

**REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN
ILLINOIS PENITENTIARY, AT
CHESTER FOR THE TWO YEARS
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1904**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649318797

Report of the Southern Illinois Penitentiary, at Chester for the two years ending September 30, 1904 by Various

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VARIOUS

**REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN
ILLINOIS PENITENTIARY, AT
CHESTER FOR THE TWO YEARS
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REPORT

OF THE

State
Southern Illinois Penitentiary

AT CHESTER

FOR THE

TWO YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1904.



SPRINGFIELD, ILL.:
ILLINOIS STATE JOURNAL CO., STATE PRINTERS,
1904.

OFFICERS

OF THE

Southern Illinois Penitentiary

September 30, 1904.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JOHN H. DUNCAN, *President.*

JAMES E. McCLURE, *Secretary.*

THOMAS J. CLARK.

RESIDENT OFFICERS

JAMES B. SMITH, *Warden.*

T. MORSE, *Deputy Warden.*

J. N. BENSON, *Assistant Deputy Warden.*

NORMAN H. MOSS, *Clerk.*

D. H. HOLMAN, *Bookkeeper.*

W. N. RUTLEDGE, *Chaplain.*

WM. R. McKENZIE, *Physician.*

L. J. SMITH, *Assistant Physician.*

ARTHUR R. CLARK, *Steward.*

CLAY LAWLESS, *Usher and Instructor.*

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The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be recorded to ensure the integrity of the financial data. This includes not only sales and purchases but also expenses and income.

The second part of the document provides a detailed breakdown of the company's financial performance over the last quarter. It includes a comparison of actual results against budgeted figures, highlighting areas of both strength and weakness. The analysis shows that while sales were slightly below target, operating expenses were well-controlled, leading to a margin that is within the expected range.

The third part of the document outlines the company's strategic goals for the upcoming year. It focuses on increasing market share through targeted marketing campaigns and improving operational efficiency to reduce costs. The management team is confident that these initiatives will lead to a significant increase in profitability and overall company value.

Finally, the document concludes with a summary of the key findings and recommendations. It stresses the need for continued vigilance in financial reporting and a commitment to transparency with all stakeholders. The management team is committed to providing regular updates on the company's progress and any challenges that may arise.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

MENARD P. O., ILL., Oct. 1, 1903.

To the HONORABLE RICHARD YATES, *Governor of Illinois.*

In accordance with the law, we herewith submit to you our biennial report of the Southern Illinois penitentiary for the two years ending Sept. 30, 1904, together with the reports of the warden, chaplain and physician.

The chaplain's and physician's reports show fully their work for the past two years and a review of the same by us we deem unnecessary.

The warden's report and the accompanying tables show in detail the receipts and expenditures of the prison as well as the number of prisoners received and discharged, the crime for which committed and the sentence received.

The cash receipts from the earnings of prisoners for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1903, were \$126,742.90, and are the largest in the history of the institution.

The receipts from the earnings for the year ending Sept. 30, 1904, were \$107,336.06, a loss of \$19,406.24. This loss was caused by the change in the law relating to convict labor and the injunction suits growing out of same.

On the first day of July last, the day the new law was to go into effect, we found ourselves confronted with an injunction writ forbidding us putting any of the provisions of the new law into effect, but this writ did not go so far as to require us to continue work under the old law, consequently every industry was practically at a standstill for about six weeks.

The uncertainty as to the result of these injunction suits had a tendency to delay the preparation for the work under the new law, while the suits were pending. When these suits were decided sustaining the new law, only about six weeks of the last fiscal year remained and not much could be accomplished in so short a time. So practically three months of the last fiscal year was lost and adequately accounts for the decrease in the earnings of the last fiscal year of this report.

THE NEW LAW.

The State Board of Prison Industries has directed that this institution manufacture brick, crushed stone, clothing, hosiery and knit goods.]

