

HOUSE No. 206.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONERS OF PRISONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, March 23, 1887.

To the Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives.

By direction of the Commissioners I acknowledge the receipt by them of the following order of the Legislature:—

Ordered, That the Prison Commissioners be requested to inform the Legislature, forthwith, as to the number of prisoners in the several prisons of the Commonwealth; the number employed at remunerative labor in each prison; the prices at which they are employed; the industries in which they are engaged, and the system under which they are employed. Also, the cost and earnings for each prison for the last fiscal year.

In order to obtain the information required by this order, the Commissioners sent a circular to the several prisons, asking for a return of the number of prisoners in the several prisons of the Commonwealth on the twenty-fourth day of February, 1887; the number employed at remunerative labor in each prison; the prices at which they were employed; the industries in which they were engaged, and the system under which they were employed at that date. This report is a compilation of the returns received.

The phrase "employed at remunerative labor," used in the order, has been construed to mean labor for which money was received, and not that which was performed in carrying on the institutions, such as washing, cooking, etc. Neither does it include farm labor, which, though it produces valuable results, brings no *cash* returns.

The number of inmates in all the penal and reformatory institutions (excepting the reformatory schools) on the 24th of February, 1887, and the number employed at "remunerative labor," is shown in the following table:—

TABLE NO. 1. — Showing the Number of Prisoners in the several Prisons on the 24th day of February, 1887.

COUNTY PRISONS.	Number of Inmates.			Number Employed at Remunerative Labor.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Barnstable Jail and House of Correction,	6	—	6	—	—	—
Pittsfield Jail and House of Correction, .	80	1	81	68	—	68
New Bedford Jail and House of Correction,	168	11	179	90	—	90
Taunton Jail,	56	11	67	—	—	—
Edgartown Jail,	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ipswich House of Correction,	123	7	130	77	—	77
Lawrence Jail and House of Correction, .	177	22	199	70	—	70
Newburyport Jail,	17	—	17	—	—	—
Salem Jail and House of Correction, . . .	146	14	160	75	—	75
Greenfield Jail and House of Correction, .	24	—	24	18	—	18
Springfield Jail and House of Correction, .	146	11	157	96	5	101
Northampton Jail and House of Correction,	14	1	15	—	—	—
Cambridge Jail and House of Correction, .	461	21	482	321	—	321
Lowell Jail,	57	16	73	—	—	—
Nantucket Jail and House of Correction, .	3	—	3	—	—	—
Dedham Jail and House of Correction, . .	149	7	156	128	—	128
Plymouth Jail and House of Correction, .	57	—	57	34	—	34
Boston Jail,	121	29	150	—	—	—
Boston House of Correction,	424	71	495	324	—	324
Fitchburg Jail and House of Correction, .	91	2	93	64	—	64
Worcester Jail and House of Correction, .	175	13	188	117	—	117
Total,	2,495	237	2,732	1,482	5	1,487
OTHER INSTITUTIONS.						
State Prison,	554	—	554	322	—	322
Massachusetts Reformatory,	716	—	716	427	—	427
Reformatory Prison for Women,	—	224	224	—	105	105
State Workhouse,	155	1	156	72	—	72
Boston House of Industry,	633	184	817	180	31	211
Total,	2,058	409	2,467	1,001	136	1,137
SUMMARY.						
County Prisons,	2,495	237	2,732	1,482	5	1,487
Other Institutions,	2,058	409	2,467	1,001	136	1,137
Total,	4,553	646	5,199	2,483	141	2,624

There were in all the institutions referred to, on the twenty-fourth day of February, 1887, 5,199 prisoners. 4,553 of these were males and 646 were females. (The proportion of females is the smallest ever known).

There were in the county prisons 2,495 male prisoners and 237 females, a total of 2,732. There were 554 males in the State Prison; 716 in the Massachusetts Reformatory; 155 males and one female in the State Workhouse; 224 females in the Reformatory Prison for Women, and 633 males and 184 females in the Boston House of Industry at Deer Island. These institutions contained 2,058 male prisoners and 409 females.

Table No. 1 shows that of the 5,199 prisoners, 2,483 males and 141 females (a total of 2,624, or about one-half) were engaged in "remunerative labor." The details are shown in Table No. 2. From this latter table it appears that at the county institutions at Barnstable, Taunton, Edgartown, Newburyport, Northampton, Lowell, Nantucket and at the Charles Street Jail in Boston there is no remunerative labor. This is owing principally to the fact that the number of prisoners in these institutions is so small as to make it impracticable to employ them.

The public account system is in vogue at Cambridge and New Bedford. The manufacture of brushes is carried on at the former, and that of shoes at the last-named institution. A part of the prisoners at the Boston House of Industry are also employed on public account in stone-cutting.

The piece-price system is in operation at the Massachusetts Reformatory, Reformatory Prison for Women, State Workhouse, at the county prisons at Plymouth, (South) Boston, Greenfield, Fitchburg and Worcester, in part at the State Prison and in part at the Boston House of Industry.

