

The Vermont State Prison

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Windsor, Vermont.

*To the General Assembly of the State of Vermont and the
Director of State Institutions:*

GENTLEMEN:

In order that the extensions and improvements made in the institution during the two years past may be clearly understood, it is necessary to preface the report with a brief summary of what has been done in the preceding four years.

The windows in the East Hall, which is the original prison building, have been enlarged. They are now of the same dimensions as those in the West Hall, the wing of later construction. This alteration, besides greatly improving the appearance of the prison buildings from the street, increases the amount of light and air in the cell-blocks.

The walls of both halls and the inside surfaces of the cells have been painted.

The dining-room and assembly-hall have been lengthened by a fifty-foot extension of the building.

A fully equipped stage has been built in the assembly-hall and the hall has been furnished with folding chairs. It thus fulfills a twofold purpose, as a chapel and as an auditorium.

The dining-room has been remodelled and painted.

The engine room and machinery have been painted and repaired.

Part of the building outside the wall has been made a repair and paint shop. The work-room where the women inmates are employed is now also in this building.

The vegetable gardens have been enlarged by one acre. The store-house has been repaired, so that it will now protect all the vegetables needed for the winter.

Within the last year, the kitchen has been remodelled and painted, and new ovens and a new cooking range have been installed.

When the state legislature decided two years ago to increase the farm acreage of the prison property, a farm of three hundred acres was bought. This new farm is conveniently located two and a half miles from the institution and has seventy-five acres of tillable land. One hundred more acres may be put under cultivation with inmate help. A farm of one hundred ten acres adjoining has also been bought. The combined acreage of this makes a farm of sufficient size to require the most improved equipment. At present there is great need for

at least one more truck, larger and heavier than the one now in use. The buildings on the larger farm have been repaired and painted, twenty acres of wooded land have been cleared and put under cultivation, and one hundred seventy fruit trees and ten thousand Norway spruces have been planted. These trees will be in a few years the source of considerable revenue. A hay barn, 126 feet long and 40 feet wide, has been built, replacing the one which was destroyed by fire. The cow-stable in the basement is entirely of cement and iron and provides both for the present number of Holstein cattle and also for future increases in the size of the herd. These farms and the vegetable gardens with the road work, which I shall report, employ thirty percent of the inmates. The number of men working on the farms is steadily increasing as this department of the institution develops. Besides being of financial value, this work keeps the men in good health and is an incentive of good conduct.

A large force of men have been working on road construction. One man has served both as guard and as supervisor with excellent results. This is a new departure from the contract system which was formerly the only system of prison labor in Vermont.

The Reliance Shirt Company (our contractors) have been generous in granting additional recreation periods to the men employed in the shops. The men now have the yard each Saturday afternoon through the month of September in addition to the summer months, and also a full noon hour each day. Part of every Sunday afternoon is also spent in the yard. At these periods the band assists greatly in the way of entertainment. The band, which was organized about four years ago, still continues to make good progress. It now consists of twenty-two pieces and compares favorably with many bands under more favorable conditions.

Plans of a separate building for the women have been made and a site has been selected, but, because of the present high cost of all building materials the construction has not yet been begun. This will be done as soon as possible and thus relieve the present over-crowded condition.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Governor Graham and to the members of the executive department, also to the members of the department of Charities and Probation for their co-operation and interest. I appreciate especially the personal fellowship and wise counsel which I have received from the Director of State Institutions, Honorable John E. Weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. WALKER,
Superintendent.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Of Vermont State Prison, July 1, 1916, to July 1, 1918.

