

# PRISON CHANGES URGED

## RECOMMENDATIONS MADE FOR SHIFTS IN AUBURN INDUSTRIES

### Commissioners Favor An Increase in School Furniture, Cloth and Broom and Basket Output—Conditions Here Are Analyzed.

Recommendations relative to changes in the industries of Auburn Prison are contained in the special report on the prison industries, submitted by Mial H. Pierce, Walter W. Nicholson and Leon C. Weinstock commissioners, and dated December 30 last.

The commissioners urge that the school furniture industry be enlarged in Auburn; that the capacity of the cloth industry be increased; that some of the articles of furniture now made in the wood working department be eliminated; that the output of the broom and basket industry be increased and that some additions be made to the line of castings manufactured in the foundry.

The report follows:

**Special Inspections Have Been Made**  
Special inspections have been made of Auburn, Clinton and Sing Sing Prisons with a view of inquiring particularly into the industries in those institutions. No inspection of the industries was made at Great Meadow Prison, as it was considered that the regular report of inspection gives sufficient information regarding the few industries in that institution.

**Early Conclusions**  
In a survey of Prison Industries made in 1921, the following conclusions were reached:

"That less than half of the population of the prisons is employed in the industries.

"That there seems to be an unnecessary number of inmates used in maintenance.

"That the men employed in the industries, work on an average of less than six hours a day, or less than 24 hours a week.

"That the matter of 'self-government' has been allowed to interfere with the production of the industries."

At present, the number of men assigned to the industries in the three industrial prisons exceeds the number of prisoners charged to "maintenance" quite materially, in spite of the fact that Clinton Prison is greatly hampered by lack of shop room, owing to the destruction of one of the main shop buildings by fire, and that Sing Sing at the present time has only shop room for three large industries and one small one. In Great Meadow Prison less than 100 men are employed in the industries.

The prisoners are supposed to work at least seven hours a day, but they do not actually put in that time in any of the prisons. The average time, as nearly as could be ascertained, is from five to six and one-half hours; most frequently the former than the latter.

There are not as many interruptions in the shop work now as there were in 1921, but there are still those due to bathing, shaving, visits, etc.

**Prison Self Government.**

"Self-government" still continues in Auburn and Sing Sing Prisons. It exists in a much more modified form at the first named prison than at the latter. It has at times been entirely suspended at Auburn. There is a great diversity of opinion among prison officials as to the success or failure of this form of prison control. Two years ago we expressed the opinion that while "self-government" might work out in theory, it did not in practice. Our observations since that time have not changed the opinion then expressed. We do not believe that the practice of delegating any of the powers of prison officers, even minor ones, to prisoners can or does result in any final benefit to either the prisoners generally or to the state. We believe there is a wide-spread opinion on the part of the citizens of New York State that life in the state prisons is being made entirely too pleasant for the inmates and that there is considerable truth in that opinion. We believe that prisoners should be well and fairly treated in every way, but we do not believe that their whims should be gratified or that any able-bodied prison inmate should do less work than the workman who has observed the laws and is obtaining an honest livelihood for his family, and in addition (through taxes) is paying for the care and maintenance of the prisoners as well as their families.

Work will improve any able-bodied man, and a much larger amount than is at present accomplished by the inmates of our state prisons would not only greatly benefit them but would be of decided advantage to the taxpayers of the state. Prisoners should have recreation, but it should not be permitted to interfere with their work. We again quote an authority on penal affairs, who stated:

"Recreation can easily become demoralizing rather than an uplifting force in prison life. Under an

ill-directed and ill-advised recreation process it can easily be perverted into weakened mental and moral habits. The A B C of prison life should be to stimulate, incite, and engender such habits of life as will strengthen the will, clarify the judgment, and sustain the character. Will is largely dependent in life upon healthful physical training and exercise.

It should be stated here that the shortening of the hours of work is not due to the present prison administration, but was inaugurated about 10 years ago. During the last few years the condition of the industries in the prisons has generally and gradually improved.

