

OVERSEERS REPORTS

1828

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS
AND WARDEN OF THE CONN STATE
PRISON; SUBMITTED TO THE
LEGISLATURE MAY SESSION 1828

N. HAVEN PRINTED BY HAZELIA HOWE
1828

To the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, to be holden at New Haven, in May, 1828.

The Directors of the Connecticut State Prison, in compliance with the provisions of the Act for the establishment of said Prison, beg leave respectfully to

REPORT,

THAT on the 27th day of June last, they caused twenty of the convicts to be removed from New Gate, to the Connecticut State Prison—on the 14th of August, they removed the further number of twenty, and on the 29th of September, the residue of the Prisoners remaining at New Gate were removed.

On the first day of October, 1827, the Prison as such, commenced its operations; previous to which time the men had been principally employed in completing the Prison buildings, and the whole expense has been defrayed by the Commissioners for building, out of the building fund: and the accounts have been made up with reference to this distribution of the expenses.

Previous to the removal of the whole number of Prisoners, we had appointed Moses C. Pilsbury, Esq., formerly Warden of the New Hampshire Prison, to be Warden of the Connecticut State Prison. In selecting him for this situation, we followed as we believed, the decided expression of the public opinion. We consulted gentlemen from different parts of the State, who with entire unanimity, concurred with us, in the opinion, that we should be most fortunate, if we were able to obtain for the State, the services of Mr. Pilsbury. The result so far has not disappointed our expectations. By the provisions of our Statute, the Warden has the entire control of the Prison, and is responsible for its management, subject to the by-laws. Mr. Pilsbury has therefore taken the whole charge of the new Institution, and has superin-

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tended not only the safe keeping of the Prisoners, but also the financial and mercantile operations, and has acted as the general Agent and Factor. He has also kept the accounts according to a system approved by us, by which the profit or loss of each department is exhibited.

The principles of the system adopted for the government of the Prison, are as few and simple as possible. We shall barely allude to them.

In the first place, all communication between the prisoners, either directly or indirectly, by night or day, is prohibited. We believe that this point has, to every purpose of practical utility, been fully attained; and the public may rest assured, that while the present vigilance is observed, it is scarcely possible that any convict should leave the prison, debased by intercourse with other and more accomplished felons. We believe that the means of mutual corruption are effectually cut off; and that the most practised and hardened offender, will be obliged to lock up in his own breast, his schemes, his secrets, and his arts; and that the young offender, who perhaps has been detected in his first offence, may be again received into society, without the fear that he has been made worse by his imprisonment. No watchman or overseer is allowed to hold any conversation with a prisoner, except to direct him in his labor: nor to receive from him, or to deliver to him, any letter or article, without the knowledge of the Warden—and the Warden is required forthwith, to dismiss any person who shall violate this rule. No prisoner is permitted to have in his possession any money. If on his arrival, he has money, it is passed to his credit on a book kept for that purpose, and he receives it at the time of his discharge.

By these measures, it is hoped that all the means of corrupting or seducing watchmen from their duty, will be removed. The use of ardent spirits, at or about the Prison, except on the prescription of the Physician, is prohibited; and all persons employed there, are required by the terms of their contract, to abstain from their use, during the period of their employment.

By law, the Warden may punish the prisoners by whipping, not exceeding ten stripes. We are happy to say, that since the Warden has taken charge of the Institution, corporal punishment has not been inflicted in any case; and the subordinate officers are not allowed to strike a man except in self-defense. When the prisoners arrived from New Gate, irons were found upon many of them, which they had constantly worn. These have from time to time been removed, as the appearance or conduct of the men would seem to justify—and for many months no prisoner has been in irons. It has been our earnest endeavor, and in this respect our wishes have been faithfully seconded by the Warden, to substitute in the treatment of these men, so far as it should be practicable, the law of kindness, for that of severity. An exact and rigid discipline has been established, to which all have been compelled to submit—and to which all have submitted with a promptness and readiness, which is as gratifying as it was unexpected.