We are now operating to their full capacity, our brick and stone plants. We have manufactured since July, 1, last, and have now on hand over 2,000,000 of the very finest grade of brick, but the restrictions under the new law are such that our sales to date have only been about the one-fortieth part of our output. While the new law contemplates that we may sell brick to the State and the political divisions thereof, we are inclined to think freight rates and other hindrances will continue to work against us to such an extent that our sales will be comparatively small. It may become necessary to close down our plant a good portion of the year, unless the incoming Legislature will remove the restrictions as to the sale of brick. There is an ever increasing demand for our brick by the general public. The quality is excellent; the territory tributary to this place is apparently not well supplied with brick plants, and if we were permitted to supply the demand that is made upon us, we could add something like \$30,000 per year to our receipts and could keep employed at least 100 additional men. This question merits the serious consideration of the next Legislature.

During the six weeks time we have had to operate the quarry under the new law, we have gotten out and shipped, free on cars at prison, to cities and villages about 3,000 cubic yards of crushed stone for street purposes, besides several hundred yards for use of prison. While the free macadam clause of the new law was supposed to be one of its most popular features, we are inclined to think it fails to meet the expectation of those who were largely responsible for its passage. Our experience convinces us that the free macadam will never find its way to the country roads. There is no demand for it for that purpose. The cost of transportation and the expense of distribution is too great, and consequently the original purpose of the law, namely to help make good country roads, cannot be successfully carried into effect. The demand for free macadam comes altogether from cities and towns. It is applied in making streets and granitoid pavements. Would it not be wise to amend the law so that this macadam can be sold in the open market? Its manufacture and sale would not to any extent conflict with free labor. Cities and towns are well able to pay for good streets and pavements. Besides, we can find a ready and remunerative market for every yard of macadam we can produce with railroad and street car lines for roadbed purposes. We estimate that our sales from this department alone would average something like \$15,000 per annum, provided the law was so amended. A large proportion of the prisoners made idle by the closing down of the foundry and knitting plants have found employment thus far in the stone department, either in stripping dirt off of the stone or in breaking same by hand into macadam.

But little has been done as yet in the knitting and clothing departments under the new law. For the knitting of hosiery, we are fairly well equipped with machinery, but for the knitting of underwear, the weaving of cloth and the manufacture of clothing, we have no machinery whatever; neither have we any material for use in these departments and have no available funds for the purchase of either the machinery or the raw material. To properly equip these two depart-

ments, we need an appropriation of \$25,000. When these two departments can be put into full operation, employment can be given to at least one hundred and fifty men. This is such an important matter that we earnestly recommend that the foregoing appropriation be made.

The serious problem since July last, has been to find employment for the prisoners and keep them out of their cells. To this end Warden Smith has labored with unceasing fidelity and good judgment and has succeeded remarkably well. He has had most of the buildings and the prisoner's cells repainted, made a number of macadam roads through the farm, made a lot of new granitoid gutters and sidewalks, whitewashed the fences, cleaned the underbrush off of the prison land and built a heavy stone wall 486 feet long, 4 feet 21-2 inches wide and 7 feet high, on the hill in front of the Criminal Insane asylum to prevent the slide the earth has been making there for a number of years. Some 45 prisoners are now employed also in building the new prison hospital, the foundation of which is about completed and which will be, perhaps, entirely completed by the first of the coming year.

This prison, the past year, has abolished the lock step in marching, and has also discarded the stripes and adopted the grade system. These changes have been appreciated by the prisoners and are resulting in better discipline.

We cannot too strongly endorse the splendid work of Warden Smith and his efficient corps of subordinate officers during the past year. More substantial and beneficial changes and improvements have been made than for many years past, and we believe now that in point of discipline, cleanliness and sanitation, this prison will take high rank among other similar institutions established for the benefit of the misguided and unfortunate and for the protection of society.

The appropriation of \$6,000 made by the last Legislature for the purpose of buying a farm near the prison was a wise act, and the results are very gratifying. Not only have we been able to get sufficient clay to keep the brick plant in operation, but the land purchased, under the able management of our present superintendent, has yielded produce to the value of more than \$2,000. Not only has it been a profitable investment, but it has furnished employment to a number of prisoners that could not be otherwise employed. We feel, however, that not enough has been done in that direction. We need more land. We have now, all told, less than 75 acres of desirable land for cultivation. We ought to have 300 acres at least. With this amount of land, utilized for truck farming, we could produce all the potatoes and other vegetables required to feed the prisoners, and probably enough corn to feed the live stock we are compelled to keep. We need an appropriation of \$10,000 for the purpose of buying additional farm land, and we respectfully ask the next Legislature to give us that sum.