Attached hereto are tables showing the sales of Auburn, Clinton and Sing Sing Prisons for the past five years. Reports of inspections also will be found under that heading, which give detailed information regarding the several prisons.

**Auburn Recommendations.**  
In Auburn Prison it is recommended that the school furniture industry be enlarged; that the capacity of the cloth industry be increased; that some of the articles of furniture now made in the wood-working department be eliminated; that the output of the broom and basket industry be increased; and that some additions be made to the line of castings manufactured in the foundry.

Considerable new machinery has been installed at this prison and the installation of additional equipment is recommended in the report of inspection of the institution. It is expected to enlarge the capacity of the automobile plate industry during the coming year. The inmates of this institution march to the mess hall for their meals.

In Clinton Prison the industries are hampered by lack of shop room, owing to the destruction of one of the main shop buildings by fire. The construction of the new shop building is well under way and it is hoped to complete it during the ensuing year. This building will be of the most modern construction and will greatly add to the industrial efficiency of the institution.

It has been recommended in connection with the industries of this prison that additional officers be provided, so that the prisoners will be able to do a full day's work, viz., eight hours.

The purchase of additional machinery and equipment is also recommended as is the establishment of a basket-weaving industry in the Tuberculosis Hospital. The plan of constructing a central power plant for this prison and the Dannemora State Hospital is being favorably considered and the prison authorities hope to be able to start this construction next year. The superintendent of state prisons has thoroughly investigated the matter and it has been found that the construction of this plant would be a matter of economy as well as adding to the efficiency of the state plants.

It is proposed when the new shop is completed, to manufacture yarn for use in the shops at Sing Sing Prison. At present the output of the cotton shop is used entirely by the weave shop, which is run in connection with it. A few warps are manufactured for Auburn Prison, but the rest of the output is used locally. On the completion of the new shop an entire rearrangement of the location of the various industries will be made under the direction of the superintendent of state prisons.

There is no eating in the shops in this institution; the men are marched to the mess hall for all meals. At Great Meadows, Great Meadow Prison has been greatly hampered for two reasons. First there is no wall around the institution and it has been possible to send only such prisoners as it was believed could be sufficiently trusted to stay there. Second, there are no shop buildings. Both wall and shop buildings have been recommended by the prison authorities for a number of years and it is believed that their construction will be started in 1924. There are really but three industries, although the carpenter shop, employing two men, is so classed. The three principal ones are the Quarry and Stone, Mat, and Farm. These three employ from 90 to 100 men.

The Mat industry is located in the space under the cell hall, which is unfit for the purpose. The sales of this industry were \$6,662.92. Details regarding the other industries will be found in the report of inspection. In a report concerning this prison, made in 1921, it was stated: "While the men may now all be employed, although my impression is that they are not sufficiently busy that they are not engaged to any great extent in work that is of real benefit to

### AUBURN PRISON SALES

Year	Woodworking
1918	\$ 78,833.50
1919	99,697.63
1920	112,463.80
1921	134,841.69
1922	160,535.11
1923	213,045.76
Total	\$ 799,417.55

Year	Broom and Basket
1918	\$ 45,089.53
1919	38,214.25
1920	28,032.03
1921	25,409.15
1922	28,543.82
1923	26,114.43
Total	\$ 192,403.21

Year	Bed and Brass
1918	\$ 12,493.23
1919	12,035.31
1920	16,018.20
1921	18,949.69
1922	23,264.29
1923	26,532.24
Total	\$ 109,293.06

Year	Cloth
1918	\$ 111,580.77
1919	254,371.67
1920	254,210.15
1921	202,714.15
1922	171,518.95
1923	165,133.79
Total	\$ 1,359,732.41

Year	Farm
1918	\$ 5,741.07
1919	11,329.99
1920	11,894.23
1921	14,662.40
1922	10,344.26
1923	11,224.56
Total	\$ 65,106.57