As it respects the moral condition of the men, we do not hesitate to express our opinion, that it is far more favorable, than the most ardent friend of the new Institution had reason to anticipate. For many months, there has been manifested an appearance of submission and subdued feeling—deep sensibility—earnest attention to religious instruction—and entire and even cheerful obedience to every regulation. The Warden has been unwearied in his exertions, (and we say this, with a deep conviction of their value and usefulness,) to instruct and reclaim these men; and to restore them to society at the expiration of their sentences, as sound and safe men.

Religious service has been performed morning and evening, and on sabbaths, either by the neighboring clergymen, who have kindly contributed their assistance, or by the Warden.

What effect these efforts to instruct, to reclaim and reform these men, shall have upon their future characters, or how permanent will be the impressions which they have received, it is not for us to say. We mean only to assert that their conduct at present is exemplary.

The stock which was received, consisted principally of wagon stuff and leather. The materials for wagons, were appraised by the overseer of the wagon shop, at New Gate; the leather by an experienced shoe maker and dealer, and the same prices have been again affixed to so much of either article, as remains on hand.

As to the stock since purchased, it has been estimated at cost and the manufactured articles on hand, at something less than selling prices. We have been scrupulous in examining the estimates, lest a fictitious value might appear in the inventory of stock. In deciding to pursue the wagon business the past winter, reference was had to the fact, that the State had on hand a large supply of the requisite materials at the old prison, which would probably sell at a loss, and also, to the fact, that there were several excellent wagon makers, whose time of service would expire the present spring.

From the annexed statement of the Warden, it appears that for the six months, ending on the 31st of March, 1828, the Prison has earned the sum of \$1017 16 over and above the expenses of its management and support, which sum may be considered as profits.

At the time of commencing operations on the first day of October last, it became necessary to purchase for the use of the establishment, large supplies of various articles, such as beds, bedding and bedsteads, &c. for the cells—clothing for the prisoners—provisions and fuel, and stock and materials for the several shops. For these various expenditures a large sum of money became immediately necessary, before the prisoners had earned a single dollar. The sum of \$1300 was drawn from the Treasury, by the Warden, the whole of which was immediately paid for staves and heading; a great proportion of which is still on hand. For the other objects, the Warden advanced from his own means, the sum stated in his report. How great a part of this sum it may be necessary to draw from the Treasury to reimburse him, will depend entirely on the sales of the articles on hand. Probably some portion of this sum however, must be drawn before sales can be effected.

It appears further from this statement, that a part of this sum has been taken for expenditures, which are not of ordinary annual recurrence, such as bedsteads and bedding, tools and utensils. After the first expense has been incurred in obtaining them, a comparatively trifling sum will keep them in repair.

We trust therefore, that the fact, that these sums have been required to commence operations, will be perceived not to affect the statements, as to the earnings of the Prisoners. It will probably, always be necessary in every institution of this kind, as in a private concern, to have a small stock account. And if the estimate of stock is correctly, and properly made, as we believe it to be in the present instance, it still presents no obstacle, to a satisfactory adjustment of the profits and loss of the Institution. The only question is, in what proportion has the public property been increased or diminished.

As it respects the health and general appearance of the Prisoners, their diet, drink, lodgings, &c. we refer to the annexed report of Dr. S. B. Woodward, the attending physician.

In case any prisoner is reported as sick, notice is immediately given to the physician, and he receives all that attention, which is ordinarily bestowed on persons in other situations; and such supplies of medicine and food, as are proper for the sick, have been uniformly furnished. We would mention as a singular fact, that not a case of severe sickness has occurred, nor has it been found necessary to order a single prisoner to the Hospital.

The ration for the day consists of one pound of beef, one pound of bread, as many potatoes as they may require, being about five bushels to a hundred rations, to which is added for supper, a porridge made of ground pease and cornmeal, so regulated as that each shall be amply supplied. It has not been practised to stop the rations, or abridge the men of their food, in any case. Nor is any prisoner allowed to purchase, or receive from any other quarter, any supplies of food or drink. The only drink furnished to prisoners, in health, is cold water.

