

REPORT

OF THE

New Jersey State Prison,

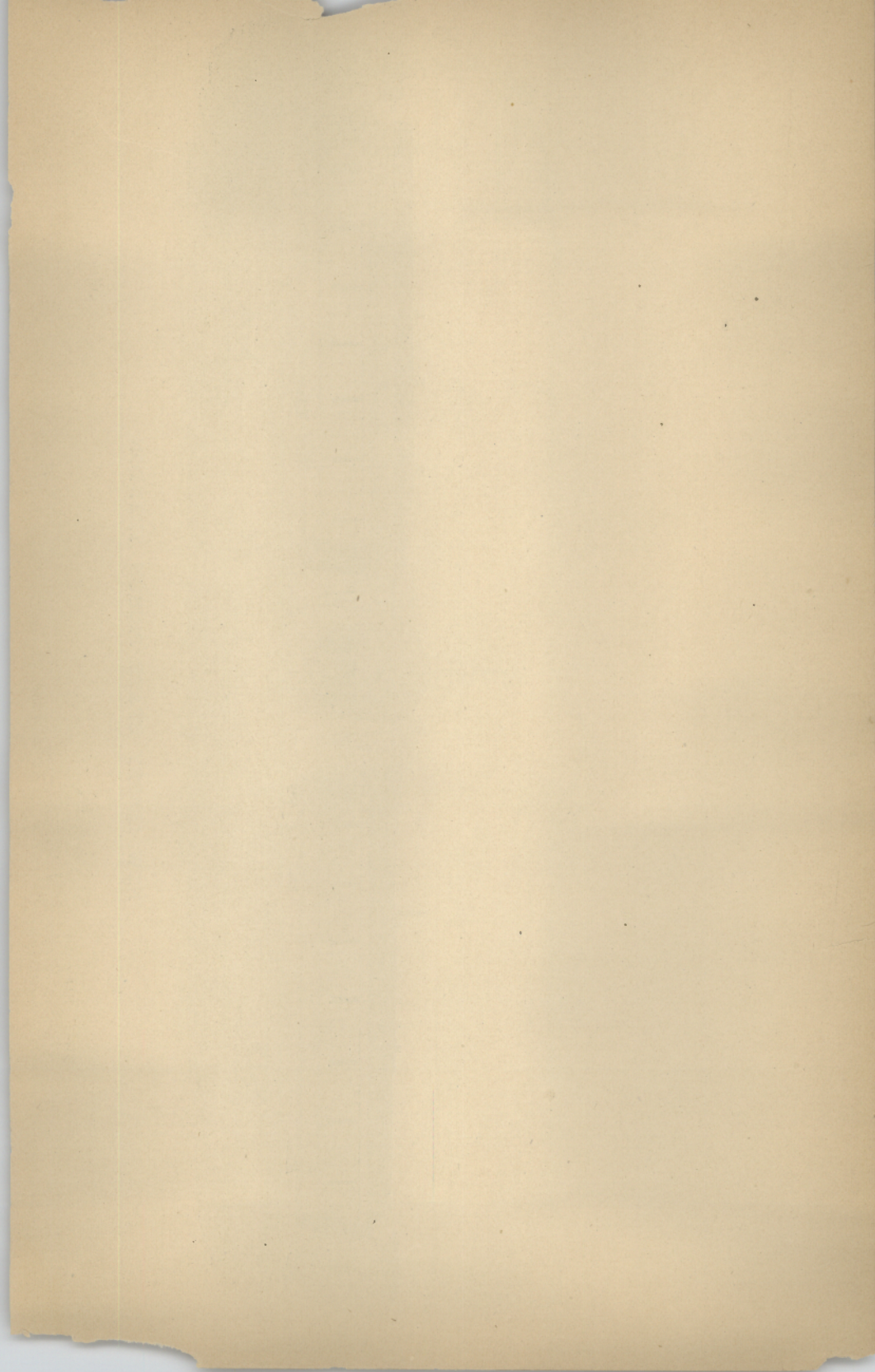
EMBRACING THE REPORTS OF THE

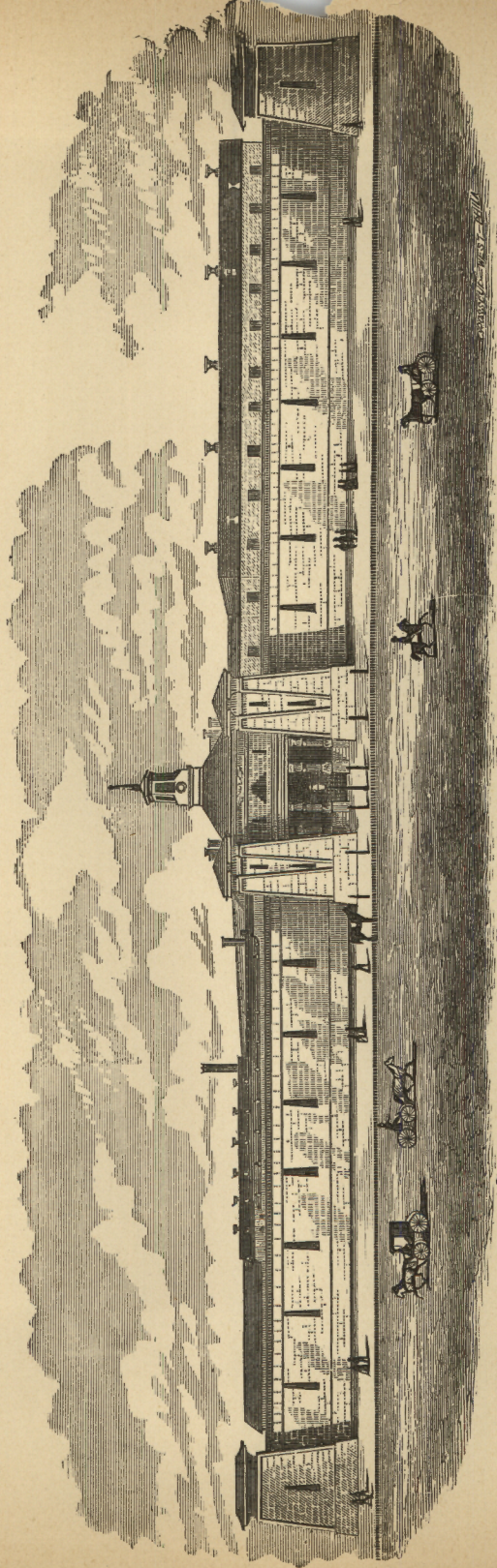
JOINT COMMITTEE, SUPERVISOR, EX-SUPERVISOR,
INSPECTORS, CLERK, KEEPER, BUILDING
COMMISSION, MORAL INSTRUCTOR,
AND PHYSICIAN,

For the Year 1885.

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JOHN L. MURPHY, STATE PRINTER
1885.





NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, TRENTON.

REPORT

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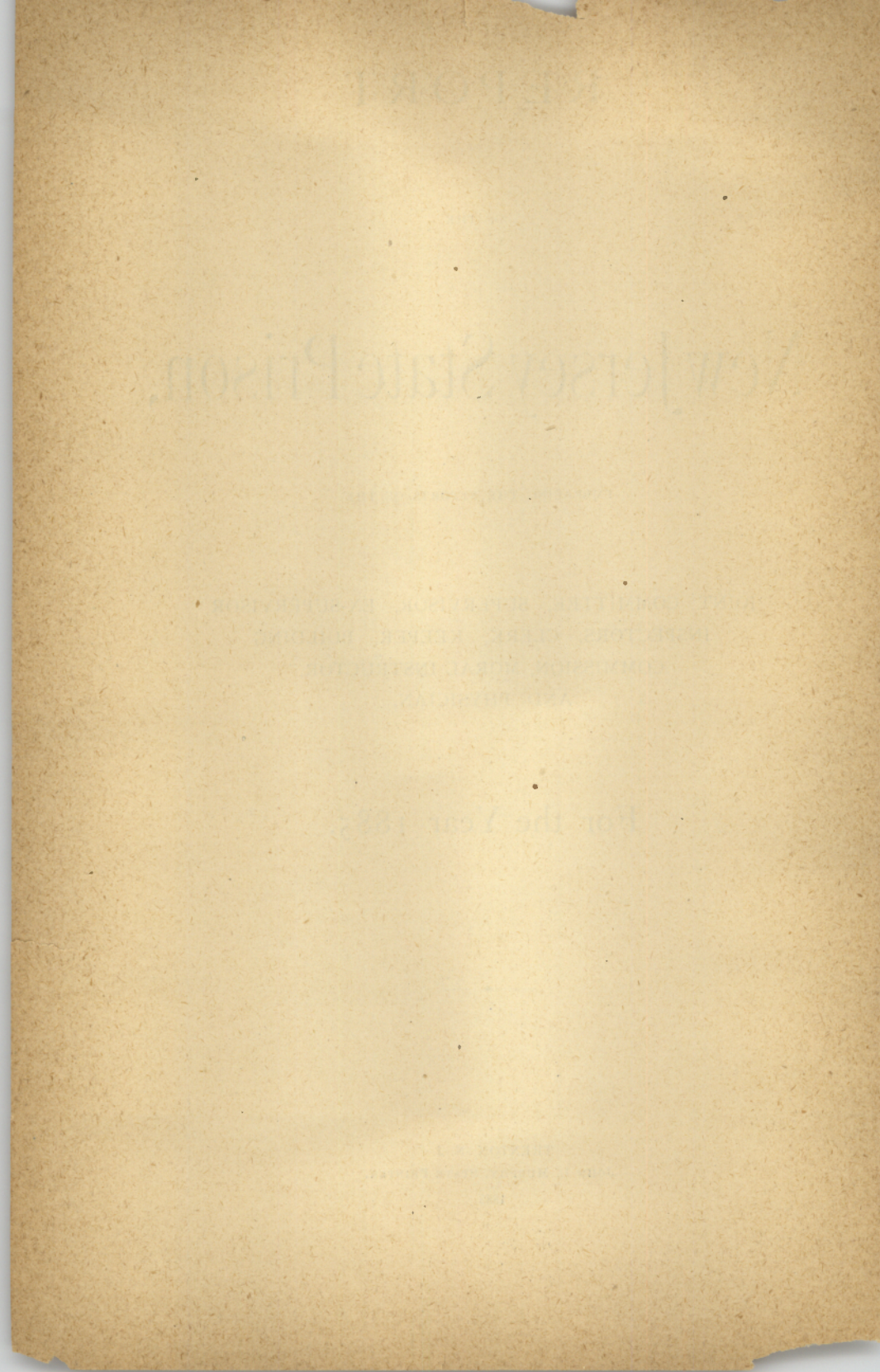
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REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

The Joint Committee of the Legislature on State Prison respectfully report :

That, according to the requirements of law, we have visited the institution and examined the general condition of the same.

From the balance sheet exhibited your committee find as follows :

First.—Total amount received from earnings of the convicts, \$45,319.55, for the year commencing November 1st, 1884, and ending October 31st, 1885. This is a decrease of \$16,526.66 from the preceding year.

Second.—The cost of maintenance, salaries, repairs and amount paid convicts on their discharge, was \$133,156.91, being an increase of \$739.33, which shows a loss in operating the Prison in all departments, of \$87,337.36.

Third.—The appropriation passed at the last session of the Legislature for the purpose of the extension of the Prison shops, has been expended in a judicious manner by the Board of Inspectors, Keeper and Supervisor. The work was done largely by the convicts, under the immediate supervision of the principal Keeper, Hon. P. H. Lavery. The committee have examined the work and consider it a complete piece of workmanship.

The committee made a thorough inspection of the Prison, and found it cleanly and well managed in every respect.

