

DISCIPLINE OF THE PRISON.

In the examination of the prison discipline, which is manifestly an important feature, appertaining both to the interest of the State and the good of the convict, your committee state that it is far from being perfect, and requires much to be done to make it so; but the committee were unable to elicit sufficient proof to express censure, as preponderating testimony was their guide in this case as in all others.

FINANCIAL CONDITION.

The financial condition of the penitentiary we found to be in a very unfavorable condition; the fire which took place, thereby incurring cost in rebuilding the workshops consumed, and additional improvements having been made by authority of the direction, to insure greater efficiency in case of similar accidents, incurred cost; and another cause of loss, as represented to the committee by the officers, was their inability to keep the blacksmith shop in operation, in connection with other departments of the prison, that of the weaving department having to compete with machinery that scarcely yielded a return exceeding the outlay. Coupled with the pressure of the times the committee are induced to admit that the prison labored under great disadvantages during the past year, but will add, that under a proper regime and a judicious disposition of the labor and a solid financial basis, upon which the operations of the prison should rest, it could then be made to sustain itself.

The report of the president and directors shows the institution to be in debt some thirty thousand dollars. It is now proposed to appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars, so as to enable purchases to be made at a cash valuation, and not subject the financial operations of the prison to heavy discounts, which, as represented to the committee, amount annually to about five thousand dollars.

The report of the president and directors of the institution asks for a speedy and special appropriation of fifty thousand dollars. Your committee suggest no fixed amount, but recommend to the Legislature that some relief be *immediately* extended.

MORE GUARDS NEEDED.

Your committee discovered that some of the workshops were without an overseer or guard, in which the subordination of the prisoner was the only guarantee of discipline. This is the consequence of an insufficiency of guards; for, as the present system works, the men occupying these departments are furnished opportunities of talking together, thus brooding evil. Hence your committee are of opinion more guards *should be appointed*.