

**54TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION. DOCUMENT
NO.181. IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED
STATE. REPORT OF THE
DELEGATES OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE
FIFTH INTERNATIONAL PRISON CONGRESS,
HELD AT PARIS, FRANCE, IN JULY, 1895**

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SENATE.

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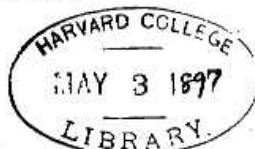
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Pres. C. W. Eliot

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, March 21, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to lay before you, with a view to its consideration by the Congress, the report of the delegates of the United States to the Fifth International Prison Congress, which was held at Paris, France, in July, 1895.

It presents a comprehensive statement of all that transpired on that occasion and contains much valuable information that might profitably be considered with a view to the alleviation of certain phases of human misery without sacrificing any of the absolute prerequisites to or guaranties of social order.

In connection with this report Gen. E. Brinkerhoff, president of the American delegation, has submitted to the Department, under date of the 19th instant, a request from the International Prison Commission, which is the executive and permanent arm of the Congress, that the Government of the United States be represented by a delegate in its organization. Although this Government suggested and founded the International Prison Congress, it does not contribute anything toward its expense and has never had a representative on the permanent Commission. Even the delegates from this country, who have been commissioned by this Department and who have attended the quinquennial meetings of the Congress, have uniformly borne their own expenses, with the single exception of the late Dr. E. C. Wines, for the payment of whose expenses Congress made provision.

The subscription to the International Prison Commission is based upon the population of the countries represented, being \$5 per 1,000,000 inhabitants. Assuming the population of the United States to be 65,000,000, the annual subscription would be but \$325, or \$1,625 for the five years. The money thus received by the International Commission is expended in the publication of monographs, bulletins, reports, and the proceedings of the International Prison Congress, which are sent to the Governments in proportion to their subscriptions.

The Commission holds a meeting every alternate summer in Switzerland, and the appropriation of the United States should properly include

the expenses of the delegate from this country. Thus, an annual appropriation of \$2,000 would not only defray the subscription of this Government toward the support of the Commission, but also the expenses at home and abroad of the United States commissioner.

It may be observed that the rules of the Commission do not require that any delegate shall commit his Government to any action taken by the Commission; it simply secures the support and cooperation of the different nations represented in the study of the great problems relating to the suppression of crime, the protection of society, the proper treatment of the criminal, the moral rescue of children, the organization of every means for preventing the discharged prisoner from relapsing into the life of crime.

The American delegation feel very strongly the importance of acceding to the request of the International Prison Commission, not merely because the Government of the United States appears to be morally bound to support an international enterprise which it practically inaugurated, but because the American people may reap the greatest benefit from so doing. The International Prison Congress is a great humanitarian movement. It is not confined, as its name might suggest, merely to the question of administering prisons, but to the whole subject of the prevention and treatment of crime in all its aspects. In this broad aspect of the case it strongly appeals for sympathy and aid, to the end that the work may be prosecuted under the most favorable and most advantageous conditions.

In view of the considerations herein advanced, of others equally cogent that may be found from a careful reading of the correspondence, of the recommendation of the American delegation, and of the formal request of the International Commission, I strongly urge that the sum of \$2,000 annually be appropriated for the subscription to the Commission and for the expenses of the American member thereof.

If possible, the appropriation desired should be included in the sundry civil bill or in some other available form.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

RICHARD OLNEY.

Hon. ADLAI E. STEVENSON,
Vice-President of the United States.

INTERNATIONAL PRISON COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 19, 1896.*

SIR: The American delegates commissioned by the Secretary of State to the International Prison Congress held at Paris, July, 1895, have been charged by the International Prison Commission, which is the executive and permanent arm of the Congress, with presenting to the Government of the United States the official request of the Commission that the United States should be represented in its organization. The grounds of this request and all that it involves are presented in the following statement, accompanied by a translation of a letter from the secretary of the Commission.

Your delegates earnestly hope that the matter may receive prompt consideration from the Government, and that the invitation of the Commission may be accepted.

With great respect, your obedient servants,

R. BRINKERHOFF,
President American Delegation.
SAMUEL J. BARROWS,
Secretary.

HON. RICHARD OLNEY,
Secretary of State of the United States.

THE NEED OF A UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER.

The United States had the honor of founding, twenty-five years ago, the International Prison Congress. It appointed Dr. E. C. Wines to go to Europe and urge the cooperation of European Governments. Dr. Wines spent a year abroad for this purpose, and his expenses were paid by a Congressional appropriation. As the result of his earnest efforts, the International Prison Congress was held in London in 1872.