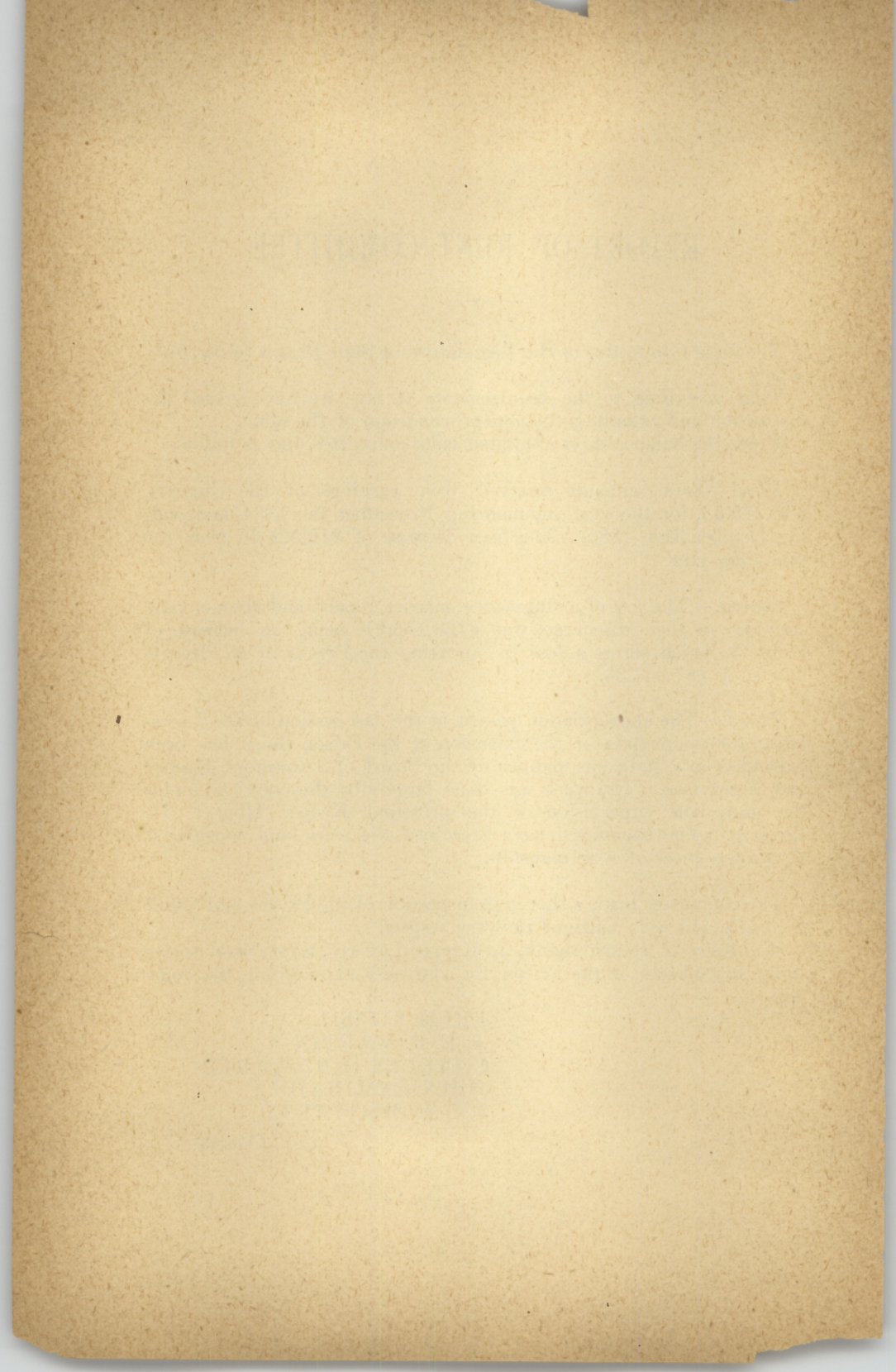
We desire to return thanks to Keeper Lavery, Supervisor Butler and other officers of the Prison, for courtesies extended to the committee.

FRED. S. FISH,
A. F. R. MARTIN,
CHARLES HOLZSWARTH,
JOHN CAMINADE,
JOS. D. WHITAKER,

Committee.

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SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

To His Excellency Leon Abbett, Governor of the State of New Jersey:

SIR—The report of the operations of the New Jersey State Prison for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1885, embraces a double administration of the office of Supervisor, and the results of two different systems of employing convict labor. In order, therefore, to present a clear and intelligible statement, it has been found necessary to divide the report into two periods of seven and five months each (these being the respective terms of the two administrations), the results of which are fully set forth in the accompanying exhibits.

Reference to statement A, shows that during the first period there was a loss to the State of \$432.75, the cost of maintenance exceeding the receipts from earnings by that amount, (maintenance, \$36,049.17; earnings, \$35,616.42), while during the latter period the losses aggregated \$13,174.70, (maintenance, \$22,877.83; earnings, \$9,703.13), the two together making a total loss for the year of \$13,607.45. Since all the contracts expired on June 30th, 1885, and with them the contract system, the greater loss incurred during the latter period was due to the enforced idleness of the men during the change to the "piece-price plan," and the consequent loss of earnings during the three months' stoppage made necessary to properly inaugurate the new system.

Statement B exhibits, in a tabulated form, the comparative earnings, expenses, losses and gains from November 30th, 1865, to October 31st, 1885.

Statement C comprises, in a condensed table, the whole expense of both management and maintenance of the Prison, including, also, amount paid discharged convicts, together with the total earnings for the year, showing a resultant balance against the State of \$87,837.76, an increase in loss over that of last year of \$17,265.99.

Statement D covers a period of twenty years, showing the daily average number of convicts in confinement, the average cost of maintenance per capita, as well as the proportion of earnings and deficit. The average daily number in confinement for the past year was 863, an increase of 48 over the year 1884. The average cost of subsistence, 9.85 cents per diem, or \$35.94 per year, being a slight reduction from the previous year. The total cash receipts from all sources

amounted to \$53,768.28, the total earnings from employment of convicts, \$45,319.55.

The act of February 21st, 1884, having abolished contract labor, and the act of April 18th, 1884, having made provision for the employment of convicts either under the "public account system" or the "piece-price plan," the managing authorities of the Prison determined to adopt the latter plan. Accordingly, advertisements were inserted in the principal newspapers of the State, soliciting bids for the manufacture of any article or articles for which the Prison shops were adapted.

Bids were opened on May 6th, 1885, when proposals were received from the following persons :

Downs & Finch, to manufacture shirts.....	2,000 dozen monthly.
" " to launder shirts.....	2,400 " "
" " to partially manufacture collars.....	13,000 " "
" " to manufacture cuffs.....	4,500 dozen pairs monthly.
" " to button-hole cuffs.....	2,000 " " "
" " to button-hole collars.....	6,000 dozen monthly.
John Tobin & Co., to manufacture shirts.....	1,200 " "
" " to manufacture pants.....	300 " "
John B. Iredell, to manufacture shoes.....	5,000 pairs monthly.
Powell & Brother, to manufacture hose.....	6,000 dozen monthly.
Wm. McKnight, to manufacture shoes.....	5,000 pairs monthly.
Pickering & Colescott, to manufacture brushes.....	200 gross monthly.
Consolidated Brush Block Co., to manufacture blocks and backs.....	200 " "

It was estimated that to produce the above quantities the services of 625 convicts would be required, or the whole of the available working force of the Prison. It must be remembered that at least twenty-five per cent. of the numerical strength of the inmates is unavailable for profitable labor, not less than 100 being always required for duty about the Prison and its surroundings, while the remainder is either mentally or physically unable to perform any manual labor whatsoever.

The members of the Board not being experts in the several branches of industry, and being unwilling to enter into contracts for the production of the different kinds of goods applied for without further knowledge, adjourned for a fortnight to ascertain, if possible, the prices paid for similar work in factories employing free labor. The effort, however, was not attended with much success, as manufacturers, when approached, were found to be very reluctant to disclose the secrets of their business, and quite unwilling to give needed information. The Board was, therefore, compelled either to accept the best bids offered and at once start up the shops, or else to consign the men to idleness for an indefinite period.

Contracts were accordingly entered into with the above-named

firms for the employment of the convicts for terms of four years each. In order to adapt the shops to the requirements of the new occupants, many changes and alterations were necessarily made, which added largely to the cost of "repairs" for the year, and involved much delay in preparation. Nearly three months of valuable time was thus lost before the men were fairly at work again. The introduction of the new system for the employment of convict labor being so recent, and the results so far attained in the practical working of those industries which now, for the first time, are being carried on in the Prison so meagre, it is hardly possible from data as yet afforded to arrive at any very definite conclusion as to the general merit of the new system. Time and experience alone must determine under which system (contract or piece-price) the new industries—brush making, brush block and hosiery—will yield the better result. It may not be amiss, however, in making the only fair comparison that can now be made as to the relative merits of the "contract" and "piece-price" systems, to contrast the results attained under each method, in industries with which the men were thoroughly familiar, and in which, consequently, they needed no instruction, and your attention is respectfully directed to the conclusions to which such comparisons so strongly point. Wm. McKnight, for example, an old contractor making shoes, paid 60 cents per diem under contract; under "piece-price," returns 51.53 cents. John Tobin & Co., old contractors, making shirts and pants, paid under contract, 50 cents per diem; now yield 53.84 cents under new system. Downs & Finch, old contractors, employing about 250 men in their several industries, paid 50 cents per diem under "contract," while under the "piece-price" plan they return only 27.70 cents per capita per diem. As the work of this last named firm (shirt-making, collar-making, &c., &c.) is peculiarly woman's work, and comes in direct competition with that class of labor which naturally requires the most protection, and usually receives the least, it would seem that the poor woman fared better, so far as prison competition is concerned, under the contract system.

Another matter that must not be overlooked in this connection is the fact that, since the Prison authorities have had the responsibility of production, there has been an increase of from ten to twenty per cent., and that although the State may receive as large a return for the labor of the convicts as formerly, still, in consequence of this increased production, manufacturers are enabled to place the goods on the market at less cost for manufacture than ever before. To sum up from present results, and, judging solely from the returns of those industries in which the men have been employed under both systems, the inferences would seem to be:

First. That the contract system will yield as good, if not better, financial results to the State, and afford as much, if not more, protection to outside labor than the "piece-price" plan. One reason for this is, that contractors are sure to so adjust their bids for piece-

work, that in no case shall the compensation per diem for each convict's labor exceed that paid under the contract system; and any diminution of average production is the State's loss.

Second. That the "piece-price" plan is beset with many difficulties from which the contract system is entirely free, and that any price that can be obtained for making goods by the piece will not suffice to prevent that competition with free labor which was evidently the intent of the law. Perhaps this may be better illustrated by a comparison of the practical working of the two systems. Under the contract system, each man sent into the shops; whether a producer or non-producer, was charged for. The quantity and quality of all work were at the risk of the contractor, defective and spoiled work being his sole loss; the State being in no wise responsible. Under the "piece-price" the contractor naturally makes the standard of excellence, in submitted samples, exceptionally high. Manufactured goods which would readily pass inspection, when paid for by day's labor, are summarily rejected, and the State compelled to repair alleged imperfections at its own expense. Where several grades of the same goods are to be manufactured at different rates, an opportunity is afforded a designing contractor to substitute a higher for a lower grade, without fear of detection save at the hands of an expert.

Power, fuel and gas are now furnished gratuitously, all of which, under the former system, were sources of revenue. In fact, the only feature in the law which seems to practically commend it as a preventive of undue competition with free labor, is the clause restricting the employment of more than one hundred men in any one industry. From my experience, both as Inspector and Supervisor, I have come to the conclusion that no system for the employment of convict labor has as yet been devised, whether for purposes of revenue or for the prevention of unfair competition with free labor, that is the superior of the contract system.

The "public account" plan has been frequently tried, and always with the same results; and, so far, the experience gained under the "piece-price" plan, with its average earnings of 30.30 cents per capita per diem, as contrasted with 50 cents under the contract system, does not commend it as an improvement either in the way of protection to free labor or as a revenue-producing measure. With no better result than at present achieved, the net loss to the State under the "piece-price" plan, as compared with the contract system, will amount to from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per annum.

In my opinion, a far more effective plan of employing convict labor, both for purposes of revenue and of protection to free labor, would be to restore the contract system, and, at the same time, to prohibit the Prison authorities from contracting for the labor of prisoners at a price less than from 65 cents to 75 cents a day, with the restrictive clause in regard to the number to be employed in any one industry, retained.

Under this plan, doubtless, many small manufacturers could be found who, without sufficient capital to establish plants themselves, would be only too glad to avail themselves of the facilities for manufacturing offered by the State, and, in consideration thereof, willing to pay a fair price for the labor of the convicts.

Your Excellency's attention is directed to an oversight in the law establishing the "piece-price" plan, whereby no provision is made authorizing the managing authorities of the Prison to draw from the State Treasury the amount of penalty imposed in the contracts in case of desire to terminate pending contracts found to be unprofitable.

The inadequacy of the present Prison accommodations to properly provide for the safe-keeping of the ever constantly increasing population, is, to the Prison officers, becoming a very serious question.

A daily average for the past year of 863 convicts, with only 699 cells for separate confinement, make it an extremely abstruse mathematical calculation how to fit one into the other without a remainder. The same difficulty applies to the provision made for cooking, baking, washing, etc., and the other domestic requirements about the Prison. Facilities intended for the supply of 500 are found to be considerably strained when called upon to furnish accommodation for 900. It must not be forgotten that the population of the State has increased rapidly during the last decade, and with it there has been an equivalent percentage of increase of the criminal class, while but little addition has been provided for their safe-keeping.

