt free to utilize these funds for any other purpose than that strictly provided for by the Legislature, would have accepted the plans prepared and proceeded with the erection of the building, but felt that the money

having been appropriated for the "Hospital Building" they ought not to devote it for the erection of a building partly used for other purposes. We now urge upon the Legislature that it reappropriate the \$15,000 surrendered by us last year, and permit us to carry out the very satisfactory plans prepared by the State Architect for the completion of the front of the main building by the erection of a building for administration purposes, in which the Executive Departments of the Institution may be grouped, proper provision made for the Physician, the Bertillon Department, and the various departments now scattered over the Institution, which should be brought into one harmonious whole. We further urge that provision be made for the hospital by placing a second floor in the dome over the so-called mezzanine floor. This, we believe, can be done at small expense, and would furnish us with adequate hospital room where the patients will be entirely isolated, will have the requisite amount of light and sun and ample space in case of an epidemic. If \$5,000 be appropriated for this purpose, we can arrange for the erection here of one or possibly two floors, one to be devoted to hospital purposes and the other will give us floor room which we can utilize in a variety of ways. We believe that in no way could we obtain greater benefits for the expenditure of so small a sum.

In the report made last year attention was called to the fact that the capacity of the Inmates' Dining Room must be increased, but that this could not be accomplished except by occupying the adjoining room, which is now used for religious services on Sunday and for inmates' entertainments on holidays. We have no available space in any of the Reformatory buildings which we could devote to these purposes, and it is, therefore, imperative that some appropriation should be made to enable us to erect a building for assembly and church purposes.

We also again call your Excellency's attention to the question of the supply of water, which is a growing need. Last year we paid the City of Rahway for water furnished to the Institution the sum of \$3,733.06. Next year with the new wing in use it is certain that we will pay not less than \$4,000 to \$5,000. This supply is dependent entirely upon a single main running from the city to the Institution, and a break would leave a population

of about seven hundred entirely without water. We are advised that we can obtain a supply of water from driven wells in an amount far in excess of our present requirement by the expenditure of from \$15,000 to \$18,000. In other words, we will pay the City of Rahway in the next three or four years for inadequate service an amount sufficient to supply us for all times with adequate service. The financial benefit to the State is so obvious as to require no comment, were it not for the fact that this situation is not new, but has been referred to in many prior reports. We earnestly hope that proper provision will be made to permit us to make this much needed change. The duty of the Commission, as set forth in the statute creating it, is "to use any method of education and employment which in their judgment will best promote the interest of the prisoners and secure their reformation."

We are unanimous in the belief that this can best be done by the erection of a number of trade schools, where the inmates can be educated in some useful occupation which will enable them upon leaving the Institution to earn an honest living. We need some simple buildings for this purpose. If the Legislature will provide an appropriation sufficient for the materials to erect them, our men can build them, so that the labor will cost the State nothing. Our Institution makes a poor showing in comparison with like institutions of other States in the manual training it gives its inmates. Up to the present time we have been able to do only in a very limited way what we believe to be the main object of the Institution. More land adjacent to the Institution should be purchased for farming use. We have less than 100 acres under cultivation, and should have at least five times that amount. The State of New York in preparing for their new prison at Sing Sing purchased 1,800 acres of land; the Massachusetts Reformatory has 600 acres of land; Ohio, 700 acres; and other States equal amounts. We know of no better means of employing a large number of inmates than farm work, which is not only beneficial to the inmates but is profitable to the State. We earnestly urge that proper provision be made for this branch of the work.

In our efforts to procure a Superintendent we have been hampered by the limitation of the law restricting the salary to be paid to the Superintendent, which is \$3,000 a year, and to any subordinate officer \$1,500 a year. It must be remembered that the Institution has now grown until we have nearly six hundred inmates, and with the natural increase will shortly have one thousand. The State has invested over \$1,000,000 in money in the plant, and it now requires a man of the highest type to successfully discharge the duties of Superintendent and to procure the results which the State has a right to expect. We have found that in no instance were we able to secure consideration by superintendents of similar institutions in other states of a proposition to assume charge at Rahway, owing to the fact that the salary paid them in the states in which they now are exceeds the amount which we were able to offer. We believe that it is absolutely essential to the proper management of the Institution that the Superintendent should reside at the Reformatory: This will necessitate the erection of a house to be occupied by the Superintendent and his family, and we are of the opinion that the restriction of the statute as to salary should be removed, so that in addition to the sum paid he can be given proper allowance for the maintenance of himself and family, as well as the furnishing him of a residence as above indicated.

Furthermore, we believe that a Deputy Superintendent should be appointed, who should have all the powers of the Superintendent during such time as he may necessarily be absent from the Institution. It is, of course, impossible for us to procure a man competent to discharge the duties while we limit his compensation to the amount which we are now paying to a large number of subordinate officers. The Legislature has seen fit to confide to many managers, in charge of the management of such institutions, the power to fix the salary to be paid to the Superintendent and subordinate officers without any limitation. This privilege we urge be given to us, with the suggestion that the approval of the Governor be required in fixing any salary in excess of \$1,500 a year. This will secure the object sought for, and at the same time make the provision more flexible.

We desire to briefly record in this public way our appreciation of the faithful and devoted service to the State of our late Superintendent, Captain Martin. In charge of the Institution practically from its opening, he has labored unceasingly for its welfare. Early and late, in spite of all protestation and warning, he literally wore himself out doing his duty as he saw it. He was here through the hard years which are almost inevitable in the starting of a new enterprise like this one, and the evidence of his care and judgment will long survive him.

