

REPORT

OF THE

NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON,

EMBRACING THE REPORTS OF THE

INSPECTORS, SUPERVISOR, KEEPER, MORAL INSTRUCTOR,
PHYSICIAN AND JOINT COMMITTEE.

For the Year 1872.

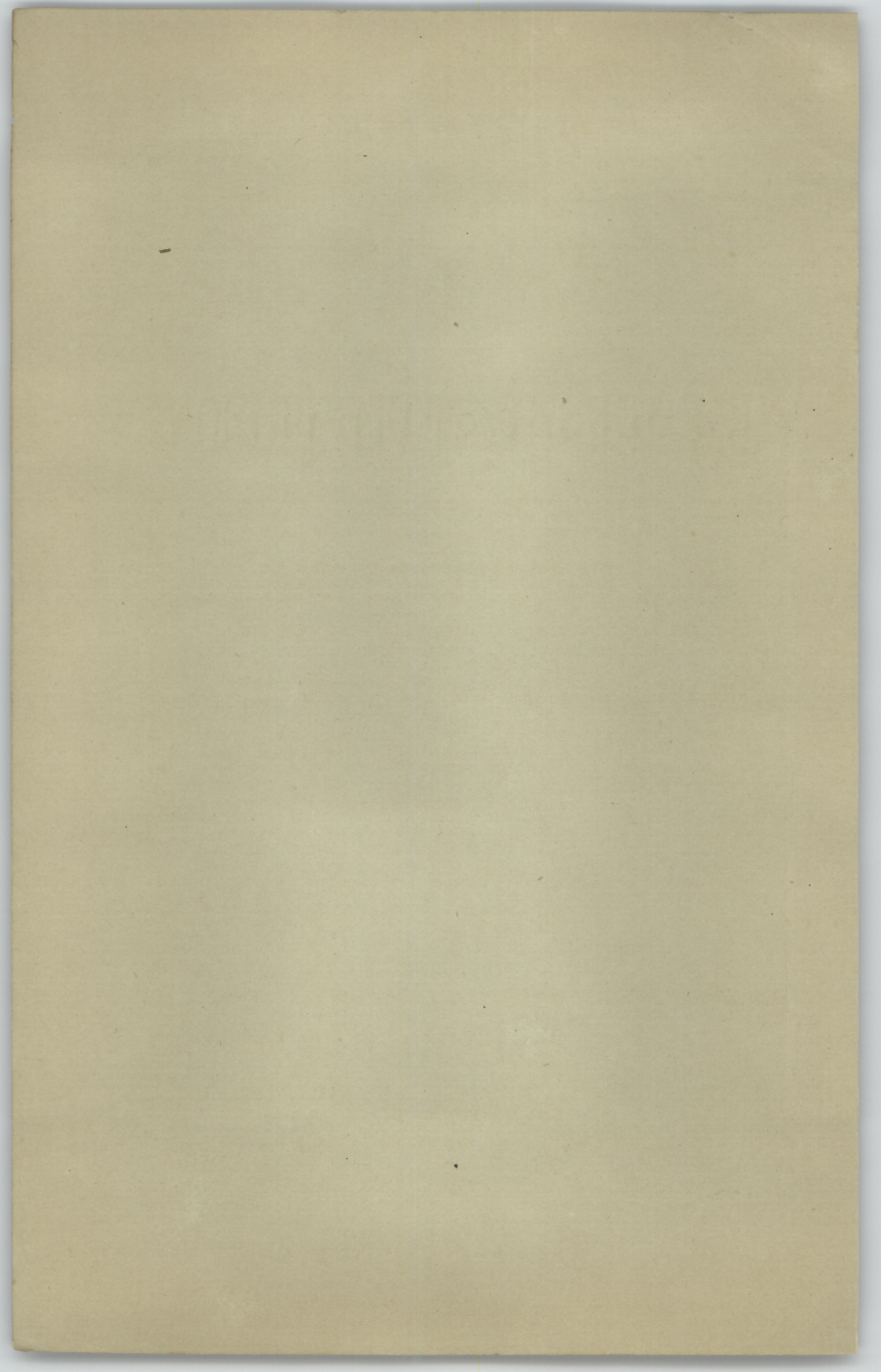
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1872.





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THE STATE GAZETTE—MURPHY & BECHTEL, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.

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REPORT

OF THE

NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON

PREPARED BY THE BOARD OF PRISON

INSPECTORS, SUPERVISOR, WARDEN, AND INSTRUCTORS,
PHYSICIAN AND JOINT COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR 1877

TRINITY N. J.