Under its present management the Prison is a model of cleanliness and neatness. The discipline is excellent, severe punishment being a rare and infrequent occurrence. All the officers are assiduous in their attention to duty, and to them I am under many obligations for valuable assistance in the proper performance of my own duties.

The Keeper, Board of Inspectors and New Shop Commission will doubtless present reports of those matters coming directly under their jurisdiction.

Respectfully submitted,

HENRY L. BUTLER,
Supervisor.

STATEMENT A.

GAINS.				LOSSES.			
	Seven Months.	Five Months.	Total.		Seven Months.	Five Months.	Total.
Convict labor.....	\$34,742 89	\$3,906 91	\$38,649 80	Subsistence.....	\$17,528 37	\$13,488 24	\$31,016 61
Refunded by contractors...	525 00	75 00	600 00	Furniture.....	1,249 29	1,584 05	2,833 34
Piece price system.....		5,608 22	5,608 22	Clothing.....	3,956 27	1,616 75	5,573 02
Live stock.....	348 53	113 00	461 53	Fuel.....	5,464 94	1,593 73	7,058 67
	\$35,616 42	\$9,703 13	\$45,319 55	Bedding.....	642 74	175 12	817 86
				Discharged convict clothing	983 55	222 36	1,205 91
				Stationery.....	2 50	137 93	140 43
				Convict stationery.....	36 90	13 15	50 05
				Tobacco.....	757 75	353 00	1,110 75
				Water.....	1,132 38	1,123 79	2,256 17
				Hospital.....	1,620 89	972 45	2,593 34
				Forage.....	520 95	376 18	897 13
				Light.....	904 38	77 49	981 87
				Gas light.....		273 10	273 10
Loss.....			13,607 45	Miscellaneous.....	1,248 26	870 49	2,118 75
			\$58,927 00		\$36,049 17	\$22,877 83	\$58,927 00

SUBSISTENCE.

Cost per capita per day.....	\$0.098
Cost per capita per year.....	35.94

STATE PRISON REPORT.

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STATEMENT B.

Showing the earnings, expenses, losses and gains, from November, 1865, to the close of the present fiscal year; compiled from official reports.

REPORTS.	EARNINGS.	EXPENSES.	LOSSES.	GAINS.
1866, Nov. 30.....	\$26,712 78	\$77,156 59	\$50,983 81	.....
1867, Nov. 30.....	31,733 42	87,839 32	56,105 90	.....
1868, Nov. 30.....	39,392 38	95,369 68	55,977 30	.....
1869, to March 31.....	6,777 52	67,852 20	61,074 68	.....
1869, to Dec. 31.....	42,356 13	49,317 89	6,961 76	.....
1870, Oct. 31.....	58,331 76	61,742 51	3,410 75	.....
1871, Oct. 31.....	100,723 27	60,113 37	.....	\$40,609 80
1872, Oct. 31.....	80,892 99	52,412 52	.....	28,468 74
1873, Oct. 31.....	90,386 56	62,353 18	.....	28,033 28
1874, Oct. 31.....	104,041 98	58,807 05	.....	45,334 93
1875, Oct. 31.....	81,596 30	57,941 69	.....	23,654 61
1876, Oct. 31.....	30,724 13	55,226 79	24,307 12	.....
1877, Oct. 31.....	75,611 70	63,276 69	.....	12,335 01
1878, Oct. 31.....	63,412 99	54,331 91	.....	9,081 08
1879, to May 31.....	25,196 00	27,942 46	2,746 46	.....
1879, to Oct. 31.....	21,443 50	17,749 48	.....	3,694 02
1880, Oct. 31.....	68,572 50	50,135 14	.....	18,437 36
1881, Oct. 31.....	50,702 74	51,362 90	660 16	.....
1882, Oct. 31.....	68,599 67	62,502 80	.....	6,096 87
1883, Oct. 31.....	72,706 88	62,462 83	.....	10,244 05
1884, Oct. 31.....	61,846 21	59,248 11	.....	2,597 50
1885, to May 31.....	35,616 42	36,049 17	432 75	.....
1885, to Oct. 31.....	9,703 13	22,877 83	13,174 70	.....

STATEMENT C.

	Seven Months.	Five Months.	Total.
Maintenance.....	\$36,049 17	\$22,877 83	\$58,927 00
Repairs.....	2,736 98	3,654 22	6,391 20
Amount given discharged convicts.....	773 50	535 00	1,308 50
Salaries of deputies.....	33,897 25	23,632 96	57,530 21
Salaries of officers and inspectors.....	5,249 99	3,750 01	9,000 00
	\$78,706 89	\$54,450 02	\$133,156 91
Credit by amount of earnings.....			45,319 55
Net loss.....			\$87,837 36
Cost per capita per day.....			\$0.423
Cost per capita per year.....			154.30

STATEMENT D.

Showing the number of convicts, cost of maintenance and earnings during each year, from the beginning of the fiscal year 1865, to the close of the fiscal year 1885.

Year.	Number.	Subsistence.	Clothing and bedding.	Fuel.	Hospital.	Clothing given to discharged convicts.	Miscellaneous.	Repairs and money given discharged convicts.	Salaries.	Total.	Earnings.	Deficit.	REMARKS.
1865	393	\$65 92	\$17 94	\$19 04	\$5 01	\$1 39	\$3 75	.....	\$68 21	\$182 14	\$77 37	\$106 82	.....
1866	522	93 71	23 86	16 88	7 32	1 49	4 63	.....	76 88	224 60	50 14	174 46	.....
1867	528	106 90	32 40	9 24	11 51	2 78	3 53	.....	69 12	235 48	60 09	175 39	.....
1868	555	101 11	47 57	9 10	7 43	1 98	5 35	.....	72 16	244 70	70 98	173 72	.....
.....	584	50 23	25 08	8 66	1 16	.....	5 02	.....	21 17	111 32	11 60	99 72	Four months, November 30th to March 31st.
1869	585	54 11	11 28	6 47	1 57	1 78	21 40	.....	59 00	136 35	72 40	63 95	.....
1870	570	62 35	16 07	6 97	2 95	1 84	18 13	.....	71 68	180 00	102 33	77 67	.....
1871	526	68 24	16 33	11 78	3 86	2 65	9 60	.....	95 59	208 35	139 69	68 66	.....
1872	527	56 65	15 01	14 58	4 11	1 77	8 34	.....	107 57	207 97	151 50	54 47	.....
1873	545	66 70	13 05	13 21	3 66	1 99	17 82	.....	105 14	221 58	165 84	55 74	.....
1874	615	56 61	12 65	9 37	4 18	1 71	12 76	.....	89 68	186 96	169 17	17 79	.....
1875	656	52 17	10 63	9 36	3 55	1 75	12 63	.....	83 50	173 58	124 54	49 05	.....
1876	766	40 87	8 60	9 18	3 14	1 50	10 35	.....	64 58	138 49	40 49	98 00	.....
1877	816	43 89	9 73	6 50	3 32	1 02	13 03	.....	67 65	145 19	92 66	52 53	.....
1878	825	35 84	8 34	6 24	3 41	1 61	11 83	.....	66 25	133 52	76 86	56 66	.....
1879	802	30 39	7 08	5 57	3 39	1 62	8 35	.....	64 87	121 27	58 15	63 12	.....
1880	830	32 23	9 19	6 58	2 93	3 14	7 96	\$11 38	66 27	139 68	82 67	57 01	.....
1881	794	33 25	6 73	10 12	3 36	1 69	9 56	15 96	69 96	150 62	63 86	86 76	.....
1882	831	42 84	9 19	8 96	3 09	1 87	9 25	8 66	72 29	156 15	82 55	73 60	.....
1883	817	40 80	9 00	10 22	3 13	1 61	11 69	7 10	79 82	163 37	88 99	74 38	.....
1884	815	36 50	9 81	8 75	3 23	1 26	13 15	8 83	80 95	162 47	75 88	86 59	.....
1885	863	20 31	5 33	6 33	1 88	1 14	1 45	4 07	45 36	91 20	41 27	49 93	.....
.....	863	15 63	2 08	1 85	1 13	26	1 01	4 86	31 73	63 10	11 24	51 86	Five months, May 31st to October 31st.

EX-SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

To His Excellency Leon Abbett, Governor of the State of New Jersey :

SIR—Herewith I respectfully forward my balance sheet from the date of my last report, October 31st, 1884, to May 31st, 1885, at which time my duties as Supervisor cease. To do this I had an inventory taken and the books balanced, that I may make a full statement of the business of the Prison for seven months of the official year.

Statement A, in connection with the present Supervisor's report, gives the maintenance account, and the income from earnings for the seven months :

Maintenance.....	\$36,049 17
Income.....	35,616 42
	\$432 75
Loss.....	\$432 75

The average number of prisoners during the seven mouths being 863, makes the cost of keeping the prisoners, for subsistence, nine cents and eight mills per capita per day, and the maintenance nineteen cents and seven mills per capita per day.

Statement C gives the entire cost, including maintenance of convicts, salaries of officers, and all repairs :

Maintenance.....	\$36,049 17
Repairs.....	2,736 98
Salaries of officers.....	39,147 24
Amount given discharged convicts.....	773 50
	\$78,706 89
Earnings.....	35,616 42
	\$43,090 47
Loss.....	\$43,090 47

Which shows a loss to the State, during the seven months, of \$43,090.47.

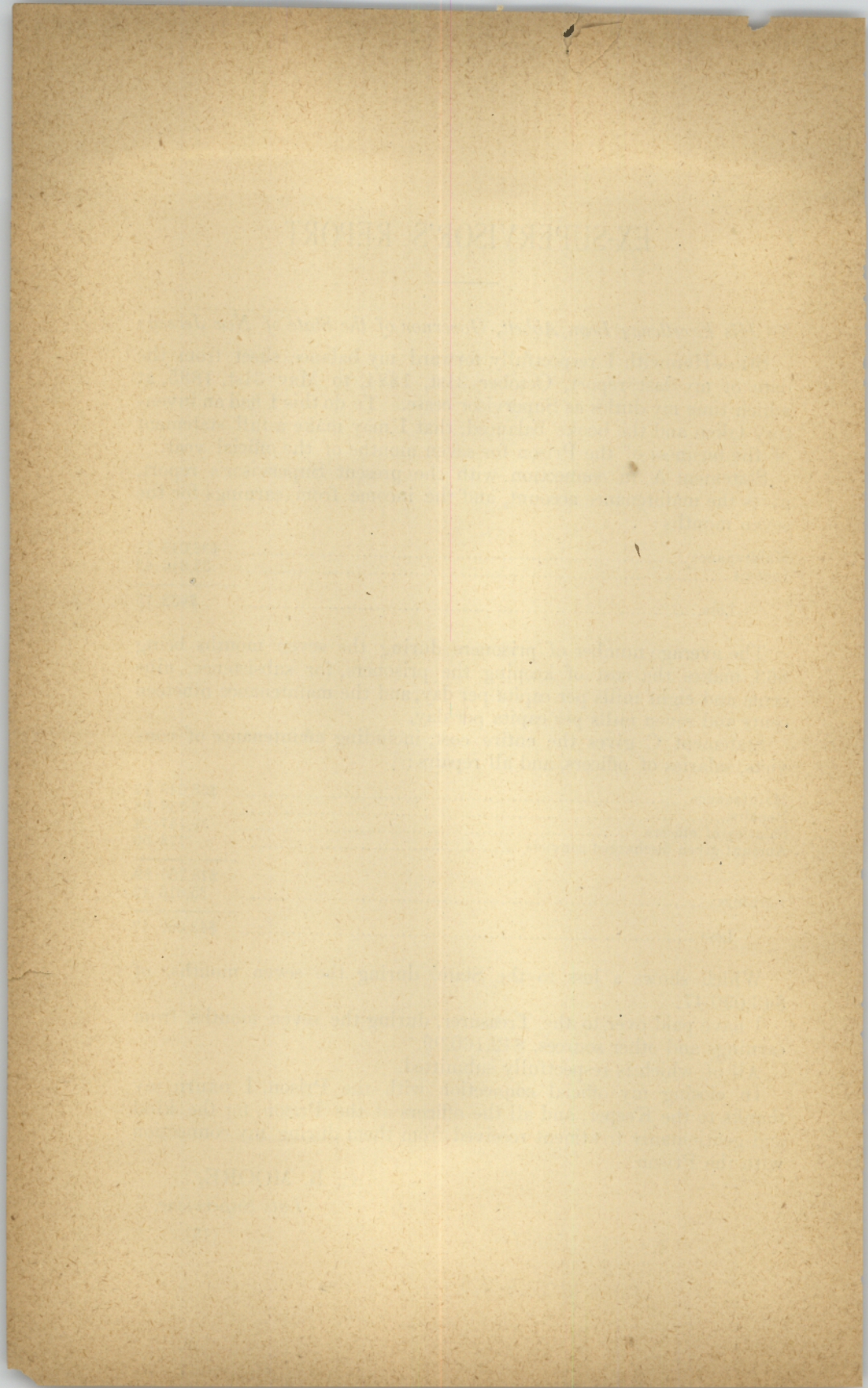
I have paid over to the Treasurer, during the seven months, from earnings and other sources, \$42,160.99.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

In closing my official connection with the Prison, I return my thanks to the Keeper, and all the officers of the Prison, for the kind and gentlemanly treatment received from them during my connection with the Prison.