REGULAR ACCOUNT

Receipts

Contract inmate labor		\$41,938 69
Miscellaneous sales and labor not contract		9,276 98
Visitors' fees		521 70
		\$51,737 37
Regular requisitions	\$38,453 04	
Contracts paid by Purchasing Agent.....	87,304 79	
		125,757 83
		\$177,495 20

Disbursements

Paid State Treasurer		\$51,737 37
Balance requisition returned		2,528 15
Inmates' discharges		5,239 00
Salaries		30,505 62
Subsistence		26,157 56
Fuel, lights and water		17,545 94
Clothing		5,827 35
Medical attendance, drugs and tobacco		3,474 50
Freight and express and telephone		3,707 87
Stationery, advertising and postage		359 95
Beds, bedding and furniture		754 03
Construction, improvements and repairs		8,409 43
Farm expenses		17,609 39
Miscellaneous		3,458 77
Miscellaneous bills prior to July, 1916.....		180 87
		\$177,495 20

Summary

Regular requisitions received		\$38,453 04
Purchasing Agent's contracts		87,304 79
		\$125,757 83
Earnings paid State		51,737 37
		\$74,020 46
Bills outstanding		3,135 16
		\$77,155 62

~~\$415~~
 Net expense per capita, ~~\$2.18~~ per week.

SPECIAL ACCOUNT, ACT 220, LAWS 1915

Farm Appropriation

Balance Refund to State Treasurer, July 1, 1916.....	\$1,078 52
Amount unexpended	3,500 00
Appropriated, 1917	750 00
Refund from R. R.	3 32
	\$5,331 84

Disbursements

Construction, supplies, etc.	\$1,081 84
Purchased real estate	4,250 00
	\$5,331 84

FIRE LOSS, BARNS AT STATE FARM

Received from insurance	\$6,000.00
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Disbursements

Expense for hay, grain, etc.	\$1,757 83
Construction of new barn	1,227 52
Balance, State Treasurer	3,014 65
	\$6,000.00

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

To the Superintendent of the Vermont State Prison:

Since the last report of the chaplain there has been a decided decrease in the population of the institution. While in other lines of religious work an increase is an indication of success, here we are encouraged by the large number discharged and the consequent shrinkage of the number in the institution. This we believe is due very largely to the present demand for labor and resulting rise in wages. Another factor which may contribute to the improved conditions is the lessening of the liquor traffic throughout the State. The subject of the relation of liquor to crime is one of which many people grew tired long ago, and yet those who are in personal contact with men and women in prison know that liquor is at least an important factor in most crimes, if not their cause.

The services in the Chapel are well attended and much interest is shown by the men. We have been favored by a number of clergymen and laymen who have assisted at the services. Several times entertainment companies who had engagements at the Windsor Town Hall and also the Chautauqua gave the men selections from their programs. The Chaplain

wishes at this time to express thanks for their kind co-operation. The speakers in the Chapel afford one of the most valuable means of those here coming into relation with people and ideas from outside.

The library still maintains its efficiency, and is being added to regularly through the generosity of the Free Public Library Commission. The books are in excellent condition and are well taken care of by those who read them. Almost all the men use the books and those who do not are encouraged to take advantage of the library privileges.

The evening school has been conducted throughout the greater part of the past two years, but owing to the decrease in the prison population the attendance has of course not been as large as in former years. It is gratifying to find that some men after their discharge have written to the Superintendent, expressing their appreciation for the benefit which they have received at the school. There is certainly no department of prison work which exerts a stronger or more valuable influence toward restoring the men to society than does the school. Although the fact is almost universally recognized, it is a matter of regret that the prison school receives no appropriation as yet from the legislature. The teaching, text books and other materials are at present contributed by a few people who are especially interested in this phase of Vermont's welfare. The only available place to hold the school is in the hospital, which is not in any way appropriate and should not be used for that purpose. When the hospital is in use, which is not infrequent, the school sessions have to be discontinued, sometimes for long periods. The disorganizing effect is apparent to anyone, especially to those in the teaching profession, and should be corrected. The school is organized as a branch of the chaplain's work; he, therefore, takes this opportunity to ask that an appropriation be made for the school. The amount granted should be equal in some measure to the importance of the school as a positive and constructive force in prison work.

A spirit of hearty co-operation is shown by all the officials. This contributes greatly toward the efforts which are being made for the religious and moral betterment of the men and women under the care of the Chaplain.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKER C. MANZER,
Chaplain.