The contract system is in vogue in part at the State Prison and at the county prisons at Pittsfield, Ipswich, Lawrence, Salem, Springfield and Dedham.

The prisoners were employed under the several systems, as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Contract system,	636	5	641
Public account,	480	-	480
Piece-price,	1,367	136	1,503
Total,	2,483	141	2,624

The details for the several prisons are shown in the following table:—

TABLE NO. 2. — Showing the Industries at which Prisoners were employed (at remunerative Labor) on the Twenty-fourth Day of February, 1887, and the Prices at which the Prisoners were employed.

INSTITUTIONS.	INDUSTRIES.	NUMBER EMPLOYED.			PRICES.
		M.	F.	Total.	
Barnstable Jail and House of Correction,		-	-	-	-
Pittsfield Jail and House of Correction,	Shoemaking,	68	-	68	\$16 per quarter per man.
New Bedford Jail and House of Correction,	Shoemaking,	90	-	90	Work done on public account.
Taunton Jail,		-	-	-	-
Edgartown Jail,		-	-	-	-
Ipswich House of Correction,	Shoemaking,	77	-	77	15 cts. per day per man.
Lawrence Jail and House of Correction,	Shoemaking,	70	-	70	15 cts. per day per man. Contractor pays all expenses of shop, overseer, power, etc.
Newburyport Jail,		-	-	-	-
Salem Jail and House of Correction,	Heel-making,	75	-	75	13 cts. per day per man.
Greenfield Jail and House of Correction,	Cane-seating chairs,	18	-	18	Piece-price system; from 4½ to 7½ cts. per chair seat.
Springfield Jail and House of Correction,	Cane-seating chairs,	96	5	101	10 cts. per day per prisoner.
Northampton Jail and House of Correction,		-	-	-	-
Cambridge Jail and House of Correction,	Brush-making,	321	-	321	Work done on public account.
Lowell Jail,		-	-	-	-
Nantucket Jail and House of Correction,		-	-	-	-
Dedham Jail and House of Correction,	Cane-seating chairs,	128	-	128	Contractor pays \$3,500 per annum for labor of all prisoners not required about the prison, estimated to average 12 cts. per day per man.
Plymouth Jail and House of Correction,	Cane-seating chairs,	34	-	34	Piece-price system; 6 cts. per chair seat.
Boston Jail,		-	-	-	-
Boston House of Correction,	Making clothing,	324	-	324	Piece-price system; from 50 cts. to \$3 per doz. pieces.
Fitchburg Jail and House of Correction,	Cane-seating chairs,	64	-	64	" " " 4 to 15 cts. per chair seat.
Worcester Jail and House of Correction,	Cane-seating chairs,	117	-	117	" " " 4½ to 9 cts. " " "
Total,		1,482	5	1,487	

OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

State Prison,	{ Harness-making,	50	-	50	Piece-price system; \$2 to \$3.33 per Harness. 50 cts. per day for 60 men; 30 cents per day for 62 men. Piece-price system; 75 cts. to \$1.37 per doz. pairs. Piece-price system; Boots, \$1.87½ to \$2.25 per doz. pairs; Shoes, \$1.25 to \$1.75 per doz. pairs.
	{ Making spring beds,	122	-	122	
	{ Boot and shoe making,	150	-	150	
	{ Boot and shoe making,	150	-	150	
Massachusetts Reformatory,	{ Harness-making,	92	-	92	Piece-price system; Harnesses, \$1.50 to \$7.50 each; Saddles, 25 cts. to 75 cts. each; Reins, 5 cts. to 25 cts. each. Piece-price system; Pants, from \$2.25 to \$3.75 per doz.
	{ Making clothing,	85	-	85	
	{ Chair making and seat- ing,	100	-	100	
Reformatory Prison for Women,	{ Shirt-making,	-	70	70	Piece-price system; Chair frames, \$3.75 to \$8.50 per doz.; Chair-seat frames, \$1.80 to \$2.25 per hundred; Cane- seating, 3¾ cts. to 5¾ cts. each. Piece-price system; 90 cts. per doz. " " \$1.25 to \$2.25 per doz. " " 60 cts. per doz. and upwards. " " from 7½ cts. to 12 cts. per seat.
	{ Coat and vest making,	-	8	8	
	{ Laundry-work,	-	27	27	
State Workhouse,	{ Cane-seating chairs,	72	-	72	" " from 7½ cts. to 12 cts. per seat.
Boston House of Industry,	{ Cutting stone,	69	-	69	On public account, for city, 22 cts. per running foot. Piece-price system; from 60 cts. to \$3 per doz.
	{ Making clothing,	111	31	142	
Total,		1,001	136	1,137	

SUMMARY.

All Institutions,	{ Boots and shoes,	680	-	680	Contract, 290; public account, 90; piece-price, 300. Piece-price, 142. Contract, 122. Public account, 321. Piece-price, 520 males, 31 females. " 8. " 70. " 27. Public account, 69. Contract, 224 males, 5 females; piece-price, 405 males.
	{ Harnesses,	142	-	142	
	{ Spring beds,	122	-	122	
	{ Brushes,	321	-	321	
	{ Clothing,	520	31	551	
	{ Coats and vests (thin),	-	8	8	
	{ Shirts,	-	70	70	
	{ Laundry-work,	-	27	27	
	{ Stone-cutting,	69	-	69	
	{ Chair seating and making,	629	5	634	
Total,		2,483	141	2,624	

THE COST OF THE PRISONS OF THE STATE.