The directors have thought it their duty, to turn the attention of the Legislature, for a moment, to the doubtful expediency of placing females in the State Prison. The law which authorized

their confinement in Newgate, was passed in 1824, since which time, five female prisoners have been sentenced, and one placed here by a commutation of punishment. There are four now confined. It appears from the certificate of the physician, that nearly one half the expense for medical attendance, on the whole number of convicts, has been incurred in visiting these four females. Unless the State shall be willing to incur the expense of organizing, in the institution, a separate department for females, to be under the control of a matron and other female attendants, it seems nearly impracticable, to treat this class of prisoners, as propriety and even humanity would require. Their attendants must now be persons of the other sex, and the bare statement of this fact, will present to the mind, a large class of other objections which we need not enumerate. It would be too severe, to place them constantly by night and day, in separate cells; and the officers have been compelled to place them together, in a single room, which is twenty feet square; and yet every objection against lodging a number of prisoners together in the same room, is as applicable to this class of convicts as any other. We are of the opinion that these four females, while their labor is of little value, occasion more vexation and trouble to the officers of the Prison, than every other convict confined in it; and we have no doubt that every person acquainted with the subject, will admit the justice of the following remark, made to us by the superintendent of the Auburn Prison. "I have," says he, "under my care, about four hundred and fifty male prisoners, and nine females; and I would cheerfully undertake the care of an additional four hundred and fifty men, to be rid of the nine women." And in his report made the last winter, to the Legislature of the state of New York, he remarks, "It is a subject of surprise, that in this enlightened and christian age, female convicts should be confined in the same penitentiary with male convicts."

We are aware that there is some difficulty in disposing of this class of prisoners, but it has appeared to us, that the law as it stood before the recent alteration, was on the whole, to be preferred to the provisions of the present statute.

The question has been frequently proposed, whether this Institution would hereafter support itself, so that no further assistance from the Treasury would be necessary.

In answer to this question, we can obviously offer nothing but our opinion, with the considerations on which it is founded.

Probably no one supposed, that the Prison would for the first year, or two, support itself without some assistance.

The heavy expenses which are at first to be incurred, the embarrassments and hindrances incident to the commencement of every business, and the frequent trials and failures which must be encountered before a settled plan of operations can be adopted, had led us to expect little from the earnings of the prisoners for the first year.

It is also to be remarked, that the Prison commenced its operations at the very beginning of the cold season, and yet during a trial for six months, between the first day of October and the first day of April, it has produced over and above every expense, the sum of \$1017 16, as already stated.

If this experiment thus conducted, under circumstances so unfavorable, can be relied on, as we believe it may be; it will at least justify the opinion, that, after the sums already advanced by the Warden for the first expenditures shall be reimbursed, no farther demands upon the Treasury will be necessary for the support of the establishment.

Although the undersigned have never doubted that the public, in consequence of the change of system, would be relieved from large annual demands upon the Treasury; and although they have felt it to be important, that every institution of this kind should be made to support itself, and if possible, to return back to the State, some part of those expenses which the prosecution and conviction of offenders must occasion; still they have been accustomed to regard these pecuniary considerations, as of secondary importance, compared with what, they fervently hope may be, the great moral results of the improvement. Dated, April 10th, 1828.

JOHN RUSS,
M. WELLES,
JOHN S. PETERS, } *Directors.*

CLOTHING AND BEDDING.

Clothing and Bedding on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827,	76 50
Purchased since,	834 30
On hand, March 31st, 1828,	910 80
Leaving for the amount consumed,	673 00
	<u>237 80</u>

EXPENSES.

Furniture and fuel on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827,	95 77
Since paid Warden's & deputy Warden's salary, Watchmen's wages and subsistence, fuel and incidental expenses,	1821 02
Furniture and fuel on hand, March 31st, 1828,	1916 79
Amount consumed or expended,	366 56
	<u>1550 23</u>

HOSPITAL.

