



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Directors and Superintendent

OF THE

VERMONT STATE PRISON,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING SEPT. 1, 1850.

WINDSOR:
PRINTED AT THE VERMONT JOURNAL OFFICE.
1850.

R E P O R T

— OF THE —

DIRECTORS OF THE VT. STATE PRISON.



To the Auditor of Accounts :

The Directors of the Vermont State Prison, met at the Prison in the early part of January last, and agreeably to the Law of 1848, fixed the salary of the Superintendent at five hundred dollars, and employed the resident Clergymen at Windsor, to officiate, alternately, as Chaplains, at three dollars for each Sabbath ; and the Directors established a different system in relation to the expenses of the Superintendent's family, from what has been, almost uniformly adopted, as the Superintendents have supported their families, excepting clothing, at the expense of the State,—now the Superintendent has the use of the Prison house and furniture, and boards as many men as is necessary to be employed about the prison, for the security of the convicts, at nine shillings per week ; a system, which, in the opinion of the Directors, should be strictly adhered to in future, not that we believe that much will be saved to the State this year by the arrangement, as the present Superintendent has a small and economical family, but such, in our opinion, has not always been the case and *may* not be hereafter.

We directed that Lambert, the insane negro, should be carried to the Insane Asylum, in the month of March

last, agreeably to the provisions of the Law of 1848, at which time he had remained in prison about eighteen months after the expiration of his sentence, without any probability of his recovery, and in a situation to be extremely dangerous to the community, to be set at liberty.

In the early part of September, the customary inventory of all the property of the State, at the Prison, was taken by the Directors, the results of which together with a statement of the liabilities of the prison, will appear connected with this report.

We also examined and adjusted the accounts of Hiram Harlow, Esq., Superintendent of the Prison, and found justly charged to him in his cash account, including a balance of \$501.73 in his hands at the last settlement, the sum of \$10,661.32, and that he is credited in said account with the sum of \$10,506.74, for the payment of which, on account of the prison, he has presented sufficient vouchers, leaving a balance of \$154.58 to be charged to him in new account.

On Mr. Harlow's private account we find him charged since the last settlement with the sum of \$880.85, and that he was entitled to credits, including the balance of \$1728.17 reported last year in his favor and also including one year's salary ending September first, and balance of interest on his account due him last year, and for boarding hands employed in the prison, and making clothes for convicts, amounting in all to \$2725.77, leaving a balance his due of \$1844.92, which we authorized him to pay to himself, or pass to his credit in new account.

By reference to the report of the Directors last year it will be seen that they expressed the opinion, that if

the State could put sixty convicts on to the contract with Lamson, Goodnow & Co., the proceeds would probably defray the whole expenses of the prison, and that several hundred dollars would, yearly, be saved to the State in consequence of said contract; the results of the past year prove conclusively that the Directors did not misjudge in the matter, as there is but a small balance against the State for the expenses of the full year, and a gain for the last six months.

A view of the business operations of the prison will appear in the Tables accompanying this report.

The Directors were fully satisfied from an examination of the establishment that every attention has been given to order, neatness, and cleanliness, and also to the discipline and police regulations of the prison.

It will appear from the tables accompanying this report that, without the interest account, depreciation of property on hand, and loss of debts, the prison has cost the State \$144.52 the past year, and it is for the Legislature to determine, whether an appropriation shall be made to discharge the liabilities of the Prison, or the State continue to pay the interest.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN PORTER, }
 HENRY KEYES, } *Directors.*
 KENT WRIGHT, }

Windsor, Sept. 13, 1850.

THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT OF THE EXPENDITURES
AND INCOME OF THE PRISON FOR THE YEAR ENDING
SEPTEMBER 1, 1850 :

PRISON ACCOUNT.

Property on hand September 1, 1849,	-	1328	55	
Sundries since purchased,	-	427	66	= 1766 21
Sundries credited,	-	227	81	
Property on hand September 1, 1850,	-	1285	22	= 1513 03
Balance expended,	-			243 18

PROVISION ACCOUNT.

Property on hand September 1, 1849,	-	377	61	
Sundries since purchased,	-	2896	09	= 3273 70
Sundries credited,	-	472	24	
Property on hand September 1, 1850,	-	362	47	= 834 71
Balance expended,	-			2438 99

CLOTHING ACCOUNT.

Property on hand September 1, 1849,	-	331	10	
Sundries since purchased,	-	676	97	= 1008 07
Sundries credited,	-	23	75	
Property on hand September 1, 1850,	-	479	86	= 802 61
Balance expended,	-			505 46

FUEL AND LIGHT.