Year	Women's Prison
1918	\$ 3,692.24
1919	3,352.00
1920	2,549.64
1921	5,071.67
1922	2,715.38
1923	4,752.66
Total	\$ 22,114.11

Year	Sign and Number Plate
1921	\$187,942.55
1922	113,864.97
1923	209,320.43
Total	\$511,127.95

the State. The work they have accomplished is generally well done, but much time is wasted. We believe that the foregoing situation is practically unchanged. In order to make this plant a successful penal institution it must be changed into an industrial prison. There are four industries in Sing Sing Prison, knitting and hosiery, shoe, brush and mattress and printing.

This prison is hampered by lack of shop room, and it is apparently impossible to greatly change this condition until a new cell block is constructed, so that the present cell hall can be reconstructed as a shop building. Additional storage room is also a necessity, the present storage facilities being not only inadequate but a fire risk.

The Knitting and Hosiery and Printing plants are apparently adequate to care for the present market. The Printing plant can apparently do all the work it can obtain under the present laws.

The Sheet Metal industry is now in excellent condition, and there is believed to be a market for more than it can produce. The Brush and Mattress Industry should be enlarged and its output increased, as there is a good market for floor brooms, etc.

**Opposes Meals in Shops.**  
The practice of allowing the inmates to eat their meals in the shops still continues in this prison. It should be promptly discontinued and the men sent to the mess hall for all their meals, as is done in the other prisons.

It is also recommended that officers be placed in the shops to supervise the output, as it is not believed that proper supervision can be given by inmates.

It is further recommended that a change be made in the styles of shoes manufactured, in order to give the inmates more sufficient experience as well as to increase the market for the disposal of the product.

It is also believed that the Prison Law should be amended, so that more printing can be done in the print shop. Some road work has been done during the past year, as will be noted by the following statement:

Auburn Prison, 74 men in five companies; Clinton Prison, 14 men in one company; Great Meadow Prison, 60 men in four companies; Sing Sing Prison, 40 men in one company. About 300 men have been engaged in new construction during the past year as follows: Auburn, 48; Clinton, 120; Great Meadow, 22; Sing Sing, 115.

The commission has requested the State Department of Labor to make another examination of the prison shops pertaining to the safeguarding of the prisoners who operate machinery or work in the shops where it is used. A similar request was made some years ago and the reports submitted at that time was transmitted to the prison authorities.

**Want More Guards.**  
In 1921 it was recommended that the Legislature be requested to consider "the matter of appropriating funds so that sufficient guards can be employed to permit prisoners to work eight hours a day and yet have adequate recreation." We believe that the additional funds so used would be well invested. There is no doubt that the prisoners should have recreation, but there is no reason that recreation should prevent them from working a least a full eight hours each day. It is just to require the prison officers to work unusual hours to provide the inmates of the prisons with time for recreation.

In the report made in 1921 it was also recommended "that the Superintendent of State Prisons insist that his rules and regulations promulgat-

ed by him be carried out in the same manner by all warden. If this were done it would greatly aid in the general management of all the prisons. Under present conditions, prisoners feel that they are not fairly treated in some institutions because the institutions to which they are transferred does not carry out the rules in the same way as the institution from which they came. A lax enforcement of the rules by one prison official makes matters more difficult for the official who does obey his instructions to the letter. Unless there is more "team work" the desired results cannot be expected. In the above mentioned report it was also recommended that arrangements be made "so that the receipt and disposal of food shall not interfere with the industries." The conditions referred to that time have been greatly improved in most of the institutions.

Two other recommendations were "that of the practice of transferring and retransferring from one prison to another be reduced to a minimum and "that the prison products be standardized as much as possible and that the articles be manufactured." The first of these recommendations has apparently been complied with and the second is being carried out.