THE STATE GAZETTE—WHEAT & HARRISON'S PRINTING OFFICE AND JOB PRINTING

INSPECTORS' REPORT.

INSPECTORS' ROOM, NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, }
November 14th, 1872. }

To the Honorable Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

The Board of Inspectors of the State Prison respectfully present to the Legislature the annual report of the institution for the fiscal year ending October 31st, 1872.

The special information to be reported yearly by the Inspectors will be found in the statistical tables accompanying this report.

The amount of moneys drawn from the State Treasurer on Inspectors' drafts is as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Salaries of officers from November 1st, 1871, to October 31st, 1872, | \$44,493 40 |
| Salaries of Inspectors from November 1st, 1871, to October 31st, 1872, | 2,979 00 |
| Repairs of Prison, from November 1st, 1871, to October 31st, 1872, | 20,173 27 |
| Expenses incurred in the escape of a prisoner, | 80 60 |
| | \$67,726 27 |

Of the above amount there has been expended for extensions, fixtures and permanent improvements about \$12,000.00.

The introduction of gas is found to be a great improvement in lighting and the safety of the prison, and this Board respectfully recommend the manufacture of gas on the premises as a matter of economy.

We further recommend the erection of a wall around the workshop, its present condition being regarded by us as unsafe for the security of the prisoners.

The health of the prisoners for the past year has been very good; for further information in regard to the sanitary condition of the prison we refer you to the Physician's report.

The discipline of the prison has been good.

Our intercourse with Supervisor, Col. Wm. R. Murphy, and his

STATE PRISON REPORT.

associates in the Board, Hon. A. L. Runyon and Hon. Josephus Sooy, Jr., and R. H. Howell, the prison-keeper, has been pleasant and satisfactory.

The Clerk of the Prison, R. B. Bonney, is very well qualified for the duties of the office, and has been faithful in the performance thereof.

Respectfully submitted.

WM. A. PIERCE,
JONATHAN GOBLE,
WM. E. LAYTON,
WILLIAM CALHOUN,
ROBERT S. JOHNSTON.

} Inspectors.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

OFFICE OF NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, }
TRENTON, November 9, 1872. }

To the Board of Inspectors, New Jersey State Prison:

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith find statistical tables, compiled from records of this institution, for the year ending October 31, 1872.

Very respectfully,

ROBT. B. BONNEY,

Clerk of Prison.

STATISTICS.

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| Number confined October 31, 1871, | - | 516 |
| Number received from that time to October 31, 1872, | - | 334 |
| | | 850 |

There have been discharged as follows:

| | | |
|--|---|-----|
| By remittance of time (act April 2, 1869), | - | 215 |
| By expiration of sentence, | - | 2 |
| *Pardoned, | - | 65 |
| Died, | - | 9 |
| Sent to Asylum, | - | 3 |
| Sent to Reform School, | - | 2 |
| Escaped, | - | 1 |
| | | 297 |
| Number in confinement October 31, 1872, | - | 553 |

*Of the above number two (2) were pardoned by the President, and the remainder, sixty-three (63) by the Court of Pardons of this State.

TERM OF SENTENCES.

| | |
|--|----|
| During natural life, - - - - - | 6 |
| Thirty years, - - - - - | 1 |
| Twenty-seven years, - - - - - | 2 |
| Twenty years, - - - - - | 9 |
| Seventeen years, - - - - - | 2 |
| Sixteen years, - - - - - | 2 |
| Fifteen years, - - - - - | 15 |
| Fourteen years, - - - - - | 1 |
| Twelve years, - - - - - | 1 |
| Ten years, - - - - - | 54 |
| Nine years, - - - - - | 3 |
| Eight years, - - - - - | 20 |
| Seven years and six months, - - - - - | 2 |
| Seven years and four months, - - - - - | 1 |
| Seven years, - - - - - | 16 |
| Six years, - - - - - | 12 |
| Five years, - - - - - | 79 |
| Four years, - - - - - | 29 |
| Three years and six months, - - - - - | 1 |
| Three years, - - - - - | 63 |
| Two years and six months, - - - - - | 5 |
| Two years, - - - - - | 86 |
| One year and nine months, - - - - - | 1 |
| One year and six months, - - - - - | 16 |
| One year and four months, - - - - - | 1 |
| One year and three months, - - - - - | 2 |
| One year, - - - - - | 90 |
| Nine months, - - - - - | 7 |
| Six months, - - - - - | 26 |

553

COUNTIES WHERE CONVICTED.