Medicine on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827, received from old prison, appraised by Dr. Cook,	8 00
Purchased since,	27 26
Attending physician's bill for his services,	47 00
Medicine on hand, March 31st, 1828, appraised by Dr. Woodward,	82 26
Amount expended,	31 90
	<u>50 36</u>
Total amount of expenditures of every description,	2,598 31
Balance gain to the Institution,	1,017 16
	<u>\$3,615 47</u>

It will be seen, by the foregoing statement, that the receipts of the Institution have been derived principally from the labor of convicts employed in the several branches of business as exhibited; and the disbursements have been made in the purchase of provisions and clothing, raw materials, and pay of Warden's and Deputy Warden's salary, pay of Watchmen and overseers of the departments, and

their subsistence; and also for medicine and medical attendance, together with incidental expenses.

Distinct and particular accounts are kept with the several departments of the Prison, the balances of which are considered as showing its income and expenditure; and, by the schedule marked A, will be seen estimates of property on hand, Oct. 1st, 1827, received from New Gate Prison, and appraised by persons duly qualified; and also estimates of property on hand, March 31st, 1828, appraised by mechanics where they pertained to their shops, particular regard being had to the former appraisal, where the article remained in the same state; varying, however, where any difference was apparent, with a view to rate them not above their value; the raw materials remaining in the same state, at their actual cost; manufactured articles at a little lower rate than we usually sell for. Schedule B, showing a statement of debts to and from the prison, and all its financial concerns, together with a second view of the state of the pecuniary affairs of the prison; and in proof of the foregoing, contrasting the difference between the amount of money drawn from the Treasury; money advanced by the Warden, as per cash account, and debts due individuals—and debts due from individuals, and increase of property on hand, 31st of March, 1828, the result of which leaves the balance of gain as in the former statement of receipts and expenditures.

It will also be seen, that while the Warden is restricted, by law, to transact all the business of the Institution upon cash estimates, no means are provided thus to enable him to do his duty, or to derive any advantage from purchasing with ready money, except he does it with his own funds, or a loan upon his own responsibility.

Whole number of prisoners, Oct. 1st, 1827,	89
Since received up to April 1st, 1828,	23
	<u>112</u>
Discharged,	14
Escapes,	00
Died of Epilepsy,	1
	<u>15</u>
	97

The whole number of prisoners, 31st of March, 1828, is 97—4 of which are females, and 18 are colored men—convicted of the following crimes, viz. :—

Arson,	4
Bigamy,	3
Attempt to poison,	2
High crime and misdemeanor,	2
Horse stealing,	6
Attempt at rape,	12
Attempt to kill,	4
Manslaughter,	2
Forgery,	6
Passing counterfeit money,	11
Attempt to release a prisoner,	2
Incest,	1
Adultery,	3
Mail robbery,	1
Highway robbery,	1
Murder committed,	1
Bestiality,	1
Rape committed,	1
Breaking prison,	2
Burglary,	32
Total,	97

SCHEDULE A.

STATEMENT OF PROPERTY ON HAND.

	State Prison, Oct. 1st, 1827.	March 31st, 1828.
Shoe Shop,	\$266 33	\$207 97
Cooper's Shop,	94 28	2100 82
Carpenter's Shop,	343 77	1154 71
Smith Shop,	122 71	637 96
Nail Shop,	12 00	82 00
Clothing and Bedding,	76 50	573 00
Furniture in House and Prison,	5 00	133 70
Prison kitchen and out door implements,	90 77	153 24
Wood,	8 00	79 62
Hospital,	-	31 90
Provisions,	-	425 72
Brick Department, wood on hand,	-	57 00
Amount received from New Gate,	1085 36	\$5737 64
Increase of property since Oct. 1st, 1827,	4652 28	\$5737 64

SCHEDULE B.

STATEMENT OF DEBITS.