Property on hand September 1, 1849,	-	735	02	
Sundries since purchased,	-	618	62	= 1353 64
Sundries credited,	-	60	24	
Property on hand September 1, 1850,	-	550	34	= 610 58
Balance expended,	-			743 06

MEDICAL ACCOUNT.

Property on hand September 1, 1849,	-	104	50	
Sundries since purchased,	-	37	00	= 141 50
Property on hand September 1, 1850,	-			94 05
Balance expended,	-			47 45

REPAIRS ACCOUNT.

Property on hand September 1, 1849,	-	13	89	
Sundries since purchased,	-	90	11	= 104 00
Sundries credited,	-	16	92	
Property on hand September 1, 1850,	-	13	80	= 30 72
Balance expended,	-			73 28

CARRIAGE SHOP ACCOUNT.

Property on hand September 1, 1849,	-	1792	40	
Sundries since charged,	-	76	85	= 1869 25
Sundries credited,	-	825	18	
Property on hand September 1, 1850,	-	1009	56	= 1834 74
Balance expended,	-			84 51

SHOE SHOP ACCOUNT.

Property on hand September 1, 1849,	-	-	1035	60	
Sundries since charged,	-	-	24	96	=1060 56
Sundries credited,	-	-	-	856	27
Property on hand September 1, 1850,	-	-	204	29	=1060 56

EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

Superintendent's Salary,	-	-	-	-	500	00
Chaplain's services,	-	-	-	-	158	50
Physician's services,	-	-	-	-	65	25
Book-keeper's services,	-	-	-	-	33	93
Keepers' services and board,	-	-	-	-	333	00
Shop Keepers' services and board,	-	-	-	-	298	39
Guard services,	-	-	-	-	705	40
Travelling expenses,	-	-	-	-	27	65
Postage and Express bills,	-	-	-	-	16	12
Cash paid Convicts on discharge,	-	-	-	-	26	44
Stationery,	-	-	-	-	1	00
Total of expenditures,	-	-	-	-		<u>\$6251 63</u>

INCOME.

Fees for visitors in past year,	-	-	-	188	12
Labor of Convicts on contract account,	-	-	-	5753	97
Support of United States Convicts,	-	-	-	165	00
Total amount of income,	-	-	-		<u>\$6107 09</u>
Balance of expenditures over income,	-	-	-		<u>\$144 52</u>

STATEMENT SHOWING THE GENERAL RESULT OF THE
BUSINESS OF THE PRISON FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 1849,
TO SEPTEMBER 1, 1850.

The Liabilities of the Prison Sept. 1, 1849, were	23806 68	
Total Assets as appraised by Directors,	17955 89	
Balance of Liabilities over Assets,	<u>5849 79</u>	\$5849 79
The Liabilities of the Prison Sept. 1, 1850, are, on		
Notes and Accounts payable, exclusive of Interest,	16378 70	
Balance of unpaid Interest,	1500 00	
Total amount of Liabilities Sept. 1, 1850,	<u>17878 70</u>	\$17878 70
The Assets of the Prison Sept. 1, 1850, as appraised		
by Directors are, Property belonging to Carriage		
Shop Account,	1009 56	
Property belonging to Shoe Shop Account,	304 29	
“ “ Prison Department,	1285 22	
Provisions on hand,	362 47	
Clothing and Bedding,	479 86	
Fuel and Light,	550 84	
Medical Department,	94 05	
Repairs Account,	13 80	
Cash in hands of Superintendent,	154 58	
Notes and Accounts receivable exclusive		
of interest,	7867 37	
Deduct amount carried to suspended		
account,	117 68	
Also 50 per cent. on \$181 64 of		
doubtful debts,	1590 82=1708 50	6158 87
Total amount of assets,	<u>1708 50</u>	\$10313,04
Deducted from the Liabilities leaves,	7560 66	
From which deduct balance of Liabilities last year,	5849 79	
Leaves as Increase of Liabilities this year,	<u>1710 87</u>	
From which deduct for balance of interest paid	915 49	
Increased amount of Interest unpaid	500 00	
Loss on Carriage Shop Account,	34 51	
Change in condition of debts,	116 35	
	<u>1506 35</u>	
Leaves as expenditures over income for the year,		\$144 52

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Auditor of Accounts :

The Superintendent of the State Prison submits the following, relating to the condition of the prison:

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CONVICTS AND HOW EMPLOYED.