C. B. MOORE,
Late Supervisor.

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BALANCE SHEETS.

BALANCE SHEET FROM NOVEMBER 1st, 1884, TO MAY 31st, 1885.

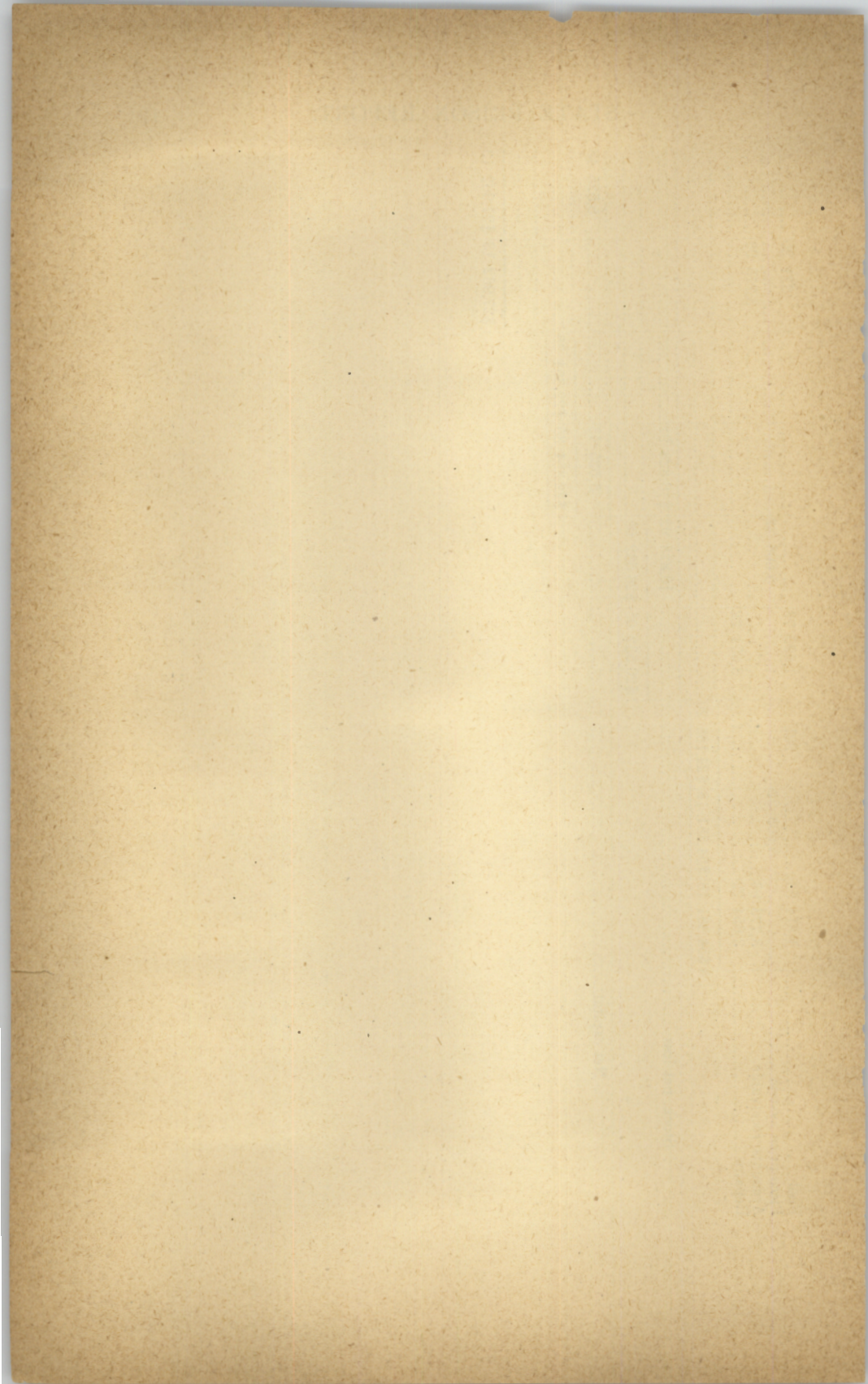
LEDGER TITLES.	TRIAL BALANCE.		INVENTORY.	PROFIT AND LOSS.		STOCK.		REAL.	
	DR.	CR.		*DR.	CR.	DR.	CR.	DR.	CR.
Stock		\$25,524 09					\$25,524 08		
Water.....	\$1,132 38			\$1,132 38					
United States of America.....	10 00							\$10 00	
Bedding.....	4,318 43		\$3,675 69	642 74				3,675 69	
Discharged convict clothing.....	1,770 35		786 80	983 55				786 80	
Salaries(refunded by contractors)		525 00			\$525 00				
Repairs.....	2,736 98			2,736 98					
Miscellaneous.....	1,248 26			1,248 26					
Clothing.....	10,046 77		6,090 50	3,956 27				6,090 50	
Convict labor.....		34,742 89			34,742 89				
State of New Jersey.....		6,462 94							\$6,462 94
Tobacco.....	773 75		16 00	757 75				16 00	
Hospital.....	1,940 27		319 38	1,620 89				319 38	
Forage.....	555 85		34 90	520 95				34 90	
Furniture.....	13,095 05		11,845 76	1,249 29				11,845 76	
Subsistence.....	18,253 71		725 34	17,528 37				725 34	
Live Stock.....	883 47		1,232 00		348 53			1,232 00	
Stationery.....	23 00		20 50	2 50				20 50	
Convict stationery.....	57 60		20 70	36 90				20 70	
Light.....	981 88		77 50	904 38				77 50	

Fuel.....	5,662 44		197 50	5,464 94			197 50	
Accounts receivable.....	3,764 72						3,764 72	
	<u>\$67,254 91</u>	<u>\$67,254 91</u>	<u>\$25,042 57</u>					
Stock, net loss.....				3,169 73	3,169 73			
				<u>\$38,786 15</u>	<u>\$38,786 15</u>			
Net capital.....					22,354 35		22,354 35	
					<u>\$25,524 08</u>	<u>\$25,524 08</u>		
							<u>\$28,817 29</u>	<u>\$28,817 29</u>

BALANCE SHEET FROM JUNE 1st, 1885, TO OCTOBER 31st, 1885.

LEDGER TITLES	TRIAL BALANCE.		INVENTORY.	PROFIT AND LOSS.		STOCK.		REAL.	
	DE.	CR.		DE.	CR.	DE.	CR.	DE.	CR.
Stock		\$22,354 35				\$22,354 35			
Convict stationery	\$20 70		\$7 55	\$13 15				\$7 55	
Water	1,123 79			1,123 79					
Light	111 26		33 77	77 49				33 77	
Bedding	4,029 06		3,853 94	175 12				3,853 94	
Discharged convict clothing.....	883 72		661 36	222 36				661 36	
Gas light.....	273 10			273 10					
Salaries.....		75 00			\$75 00				
Miscellaneous.....	870 49			870 49					
Clothing	8,472 32		6,855 57	1,616 75				6,855 57	
Tobacco.....	373 00		20 00	353 00				20 00	
Hospital.....	1,291 83		319 38	972 45				319 38	
Forage.....	401 18		25 00	376 18				25 00	
Furniture.....	12,404 54		10,820 49	1,584 05				10,820 49	
Convict labor.....		80 53			80 53				
Contract labor.....		3,826 38			3,826 38				
Subsistence	13,746 18		257 94	13,488 24				257 94	
Live stock.....	966 00		1,079 00	113 00				1,079 00	
Stationery.....	170 93		33 00	137 93				33 00	
State of New Jersey.....		22,436 70							\$22,436 70

Fuel.....	1,814 93		221 20	1,593 73			221 20
Piece-price system.....		5,608 22			5,608 22		
Accounts receivable.....	3,773 93						3,773 93
Repairs.....	3,654 22			3,654 22			
	<u>\$54,381 18</u>	<u>\$54,381 18</u>	<u>\$24,188 20</u>				
Stock, net loss.....				16,828 92	\$16,828 92		
				<u>\$26,532 05</u>	<u>\$26,532 05</u>		
Net capital.....					5,525 43		5,525 43
					<u>\$22,354 35</u>	<u>\$22,354 35</u>	
							<u>\$27,962 13</u>
							<u>\$27,962 13</u>



INSPECTORS' REPORT.

INSPECTORS' ROOM, NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, }
TRENTON, N. J., November 1st, 1885. }

To Leon Abbett, Governor of New Jersey:

SIR—In conformity with the requirements of the law, the Inspectors of the New Jersey State Prison respectfully present their annual report of the operations and condition of the institution for the year ending October 31st, 1885.

The bills for current expenses, audited and passed by the Board during the fiscal year, were for the following purposes:

For Maintenance	\$68,023 80
“ Repairs	6,665 86
Paid to discharged convicts.....	1,308 50
For Salaries of Deputies and assistants.....	57,370 21
	\$133,368 37
 Add Salaries of Keeper, Supervisor and Inspectors, paid directly from State Treasury.....	9,257 83
	\$142,626 20
The amount derived from the labor of convicts and from other sources, and paid into the State Treasury during the year, was.....	57,541 85
	\$85,084 35

The receipts have been reduced by the enforced idleness of all or part of the prisoners during the months of July, August and September, while putting in operation the manufacture of goods under the “piece-price plan.”

The terms of all the contracts existing for the employment of the convicts expired June 30th, 1885.

In anticipation of the expiration of these contracts the Legislature passed, at the session of 1884 (P. L., p. 21), an act providing “That it shall be unlawful for the Principal Keeper, Supervisor and Board of Inspectors of the State Prison of this State in any wise to contract for the labor of the prisoners confined in said Prison, or any portion thereof,” and at the same session, April 18th, 1884 (P. L., p. 230), the following act was passed:

AN ACT to provide for the employment of the inmates of any prison, penitentiary, jail or public reformatory institution located within this State :

1. BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That the prisoners or persons confined or kept in any prison, penitentiary, jail or public reformatory institution located within this state shall, as far as practicable in the judgment of the managers of such prison, penitentiary, jail or public reformatory institution, be employed in the manufacture, or at work upon goods used in such institutions as are under state control ; and all prisoners or persons not employed for said purpose shall be employed on what is commonly known as the "piece-price plan" as the managing authorities of such prison, penitentiary, jail or public reformatory institution may be able to arrange for with parties desiring such labor, or they shall be employed under what is known as the "public account system," and the revenue derived from any such employment in the state prison or any reformatory public institution shall be paid into the treasury of the state, and if derived from any penitentiary or jail in any county of this state, it shall be paid to the county collector of such county.

2. *And be it enacted*, That the authorities managing the state prison or any reformatory institution shall, with the assent of the governor, purchase any tools, machinery or stock necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, and the money necessary therefor shall be paid by the treasurer upon a warrant of the comptroller; and the authorities of any penitentiary or jail may, with the assent of the board of chosen freeholders of the county, purchase any tools, machinery or stock necessary to carry out the provisions of the act, and the county collector shall pay the expenses thereof, by resolution of the board of chosen freeholders.

3. *And be it enacted*, That the authorities of any prison, penitentiary, jail or public reformatory institution, before they shall make any agreement with any party or parties for the labor of the prisoners or persons in their charge under the "piece-price system," or before they shall dispose of any goods made in their institution under the "public account system," shall advertise in not less than four of the principal newspapers of the state for the space of three weeks, once a week, calling for public bids, so that there shall be a proper and just competition, either for the labor of the prisoners or persons confined in such institutions, or for the sale of goods ; this advertising may be done before or after the goods are completed, and every effort shall be made to obtain current market prices for the same.