We wish to thank your Excellency for your unfailing interest and assistance in the conduct of this Institution.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. WILSON,  
GEO. W. FORTMEYER,  
DECATUR M. SAWYER,  
FREEMAN WOODBRIDGE,  
FOSTER M. VOORHEES,  
HENRY SCHMIDT,  
EDWARD D. DUFFIELD,  
JOHN HANDLEY,

*Commissioners.*

## Statistical Information.

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The statistics given in the report of Mr. Martin, the chief clerk, referred to by the Commissioners in the preceding report, as edited and condensed by the Commissioner of Reports, are as follows:

The number of inmates in the Reformatory on November 1st, 1907, was 503. At the close of this fiscal year there were in confinement 547.

In confinement November 1st, 1907, .....	503	
New inmates received during year, .....	331	
Inmates returned for breaking parole, .....	53	
Recaptured, .....	4	
	891	891

### RELEASED.

Paroled during the year, .....	285	
Removed to Insane Asylum, .....	8	
Released by order of Commissioners, .....	2	
Escaped, .....	9	
Removed to State Prison, .....	8	
Released expiration maximum sentence, .....	24	
Died, .....	7	
Illegally committed, .....	1	
	344	344
Present October 31st, 1908, .....		547
The daily average in confinement during the year was 536.8.		

The following statement shows appropriations granted by the Legislature for maintenance and betterments, the total amount expended, and the unexpended balance for the past year.

Total appropriations, \$207,106.42. Of this amount \$159,226.30 was expended, leaving a balance of \$47,880.12.

The following unexpended balances have been carried forward and will be used during the coming year:

Sewage disposal plant and sewer, .....	\$18,004 00
Materials for construction inmates' bath-room, .....	2,846 79
Crushed stone for road and concrete work, .....	1,297 05
Repairing and enlarging stockade, .....	716 71
Furniture for Southeast wing, .....	4,938 20

#### MAINTENANCE.

After deducting supplies and appliances on hand October 31st, 1908, the net cost for maintenance was \$133,310.39. This included \$5,233.00 for clothing, \$2,816.67 for clothing for discharged inmates, \$497.58 for Commissioner's expenses, \$11,035.64 for fuel, \$2,328.58 for house furnishing, \$321.03 for insurance \$1,154.66, for printing, postage, stationery, telegraph and telephone, \$33,606.57 for subsistence, \$3,000.00 for Superintendent's salary, and \$56,000.00 for salaries of employes.

The amount for appliances and repairs was \$14,537.96. This included \$1,283.09 for light, \$314.84 for machinery and tools, \$11,062.06 for repairs and renewals, \$1,385.97 for tailor shop, and \$420.42 for carpenter shop.

The total receipts for the year from various contracts amounted to \$16,520.05, which amount has been forwarded to the State Treasurer.

#### WORK DONE AND GOODS PRODUCED.

A statement gives in detail the work done and goods manufactured in the various departments for the use of the Reformatory. This included work in the shoe shop, tailor shop, engineer's department, bakery and laundry. It comprises thousands of pairs of shoes, thousands of articles of wearing apparel, 182,281 loaves of bread, besides thousand of rolls, biscuits, cakes, turnovers, etc.

The farm products included a great variety of all sorts of vegetables, fruits, grains, etc. The statement shows that the value of vegetables, milk, meat, etc., raised was \$11,414.65. The cost of production was \$3,239.70, making a net value of materials raised of \$8,174.95, being an increase over last year of \$3,977.54.

STATE REFORMATORY COMMISSIONERS. 15

A comparison of the per capita cost of this year with that of 1906-7 is as follows:

	1906-7.	1907-8.
Cost per capita per annum, .....	\$295.22	\$275.42
Cost per capita per diem, .....	.8088	.7525
Net cost per capita per annum, .....	226.89	244.65
Net cost per capita per diem, .....	.6216	.6684

SUBSISTENCE.

Cost per capita per annum, .....	\$34.27	\$45.34
Cost per capita per diem, .....	.0939	.1239

If the value to the State of inmates' labor was taken into consideration the cost per annum would be as follows:

Total expenditure, except new work and improvements, ..... \$147,848 35

CREDIT.

Earnings for year account contracts, etc., .....	\$18,208 20	
Value of farm products, .....	8,174 95	
Value of inmates' labor, .....	71,195 52	
	97,578 67	
		\$50,269 68
Making the total cost per capita per annum, .....	\$93 65	

The total estimated value of labor performed by inmates during the year was \$71,195.52, to which should be added \$18,208.20, the amount earned by the 300 inmates working on the above contracts, making a total of \$89,403.72 covering the value of labor performed in this institution during the past year.

The amount apportioned among the 536.8 inmates daily average here, shows that the work performed by each inmate was worth to the State \$166.55.

The amount of money earned on our three contracts would have been considerably larger except for the following occurrences: The diphtheria epidemic, which broke out in this Institution about February 1st, 1908, reduced the earnings of the

overall contract from about \$2,800 to \$800 during the months of February and March; the failure of the New York Decorative Leather Co., whose affairs were put into the hands of a receiver during last November, entailing an actual loss of \$2,144.90 due the Institution during 1907, and also reduced the earnings of that contract two or three hundred dollars a month during November, December and January, when the work done for the receivers was practically through.

Our shirt contract was not started until October 1st, 1908, so that the State only received one month's earnings from them.

The large daily average of inmates unemployed, etc. is largely due to the epidemic which prevailed for two months, and also to the shutting down of our contracts for various causes.