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Atlantic, - - - - - | 6 |
| Burlington, - - - - - | 33 |
| Bergen, - - - - - | 40 |
| Camden, - - - - - | 49 |
| Cumberland, - - - - - | 12 |
| Essex, - - - - - | 93 |
| Gloucester, - - - - - | 8 |
| Hudson, - - - - - | 97 |
| Hunterdon, - - - - - | 11 |
| Mercer, - - - - - | 13 |
| Monmouth, - - - - - | 8 |
| Middlesex, - - - - - | 32 |

STATE PRISON REPORT.

7

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Morris, - - - - - | 16 |
| Passaic, - - - - - | 43 |
| Salem, - - - - - | 12 |
| Sussex, - - - - - | 8 |
| Somerset, - - - - - | 11 |
| Union, - - - - - | 37 |
| Warren, - - - - - | 2 |
| Ocean, - - - - - | 2 |
| Cape May, - - - - - | 3 |
| U. S. District, - - - - - | 9 |
| Morris and Essex, - - - - - | 2 |
| Bergen and Passaic, - - - - - | 2 |
| Union and Bergen, - - - - - | 2 |
| Morris and U. S. District, - - - - - | 1 |
| Hunterdon and Essex, - - - - - | 1 |

553

PLACES OF NATIVITY.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Connecticut, - - - - - | 3 |
| New Jersey, - - - - - | 169 |
| Pennsylvania, - - - - - | 47 |
| New York, - - - - - | 65 |
| Massachusetts, - - - - - | 12 |
| Maryland, - - - - - | 8 |
| Delaware, - - - - - | 9 |
| Virginia, - - - - - | 8 |
| South Carolina, - - - - - | 2 |
| North Carolina, - - - - - | 1 |
| Georgia, - - - - - | 1 |
| Alabama, - - - - - | 1 |
| Kentucky, - - - - - | 2 |
| Ohio, - - - - - | 2 |
| Louisiana, - - - - - | 3 |
| New Hampshire, - - - - - | 1 |
| Florida, - - - - - | 1 |
| Vermont, - - - - - | 1 |
| Texas, - - - - - | 1 |
| District Columbia, - - - - - | 4 |
| Nova Scotia, - - - - - | 2 |
| Canada, - - - - - | 3 |
| Germany, - - - - - | 66 |
| Scotland, - - - - - | 3 |
| Switzerland, - - - - - | 4 |
| England, - - - - - | 33 |
| France, - - - - - | 1 |
| Prussia, - - - - - | 1 |

STATE PRISON REPORT.

9

AGES WHEN RECEIVED.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| From twelve to fifteen, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| From fifteen to twenty, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 90 |
| From twenty to twenty-five, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 160 |
| From twenty-five to thirty, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 100 |
| From thirty to forty, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 120 |
| From forty to fifty, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 47 |
| From fifty to sixty, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 26 |
| From sixty to seventy, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 |
| From seventy to eighty, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| | | | | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | | | | 553 |
| Daily average number, | - | - | - | - | - | - | 527 |

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE, }
NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, Oct. 31, 1872. }

To His Excellency Joel Parker, Governor of New Jersey :

SIR :—Herewith I forward my fourth annual report as Supervisor of the New Jersey State Prison.

The balance sheet annexed exhibits the financial operations during the past year. It will be seen that after paying all the current expenses of maintaining the convicts, there is a net gain of \$28,478.47, making our net capital \$95,692.59.

The assets amount to \$95,856.27, and the liabilities to \$163.68.

The current expenses amount to \$52,414.52 ; but this sum does not include the cost of gas furnished by the City Gas Light Company.

When gas was introduced into the buildings of the prison, it was foreseen that the expense would greatly exceed that of the former mode of lighting, and would absorb too large an amount of our earnings. This additional expense the Supervisor declined to incur. The bills of the City Gas Light Company amount to \$5,808.95, and have been paid by the Treasurer on the warrant of the Comptroller. The Board of Supervisors earnestly hope that the Legislature will make some provision by which gas can be furnished at a cost which the income of the institution can afford to pay.

In my second annual report this sentence occurs : " The heavy burden so long borne by the State to maintain her correctional institution, is nearly removed, and there is a reasonable expectation that hereafter instead of drawing funds from the State for its support, it will pay something into the treasury from its earnings."

That expectation has been realized. I have the receipt of the Treasurer, countersigned by the Comptroller, of this date for \$20,000, paid from the earnings during the year just closed.