4. *And be it enacted*, That nothing in this act contained shall be construed to in any way abridge the powers of any board of chosen freeholders, in any county in this state, to employ any persons confined in any penitentiary or jail in said county in any other capacity they may deem wise, except under the "contract system" now in use in the state prison ; and the authorities of any reformatory institution are authorized to apprentice any of the minors in their institution.

5. *And be it enacted*, That any party or parties who may employ any portion of the prisoners or persons within the limit prescribed by law shall have power to place one or more instructors, if necessary, in any prison, penitentiary, jail or public reformatory institution of the state where their work is being done, the expenses or salary of said instructors or instructor to be paid by the party or parties so employing them, or, if the work is done under the "public account system," that such instructor or instructors shall be paid by the state. Such instructors shall in no way interfere with the discipline or management of the prisoners, and shall be, while so employed in the prison, subject to all the rules and regulations made by its officers for its government.

6. *And be it enacted*, That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the

provisions of this act be and the same are hereby repealed; *provided, however*, that no such prisoners or persons shall be employed at any trade where such employment is now prohibited by law; *and provided, further*, that no greater number of persons shall be employed in any business or occupation than is now provided by law.

7. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall be deemed and construed a public act, and shall take effect immediately.

Approved April 18th, 1884.

The latter act was imperative as to confining contracts for the employment of the convicts to two plans or systems. In the Inspectors' report last year, the attention of the Legislature was called to the fact that this act was so vague in its provisions as not to be sufficient for the emergency which was then about to arise. No further legislation on this subject was effected, however, at the session of 1885, and it became necessary early in the year to decide upon one of the two lawful plans, and to make preparations for putting in operation the one deemed for the best interests of the State. After mature deliberation and a very careful inquiry into the relative advantages of these two systems, it was decided to adopt the "piece-price plan." The Inspectors were led to this decision by the belief that the adoption of the "public account system" would involve a large expenditure for machinery, tools, stock, etc., and would require the employment of a large corps of subordinates, while under the other plan the contractors could be required to furnish their own machinery, tools and stock, as heretofore, and the expense of disposing of the manufactured articles would be borne by them. In view of the law restricting to one hundred (100) the number of convicts to be employed in any one branch of industry, it was apparent that an attempt to utilize the labor of all the convicts would necessitate the introduction of a number of new industries, and this would require more shop room than was then available.

An act was passed at the session of 1885, making the necessary appropriation for additional shop room, and the construction of a large stone shop was immediately commenced. The work on this was almost wholly done by convicts, thus reducing the cost to a minimum figure.

This shop was substantially completed in July, and the old shops were altered and improved, so that there was ample room for the employment of all the convicts for whose production there was any probability that contracts could be made.

Before the completion of the new shop, advertisement was made for proposals for the manufacture of goods in the Prison, and in order to secure full competition, these advertisements were published, not only in the newspapers of the State, but also in those of Philadelphia, New York and Boston. They set forth the character of our facilities for doing any kind of work for which convict labor was adopted, and invited proposals from all classes of manufacturers. In response to

these advertisements, bids were received from parties in this and other States for the manufacture of shoes, shirts, collars, cuffs, brushes, pantaloons and for laundering shirts. Under the contracts then existing, the price received per day for the labor of the convicts was fifty cents, excepting in one case, in which the contractor paid sixty cents for each man. And the Inspectors, in considering the proposals laid before them, naturally desired to select those which would produce a revenue as nearly equal as possible to that received under the old system. The process of selections gave rise to some curious problems. In the case of those industries previously carried on in the Prison, this was believed to be a comparatively easy matter to determine, but in the case of new industries it was found impossible to determine the relation between the quantity of goods proposed to be produced and the labor of any given number of convicts.

Information on this point was sought from other prisons throughout the country and from parties carrying on similar branches of manufacture, but in the cases of prisons it was found that the "piece-price plan" was not in operation, except in one or two instances in a small way, giving no data of any value; and in the case of manufacturers it was found that they were unwilling to give information to aid in establishing operations deemed by them antagonistic to their own interests. Considerable time was spent by the different committees and members of the board in collecting information on these points, and what were deemed the most advantageous proposals were ultimately accepted.

It was not anticipated in the case of some of these proposals that the per diem compensation would be reached which was received under the old system, because the time at which the proposals were invited was a period of great commercial depression, but, in the opinion of the Board, the question of speedily furnishing some sort of employment for the convicts was paramount in importance to the financial question.

It would scarcely be possible to set forth, within the reasonable limits of an official report, the extent to which the general discipline of the Prison and the mental, moral and physical condition of the prisoners are disastrously affected by their idleness, and these important aspects of the case demanded consideration in determining the question of the acceptance of the proposals offered for their employment.

It is not necessary to recite here the details of the several contracts entered into, nor is it requisite to enter into the account of their working up to the present time. The Supervisor is placed by law in charge of the labor of the convicts and all the business details connected with the execution of the contracts are under his immediate direction, and his report, containing a full account of his operations, will be laid before you.

It is proper to say, however, that it has not been possible to avoid the vexatious delays incident to the establishment of an untried

system on so large a scale, and, therefore, neither the production of manufactured goods nor the monthly receipts have yet reached the maximum point possible under the contracts now in existence. For this reason definite conclusions cannot now be given as to the relative excellence of the new and the old systems, but the opinion of the Board, based upon their experience up to the present time, is that the "piece-price" plan will not be an improvement in any respect over the old contract system.

The adoption of the new plan for the employment of convicts was in the case of this State a gigantic experiment. The system previously in vogue was working smoothly and successfully, and was giving to the State each year as a result of the labor of the convicts a sum about equal to the cost of maintaining them, but the system was believed by many to be antagonistic to the interests of the honest industrial classes, and this belief led to the passage of the law changing the system. The individual views of the Inspectors as to the relative merits of the two systems were not allowed to influence their action in putting the law into operation, but an earnest effort was made to carry out the known intention of the Legislature and to permit the system to be judged by its results.

For the reasons hereinbefore mentioned, and stated also in the report of the Keeper and Supervisor, the system cannot now be said to be in full and complete operation. Some of the contracts which are now giving very meagre pecuniary results, it is confidently believed will make a much better showing when the men have become more familiar with the manipulation of goods and the management of machinery of which they have had no previous knowledge, and that then the daily average of per diem compensation will be increased. It is therefore too soon for a decided statement of what the effect of the great change will be, either upon the Prison revenue or upon the interest of honest labor, but from what has been seen in the few months since the establishment of the system it is the opinion of the Inspectors that in neither of these aspects will the law effect the purpose intended by its passage. The radical difference between the new plan and the old is that under the new plan the State becomes the manufacturer. It agrees to furnish a given quantity of manufactured goods within a given time and necessarily agrees to furnish them according to a certain standard. If from unskillfulness, carelessness, viciousness or other cause the work shall be spoiled or damaged so as to fail to reach the established standard of excellence, it is rejected and must be reproduced. The effect of this is to produce a better class of work than under the old system, as then in case of bad work the only remedy of the contractor was to have the unskillful or intractable man taken from the shop and replaced by another, and presumably a better man.

Naturally, under that system, much work slightly imperfect was accepted, and the burden of keeping it up to standard was upon the

contractor, and it is obvious that under the present system, even if the estimated per diem compensation is equal to that under the old, a better class of work is produced, at no greater cost to the contractor, and at a sacrifice to the State of the value of the labor lost in damaged or imperfect productions. Again, the State being bound to produce a given quantity of work, the officials make efforts to get the greatest possible production from each gang of men, which effort was not necessary when the burden of production was upon the contractor. Thus it will be seen that the logical tendency of the present system is to bring the labor of the convicts more violently in competition with the labor of honest citizens, by producing a better quality of goods, and in greater quantity than under the old system, while the revenue of the prison is necessarily decreased.

Already, in the infancy of the system, these evils are strikingly apparent, and it seems inevitable that they must increase proportionately with the advance to a more thorough and complete working of the new plan.

In their dealings with manufacturers the Inspectors found it impracticable to make contracts for a less term than four years, and the precaution was taken to provide for annulling, upon due notice, any contract found to be seriously disadvantageous to the State. To do this it was necessary to provide for the payment of a forfeit, and it is recommended that such legislative action be taken at the coming session as will remove any doubt there may be as to the legal right of the Inspectors to pay such an amount as may be deemed judicious to relieve the State from the burden of any contract found upon experience to be disadvantageous or objectionable.

It will not be surprising if, in a matter so entirely experimental, some of the contracts shall prove to be disadvantageous or unfair to the State, and the power to abrogate them and to substitute better ones for them should be beyond question.

In preparing for the new system it was found necessary (in addition to erecting new shops) to provide for additional power, which was done by the purchase of a new engine, replacing old and worn-out boilers with new ones, and erecting a large amount of shafting for the transmission of power.

The appropriation for the new shops sufficed to pay for a large portion of this work, and that portion pertaining to the machinery and appliances of the old shops was paid for under the general power of the Inspectors to order repairs.

The Board of Inspectors desire to renew their recommendation of last year as to the enlargement of the Prison, the necessity for which is set forth in the reports of the Keeper and Supervisor. The Prison is greatly overcrowded. Its population is nearly fifty per cent. greater than its room or appliances will properly accommodate, and accessions to the number of inmates are being made almost daily.

Questions of health, discipline and the proper and humane care of

the convicts are becoming so pressing that no considerations of economy will much longer justify or excuse a postponement of the increase of cell room and other needed accommodations.

No diseases of a contagious character have prevailed during the year.

Particular attention is respectfully asked to the report of the Physician, Dr. R. C. Hutchinson, regarding the condition of the west wing, which, having no drainage, necessitates the use of the bucket system. Should a contagious disease occur in this wing, it would be impossible to check its course among the inmates, owing to its improper sanitary condition. In this connection the following statement in our last report is again presented: The Board has repeatedly, in former reports, called the attention of the Legislature to the condition of this wing, and without presenting farther argument in favor of improvements in the sanitary arrangements, they desire to say that the condition of the wing in this respect is an absolute disgrace to a civilized community. The Board would have long ago remedied the difficulty but for the lack of legislative authority.

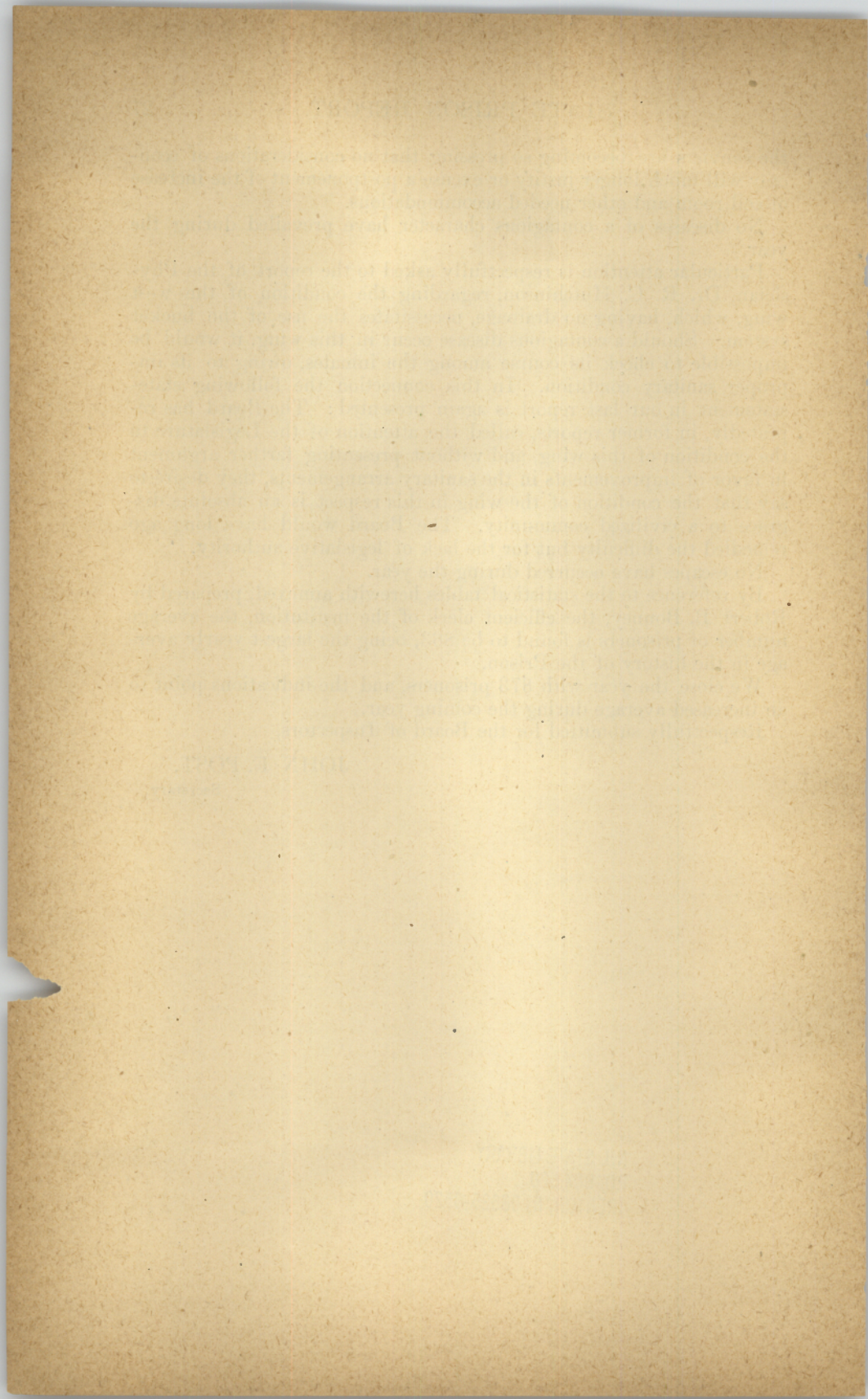
No escapes have occurred during the year.

