

OVERSEERS REPORTS

1821

To the Honorable General Assembly of the State of Connecticut to be convened at Hartford in said State on the first Wednesday of May 1821.

The Overseers of New Gate Prison in said State pursuant to the directions of the law beg leave to report to your Honours.

That the number of deaths of prisoners within the year 1820 was four, all of a consumption. The number of prisoners confined on the first day of January last was sixty five. At the present time it is fifty eight. They are employed in the various branches which the overseers have thought proper to pursue. Viz. Fourteen shoe makers, six waggon and plough makers, three basket makers, six coopers, three sawyers, three black smiths, with three to blow and strike, two filers and knife makers, eight nailers, one taylor, one washer, one cook, one coal carrier, one water carrier, two shop and other waiters, two old and decreped unable to work, one sick. The number of Guard are the same as last year including three mechaniks who are employed to instruct and labor in the three principle branches carried on, and receive extra pay with perquisites of Soldiers.

The Overseers have after much deliberation and council thought proper to reduce the wages of the soldiers and the guard from ten to eight dollars per month allowing them the usual perquisites for rations and clothing. And the Prison Keeper has found no difficulty in obtaining his soldiers at the reduced price and as good men as have usually been employed at the former price, but much difficulty occurs in obtaining men with proper qualifications to fill the places of a Sargeant and Corporals for a less sum than has formerly been given. The importance of having respectable judicious faithful and trusty men to fill those places is no small consequence more especially that of a Sargeant on whom devolves the duty and responsibility of managing the prison in the absence of the keeper.

Your Honours will be sensible on reflection that the duty and care of the officers especially the Keeper are greatly multiplied from what it formerly was by the introduction of the different branches now pursued. They therefore would beg leave to recommend a continuance of the former wages of the officers of the Prison.

They further state that for the current year they have entered into the following contracts, viz.

For rations of meat and flour for guard and prisoners for 1821 at 5 cents 2 mills per ration. For sauce and cider one cent three mills per ration. For wood from \$1.25 to \$1.39 per cord. The rations and parts of rations consumed in the year 1820 amounts to the sum of \$3034.15 the consumption for the current year will probably be considerably less. The expenditures for the year 1820 - are less than they were the year before and probably for the present year will be considerable less still.

Stock and Materials on hand Janry 1st 1821

125 casks nails net weight 25265 lbs	amount	\$2447.53
3 casks revetts	500 " @ 20 ct	100.00
340 Gro. screws	@ 50 "	170.00
4000 Bushels Coal	@ \$5.	200.00
6 cwt 3 gro 00 ^{lb} Iron	@ \$6.	40.00
27 - 2 - 00 Nail Rods	@ \$6.50	178.75
13 One Horse Waggon	@ \$36.00	468.00
2 Two Horse Waggon	@ \$45.00	90.00
10 Ploughs	@ \$12.00	120.00
Amount of nails left with sundry persons for sale by the Overseers		1200.01
Nails left in New York by the former Overseers		780.40
Due from Orson P. Phelps for Nails		435.12
Due from Reubin Barker (Junr) for nails		251.57
Amount of Notes		927.94
Staves Boards Plank Slitwork Hoops		
Barrels Boots Shoes and Leather		
Axes Hoes Chains Scythes parts of		441.77
Waggon Timber &c, &c. amounting to		
Book accounts amounting to about		<u>1778.48</u>
		9630.07

The overseers would suggest to your Honours that numerous inconveniences occur for the want of room for storing lumber and materials for the supply of the workmen.

They would barely propose the expediency of purchasing or obtaining by lease a small yard adjoining the prison for the purpose of storing the lumber &c. as the room within the walls is insufficient to contain the same.

The introduction of stoves for warming the different apartments of the Prison has lessened the supply of wood materially and makes it highly necessary that the wood be dry and be also housed.

They therefore do deem it expedient to recommend to your Honours the erecting a building within the walls of s^d Prison about Fifty feet by twenty the under part to contain the wood for the use of the Prison and a saw-Pitt for the purpose of sawing boards plank and other timber necessary for the Prison and the upper part to contain the manufactured articles such as waggons ploughs barrels and baskets &c. which ought not to be exposed to the sun or inclemently of the weather. The expense of the building exclusive of what can be done by the prisoners, will not probably exceed one hundred Dollars. What alterations or amendments if any can be made for the advantage of the State, and convenience of the Prison is humbly submitted to the discretion and wisdom of the legislator. by your Honours most obedient and humble servants

Granby April 25th 1821

Martin Sheldon }
Jon ^A Pettibone }

Overseers of
Newgate Prison