The usual special appropriation of \$50,000, made by the Legislature every year for the support of the prison, ceased with the enactment of the law of March 26, 1869, by which law the Board of Supervisors of the Prison was created. There remains in the hands of the Treasurer \$10,000 of the last special appropriation made in 1869, and \$10,000 for that and each of the three following years, which sum was authorized by the act above mentioned, to be paid to the Supervisor annually ; making \$50,000 of undrawn appropriations. The saving to the State may be stated as follows :

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| Annual appropriation, (special), \$50,000 | - | - | - | \$150,000 |
| Appropriations not drawn as stated above, | - | - | - | 50,000 |
| Amount just paid into the Treasury, | - | - | - | 20,000 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| Making a gain to the State under the present law, | - | - | - | \$220,000 |

In this connection I respectfully ask an examination of the annexed statement marked "B."

The two contracts for convict labor, respectively dated July 1, 1869, and July 15, 1870, will expire by their own limitation on the 30th of June, 1873. The Board of Supervisors believe that after that date better results will be obtained from the labor of the convicts than those under the existing contracts.

In the report of last year, by direction of the Board of Supervisors, I made a full statement of the claim of the State against Messrs. Bigelow and Howe, contractors for convict labor.

Subsequently, under the advice of the Attorney General, a suit was brought to recover the amount claimed to be due, (\$32,627.55). Owing to causes beyond the control of the Board, the suit has not yet come to trial, but will, no doubt, before the adjournment of the approaching session of the Legislature. As the cause is now before the courts for adjudication, I forbear to make any statement of the grounds on which the claim is based.

In all my former reports, the necessity for a Chapel or some other suitable apartment for religious and secular instruction, was presented for your consideration. I respectfully ask your attention to the suggestions of the Keeper in his report, on that subject.

In concluding this brief report, I desire to acknowledge the aid and support received from my colleagues in the Board of Supervisors, the Hon. A. L. Runyon and the Hon. Josephus, Sooy, Jr.

Respectfully submitted,

W. R. MURPHY,
Supervisor.

BALANCE SHEET

NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, from October 31st, 1871, to October 31st, 1872.

| LEDGER HEADINGS. | LEDGER BALANCES. | | INVENTORY. | PROFIT AND LOSS. | | STOCK. | | BALANCE. | |
|----------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | DR. | CR. | | DR. | CR. | DR. | CR. | DR. | CR. |
| Stock, - - - | | \$67,214 12 | | \$29,858 00 | | | \$67,214 12 | | |
| Subsistence, - - - | \$31,193 52 | | 1,335 52 | 7,684 88 | | | | \$ 1,335 52 | |
| Fuel, - - - | 8,944 88 | | 1,260 00 | 4,872 67 | | | | 1,260 00 | |
| Clothing, - - - | 8,649 16 | | 3,776 49 | 2,526 63 | | | | 3,776 49 | |
| Dis'gd Convicts' Clothing, | 3,600 63 | | 1,074 00 | | | | | 1,074 00 | |
| Cash, - - - | 3,705 45 | | | | | | | 3,705 45 | |
| Interest, - - - | | 311 72 | | 1,125 91 | \$ 311 72 | | | | |
| Furniture, - - - | 10,007 59 | | | 510 78 | | | | 8,881 68 | |
| Bedding, - - - | 3,248 00 | | 8,881 68 | | | | | 2,737 22 | |
| Convict Labor, - - - | | | 2,737 22 | | | | | | |
| Bills Receivable, - - - | 1,942 16 | 74,271 55 | | 1,937 27 | | 74,271 55 | | 1,942 16 | |
| Tobacco, - - - | 3,031 21 | | | 72 95 | | | | 1,942 16 | |
| Chair Seats, - - - | 597 95 | | 1,093 94 | | | | | 1,093 94 | |
| Tools and Implements, | 1,218 24 | | 525 00 | | | | | 525 00 | |
| Live Stock, - - - | 693 03 | | 1,218 24 | 2,167 36 | 38 22 | | | 1,218 24 | |
| Hospital, - - - | 2,667 36 | | 731 25 | 459 58 | | | | 731 25 | |
| Stationery, - - - | 559 58 | | 500 00 | 686 09 | | | | 500 00 | |
| Forage, - - - | 758 89 | | 100 00 | 438 10 | | | | 100 00 | |
| Light, - - - | 438 10 | | 72 80 | 74 30 | | | | 72 80 | |
| Carting and Freight, - | 74 30 | | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous, - - - | | 6,191 50 | | | 6,271 50 | | | 80 00 | |
| State of New Jersey, - | 20,000 00 | | 80 00 | | | | | 20,000 00 | |
| Bigelow & Howe, - - - | 46,003 92 | | | | | | | 46,003 92 | |
| Personal Accounts, Dr., | 818 60 | | | | | | | 818 60 | |
| " " Cr., | | 163 68 | 23,386 14 | | | | | | \$163 68 |
| | \$148,152 57 | \$148,152 57 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 28,478 47 | | | 28,478 47 | | |
| | | | | \$80,892 99 | \$80,892 99 | | | | |
| | | | | Net capital, | | \$95,692 59 | | | |
| | | | | | | \$95,692 59 | \$95,692 59 | | |
| | | | | Total resources and liabilities, | | | | 95,856 27 | 163 68 |
| | | | | Net capital as per stock, | | | | | 95,692 59 |
| | | | | | | | | \$95,856 27 | \$95,856 27 |