By reference to the statistical tables herewith annexed, prepared by Robert B. Bonney, the efficient clerk of the institution, the average number of prisoners is found to be 863, being the largest yearly average in the history of the Prison.

We close the year with 873 prisoners, and the indications point to an increased average during the coming year.

Respectfully submitted for the Board of Inspectors,

JOHN F. POST,
Secretary.



STATISTICS.

—◆—
 OFFICE OF NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, }
 October 31st, 1885. }

To the Honorable Board of Inspectors :

GENTLEMEN—Herewith please find statistical tables, compiled from the records of this institution for the year ending October 31st, 1885.

ROBERT B. BONNEY,
Clerk of Prison.

Number in confinement October 31st, 1884.....	843
Received during the year	471
	1,314

There have been discharged as follows :

Remittances of time (Act April 2d, 1869).....	331
By order of U. S. Commissioner.....	11
Pardoned	69
Died—white, 18 ; colored, 8.....	26
Sent to Asylum.....	4
	441
Remaining October 31st, 1885.....	873

TERMS OF SENTENCES.

Natural life.....	5
Forty years.....	1
Thirty years.....	5
Twenty-one years.....	1
Twenty years.....	20
Eighteen years.....	2
Fifteen years.....	18
Thirteen years.....	2
Twelve years.....	5
Eleven years.....	1

Ten years.....	96
Nine years.....	5
Eight years.....	11
Seven years.....	34
Six years, six months.....	1
Six years.....	30
Five years.....	146
Four years, six months.....	1
Four years.....	34
Three years, six months.....	19
Three years.....	113
Two years, six months.....	25
Two years.....	134
One year, six months.....	57
One year.....	91
Nine months.....	6
Seven months.....	1
Six months, one day.....	1
Six months.....	8

 873

COUNTIES WHERE CONVICTED.

Atlantic.....	16
Bergen.....	34
Burlington.....	19
Camden.....	56
Cape May.....	3
Cumberland.....	12
Essex.....	172
Gloucester.....	8
Hudson.....	218
Hunterdon.....	4
Mercer.....	30
Monmouth.....	42
Middlesex.....	44
Morris.....	25
Ocean.....	9
Passaic.....	57
Salem.....	5
Somerset.....	14
Sussex.....	12
Union.....	57
Warren.....	13
U. S. District.....	21
Morris and Mercer.....	1
Supreme Court.....	1

 873

CRIMES FOR WHICH COMMITTED.

Assault and battery.....	77
Assault and battery with intent to kill.....	24
Assault and battery and robbery.....	8
Assault and battery with intent to rob.....	4
Assault and battery and rape.....	2
Assault and battery, breaking and entering.....	3
Assault and battery on an officer.....	5
Atrocious assault and battery.....	40
Assault with intent.....	3
Assault.....	4
Assault with intent to rape.....	8
Attempt to commit rape.....	1
Attempt at larceny from person.....	1
Attempt at robbery.....	5
Attempt breaking prison.....	1
Arson.....	8
Breaking.....	41
Burglary.....	7
Breaking prison.....	1
Breaking with intent.....	40
Breaking and entering.....	124
Breaking, entering and larceny.....	57
Breaking, entering and breaking jail.....	4
Breaking and entering and grand larceny.....	4
Breaking and entering with intent to steal.....	4
Breaking and entering and burglary.....	3
Breaking and escaping jail.....	1
Burning.....	4
Burning barn.....	2
Bigamy.....	9
Cheat.....	1
Conspiracy.....	4
Cutting timber unlawfully.....	1
Common drunkard.....	2
Carrying burglar's tools with intent.....	2
Disorderly house.....	7
Diverting switch.....	1
Embezzlement.....	5
Embezzlement and misdemeanor.....	1
Embezzlement and false entry, &c.....	1
Embezzlement and abstracting funds National Bank.....	1
Embezzlement and larceny.....	1
Entering and stealing.....	17
Entering.....	4
Escape.....	6

Forgery	23
Forgery and embezzlement.....	1
False pretenses.....	6
Grand larceny	70
Grand larceny and attempt to break jail.....	3
Grand and petty larceny.....	1
Highway robbery.....	7
High misdemeanor.....	3
Having burglar's tools.....	1
Having in possession U. S. obligations.....	1
Incest	1
Indecent assault.....	1
Indecent exposure.....	3
Inducing another to extort money.....	1
Larceny.....	33
Larceny and arson.....	1
Larceny and breaking jail.....	2
Larceny and receiving.....	7
Larceny from the person.....	29
Murder.....	23
Murder second degree.....	10
Manslaughter	14
Misdemeanor	6
Mayhem.....	1
Making false entries books National Bank.....	1
Malicious mischief.....	6
Making counterfeit coin.....	1
Obstructing railroad.....	1
Obtaining money under false pretenses.....	2
Overdrawing bank account by bank officer.....	1
Publishing false statement, &c.....	2
Passing counterfeit coin.....	13
Passing counterfeit obligations.....	2
Polygamy	5
Perjury.....	1
Petty larceny.....	3
Robbery.....	8
Rape.....	17
Rape and abuse of infant.....	1
Receiving and larceny.....	1
Resisting an officer.....	3
Receiving stolen goods.....	3
Rescuing a prisoner.....	1
Seduction	2
Stealing and embezzling mail matter from U. S. postoffice.....	1
Uttering forged check.....	1

PLACES OF NATIVITY.

New Jersey.....	318
New York.....	137
Pennsylvania.....	55
Virginia.....	16
Massachusetts.....	8
Illinois.....	3
District of Columbia.....	5
Maryland.....	7
North Carolina.....	4
Rhode Island.....	3
Louisiana.....	1
Delaware.....	6
Ohio.....	8
California.....	2
Kentucky.....	2
Missouri.....	2
Kansas.....	1
Connecticut.....	11
Arkansas.....	1
Georgia.....	1
Florida.....	2
Vermont.....	1
Maine.....	3
Indiana.....	1
Michigan.....	1
Iowa.....	1
South Carolina.....	2
New Hampshire.....	1
Germany.....	77
Prussia.....	1
Ireland.....	95
Italy.....	7
France.....	8
England.....	37
Scotland.....	14
Canada.....	5
Poland.....	3
Norway.....	1
Switzerland.....	2
Hungary.....	1
Nova Scotia.....	2
Sicily.....	1
Bohemia.....	1
Austria.....	1

Russia.....	2
Africa.....	1
Sweden.....	2
China.....	1
Holland.....	1
West Indies.....	1
St. John's, N. B.....	1
Newfoundland.....	1
English Channel.....	2
Mid-Ocean.....	2

 873

AGES WHEN RECEIVED.

Fifteen years.....	4
Fifteen to twenty years.....	147
Twenty to twenty-five years.....	231
Twenty-five to thirty years.....	176
Thirty to forty years.....	174
Forty to fifty years.....	96
Fifty to sixty years.....	35
Sixty to seventy years.....	8
Seventy to eighty years.....	2

 873

YEARS IN WHICH RECEIVED.

1860.....	1
1867.....	2
1869.....	2
1871.....	1
1872.....	1
1873.....	1
1874.....	1
1875.....	1
1876.....	4
1877.....	1
1878.....	8
1879.....	13
1880.....	11
1881.....	32
1882.....	65
1883.....	114
1884.....	257
1885.....	358

 873

NUMBER OF COMMITMENTS.

First commitment.....	717
Second ".....	98
Third ".....	40
Fourth ".....	12
Fifth ".....	3
Sixth ".....	2
Ninth ".....	1
	<hr/>
	873

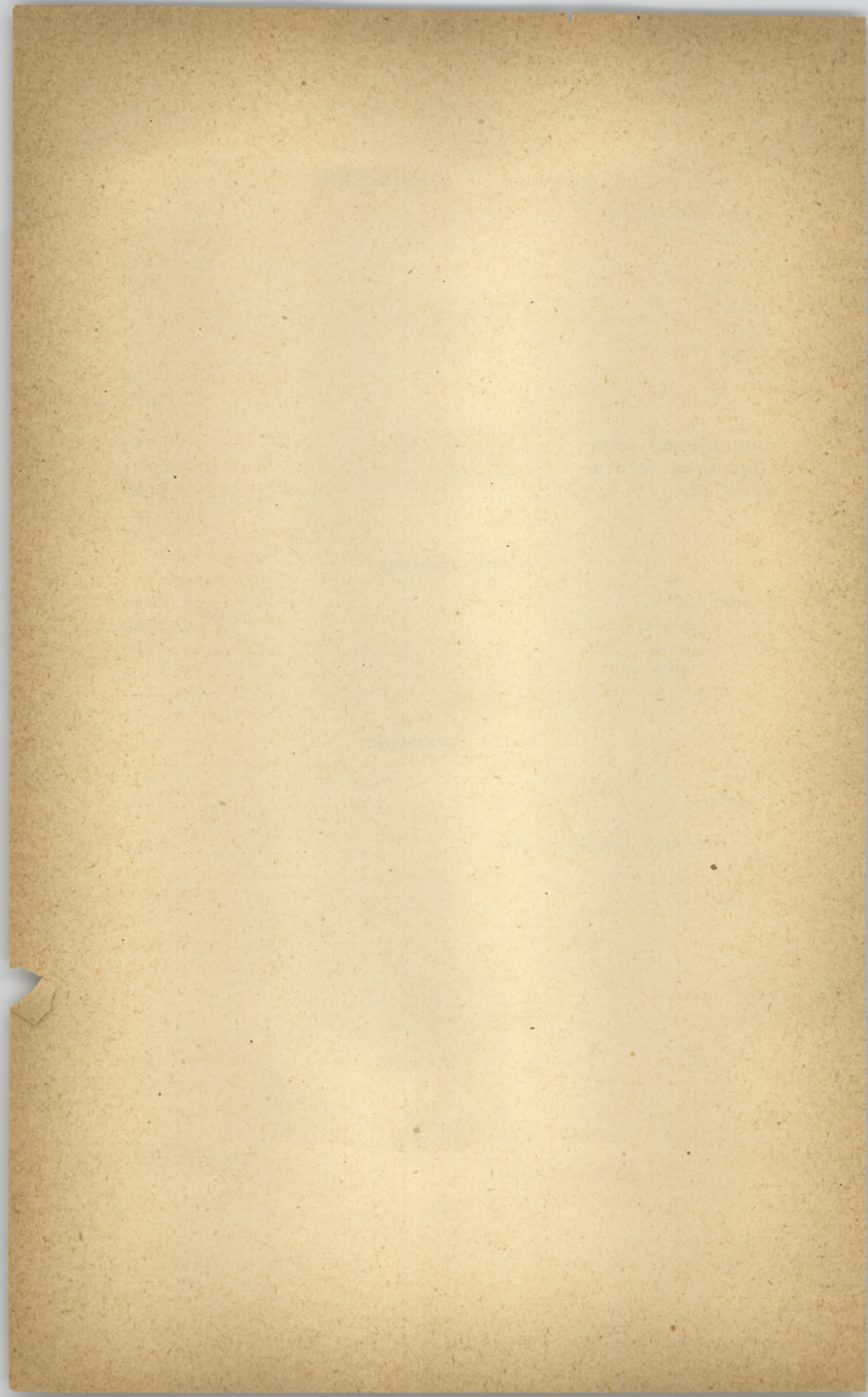
Can read and write.....	710
Cannot read or write.....	121
Read only.....	42
	<hr/>
	873

COLOR AND SEX.