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To the Superintendent of the Vermont State Prison:

I have the pleasure of submitting to you the following report for the past biennial term. During the past two years the number of inmates has been nearly as large as at any time during the eleven years I have been prison physician, yet the amount of serious sickness during this time has been much less than has been the case for the same time in the past.

This improvement has been brought about to a great extent by the improved hygienic and mental treatment of the inmates. The food served to the inmates is clean and well cooked, each person having all he wants, as the food is not rationed out, and is served to them in a clean, light dining-room where they are allowed to converse and feel at ease while eating. All of these factors go to making a meal a pleasure as well as a necessity.

Most of our cases of sickness which have required much attention have been those which originated outside of the Institution, for at no time, aside from a small number of cases of measles, have we had any epidemic of any kind. There have been several cases admitted to the Institution who were suffering from specific disease in the late stages. All of these cases have had the benefit of the most improved treatment, regardless of the expense it has made the state, as the Officials have very generously supplied both apparatus and medicine for these cases. Very few of those who have been treated have received any treatment previous to their coming here.

One case of pulmonary tuberculosis has been transferred to the Hospital at Waterbury, but this case was without doubt tubercular when admitted to this Institution, though not in an advanced stage. One female inmate has also been transferred to Waterbury, suffering from epilepsy. Owing to the crowded condition of the women's department we have no facilities for caring for these cases.

There has been one death during the past two years, Fred E. Eastwood, a life inmate, from chronic nephritis and valvular heart disease. He had served many years in the Institution and at the time of his death was 77 years of age.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and the other officers of the Institution for the many kindnesses and the way they have assisted me in my work as Prison Physician, for the past two years.

Respectfully submitted,

S. H. McKEWEN, M.D.

STATISTICS FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD 1916-1918

Table 1.—Movement of Population.

Whole number of convicts in prison July 1, 1916.....	217
Received from state courts July 1, 1916, to July 1, 1918.....	135
Returned for breach of parole	26
Received for safe keeping	8
Total received	386
Pardoned conditionally	49
Paroled at expiration of minimum sentence	141
Discharged at expiration of maximum sentence	26
Death by disease	1
Transferred to hospital for insane	7
Delivered to federal court officers	8
Total released	232
Whole number in prison July 1, 1918	154
Highest number in prison during period	217
Lowest number in prison during period	150
Daily average during period 1916-1918	178.08
<i>Comparative Statistics</i>	
Daily average during period 1914-1916	229 54
Daily average during period 1912-1914	205.60
Daily average during period 1910-1912	157.77
Daily average during period 1908-1910	175.98
Daily average during period 1906-1908	167

TABLE 2.

Color, Sex, Age, Habits of Life, Religious Faith, Education, Social Relations, Previous Commitments of Inmates.

COLOR AND SEX		EDUCATION.	
White males.....	176	College.....	4
White females.....	26	High School.....	12
Black males.....	11	Common School.....	160
Black females.....	3	No Schooling.....	40
	216		216
AGE		SOCIAL RELATIONS.	
Under 20 years.....	19	Married.....	88
From 20 to 30 years.....	73	Single.....	107
From 31 to 40 years.....	66	Widowed.....	12
From 41 to 50 years.....	35	Divorced.....	9
From 51 to 60 years.....	10		
From 61 to 70 years.....	12		
Over 70 years.....	1		
	216		216
HABITS OF LIFE		PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS.	
Temperate.....	115	Once.....	49
Intemperate.....	101	Twice.....	13
	216	Three times.....	5
		Four times.....	1
		Six times.....	1
		Committed for first time.....	147
			216
RELIGIOUS FAITH			
Protestants.....	115		
Catholics.....	87		
No preference.....	14		
	216		

Table 3.—Commitments by Counties.

Addison	11	Lamoille	6
Bennington	19	Orange	9
Caledonia	15	Orleans	9
Chittenden	41	Rutland	18
Essex	6	Washington	10
Franklin	30	Windham	16
Grand Isle	1	Windsor	25
		Total	216

(2)

Table 4.—Nativity.

