

**REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN
ILLINOIS PENITENTIARY, AT
CHESTER; FOR THE TWO YEARS
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1900**

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Report of the Southern Illinois Penitentiary, at Chester; for the two years ending September 30, 1900 by Various

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VARIOUS

**REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN
ILLINOIS PENITENTIARY, AT
CHESTER; FOR THE TWO YEARS
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1900**

Illinois State Penitentiary, Chester
REPORT

OF THE

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS PENITENTIARY

AT CHESTER

FOR THE

TWO YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1900.



SPRINGFIELD, ILL :
PHILLIPS BROS., STATE PRINTERS.
1900.

OFFICERS

OF THE

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS PENITENTIARY

SEPTEMBER 30, 1900

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

THOS W. SCOTT, *President.*

JOSEPH B. MESSICK, *Secretary.*

JAMES E. JOBE.

RESIDENT OFFICERS.

J. M. TANNER, *Warden.*

W. C. DOWELL, *Deputy Warden.*

ED. NASH, *Assistant Deputy Warden.*

A. C. MILLSPAUGH, *Chief Clerk.*

D. H. HOLMAN, *Bookkeeper.*

O. H. CLARK, *Chaplain.*

WM. R. MACKENZIE, *Physician.*

GEO. H. LANE, *Assistant Physician.*

C. S. STEWART, *Steward.*

R. B. ECHOLS, *Usher and Instructor.*

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64-30-05-1-12
Historic Southern Penitentiary 3-27-08g.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT.

To the HONORABLE JOHN R. TANNER, Governor of Illinois:

In obedience to law, we hereby submit our report of the operations and conditions of the Southern Illinois Penitentiary for the two years ending September 30th, 1900.

We think this institution will be found in better condition at this time than at any previous period of its history. In the erection of new buildings with enlarged capacity, the purchasing of new and the repairing of old machinery, we have, we think, brought each industrial department up to its highest earning capacity; and in so doing we have kept within the limits of the various appropriations made by the Legislature. We have now no indebtedness, save bills for the present month which have not yet been passed upon by the board and we now think that at the end of the present fiscal year we will have a small surplus to return to the State treasury.

With the appropriations made by the last Legislature, we have purchased and put in operation two new six-mould Boyd brick presses and have erected new sheds for the entire yard. Making the plant modern and complete in every respect. The quality of the brick manufactured is good and there has not been a day during the last two years that did not find us behind with our orders.

The sales of this department during the last two years have reached over sixty thousand dollars which is more than double the income from this department in any like period within the existence of the institution.

During the last two years we have added necessary improvements to the knitting factory in various ways, amounting to about five thousand dollars, having a plant now valued at thirty-six thousand dollars and capable of employing two hundred and twenty-five men and we now have a plant that will yield a large income for many years to come with small additional expense.

The foundry, for the manufacture of hollow ware, continues to be one of the best paying departments of the prison, compared with the cost of operating the same. We have just completed the new enameling room and warehouse for this department, an appropriation for which was made by the last General Assembly. The building is of pressed brick with stone trimmings 40x117½ feet in size, two stories high with 13 and 11 foot ceilings. This department employs about two hundred and ten men.

The earnings of the stone department have been reduced during last year on account of a fire which completely destroyed the old wooden building used as a shop, together with a part of the machinery used in operating the plant. This fire caused a cessation of work in this department for several weeks, but during the interval we erected a new brick building 85x119 feet in size, with sand stone front, to take the place of buildings destroyed. Another incident tending to decrease the income of this department was the complete wearing out of the stone crusher that had been in use for the past ten years. We have, however, about completed a thorough overhauling of the old crusher, making it practically new in all respects, changing its location nearer to the stone to be crushed. We have also built a railroad track, reaching the entire length of the quarry, to the new location of the crusher. These improvements when completed will place the department in excellent condition, and will in our judgment, make it one of great income to the institution and that too without material expense for many years.