Due on book account, March 31st, 1828,	\$505 31
Owing,	638 45
Cash received from Treasury,	133 14
Due Warden for monies advanced per cash account,	1300 00
	2201 98
Increase of property on hand, March 31st, 1828,	3635 12
Balance gain,	4652 28
	\$1017 16

On the 8th of March, 1828, the late acting overseer of New Gate Prison, passed over into my hands the following claims, the property of the State, for which I gave my receipt, which is not brought into view in the foregoing statement, viz. :—

One note of hand, signed Charles Whiting, by G. Whiting, dated Hartford, Jan. 2, 1828, for \$423 08, payable in leather at usual prices, at his store; and one due bill signed Nichols & Humphreys, by Henry Benton, dated Hartford, March 23, 1826, for \$17 46, endorsed July 24, 1827, \$3 85, leaving a balance of \$13 61, payable in soap; and a certified balance of account, against the Union Manufacturing Company, by Christopher Coll, as entered on their books of Jan. 1, 1828, for \$129 46, payable in goods—the whole amounting to \$566 15.

State Prison, *Wethersfield, April 10, 1828.*

It was stated in our former Report, that at the commencement of the Institution, and before the prisoners had earned a single dollar, the Warden was obliged to advance from his own means the sum mentioned in his statement, for the purchasing beds, bedding and clothing, &c., provisions for the prisoners, and materials for manufacture; and that this sum, or some portion of it, must probably be drawn from the treasury before sales could be made of articles on hand. This sum has since been drawn to reimburse the Warden for these advancements—but as it was not drawn until after the first day of April, 1823, it appears in the Comptroller's statement the present year, although the money was expended before that time and the account settled previous to our last Report.

From this statement it also appears, that the whole number of prisoners on the 31st day of March last, was 134. That the number of commitments, for the year ending on that day, was 65—that 25 were discharged on expiration of sentence, and 3 by order of the Legislature.

It is therefore apparent that there has been an increase of prisoners—and some solicitude has been felt and expressed lest this increase was to be attributed to the mild treatment received by prisoners at this institution.

It therefore becomes an interesting inquiry, whether on the whole, there has been an increase of crime—and if there has been, whether it ought to be attributed to this cause:—for if it shall be ascertained that this alleged cause shall have produced this result, an entire change of measures would be necessary on the part of those who have been entrusted with the management of the Prison. There is certainly no difficulty in carrying the severity of the imprisonment to an extent as great as, and we believe much greater, than public opinion would tolerate.

We have therefore, endeavored to obtain information on this subject from every source within our reach—and the inquiry has satisfied us, as we trust it will others, that the treatment of the prisoners, whatever that treatment may be—has had no effect in enlarging the number, nor have we seen any evidence of an increase of crime.

In the first place the number of prisoners is but nine greater, than were sometimes found at the former prison—and the commitments of the last year exceed but by twelve, the average number of commitments during the years 1822, '23, and '24. The number of prisoners will frequently fluctuate without the operation of any known cause. During the year 1827 it happened that a very large number were discharged, on the expiration of their sentences—during the past year

this country. Still it is liable to be abused, and may, in a moment of excitement, be exercised with undue severity upon a defenceless prisoner who feels that he has no friend or protector to interpose in his behalf. A short confinement to the cell on light diet, with the knowledge that for every day passed under this punishment the law will add one day to the sentence, has been sufficient hitherto to make the most stubborn yield—and no man has for many days doubted that any plea means were at the disposal of the Warden, and that they would be freely used to compel submission. It ought, however, to be stated that the instances of punishment have been extremely rare, and until we had been eye witnesses of the fact, we had supposed it impossible to govern so perfectly this large body of men, without a more frequent resort to severe measures. We should do injustice to the officers, and the prisoners, as well as to our own feelings, were we to omit to hear this our most public testimony, to the order, the quiet and the regularity which have prevailed in the Institution for the last year.

Religious instruction has been furnished to the men, and divine service has been performed in their presence morning and evening, and on the Sabbath—and we repeat the declaration; "that the Warden has been unwearied in his exertions to instruct and reclaim these men, and to restore them to society, at the expiration of their sentences, as sound and safe men." A Sunday School has been established in the Prison under interesting circumstances, which promises to be an useful addition to the other means which have been employed for the reformation of the convicts.