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THE GREAT RECORD

STATEMENT A.

Gains and Losses from October 31, 1871, to October 31, 1872.

| GAINS. | | LOSSES. | |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Interest, - - - | \$ 311 72 | Subsistence, - - - | \$29,858 00 |
| Convict labor, - - | 74,271 55 | Fuel, - - - | 7,684 88 |
| Live stock, - - - | 38 22 | Clothing, - - - | 4,872 67 |
| Miscellaneous, - - - | 6,271 50 | Dis'd convicts' clth'g, | 2,526 68 |
| | | Furniture, - - - | 1,125 91 |
| | | Bedding, - - - | 510 78 |
| | | Tobacco, - - - | 1,937 27 |
| | | Chair seats, - - - | 72 95 |
| | | Hospital, - - - | 2,167 36 |
| | | Stationery, - - - | 459 58 |
| | | Forage, - - - | 686 09 |
| | | Light, - - - | 438 10 |
| | | Carting and freight, - | 84 30 |
| | | Balance, (gain), - | 28,478 47 |
| | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | \$80,892 99 | | \$80,892 99 |

STATEMENT B.

Showing the Earnings, Expenses, Gains and Losses since November 30, 1864, to the close of the present fiscal year; compiled from the Official Reports made to the Legislature.

| REPORTS. | EARNINGS. | EXPENSES. | LOSSES. | GAINS. |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1865, Nov. 30. | \$ 30,409 78 | \$43,886 46 | \$13,476 68 | |
| 1866, " " | 26,172 78 | 77,156 59 | 50,983 81 | |
| 1867, " " | 31,733 42 | 87,839 32 | 56,105 90 | |
| 1868, " " | 39,392 38 | 95,369 68 | 55,977 30 | |
| 1869 to March 31. | 6,777 52 | 67,852 20 | 61,074 68 | |
| Under present law. | | | | |
| 1869 to Dec. 31. | 42,356 13 | 49,317 89 | 6,961 76 | |
| 1870 to Oct. 31, | 58,331 76 | 61,742 51 | 3,410 75 | |
| *1871 " " | 100,723 27 | 60,113 37 | | \$40,609 80 |
| 1872 " " | 80,892 99 | 52,414 52 | | 28,478 47 |

*Of this sum, \$27,241.20 accrued during the two previous years, making the real gains of the year, \$13,368.60.

KEEPER'S REPORT.

KEEPER'S OFFICE, NEW JERSEY STATE PRISON, }
November 13th, 1872. }

To His Excellency Joel Parker, Governor of New Jersey :

SIR:—In obedience to the law, I have the honor to present you herewith my annual report for the year ending October 31st, 1872 :

The average number of prisoners confined here during the year has been 527

The number discharged in same time was as follows :

| | |
|---|-----|
| By remittance and expiration of time, | 217 |
| By pardon, | 65 |
| Sent to Lunatic Asylum, | 3 |
| Died, | 9 |
| Sent to Reform School, | 2 |
| Escaped, | 1 |
| | 297 |

The whole number confined at this time is 553
Of whom thirty-nine (39) are females.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| There has been paid to convicts on their discharge, | \$903 00 |
| Paid for transportation and cost of conviction, | 24,599 24 |
| Salaries of officers, | 47,779 12 |
| Salaries of Inspectors, | 2,979 00 |
| Prison repairs, | 21,251 62 |
| Paid to appraisers of prison property, | 400 00 |

A fine of one hundred dollars against a prisoner was paid me, and, under instructions of the Attorney-General, turned over to the Clerk of Bergen county, from which the man was sent.