The following comparative statement of earnings of the institution shows a marked and steady increase during the past four years:

For the year ending September 30, 1897.....	\$ 84,075.06
For the year ending September 30, 1898.....	88,312.09
For the year ending September 30, 1899.....	102,100.31
For the year ending September 30, 1900.....	115,286.54

This increase in earnings is emphasized by the fact that during this period the population of the institution has steadily decreased, as will be seen from the following comparative statement:

The daily average of prisoners during the last four years has been as follows:

For the year ending September 30, 1897.....	901
For the year ending September 30, 1898.....	897
For the year ending September 30, 1899.....	888
For the year ending September 30, 1900.....	845

For further statistical information we respectfully refer you to the tables accompanying the Warden's report which are herewith submitted as a part of this report.

The report of Rev. O. H. Clark, chaplain of this institution, is submitted herewith. In it will be found valuable information as to work he has done for and among the unfortunate inmates of the institution together with practical suggestions bearing on the work he has in hand.

In the report of Dr. William R. Mackenzie, physician in charge of the medical department, will be found detailed and statistical information as to the health of the prisoners, and the sanitary condition of the institution.

In both these departments will be found the impress of capable and faithful work on the part of those at their head.

The report of Warden Tanner gives information as to the conditions and what has been done to improve our pumping station. Of the seven thousand five hundred dollars heretofore appropriated, about five thousand dollars have been used for temporary relief during

the past two years, leaving an unexpended balance of about two thousand five hundred dollars.

We regret to say that we have not yet been able to devise any permanent system of water supply for the institution. The sand bar formed in front of the pumping station grows in extent from month to month and the current of the river from which we get all water used is now more than a half mile distant from its former course. We have been compelled to place a temporary pumping station out on the sand bar and this has been moved from time to time as the sand bar forms and the water recedes. In the latter part of the winter season and up to about July of each year the river is swollen to such an extent that the sand bar in question is submerged and we are then compelled to remove this temporary or sub-station back to the original shore line of the river.

We have consulted the best engineers and river experts as to what would probably result in a practical solution of the subject, without being able to arrive at anything definite. The consensus of opinion among men who are familiar with the Mississippi river from experience is, that within two or three years the current of the river will return to its original shore line, which will relieve the institution of the difficulty we have had in this respect.

In view of the circumstances, we recommend that a special appropriation of five thousand dollars be made by the next Legislature to be used as circumstances may require in connection with the unexpended appropriation now subject to this purpose.

In addition to the above special appropriation we would respectfully recommend that the following appropriations be made for the purposes named, for the coming two years, as suggested by the warden in his report.

Ordinary expenses, per annum.....	\$100,000 00
Contingent, per annum.....	5,000 00
Repairs and refurnishing, per annum.....	5,000 00
Expense of enforcing parole law, per annum.....	5,000 00
Refurnishing library, per annum.....	500 00
Excavating and grading in yard, per annum.....	2,500 00
Teams and harness, per annum.....	1,000 00
Wooden stockade, per annum.....	250 00
For new fence in front of institution.....	300 00
For repairs and additions to greenhouse.....	300 00

Referring to the parole law, as amended by the last General Assembly, we are pleased to report that we find results of its workings much more satisfactory than at the time of our last biennial report. The percentage of those violating its beneficent provisions is greatly reduced, and we doubt not that its operations as a reform measure will eventually meet the expectations of its friends.

The sum of eleven thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars of the prison funds that became tied up in the bank failure of H. Seiter & Co., in the year 1894 is still carried on the prison books as a deposit in said bank for the reason that the matter is still pending in the courts. Several suits have been brought to recover this money, the most important being the one against the estate of the late Rufus N. Ramsey, one of the sureties on the late warden's bond. We obtained

judgment in the Clinton county circuit court at the May term, 1900, for the full amount of this claim against said estate, but the case has been appealed and is yet pending in the appellate court. If this judgment is affirmed in the higher courts, it is believed that about 50 per cent of the claim will be realized.