As it respects the health of the prisoners, it has been generally good. There have been, however, a few cases of severe sickness, particularly among the female convicts, but no death has occurred.

The accompanying statement of the attending physician, Dr. S. B. Woodward, will exhibit, in detail, the proper information on this subject.

The accompanying statement of the Warden, will exhibit the pecuniary concerns of the Institution for the year ending on the first of April inst., and also the profit and loss of the several departments. By this statement it appears that the prison, after defraying every expense for its management and support, has earned to the state \$3,229 41, which sum may be considered as profits. An exact inventory and appraisal has been made of every article belonging to the Institution. In making the estimates of stock on hand, the rule has been to enter the raw materials at cost, and the manufactured articles at something less than selling prices.

APART
PRISONERS OR NEGOTIATE

To the Hon. General Assembly of the State of Connecticut now in session-----

The undersigned Commissions appointed by the legislature in May 1826 to purchase a site for a new State Prison, and to erect suitable buildings thereon, made a report to the legislature in May 1827 of their doings so far as they had them progressed in effecting the objects of their appointment.

They now respectfully further Report,

As the date of their last report, they had purchased Sixteen acres, two Roods & thirty rods of land for the establishment, since which by authority derived from the Hon. General Assembly they have made an additional purchase of one quarter of an acre, making the whole 16 Acres 3. & 30 Rods of land, all which has been duly conveyed to the State. They had also advanced far towards completing the main building, and Block for the night rooms, but neither of which was then finished. Since that time both have been completed. As many of the members of the present legislature had not a seat in the last, the Commissioners deem it proper to recapitulate so much of their last report, as may be necessary to a full understanding of the dimensions, arrangement, and accommodations of the establishment. The principal building is 177 feet long by 48 in width. The external walls of which are stone, laid in lime mortar and handsomely pointed, they are 3 feet thick at the bottom gradually diminishing to two feet two inches at top. The average height of the walls from the commencement of the foundation is 36 feet. The windows adjacent to the prison yard and block of cells are all substantially grated. The rood of the building is covered with Slate, with copper gutters around the whole, and tin conductors to carry off the water. At the East end of the main building are a guard room, Warden's office, hospital and medicine room, and apartment for confining female convicts, and various other apartments for the use of the establishment, and the family of the Warden. The whole number of Rooms in this part of the building is 17 exclusive of closets, under which is a Cellar 48 feet by 50-----

At the west end, and within the walls of the building, is a block of cells, erected for confining and lodging the convicts in separate apartments during the night season, on a similar plan of the Auburn Prison. This Block is Seventy nine feet loon, nineteen feet wide, and thirty in height from the floor of the lower tier of the night rooms, and id divided into four stories, and each story into 34 apartments or cells, making in the whole 136 separate rooms, for confining and lodging the Convicts. This building is Brick. The external and center walls of which are one foot eight inches thick, and the partition walls between each cell, one foot thick. Each cell or night room is seven feet long, three and an half wide, and seven feet high in the clear, and is ventilated by an aperture in the center wall, which is carried, the whole height of the building and discharged through the roof which is found on trial to secure a free circulation of wholesome air to every convict in his night room. The doors of the cells are made of oak plank three inches thick, with iron bolts passing through each door the whole width thereof. Every door has a grated space 14 inches by 18 for the admission of air and light, and to each door is attached a strong lock made by the Convicts. The area surrounding the Block of Cells is handsomely paved with Brick. Since our last report a wall has been erected around the prison yard,

laid in lime mortar & pointed. This wall is 232 feet long east & west, and 199 from North to South enclosing more than one acre of land, and is three feet thick at bottom and one foot ten inches at top, the average height is about 21 feet from the bottom of the foundation, and about 18 above the surface of the ground. The top of the wall is covered with plank to secure it from the weather, and so railed in as to form a convenient walk for the Guard or watchman on duty. There are also two Brick guard houses erected on the Walls... Within the prison yard, on the East side, thereof, a range of Shops have been erected for the Convicts to labor in. The length of which is 168 feet, breadth 27. This building is one story high, and is at present divided into the following apartments (viz)