Since making my last report the new wing has been completed, and furnishes accommodations for one hundred and seventy men. With this great addition we still have not cell-room enough to place all our prisoners in separate confinement.

While we have as good discipline and financial management as other institutions of a similar kind in this country or abroad, we are

sadly deficient in providing means for the moral and intellectual culture of our convicts.

In order to promote the usefulness of the Moral Instructor we need a chapel. At present he preaches every Sabbath in each hall. None of his congregations are in his sight. It is true they may all hear him if they will, but what sympathy can exist between preacher and hearer so situated.

The room designed for religious worship could also be used on winter evenings as a school-room, for such of the prisoners as express a desire to improve themselves by study. I believe that quite a number of the younger convicts would gladly avail themselves of such an opportunity.

In my report last year I alluded to the want of some provision in aid of discharged prisoners. Another year's experience has confirmed my belief that something should be done in that direction. Throwing aside all other considerations it would, in my opinion, be a matter of economy,—that it would pay the State to aid prisoners, on their discharge, in procuring some honorable employment, that they may not be compelled to relapse into crime.

In my short experience here, several men who were discharged by me have been re-committed in a short time afterward, and have told me that they could not get work, and were obliged to steal, or starve. These men work well while here and are well-behaved, and I cannot help but think that if some one would take them by the hand, on their discharge, and encourage them until they could stand alone, they might become useful citizens.

There has been one escape, and that was from a window of the shoe shop. The shoe shops are, as you are aware, outside of the walls, and the windows accessible to any persons from the street, at all hours of the night, without possibility of detection by the prison officers.

If the prison walls were extended so as to enclose the shop building, much security would be afforded.

In June last I received from your Excellency a commission to attend as a delegate to the "International Prison Congress" which met at London in July. The Honorable Boards of Supervisors and Inspectors kindly granted me a leave of absence for that purpose, and a separate report will be made to you of the doings of the Congress.

For the moral and religious condition of the convicts I refer you to the Moral Instructor, Rev. A. H. Warner, and for the sanitary condition, to that of the Physician, Dr. W. W. L. Phillips.

For the usual statistical information I refer you to the report of of the Honorable Board of Inspectors.

Respectfully submitted.

ROBT. H. HOWELL,
Keeper.

MORAL INSTRUCTOR'S REPORT.

STATE PRISON, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, }
October 31st, 1872. }

To His Excellency Joel Parker, Governor, and the Honorable the Board of Supervisors of New Jersey State Prison:

GENTLEMEN:—During another year the duties incumbent on me have been attended to without any interruption.

The Sabbath services are becoming laborious owing to the fact that the prison is destitute of a chapel in which the inmates of the institution could be brought together; as it now is there are six regular services on each Sabbath: Two in the east wing, which, owing to its length and peculiar construction, requires a service on each side, in order that the inmates may hear if they please; and one service in each of the other halls, which are four in number, together with other duties which are incidental, and which seem to be necessary.

At these regular services, as heretofore reported, we have the reading of the Moral Law, the Apostolic Creed, the chapter from which the subject of discourse has been selected, then a short prayer, at the conclusion of which the form of prayer taught by our Divine Saviour, in his Sermon on the Mount, is rehearsed.

During these services the convicts, as a general thing, are very quiet, and some of them listen with attention, a few of them keep a record of the text used, occasionally they are made the subject of remark by the prisoners when writing to their friends; others give evidence of having attended to the preached word by inquiring what was meant by such and such an expression used.

There is reason to hope that these services are not in vain, yet we have reason to believe they would be productive of much more good if the prison was furnished with a suitable place in which the convicts could be brought together, and enabled to see the preacher and hear distinctly the voice of their instructor.

We greatly need a chapel, not only to reduce the amount of labor required as at present, but in the hope that less labor would be productive of a greater amount of good, and then, too, we might have the benefit of a good choir, composed of the convicts themselves, and also have instrumental music, and thus render the religious services

more attractive; many of the prisoners have good voices, and are fond of singing; some of them solicit the loan of a hymn book, and I have frequently heard them singing hymns which they had learned in the Sabbath School.

I was very much pleased on a Sabbath evening, in the past summer, by hearing singing in the east wing, where the doors are constructed of iron bars, and where the voice of one can be heard by others, an individual commenced singing the hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" to the tune of "Coronation," and immediately some thirty or forty joined in and made the hall resound with their voices; it was very gratifying to my feelings.