A dividend of about 17 per cent has been declared by the assignee of H. Seiter. Payment to this institution has been deferred, however, until such time as the assignee can get an order of court therefor. From these two sources we hope soon to realize about six thousand dollars on this claim. Of the defalcation of the late Chief Clerk O. F. Havill, we have received by means of suits and otherwise about eight thousand dollars.

The bills contracted during the administration of Ex-Governor Altgeld, itemized in the warden's report, remain unpaid, for the reason that through a mistake the last General Assembly failed to make an appropriation therefor. We recommend an appropriation of twelve thousand, forty-three dollars and eighty-eight cents, for the liquidation of same.

To Warden Tanner and the efficient force of subordinate officers under him we desire to express our high appreciation of the faithful and intelligent manner in which the discipline of the institution has been maintained and its financial standing established.

Respectfully,

THOS. W. SCOTT,
JAMES E. JOBE,
J. B. MESSICK,

Commissioners.

*Inventory and Appraisement of the Southern Illinois Penitentiary,
October 1, 1900.*

Items.	Values
Real estate.....	\$909,101 59
Warden house.....	17,681 45
Machinery department (lights, water works, &c).....	76,224 31
Brick yard.....	59,877 57
Teams.....	5,721 22
Cell house.....	10,762 62
Convict kitchen.....	3,274 96
Solitary.....	355 55
Armory.....	563 70
Chapel and library.....	1,189 71
Photo gallery.....	517 45
Knitting factory.....	35,825 52
Clothing department.....	9,124 00
Store department.....	2,703 90
Quarry.....	14,122 56
Farm and garden.....	701 15
Hospital.....	1,209 80
Tobacco shop.....	257 80
Farm live stock.....	1,189 00
Foundry.....	443 80
Officers' subsistence.....	2,907 86
Barber shop.....	161 90
Miscellaneous.....	82 70
Button factory.....	4,100 00
Total.....	\$1,158,169 12

REPORT OF THE WARDEN.

MENARD P. O., RANDOLPH COUNTY, ILLINOIS, September 30, 1900.

To the Honorable Board of Commissioners Southern Illinois Penitentiary.

GENTLEMEN:—Complying with the statute in such case provided, I herewith submit my report with statistical tables showing the operations of the Southern Illinois Penitentiary for the two years ending September 30, 1900.

IMPROVEMENTS.

During the past two years buildings have been erected and other improvements made as follows:

Brick shed, 100x225 feet.

Stone shed. Splendid building of brick and stone to replace an old wooden structure destroyed by fire.

Foundry building. Brick and stone, 40x117 feet.

Stone crusher plant in course of construction and in close proximity to the quarry, thus enabling us to manufacture an average of about twenty cars per day of first-class macadam, and to handle the stone at a greatly reduced cost to the State.

Boiler plant in connection with the knitting shops, thereby creating a saving in both fuel and steam.

Brick machines. Two new six-mould Boyd brick machines, which enables us to produce a far greater quantity of brick and of much better quality, thus placing the brick department on a substantial and paying basis.

Air pump. A new air pump has been added to the north cell house, which supplies plenty of fresh air to the prisoners.

New pump. A new pump has been placed on the sand bar to enable us to get water to the pumping station, which was necessitated by the formation of a sand bar in front of the prison, cutting off our water supply. In this connection, I would state that we have expended about \$5,000.00 of the appropriation of \$7,500.00, made two years ago for a pumping station, in the way of temporary relief, and from all indications, additional expenditures will have to be made, and I would suggest that you ask for an appropriation of \$5,000.00, which in addition to the \$2,500.00 still remaining from former appropriation, will enable us to keep up our water supply.

Stockade wall surrounding the rear of the prison yard has been much improved by the erection of sections of same, but as a whole, it is yet in a dilapidated condition, being, in the main, old and decayed. To the end that it may be kept in something like safe condition, I would suggest that you ask for an appropriation of \$500.00, to be used for that purpose.

The number of convicts do not change very materially, and in order that that they may all be profitably employed and for the best interests of the State, I would recommend an appropriation for ordinary expenses for the next two years of \$100,000.00 per annum.