<i>United States.</i>			
Connecticut	1	New York	21
Illinois	1	North Carolina	3
Massachusetts	9	Ohio	3
New Hampshire	12	Pennsylvania	2
Alabama	1	Rhode Island	1
Virginia	2	South Carolina	1
Michigan	1	Vermont	116
New Jersey	3	Texas	3
		<hr/>	
<i>Foreign Countries.</i>		180	
Austria-Hungary	1	Italy	8
Canada	12	Roumania	1
England	2	Russia	3
Germany	4	Spain	1
Greece	1	Australia	1
Ireland	2		
		<hr/>	
		36	

Table 5.—Terms of Sentences.

<i>Determinate Sentence.</i>			
Life	17		
Indefinite	3		
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<i>Indeterminate Sentence.</i>		20	
From 12 to 14 months	2	From 10 to 14 years.....	1
From 6 to 8 months.....	9	From 3¾ to 5 years.....	1
From 8 to 12 months	1	2 months	1
From 9 to 12 months	1	From 1 to 4 years.....	1
From 10 to 12 months	9	From 5 to 6 years.....	6
From 11 to 15 months	2	From 5 to 7 years.....	3
From 1 to 1½ years.....	12	From 5 to 8 years.....	1
From 1 to 2 years.....	13	From 5 to 10 years.....	2
From 1 to 3 years.....	6	From 6 to 7 years.....	2
From 1½ to 2 years.....	15	From 6 to 8 years.....	2
From 1½ to 3 years.....	2	From 6 to 10 years.....	1
From 1½ to 2½ years.....	2	From 7 to 9 years.....	2
From 2 to 2½ years.....	5	From 7 to 10 years.....	2
From 2 to 3 years.....	17	From 7½ to 9 years.....	1
From 2 to 4 years.....	3	From 10 to 12 years.....	4
From 2½ to 3 years.....	2	From 12 to 15 years.....	3
From 2½ to 4 years.....	1	From 13 to 15 years.....	5
From 3 to 3½ years.....	2	From 14 to 18 years.....	1
From 3 to 4 years.....	10	From 15 to 20 years.....	2
From 3 to 5 years.....	4	From 17 to 20 years.....	1
From 3 to 9 years.....	1	From 18 to 20 years.....	2
From 3½ to 4 years.....	2	From 24 to 30 years.....	1
From 4 to 5 years.....	7	From 25 to 30 years.....	2
From 4 to 6 years.....	3	From 3 to 4 months.....	1
From 10 months to 3 years..	1	From 6 to 36 months.....	2
From 8 months to 2 years..	1	To be electrocuted July, 1919	1
From 2 to 10 years.....	2	From 14 to 24 months.....	1
From 3 to 10 years.....	1	From 6 to 12 months.....	3
From 7 to 15 years.....	1	New trial for murder.....	1
From 2 to 6 years.....	1	From 7 to 20 years	1
From 4½ to 5 years.....	1		
		<hr/>	
		Total	196

Table 6.—Crimes.

Returned for breach of parole	26
Abortion	1
Adultery	28
Assault	1
Assault to kill	8
Assault to maim	2
Assault to rape	8
Assault to rob	1
Attempt to break and enter	1
Bigamy	5
Breaking jail	4
Burglary	36
Burglary, grand larceny and rape	1
Forgery	5
Grand larceny	6
Horse stealing	3
Larceny	8
Manslaughter	11
Murder in the first degree	3
Murder in the second degree	16
Perjury	3
Rape	16
Rape and bigamy	1
Robbery	3
Statutory rape	3
Accessory after the fact in murder	1
Receiving stolen goods	1
Aiding and harboring an escaped inmate from Industrial School....	2
Keeping house of ill fame	3
Open and gross lewdness	1
Intoxication and fine	1
Breach of the peace	1
Blanket Act	1
Buggery	1
Unlawfully killing a steer	4
	216