**Recommendations Made.**  
The following recommendations were made relative to the several prisons:

**Auburn Prison:**  
1. Keep the cloth shop running to full capacity.

2. Purchase machinery and equipment mentioned in attached report of this prison.

3. Give the auto plate industry more room if possible.

4. Have less self-government and more work for the prisoners.

5. Stop the cooking and eating in the shops during working hours. The first, second and sixth recommendations have been complied with. It was impossible to carry out the third, owing to the destruction of the clothing shop by fire. It is expected to carry out the fourth and fifth recommendations after the new shop is completed.

**Great Meadow Prison:**  
1. Build a wall around the institution.

2. Construct shop buildings so that inmates may be employed when the institution is filled to capacity. It is expected to start both of these improvements in 1924.

**Sing Sing Prison:**  
1. Enlarge the sheet metal industry so that the can industry from Clinton Prison can be included in this department.

2. Establish a larger printing plant, provided that the section of the Prison Law relative to printing is repealed.

3. Stop the present method of allowing inmates to eat in the shop buildings.

4. Place officers in the shops during working hours.

**Present Status**  
The first recommendation has been complied with; the second could not be, as the Legislature declined to amend the law; the third and fourth recommendations have not been complied with.

The reasons for all of the foregoing recommendations were fully discussed at the time they were made. The great question at this time is how to increase the production of the prison industries, generally. After the production is increased, will be time to bring up the matter of extension of the market. When this time arrives the law relative to the purchase of prison-made goods should be made more drastic.

When the new buildings at Sing Sing Prison are put into use it is hoped that the physical and mental examinations of prisoners which is contemplated, will result in sending the men to the industries for which they are best fitted.

We realize the many puzzling and difficult situations which at all times confront the prison officials. The suggestions and criticisms in this report are offered for their consideration with the belief that some of them at least, if adopted, will aid in solving their difficulties. The proper employment of every able-bodied man in the state prisons for at least eight hours every working day should be the aim of every true friend and well wisher of the prisoners.

**Small Prison Fire.**  
The Fire Department of Auburn Prison extinguished a blaze which developed in the sanding machine in the cabinet shop this noon. Friction is supposed to have been the cause of the blaze which did slight damage. The city Fire Department was called to the prison shops but there was nothing to do on arrival.

**Dies From Broken Neck.**  
Lockport, N. Y., Jan. 10.—Mrs. Simon Marshall, 32, formerly of Pekin, is dead in Buffalo of a broken neck suffered last November when a plank fell upon her while moving from Pekin to Orchard Park.

## SHERIFF TEETER VERY LOW TODAY

Sheriff Fay Teeter is in a critical condition at his home in the jail residence this afternoon. The sheriff has been in a comatose condition all day and reports of physicians in attendance are that the chances for recovery are slight. Mr. Teeter was taken with a chill Sunday morning and took to his bed with what was supposed to be a hard cold and the grippe. Kidney complications developed and the kidneys have failed to function for a good many hours. A corps of physicians and nurses are in constant attendance.

## FUND OF ELKS IS BOOSTED \$3,500

A substantial boost to the Elks building fund was received last night when the Elks Auxiliary turned over \$3,500, the proceeds of several social events held during the past few months. The principal event was recent auto contest. Last night the Elks considered informally the matter of building on their new site at the corner of Genesee and Green Streets and the Finance committee appointed for the project is busy on plans. Last evening a substantial reduction on the mortgage indebtedness was made.

**Tonight Swiss Bell Ringers, 15c and 25c. First Methodist.—Advertisement.**

**Gift of \$20,000 to Columbia.**  
New York, Jan. 10.—Anonymous gift of \$20,000 to Columbia University to be used exclusively for the department of geology and known as the James Furman Kemp fund, was announced today by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the university.

The donor stipulated that the income might be applied to fellowships, scholarships, loans to students, field research expeditions, "or other valid requirements for which there are no stated funds regularly advanced by the university."