White males.....	726
" females.....	25
Colored males.....	118
" females.....	4
	<hr/>
	873

DAILY AVERAGE.

Males.....	833
Females.....	30
	<hr/>
Average whole number.....	863



KEEPER'S REPORT.

KEEPER'S OFFICE, NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, }
TRENTON, October 31st, 1885. }

To His Excellency Leon Abbett, Governor of the State of New Jersey :

I herewith submit to your Excellency the customary annual report of the condition of affairs of the institution, the Principal Keeper of which I have the honor to be, for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1885.

The year in question has been a most eventful one in the history of our State Prison, and I feel that I cannot bring to the notice of your Excellency the many important questions at present involved in the management of the same, without engrossing more of your attention than is usually requisite in the premises. But the great interest the people of this State and those of the entire country now evince in the solving of the convict labor problem, and the many important issues connected therewith, as also the fact that we have recently adopted in our institution a system of labor looking towards that end, the result of which is anxiously awaited by the public, will, I hope, in this instance, excuse my lack of brevity.

The legislature of 1884 abolished the contract labor system, to take effect at the expiration of our old contracts in June of this year, and made it incumbent upon the Prison authorities to adopt either the "public account" or the "piece-price" system thereafter. As the "public account" system would involve the immediate outlay of a vast sum of money for the purchase of stock and machinery, and had already been experimented upon with disastrous results by the prison authorities of other States, the managing authorities of our institution wisely determined to adopt the "piece-price" system. To put that system into operation was by no means an easy task. Your Excellency should remember that the gentlemen having that duty devolving upon them were thrown entirely upon their own resources, and could glean nothing of any importance to guide them in the prosecution of their work. True, in one or two penal institutions of this country a limited experiment with the "piece-price" system had been inaugurated some time ago, but the results obtained from such experiments were so meagre that they were of no practical benefit to us at the time the system was put into operation in this institution. In

addition to this, it must not be forgotten that none of these gentlemen have any experience in the manufacture of goods, and were in a great measure compelled to rely upon the fair treatment and honesty of those bidding for the products of convict labor. As it was known at the outstart that the old contractors (or nearly all of them) were very anxious to bid for the production of the labor of the convicts under the new system, it was quite natural to infer that they would so fix their bids as to allow the convicts in their employ to earn at least as much as they did under the old contract system. This inference was strengthened by the knowledge of the fact that each and every one of them would gladly have renewed their old contracts, that is, employed the convicts at fifty cents per day, and as they well knew the new law did not contemplate that the convicts should work for less remuneration than they did under the old system, it was reasonable to suppose they would arrange the bids accordingly. This all but one of them did. But as the one in question has been awarded the contract for the employment of about three hundred convicts (on three different industries), that falling off materially reduces the general result. I refer now to the contract of Downs & Finch for the making of shirts, collars and cuffs and for laundering, which neither your Excellency nor myself have approved of by attaching our signatures thereto. These gentlemen have held the same contract under the old system, and it was not to be inferred that their bid would result in cutting down the earnings of the convicts to nearly one-half as compared with those under the system heretofore in vogue. But unfortunately this is the case. There can be no question that in this instance the Prison authorities have been misled. In view of the fact that the work under the new system could of necessity be only experimental at the outstart, a fact that must have been apparent to all, it is a circumstance much to be regretted that the contracts were made for four years or that a clause was not inserted in each and every one of them stipulating that bidders must guarantee that the convicts shall earn at least fifty cents each per day at the figures named.

I bring these facts to the attention of your Excellency, not in a fault-finding spirit, but because it is absolutely necessary that they should be given due consideration before an opinion is expressed as to either the success or the failure of the "piece-price" system. It would be eminently unfair to gauge the practical results of that system without making due allowance for any mistakes that have inadvertently been made by the authorities in putting it into operation. These mistakes once rectified, it will become apparent to all that the "piece-price" system is an unqualified success, and an important step towards the practical solving of the convict labor problem.

In doing away with the contract system, so offensive to free labor, it was evidently the intention of the Legislature to enforce a fair and honest remuneration for the labor of the convicts, and thus to lessen the evils complained of. Since the inauguration of the "piece-price"

system in this institution, I have gathered sufficient data to convince me that the plan is perfectly feasible, and when the errors above enumerated are rectified, the wisdom of your Excellency's advocacy of the same will have been verified.

Under that system we were enabled to introduce a number of new industries in the work-shops of the Prison, thus giving our convicts an opportunity to learn better trades than heretofore, and not massing as many at one industry. With this addition to the working facilities of the institution, the assignment of convicts to certain branches of labor is also greatly simplified, as we can now find some suitable employment for nearly all of them, and put convicts to work who would have been absolutely useless under the old system.

The "piece-price" system has also a tendency to improve the discipline of the convicts and make them do their work more cheerfully than they did heretofore. Formerly they knew that their work was contracted for at a certain figure per day, and it made no difference to the State how much or how little they did. The result was they did just enough to escape punishment for loafing. Now they know that the State is the gainer if they are industrious, and this is a great incentive to spur them on in their work. True, they receive none of the profits of their labor, but even in the most depraved there exists a laudable ambition to excel and gain the favor of their superiors.

To sum up, the receipts of this institution from convict labor would have been increased by the "piece-price" system, were it not that the Prison authorities had been misled by the bid of Downs & Finch. This, however, is not the fault of the system, and can easily be provided against in the future.

In concluding this subject, I am happy to state that my fears expressed last year that the new system would bring about much additional expense have not been realized. Much additional labor is involved, but we have managed to have the same performed by the officers of the institution, who have gladly taken this extra burden upon themselves in order to insure its success.

To prepare for the introduction of the "piece-price" system it became necessary to provide extra shop facilities. This necessity the last Legislature foresaw by appropriating \$15,000 for that purpose. The work was performed by the Building Commission, consisting of the Board of Inspectors, Supervisor and Keeper. Under its guidance a shop has been erected which, in every particular, meets the requirements of the case. The erection of this additional shop did not, however, consume the entire appropriation, but it became necessary to make many other alterations to prepare for the introduction of this new system (as will be seen by the detailed report of the Commission), and for these the entire sum appropriated was exhausted. I can safely assert, without fear of contradiction, that our shop facilities are second to none of any similar institution in the country, and far superior to those usually erected by private enterprise.

Your Excellency will probably perceive that there is a large falling-off in the earnings of this institution for the fiscal year just closed as compared with those of the year previous. This is readily accounted for. Our old contracts all expired on the 30th of June, and it was not until October that the new system could be put in operation, and even then only on a limited scale. The convicts under my charge have been idle for over four months, a circumstance that could not be averted, and which will fully account for the cutting-down of the receipts for labor in this year's report.

In my last report I found it incumbent upon myself to draw the attention of your Excellency to the crowded state of this institution, and the urgent necessity for providing more cell accommodations. The evils then complained of are still more potent at the present juncture. At the time the last cell additions were made this institution only contained about 800 convicts, and even then the law which obligates the Keeper to confine each convict in a separate cell could not be carried into effect for want of the requisite room. At the time of this report going to press there are over 900 convicts confined here, with every probability of a still greater increase in the near future. It was for good and sufficient reasons, reasons that must be apparent to all, that the Legislature enacted the law in question, and it ill-behooves law-makers to become law-breakers. It is a strange condition of affairs that will prevent a Legislature from providing the means for the carrying out of its own enactments. While there are less than 700 cells in this institution I am compelled to accommodate more than 900 convicts, and thus violate the law. That law should either be repealed (if it is to remain a dead letter) or else the Legislature speedily furnish the means for its enforcement. It is unfair that I should be forced to violate the law of the Legislature because that Legislature does not provide me with the means to carry it into effect.

The old west wing is in a condition not at all in keeping with the rest of this institution, and should speedily be remodeled. It contains no sewerage, and we are compelled to maintain the old bucket system there. This not only endangers the health of the convicts confined there, but is a great drawback to the proper sanitary arrangement of the entire prison and not at all in keeping with the liberal or progressive spirit of the age.

In each and every one of my reports I have drawn attention to the necessity of enlarging and improving our cook, bake and wash house. When this building was erected the institution contained less than one-fourth the number of convicts it does now. It is entirely inadequate for the requirements of the present time. The rooms are hardly any larger than those used for a similar purpose in any well-regulated private dwelling, and when it is known that the work for over 900 convicts must be performed in the same, it will be readily understood that they cannot be kept in a condition that the requirements of the

case demand. Nearly all similar institutions pride themselves on their great kitchens, roomy bake houses, and commodious wash rooms, while ours are dark and dingy little places, entirely unfitted to the purposes for which they were originally designed.

As stated before, the introduction of the "piece-price" system has greatly added to the duties of all the officers of the institution. I am pleased to say that in my efforts to make the same a success, I have been ably seconded by the Supervisor and my Deputy Keepers. They have cheerfully performed this additional labor, and by closely watching the workings of the new system, have been able to impart to me much valuable information.

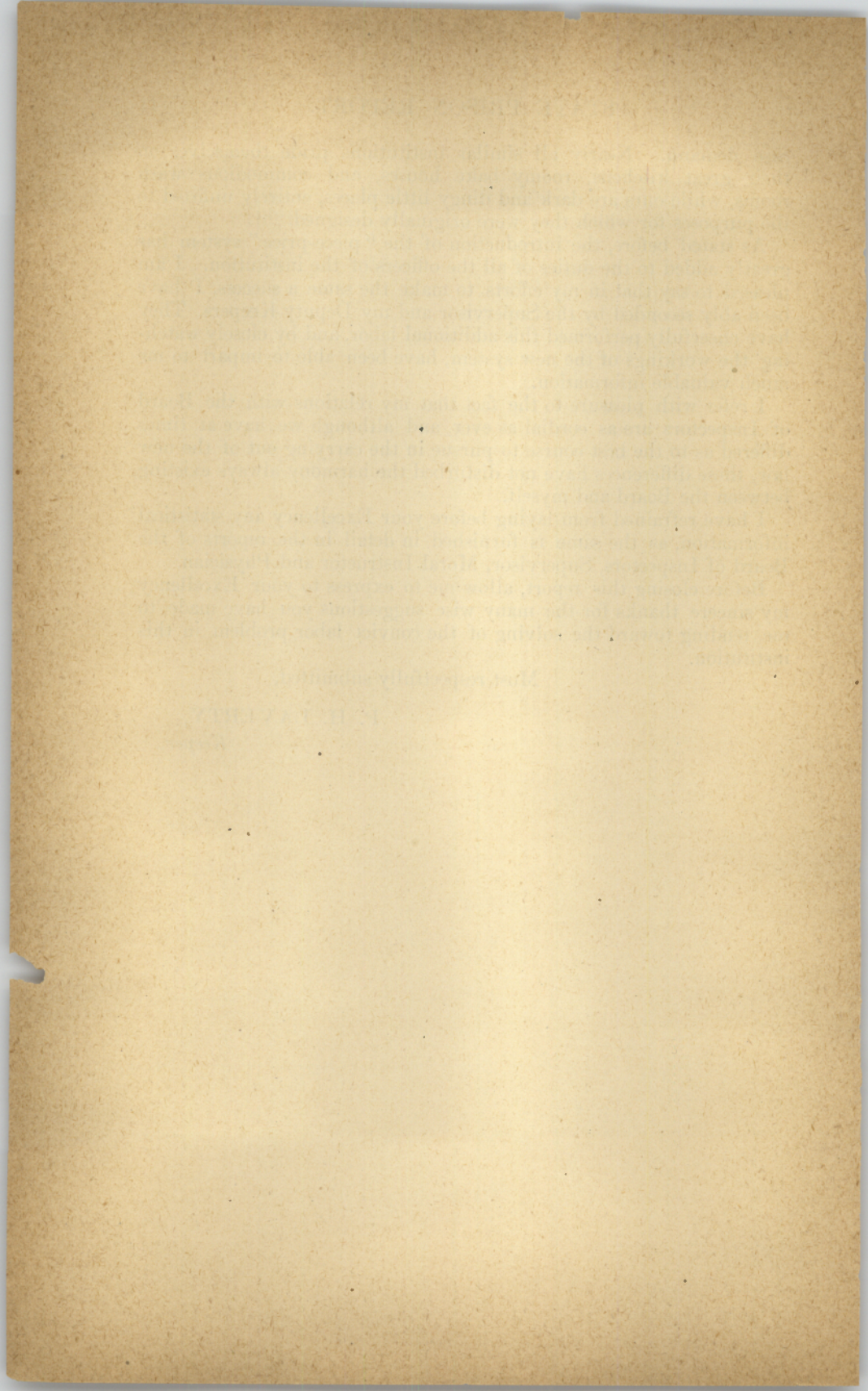
I refer with pleasure to the fact that my relations with the Board of Inspectors are as cordial as ever, and although we have at times differed as to the best course to pursue in the carrying out of the new law, these differences have not disturbed the harmony always existing between the Board and myself.