It was then determined to organize the Congress on a permanent basis. A committee called the International Prison Commission was formed, of which Dr. Wines was made president. Invitations were sent by him to various Governments to assist at the session of the Commission called at Brussels in 1875. Many countries responded to

this appeal. The organization of this International Commission was completed in 1878, at the second International Prison Congress, held at Stockholm. Rules and regulations were adopted. The Government of Sweden and Norway was asked to communicate the plan of organization to the different Governments of the world and to invite their cooperation.

The death of Dr. Wines has interfered with the proper presentation of the plan to the United States. The United States expressed its entire sympathy with the work, but explained that it could only accept after having complied with certain requirements of its constitutional law; that is to say, securing some appropriation from Congress for its subscription to the Commission.

The other Governments accepting are France, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Spain, Bavaria, the free city of Hamburg, the free city of Lubeck, the Netherlands, Russia, Hungary, and Austria. Since the work of Dr. Wines began five international congresses have been held, and it is the plan to hold them once in five years; but the United States, though it suggested and founded the organization, does not now contribute anything toward its expenses, and is not represented by a delegate on the permanent Commission. It has contented itself with commissioning delegates to the quinquennial gatherings, who, when they have attended, have paid their own expenses.

The subscription to the International Prison Commission is based on the population of the countries represented, being \$5 for each 1,000,000 inhabitants. Assuming the population of the United States to be 65,000,000, the annual subscription would be but \$325, or \$1,625 for the five years. The money thus received is expended in the publication of monographs, bulletins, reports, and the proceedings of the International Congress, which are sent to the Governments in proportion to their subscriptions.

The Commission holds a meeting annually or biennially in Switzerland, and the appropriation from the United States ought to include the expenses of the delegate from this country. The sum of \$2,000 annually would pay for the subscription of the United States to the Commission, and also for the expenses of the United States commissioner in attending the meetings abroad and in collecting valuable information at home.

It should be said that the rules of the Commission do not require that the delegate shall commit his Government to any action taken by the Commission; it simply secures the support and cooperation of the different nations represented in the study of the great problems relating to the suppression of crime, the protection of society, the proper treatment of the criminal, the moral rescue of children, the organization of every means for preventing the discharged prisoner from relapsing into the life of crime.

The International Commission at its last meeting invited again the cooperation of the United States in its work, and a letter on the

subject, dated January 31, 1896, has been forwarded by Dr. Guillaume, the secretary of the International Commission, asking that the American delegation to the International Congress at Paris, of which the Commission is the executive arm, formally present the matter to the American Government and earnestly request its cooperation.

The American delegation feel very strongly the importance of acceding to this request, not merely because the United States seems to be morally bound to support an international enterprise which it inaugurated, but because the American people may reap the greatest benefit from so doing. The International Prison Congress is a great humanitarian movement. It is not confined, as its name might suggest, merely to the question of administering prisons, but to the whole subject of the prevention and treatment of crime in all its aspects.

Within the last twenty-five years, since the Congress was established, the different Governments represented have derived great advantages from studying the criminal codes, reformatory and penal institutions, and preventive methods and legislation in different countries. Thus, France, England, and Belgium have borrowed from the United States the system of probation established in Massachusetts, while Illinois, New York, and Massachusetts have borrowed from France the system now in vogue in that country of identifying criminals, which ought, indeed, to be adopted everywhere in the United States. In many other respects, such as various features of prison administration, the treatment of discharged convicts, etc., we have much to learn from Europe. It is also important that the American commissioner should be charged with the duty of presenting to the Commission the best fruits of American experience.

OFFICIAL INVITATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

At the close of the Congress proper the International Penitentiary Commission, which is the permanent committee of organization, held a session at the College of France on Wednesday, July 10. In addition to the regular members of the Commission, delegates from Great Britain, Austria, and the United States were present, all of whom expressed the hope that their countries might be represented in the permanent organization. M. Duflos was elected an honorary president of the Commission. M. de Latour, of Belgium, was chosen president, and M. de Laszlo, of Hungary, treasurer. M. Dr. Guillaume, though wishing to withdraw from the position as general secretary, was induced to retain that position.

The delegates of the United States urge upon the Government the importance of being represented not only at the sessions of the Congress, which are held once in five years, but also in the annual meetings of the International Penitentiary Commission. The congresses have assumed such magnitude that a permanent committee of organization to prepare programmes and questions, secure monographs, and make