The Center room is appropriated as a kitchen, or cooking apartment for the Convicts, confined in the prison, in which is a very large oven, three large Iron kettles set in furnaces, and such other conveniences as are required, and under it, a Cellar 40 feet by 27. On one side of this kitchen is the wagon & Joiners Shop and the Shoe-makers Shop, on the other a room for depositing Coal, a Blacksmith and nail makers Shop, and a Coopers Shops. The walls of this building are brick, and every part of it is well lighted by windows on the side, and a single tier of lights nearly in the center of the Roof and extending the whole length of the building. The floors of the shops are paved with Brick. The Commissioners have also erected a Barn 32 feet by 40, and a suitable woodhouse, for the use of the establishment.

The Commissioners were of the opinion that some of the Convicts might be advantageously employed in labor, erecting the new prison. Therefore availing themselves of the authority given them by the legislature for that purpose, did on the 27th day of June last remove 20 of the Convicts from New Gate Prison, to the new establishment, and on the 14th of August they removed 20 more. But the expenses of the officer and guard to take charge of them, in the situation the prison then was, together with the necessary provisions, clothing, and contingences required for their support, rendered the experiment an unprofitable one. The whole expense during for their support up to the 30th day of September last, has been charged the Commissioners, and paid from the fund in their hands appropriated for building the prison, and makes a part of their account of disbursements herewith exhibited. On the 29th of September all the convicts remaining at New Gate Prison were removed, and on the first day of October last the new prison commenced, under the Directors and Warden.

The Commissioners procured about 350 thousand brick to be made last season on the prison location. They were principally manufactured for Contract. Enough however was done by the prisoners, after they arrived, to convict all who saw them work, that they could soon acquire a good knowledge of that business, about 150 thousand Brick made at the prison the last season, were used in erecting the work shops, guard houses, and paving the floors. The rest due are on hand and are estimated to be worth about 800 dollars.

The Commissioners made their last report under date of the 5th of May 1827. At that time they had drawn from the Treasury Twenty thousand dollars of the sum appropriated for the new prison. Their disbursements amounted to 19,655 70/100 dollars as per their account then exhibited, accompanied by the several vouchers. The account and vouchers

were examined by a Committee of both branches of the Legislature, and reported on as correct, which report was duly accepted and approved. By that account it appears the balance then in their hands remaining unexpended was 344 dollars & 30 cents, which was carried to the credit of the State in a new account. Since which they have drawn from the Treasury the further sum of 13,000 dollars being the whole balance of the appropriation: which being added to the balance before stated makes 13,344 30/100 dollars remaining to be accounted for. The disbursements made by the Commissioners since their last report, in erecting the wall around the prison yard, completing the different buildings of the establishment, and making Brick, are contained in their account herewith exhibited, accompanied by the several vouchers & amounting to 12,829 dollars 81 cents. Numbered from 1 to 168 inclusive, which sum being deducted from the before mentioned sum of 13,344 dollars & 30 cents leaves of the appropriation 514 dollars 49 cents. To which balance, add the avails of five yoke of Oxen which sold for 357 dollars, and a balance of 518 dollars, 43 cents, which is due from the prison account for articles furnished by the Commissioners for the Prison, which did not belong to the building account, leaves the whole balance unexpended 1389 dollars 92 cents. They have also on hand about 200,000 Brick, the manufacturing of which has been paid for by the Commissioners, and when sold the avails will be credited the State. There are some few accounts which have not yet been presented for fragment, the amount of which will not exceed one hundred Dollars, so that it may be safely calculated that the funds remaining in the hands of the Commissioners unexpended, will be amply sufficient to complete the Brick yard, make the necessary fences, and level and improve the lands attached to the establishment, arguably to the _____ contemplated when the estimates and appropriation were made.

All which is respectfully submitted.

New Haven, May 12th, 1828

John Russ
?????
John S. Peters