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DEPARTMENT OF  
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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
STATE COLONY  
FOR  
FEEBLE MINDED MALES  
AT  
NEW LISBON, N. J.

For the Fiscal Year 1916—1917

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N.J. State Colony at New Lisbon.

RAHWAY N. J.  
NEW JERSEY REFORMATORY PRINT  
1918

## REPORT

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*To His Excellency the Governor, Walter E. Edge, Trenton,  
New Jersey:*

This report closing the fiscal year 1916-1917 covers the first entire year of the existence of the Colony as a State Institution.

With a population of forty-five inmates, including morons, imbeciles and high grade idiots, about twenty acres of forest has been cleared and about six of the twenty has been put into farming condition adapted to the cultivation of fruits, vegetables and the things principally grown on light soils. The cost of preparing the land ready for farming is approximated at about \$75.00 per acre. This is being done, however, with inmate labor, thereby combining waste land and waste labor and bringing into effect a profitable asset to the State. In a few years the Colony should have a well developed farm; raising all fruits and vegetables and a large portion of the necessary feed for live stock.

The cost of construction can be materially reduced by inmate labor. Under the direction of a proper person the inmates can do most of the excavating, wheeling sand, mixing concrete, carrying lumber, making cement blocks and many similar jobs that hired labor should not do and thereby reducing the cost of developing and building.

In maintaining inmates in any institution each one should have some work to perform and it is really surprising to find what can be accomplished if proper consideration and direction is applied.

There was no specific appropriation applied directly to the Colony for maintenance during this year, but inmates were maintained under the appropriation for care of Feeble-Minded and, of course, causing the Colony to earn its maintenance. This was done at a per capita of \$229.95. The earnings or income from this source amounted to \$9,984.24. Approx-

imating the value of work, which would necessarily had to have been paid for in order to accomplish what has been done, were it not for the inmate labor, amounted to about 8% of the earnings. This is evidence of proof that inmates can to a degree become a factor in reducing their keep if given and directed in the work they are most gifted to doing.

The Colony idea is the correct way in providing for the feeble-minded—turning waste land into productive farms and best of all, training waste labor to help support themselves.

Following is a statement of this year.

Respectfully submitted,

J. FRANK MACOMBER,

*Superintendent.*

## Financial Statement

### RECEIPTS.

Balance of appropriation for 1916, .....	\$6,163 64
Appropriation 1917, .....	15,000 00
Earnings for maintenance of inmates at \$230.00 per capita, .....	9,984 24
Maintenance of Plumbers on contract work, .....	121 63
State Board of Children's Guardians for damages awarded inmate to be held in trust for medical care, .....	88 43
Petty Cash Fund, .....	300 00
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	\$31,657 94

### DISBURSEMENTS.

Administrative expenses, including salaries and wages, .....	\$4,472 88
Table supplies, .....	1,958 14
House supplies, .....	695 20
Clothing, .....	730 10
Repairs, .....	28 42
Farm, stable and grounds, .....	1,268 12
Heat, light and power, .....	657 26
Miscellaneous, .....	99 20
Construction and development, .....	14,817 15
Refund of petty cash, .....	300 00
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	\$25,026 51
Balance, for which contracts have been awarded for building materials and other permanent assets, .....	\$6,631 43