The cost of maintaining the penal and reformatory institutions covered by the Order is shown in Table No. 3. The expenditures and receipts were as follows:—

Expenditures,	\$923,110 46
Receipts for labor,	\$179,527 58
from other sources,	48,160 90
Total receipts,	227,688 48
Net cost,	\$695,421 98

The following table shows the cost of the prisons, the receipts for labor, the receipts from other sources than labor, and the net cost:—

TABLE NO. 3. — Showing Receipts, Expenditures and Balances in County Prisons for Year ending Sept. 30, 1886.

PRISONS.	RECEIPTS.*			Total Expenditures.	Balance against Prisons.
	For Labor.	From other Sources.	Total.		
Barnstable Jail and House of Correction,	\$23 29	\$317 86	\$341 15	\$1,602 20	\$1,261 05
Pittsfield Jail and House of Correction,	3,476 30	227 34	3,703 64	12,805 33	9,101 69
New Bedford Jail and House of Correction,	2,262 75	1,097 32	3,360 07	29,119 03	25,758 96
Taunton Jail,	-	16 43	16 43	10,272 39	10,255 90
Edgartown Jail,	-	-	-	200 00	260 06
Ipswich House of Correction, Lawrence Jail and House of Correction,	3,333 38	644 00	3,977 38	15,507 41	11,530 03
Newburyport Jail,	4,333 24	600 94	4,934 18	21,250 81	16,316 63
Salem Jail and House of Correction,	-	-	-	2,529 45	2,529 45
Greenfield Jail and House of Correction,	1,937 39	91 95	2,029 34	21,117 58	19,088 24
Springfield Jail and House of Correction,	1,463 67	240 42	1,704 09	5,186 42	3,482 33
Northampton Jail and House of Correction,	3,015 35	130 25	3,145 60	17,141 76	13,996 16
Cambridge Jail and House of Correction,	271 52	114 65	386 17	6,848 77	6,462 60
Lowell Jail,	28,165 71	3,034 55	31,200 26	41,357 52	10,157 26
Nantucket Jail and House of Correction,	†620 30	27 60	647 90	9,854 29	9,206 39
Dedham Jail and House of Correction,	-	109 50	109 50	213 00	103 50
Plymouth Jail and House of Correction,	3,499 92	1,062 62	4,562 54	13,933 09	9,370 55
Boston Jail,	299 25	-	299 25	9,653 67	9,354 42
Boston House of Correction, Fitchburg Jail and House of Correction,	44,219 11	1,572 36	1,572 36	22,972 18	21,399 82
Worcester Jail and House of Correction,	2,778 79	3,080 10	47,299 21	93,418 03	46,118 82
Worcester Jail and House of Correction,	3,961 85	581 45	4,543 30	20,712 45	16,169 15
Total,	\$103,661 82	\$14,477 14	\$118,138 96	\$368,982 12	\$250,843 16

* The receipts include the following-named amounts due but unpaid at the end of the year: Greenfield, \$447.54; Dedham, \$388.32.

† Receipts for work done by prisoners for contractors in enlarging jail.

TABLE NO. 3. — *Receipts, Expenditures, etc.* — Concluded.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

PRISONS.	RECEIPTS.			Total Ex- penditures.	Balance against Prisons.
	For Labor.	From other Sources.	Total.		
State Prison,	\$29,529 91	\$8,825 89	\$38,355 80	\$112,516 08	\$74,160 28
Massachusetts Reformatory, .	20,003 80	5,859 77	25,863 57	146,057 35	120,193 78
Reform'ry Prison for Women,	11,128 45	1,004 76	12,133 21	60,647 56	48,514 35
State Workhouse,	1,691 73	991 86	2,683 59	42,053 95	39,370 36
Boston House of Industry,* .	†13,511 87	17,001 48	30,513 35	192,853 40	162,340 05
Total,	\$75,865 76	\$33,683 76	\$109,549 52	\$554,128 34	\$444,578 82

SUMMARY.

County Prisons,	\$103,661 82	\$14,477 14	\$118,138 96	\$368,982 12	\$250,843 16
Other Institutions,	75,865 76	33,683 76	109,549 52	554,128 34	444,578 82
Total,	\$179,527 58	\$48,160 90	\$227,688 48	\$923,110 46	\$695,421 98

* For the calendar year 1886. The city institutions at Deer Island are all under one management, and the receipts and expenditures are not only for the House of Industry, but for the House of Reformation, Truant School, Hospital for Pauper Women, and Nursery at Deer Island and Almshouse at Rainsford Island.

† The receipts for labor include \$2,344.59 earned by the boys in the House of Reformation for printing.

For the Commissioners of Prisons,

W. F. SPALDING,

Secretary.