I think by the introduction of music, both vocal and instrumental, much good might be effected in the moral state of the prisoners, as the hymns would convey to their minds some of the fundamental doctrines of our holy religion.

Another benefit which might be derived by having a chapel would be the privilege of having occasionally a gratuitous lecture, by some competent and benevolent individual, on history, geology, mineralogy, civil government, arts and sciences, &c., the privilege of attending which, on the part of the convict, to depend on his good behavior; and thus another incentive, in connection with the law for the remission of time on the term of sentence, would be acquired.

It is not known that any convict has been made the object of the renewing grace of God during the past year, yet there are a number who have resolved and who seem to be determined to abandon their former course of life and make good citizens in all future time. Some of them are constant in their devotions at night, as witnessed by myself; therefore, I have reason to believe that my labor will not be entirely lost on these men; the seed sown may lie dormant for a length of time and eventually produce the desired effect, viz., the salvation of souls.

I have endeavored to follow those who have been released by pardon, or by the expiration of their term of sentence, and in a number of instances have found they are conducting themselves with the greatest propriety, and expect they will soon attain to a standing in good society.

There was a female convict, of the lowest order of fallen women, who was serving her third term of sentence, and who was only twenty-one years of age, who, since my last report, departed this life, and who gave some evidence of a saving change having been wrought in her. If she was a converted woman, her conversion, under God, is to be attributed to early Sabbath School instruction in the city of Camden, where, in all probability, the good seed of the word was sown in her heart, and which, under the more recent preaching of the Gospel, was made to spring up and bear fruit to the praise of Divine Grace. If this be so, then, it affords very great encouragement for parents to teach their children the precious truths contained in the Scripture; and also affords the most abundant encouragement to

Sabbath School teachers to be faithful in their avocations; and it should also stimulate to diligence in their efforts to gather the outcasts of society and bring them under religious instructions.

During the past year I have received another donation of fifteen thousand pages of Tracts from the American Tract Society, which, from time to time, are being distributed, and which, in many instances, are gladly received by the convicts.

The Bergen County Bible Society have donated fifty bibles and fifty testaments; thus by applying to our county societies for a donation the prison is kept well supplied with the inspired word.

The distribution of the *American Messenger* is still continued; three hundred and sixty copies of which, some in English and some in German, are distributed monthly; and by some of the convicts they are anxiously waited for on the opening of each month.

I again report that the law for the remission of time on the term of sentence, conditioned on good behavior and self control on the part of the prisoner, is still producing a happy effect in many instances, particularly so with regard to the use of profane language, very little of which is now heard within these walls, for the convicts have been informed that by the use of such language they will lose the benefit of that law which, on the part of the Moral Instructor, is one day in each month, or twelve days in each year. Some few are regardless of the law, and will not avail themselves of its benefit.

I respectfully request the Board of Supervisors to recommend to the Legislature an appropriation of five hundred dollars for the increase and repair of the books in the library, some of which are almost unfit for use, having been in constant use for several years. Moreover, the present number of books is not adequate to supply the wants of the convicts, many of whom are constant and diligent readers, and are acquiring information which will be of value to themselves, and indirectly a benefit to the community at large.

In my efforts to benefit the inmates of the institution, I have had the kind co-operation of the Keeper, Robt. H. Howell, Esq.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

ALEXANDER H. WARNER,

Moral Instructor.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

STATE PRISON, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, }
October 31st, 1872. }

To the Board of Inspectors :

GENTLEMEN:—My reports presented at your regular monthly meetings have kept you informed of the state of health of the inmates of the prison during the year. It will suffice to state that acute diseases are of rare occurrence.

The following deaths have occurred :

John Ihley, December 4, 1871, from abcess of brain.
William Graham, January 1, 1872, from pneumonia.
William Jackson (colored), January 9, 1872, from consumption.
Ellen Conley, March 26, 1872, from consumption.
Richard Lewis (colored), May 18, 1872, from consumption.
Du Bois Brown, (colored), July 18, 1872, from softening of brain.
John McDonald, July 31, 1872, from consumption.
Mary Ann Williams, August 10, 1872, from consumption.
James Robinson, August 23, 1872, from dropsy of chest.

The following convicts being insane were sent to the lunatic asylum :

Thomas C. O'Shaughnessy, December 1, 1871.
Charles Brown, December 1, 1871.
James Lynch, December 25, 1871.

