

## SENATE....No. 78.

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### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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IN SENATE, March 16, 1854.

The Joint Committee on Prisons, to whom was committed the Annual Report of the Inspectors and Warden of the State Prison, have given so much of it as relates to the financial condition of the Institution, that careful consideration which the importance of the subject seemed to them to demand, and submit the following

#### REPORT:

The committee found that there has been accruing for several years an indebtedness, (partly the result of an accumulation of annual deficits in the income of the prison to meet the expenses, partly the result of an excess of expenditure over the appropriations for sundry improvements found necessary in addition to the enlargement of the prison, and of an interest account, which has materially aided to swell the sum,) to an amount that demands immediate attention.

As the Report of the Inspectors does not give full information of the entire indebtedness at the present time, the committee requested a statement, and received from them the following.

MASS. STATE PRISON, CHARLESTOWN, }  
March 10, 1854. }

HON. MOSES KIMBALL,

*Chairman of Committee on Prisons.*

Sir,—In compliance with the vote of your committee, we herewith submit a brief abstract of the financial condition of the Prison at this time.

It will be seen by the report of the late warden to the governor and council, of Sept. 30th, 1853, pages 31, 32 and 37, that extensive repairs and alterations have been made in and about the prison buildings the past year, the expense of which has been paid in part by appropriations heretofore made by the legislature.

It appears by said report that the expense thus incurred prior to Sept. 30th, 1853, exceeded said appropriations in the sum of . . . . .	\$12,961 47
After which time, and prior to Jan. 1st, 1854, to complete the repairs thus begun on the same account, . . . . .	937 73
During the last mentioned period there was paid for the return of four escaped convicts, rewards and expenses, . . . . .	951 30
To which add the deficit in the income of the year ending Sept. 30th, 1853, as per said report, p. 37,	6,371 02
Thus making a deficiency in the treasury of the prison, of . . . . .	\$21,221 52

And upon the inspection of the books, we are of opinion that that sum is needed in addition to its available resources, to pay off the liabilities of the prison, existing Jan. 1st, 1854.

At the last session of the legislature, an appropriation of eight thousand dollars was made for fitting up a new hospital, contracts for which were made by the late warden, and the work is now nearly completed, at an expense exceeding said appropriation, as it is estimated, of . . . \$2,000 00

We deem it for the best interests of the prison, and for better security against fire, to discontinue the use of stoves, and extend steam-pipes through the furniture workshops, for warming the same, the expense of which is estimated at . . . 3,000 00

Thus making an appropriation of . . . \$26,221 52

Necessary to fully meet the expense of thus continuing the steam-pipes, to complete the hospital, and to liquidate the debts, interest upon which is now accruing very fast.

The interest account last year, as appears by said report, page 37, was \$1,225.70, and unless stopped, that account must inevitably swell to a much larger amount the present year, thus turning from its legitimate course a large amount of the income of the prison.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES ADAMS,  
ROBERT COWDIN,  
JOHN ODIN, JR.,

*Inspectors of Mass State Prison.*

By the foregoing it will be seen that the prison is now in arrears a sum exceeding \$20,000, upon which interest is being paid. There is also needed to carry out the necessary improvements already commenced in the hospital, and, for the greater security against fire in the workshops, as well as a matter of economy, by the abrogation of stoves and the substitution therefor of steam-pipes, (the prison being already furnished with sufficient capacity of boilers for that purpose,) a further sum of \$6,000. This last expenditure will perfect

the fitting up of part of the workshops, so long needed to make the labor of the convicts profitable, and will aid in rendering the prison, at no distant day, as it is hoped, a self-sustaining institution.

Under these circumstances, and believing that the interests of the State will be best served by an appropriation for the immediate extinguishment of the debt, and to carry out the plans enumerated, the committee deem it their duty to recommend the passage of the accompanying Resolve.

Per order,

MOSES KIMBALL, *Chairman.*

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-Four.

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### RESOLVE

In relation to the State Prison.

*Resolved,* That there be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth, for the purpose of liquidating the indebtedness of the State Prison, for completing the fitting up of the new hospital, and to introduce steam-pipes into the workshops the sum of twenty-six thousand dollars, and that the governor be authorized to draw his warrant accordingly.