The number of convicts in confinement, Sept. 1, 1849,	62	
<i>Received in the past year from the following Counties, viz :</i>		
Rutland,	8	
Windham,	1	
Franklin,	3	
Chittenden,	8	
Bennington,	1	
Caledonia,	3	
Essex,	2	
Orleans,	1	
Washington,	3	
Lamoille,	1	
Addison,	1	
Orange,	1	
	—	33
		—
Total,		95
Discharged by expiration of sentence,	10	
Pardoned by Governor,	7	
Pardoned by President,	1	
Sent to Insane Hospital,	1	
	—	19
		—
Leaving in confinement Sept. 1, 1850,		76

Employed as follows, viz:

By contractors in Snath manufacture,	64
“ “ Shoe making,	5
Shoe making,	1
Tailor,	1
Bell Waiter,	1
Prison Waiter,	1
Washer,	1
Cook,	1
Jobber,	1
	— 76

Males, 76.

It will be seen by the foregoing table that all the convicts, excepting such as are necessarily employed in the business of the prison, are employed by contractors, under the contract concluded with Messrs. Lamson, Goodnow & Co. on the 15th of December, 1848, for five years, from August 1, 1849. Agreeably to that contract, the contractors have been charged two shillings per day for the labor of each of the convicts. The amount charged for the last year's labor as will be seen by a table connected with the Report of the Directors, is

\$5,753.97

And there is charged for the support of

United States convicts, - - - 165.00

And Fees received from visitors at the

Prison, - - - - - 188.12

In all making the sum of - - - \$6107.09

And that the expenses of the prison in the past year, including all the salaries of officers, provisions, fuel, clothing, and incidental expenses, exclusive of interest and loss on property on hand, and on doubtful debts, estimated at \$1566.35, is \$6251.61, and is \$144.52 more than the income of the year.

The amount charged for labor of convicts in the last half is about \$640 more than that of the first half of the year, while the expenses have been but slightly increased.

With the present number and health of the convicts, it may be expected that the income will more than meet the current expenses of the prison during the remainder of the contract; and thus far the result is such that neither the State nor the Contractors have reason to regret the arrangement.

By reference to the Report of the Directors it will be seen that the whole liabilities of the prison are \$17,873.70 and that the assets are \$10,313.04. On examination I find that about \$5800.00 of the assets may be applied in part payment of the debts and would then leave unpaid the sum of \$12,073.04, on which a large interest account must accrue, unless the means of payment are provided by the Legislature, as good policy, justice, and the interest of all parties concerned seem to demand. The balance of the assets is in such property as is necessary for the use and convenience of the prison.

On examining the Interest Account on the Prison Books since December 1, 1845, when I entered on the duties of Superintendent, I find the balance of interest

paid in 1846 was	-	-	-	\$1148.78
“ 1847	“	-	-	1156.29
“ 1848	“	-	-	836.49
“ 1849	“	-	-	1201.73
“ 1850	“	-	-	915.49

Making in five years, - - - \$5258.78

And there is yet due and unpaid the estimated sum of \$1500.00 on the Interest account.

As no appropriations have been made for the benefit of the prison for several years, some of the prison buildings and particularly the old Prison, which is in a dangerous condition, have been suffering for want of repairs, which I have not felt authorized to make for want of funds for that purpose ; and the better and safer Hospital accommodations, which heretofore have been asked for, remain as they were, for the same reason.

It will also be perceived by the Report of the Directors, that they entered into an arrangement with the several Clergymen of the village for the discharge of the duties of Chaplain. These Gentlemen have divided and performed the duties and services in a manner that is satisfactory. In consequence of this arrangement, no report from the Chaplain will be expected.

The report of the Physician will accompany this report.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HIRAM HARLOW,

Sup't Vt. State Prison.

Windsor, September 17, 1850.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To Hon. Hiram Harlow, Sup't Vt. State Prison:

The medical affairs of this establishment, for the last year, require but little remark from me, at this time. The convicts have generally enjoyed a better degree of health than for several years past. Very few accidents have occurred and no death. Since the change in the employment of the convicts, a noticeable change has also occurred in their health, and I can safely say that, as a body of men, they are looking nearly as healthy as any body of the same number that we would meet with any where.

The colored man, Lambert, who has for some time been insane, has been removed to the Insane Hospital, and from what has been heard of him since his removal, the change seems to have been as decidedly beneficial to himself as it has been useful to us.

Respectfully submitted.

ED. E. PHELPS, M. D., &c.,
Physician Vt. State Prison