I have refrained from laying before your Excellency any statistical information, as the same is furnished in detail in the reports of the Board of Inspectors, Supervisor, Moral Instructor and Physician.

Before closing this report, allow me to express to your Excellency my sincere thanks for the many wise suggestions you have made to me, tending toward the solving of the convict labor problem in this institution.

Most respectfully submitted,

P. H. LAVERTY,
Keeper.



REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMISSION.

To the Legislature:

In accordance with the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide additional shop-room at the New Jersey State Prison," approved March tenth, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, the Board of Inspectors, the Principal Keeper and the Supervisor met on the 11th day of March, 1885, and organized the Building Commission by the election of Inspector Anderson as Chairman.

Plans and specifications were at once ordered prepared for the erection of a shop, as contemplated by the act.

The Commission soon discovered that extensive alterations would be required in the old shop to meet the increased demand for shop room, and accordingly made such alterations as in their judgment were necessary. The new building erected by the Commission is 105 feet in length by 42 feet in width, two stories in height, and built in the best manner of brown stone. The floors and ceilings are of the best yellow pine, and all material is of the best quality that could be obtained in the market.

As far as possible, bids for the supplying of materials were advertised for, thus enabling their purchase at the lowest market rates. It became necessary to purchase large quantities of shafting, machinery and a new engine, and the Commission were obliged to draw upon the balance of the wall appropriation, as authorized by the act.

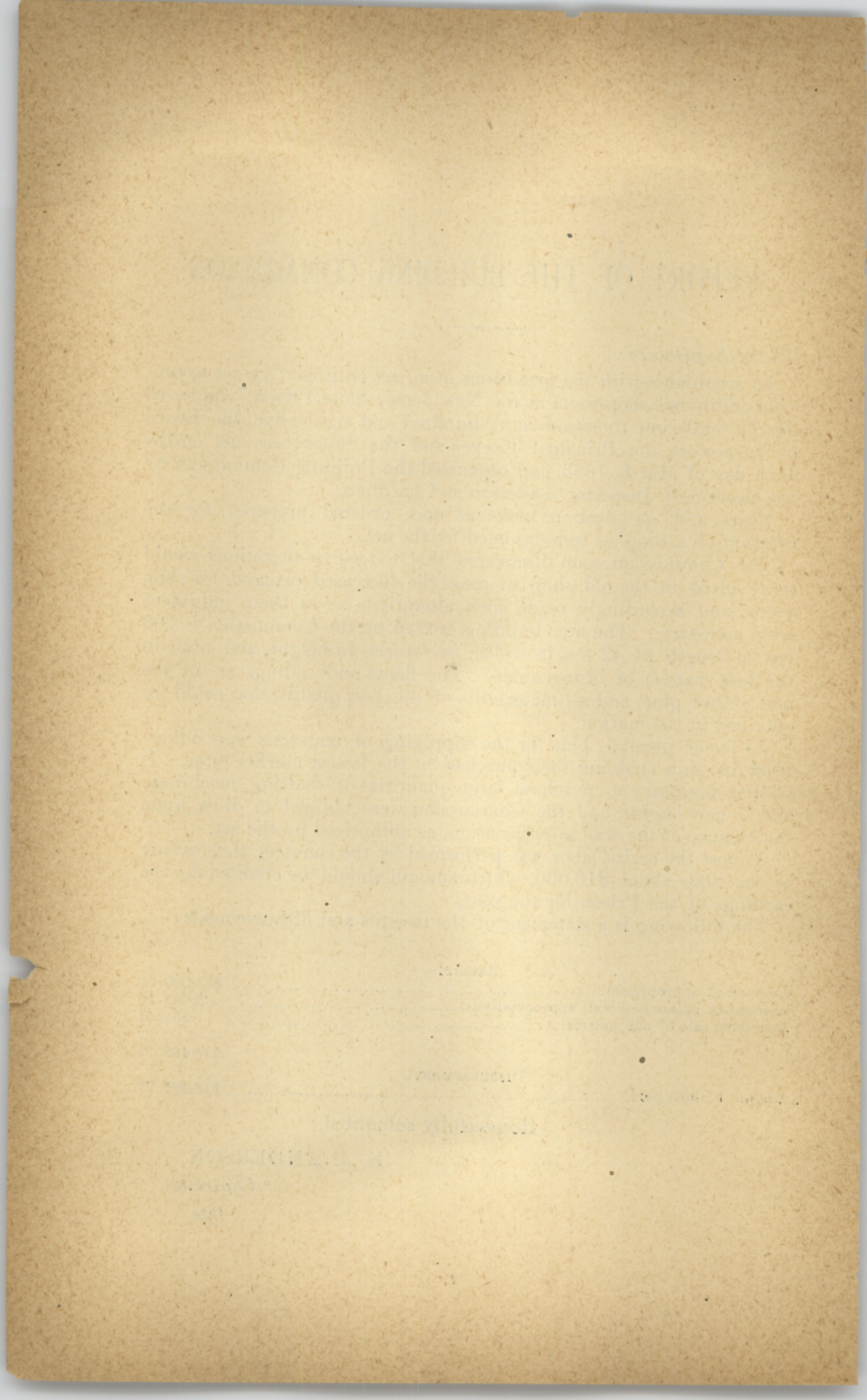
Almost the entire labor was performed by the convicts, thus saving to the State about \$10,000, which amount should be credited to the earnings of the Prison for the year.

The following is a statement of the receipts and disbursements:

RECEIPTS.	
Amount of appropriation.....	\$15,000 00
Amount of balance of wall appropriation.....	2,925 10
Cash from sale of old material.....	538 67
	\$18,463 77
DISBURSEMENTS.	
Amount of bills paid.....	\$18,463 77

Respectfully submitted,

E. J. ANDERSON,
Chairman.



MORAL INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

STATE PRISON, October 31st, 1885.

To His Excellency Leon Abbett, Governor of the State of New Jersey.

In making my annual report, I am glad to state that progress has been made, and is constantly being made, in the moral and religious instruction of the prisoners. In addition to the regular morning service, both Catholic and Protestant, held in our extemporized chapel, we have now a service in the afternoon by ministers of the different denominations in the city of Trenton (including preaching in the German language), in which great interest seems to be taken.

The ladies of the "Christian Temperance Union," as well as the "Sisters of Charity" make frequent and acceptable visits, especially to the sick. The attendance upon public worship, although entirely voluntary, is very general and uniform, and a reverent and attentive interest manifested and maintained, apparently without constraint or compulsion.

Any prisoner, by making proper application, can enjoy the friendly counsel and religious services of a minister of his own choice. Thus entire religious freedom is guaranteed to each one.

While we rejoice in these means of instruction and comfort, we are still forced to regret our insufficient chapel accommodations, and to request that your Excellency would interpose in our behalf in the way of a recommendation to the Legislature to provide for us the needed room; we are the more encouraged to do this, as in connection with the rebuilding of the "West Wing" (now demanded by every consideration of health and decency), a most suitable and inexpensive arrangement could be made.

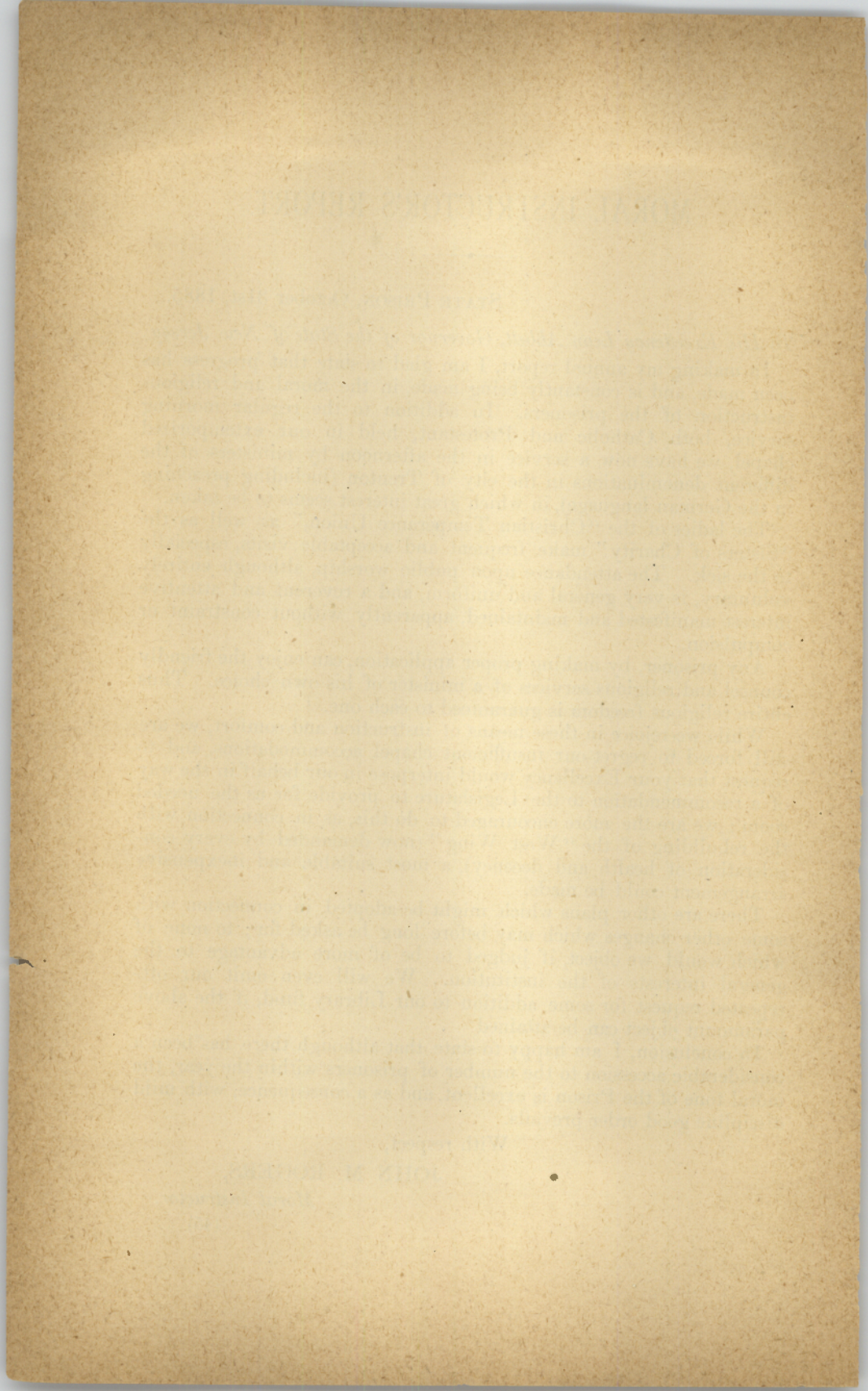
There are other plans which might be adopted, in connection with some other changes which may before long be asked for; to none of which would we object, if judged to be of more advantage to the general interests of the institution. We will even omit our oft-repeated request for some addition to our Library fund, if the above paramount object can be attained.

In conclusion, I am happy to state that although there has been a considerable accession to the number of prisoners within the year, the moral tone of the Prison is excellent, and as a consequence, with mild discipline good order prevails.

With respect,

JOHN M. ROGERS,

Moral Instructor.



PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Inspectors of the New Jersey State Prison :

GENTLEMEN—I beg leave to submit this my second yearly report for the year ending October 31st, 1885.

During the year we had sixteen deaths from phthisis; two, fatty liver; one, dysentery; one, apoplexy; one, typhoid fever; one, epithelioma; one, peritonitis; one, syphilitic meningitis; one, congestion of the brain; one, syphilitic paralysis; two were transferred to the Insane Asylum. There has been a marked decrease in the number of cases of diarrhea and malaria compared with last year, although phthisis has increased to some extent. The majority of these cases occurred in convicts whose health had been broken down by a life of vice and dissipation. Our population has increased to such an extent that our Hospital is inadequate to the demand, and the undersigned would respectfully suggest the construction of a Hospital on the site now occupied by the old whip and tailor shop, separate from the general Prison, whereby we could procure better sanitary appliances.

I again find it necessary for me to call your attention to the condition of the "West Wing," and would advise the reconstruction of this wing as soon as possible. I also desire to express my sincere thanks to the Principal Keeper and his deputies for their cordial cooperation in the discharge of my duties.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. HUTCHINSON,

Prison Physician.