The chief want felt in the medical department is a better, more commodious and conveniently located room for a hospital.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,

W. W. L. PHILLIPS,
Physician.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Oswego, N.H. 1877

To the Board of Directors

GENTLEMEN--My report, prepared at your regular meeting, contains a list of the names of the state of health of the inmates of this prison during the year. It will suffice to state that acute diseases and of their occurrence. The following deaths have occurred:

- John Lusk, December 3, 1877, from disease of brain.
- William Graham, January 1, 1878, from pneumonia.
- William Weston, January 2, 1878, from consumption.
- John Conroy, March 28, 1878, from consumption.
- Richard Lewis, October 24, 1878, from consumption.
- The late prisoner, James, July 18, 1878, from consumption of brain.
- John McLeod, July 21, 1878, from consumption.
- John A. Williams, August 19, 1878, from consumption.
- James Robinson, August 22, 1878, from dropsy of chest.

The following names of the inmates were sent to the State Prison:

- Thomas C. O'Connell, December 1, 1877.
- James Brown, December 1, 1877.
- James Frank, December 1, 1877.

The chief ward in the medical department is a better man, comfortable and conveniently located room for a hospital. Very respectfully your obedient servant.

W. H. L. PHILLIPS

Physician

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

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

That they have inspected the State Prison, examined the accounts of the institution, and, as far as possible, informed themselves in relation to its general management.

The accounts of the Board of Supervisors have been carefully kept, and your committee are satisfied as to their correctness. The favorable condition of the finances is fully shown by the report of the Supervisor. Omitting the two items of salaries and repairs, in conformity with the practice of previous years, and also the expenditure for gas, the accounts show a large profit, and for the first time in the history of the prison, a payment into the State Treasury, thus demonstrating the wisdom of the contract system, and the fidelity and efficiency of the officers through whose instrumentality such favorable results have been attained.

The new wing is now occupied. It has been constructed in the most substantial manner, and will compare favorably with the best prisons in the country. The ability to use it affords greater security, and at the same time promotes the health and comfort of the prisoners, not only in the new wing, but also in the other wings, by avoiding the over-crowding which existed for some time prior to its occupancy.

Your committee are of the opinion that the present law needs revision in many of the parts that were copied from the old law. Some of these provisions which could be complied with when the number of prisoners was small, and the contract system had no existence, are found to be incompatible with the present system. The retention in the law of requirements impossible to execute, tends to the non-observance or direct violation of those which can and should be rigidly observed; and a failure to adhere to the letter of the law by one set of officers is too often accepted as a precedent for the violation of it by their successors. This may account for the excessive compensation received by the Inspectors for their own services. The language of the law is, that "each of said Inspectors shall be entitled to receive three dollars per day for their attendance at their stated meetings, and for every day necessarily employed in the duties of their office." Your committee express no opinion as to whether the Inspectors have received more or less than their services were

really worth, but we feel bound to state that they have received more than the provision of the law herein quoted warrants.

The law gives the power of making repairs both to the Board of Supervisors and to the Board of Inspectors. Nothing could be better calculated to produce a conflict of authority. That it has not done so heretofore is, we believe, due alone to the exercise of commendable forbearance and prudence. We think that this important power should be exclusively used by one Board, and that the law should be so amended as to accomplish that end.

In consequence of the introduction of gas, the cost of lighting the prison has been largely increased. Your committee are of the opinion that the lighting can be more economically effected by the erection of works for supplying the prison with gas, instead of depending on the existing source of supply.

Your committee are convinced that the views of the Supervisor and Keeper, in relation to the provision of a prison chapel, are entitled to your thoughtful consideration. The State, by authorizing the appointment of a Moral Instructor, has long since acknowledged its obligation to do something more than merely provide for the physical wants of the prisoners. It cannot be foreseen whether the existence of a chapel would render the efforts for the reformation of the convicts more effective than they have heretofore been, but the experience in other penal institutions of high reputation justifies the belief that it would. It is certain that an important duty of the State is only imperfectly discharged, while any reasonable agency for the moral improvement of prisoners remains unprovided.

The manner in which the duties of the Keeper, Supervisor, and Physician have been performed deserves especial notice. Through their united efforts, discipline has been preserved, economy and careful management practised, and the most humane care exercised for maintaining health among the prisoners. To the fidelity and energy of these officers are largely due the present excellent condition of the prison, and the favorable financial results for the year.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. HEWITT,
W. H. CONOVER, Jr.,
Senate Committee.

WM. McKINLEY,
SAMUEL WILDE,
SMITH HEWITT,
House Committee.