**Anti-Speed Campaign Opens.**  
The motorcycle squad of the Auburn police force started yesterday on a campaign to check motorists making a speedway of the new pavement in Seymour Street. Two speeders were nabbed F. G. Strickland and John Baird. Disposition of the cases will be made by Recorder Charles A. Wright this afternoon.

**Dancing.**  
Beginners' new term next Tuesday, 7 o'clock. Conley's.—Advertisement.

**Tonight Swiss Bell Ringers, 15c and 25c. First Methodist.—Advertisement.**

**ADVERTISE IN THE CITIZEN.**

**BEDROOM SUITES**  
4 Large Pieces  
\$440 Suite, sale price \$298  
\$360 Suite, sale price \$257  
\$365 Suite, sale price \$269  
**ALTERATION SALE**  
G. W. RICHARDSON & SON

**Drink "SALADA" GREEN TEA**  
Its purity, quality and freshness are unsurpassed. Finer than the best Japans. Try it.

### STATE OFFICIAL LAUDS McDERMOTT FOR WORK HERE

Thomas McDermott, county sealer of weights and measures, received a letter today from Charles J. Reynolds, director of weights and measures of the State Department of Farms and Markets, congratulating him "upon the excellent condition found in the City of Auburn and the County of Cayuga in regard to weights and measures."

Mr. Reynolds stated in his letter also that he hoped Mr. McDermott would continue to keep up this good work as he has always done in the past.

**Ladies—Save your time and fuel.** Get your baked goods at our sale Saturday at east side of William St., First Store, Ladies of St. Mary's.—Advertisement.

**Nurses Meet.**  
The Graduate Nurses' Association held its regular monthly meeting last evening at the Nurses' Home in Lansing Street. Annual reports were read and committees for the new year were formed. A number of the members are attending a district meeting at the Memorial Hospital in Syracuse this afternoon. Miss Ida M. Finch of this city is secretary of the district (No. 4), which includes Auburn, Syracuse and Cortland. After the business session last evening refreshments were served. Mrs. Lester E. Brew acted as hostess.

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**THE PLAN IN BRIEF**  
Proposes  
1. That the United States shall immediately enter the Permanent Court of International Justice, under the conditions stated by Secretary Hughes and President Harding in February, 1922.  
2. That without becoming a member of the League of Nations as at present constituted, the United States shall offer to extend its present cooperation with the League and participate in the work of the League as a body of mutual counsel under conditions which:  
1. Substitute moral force and public opinion for the military and economic force applied in Articles X and XVI.  
2. Safeguard the Monroe Doctrine.  
3. Accept the fact that the United States will assume no obligations under the Treaty of Versailles except by Act of Congress.  
4. Propose that membership in the League should be opened to all nations.  
5. Provide for the continuing development of international law.

**The Auburn Citizen PEACE PLAN BALLOT**  
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**JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE**  
IN THE BASEMENT  
**ONE HOUR SALE—4 to 5 p. m.**  
100 Large Bright Aluminum Kitchenwares \$1 each  
\$2.00—30 Large Colonial Aluminum Tea Kettles  
\$1.95—20 Heavy Large Wear-Ever Frying Pans  
\$2.00—20 Bright Aluminum Tea and Coffee Pots  
\$2.50—30 10-qt. Seamless Wear-Ever Aluminum Open Kettles  
**FOR THE HOME**  
**Drake's Electric Massage Vibrator**  
Regular Price \$12.50  
Introductory Sale Price \$5.00  
Complete with three applicators—rubber cup for face, rubber prong for scalp, hard applicator for body massage. Requires no oil, runs noiselessly, 6 ft. cord and attachment plug. Manufacturers guarantee for five years—will last a lifetime.  
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**DRAPERY DEPT.**  
Filet Marquisette Curtains—lace trimmed edge—ivory only. 2 1/2 yds. long. Regular price \$3.00. Alteration Sale Price \$2.49 per pair.  
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