

It seems to be admitted on all hands that no perfect system of discipline has been yet established, but we are promised that the attention of the directors will be given to that subject. It is alleged that the imperfect condition of the work shops has prevented hitherto a perfect system of police. All the testimony on that subject we propose should be referred to the next General Assembly, in order that if a change is not made by that time, such steps should be taken as will be unquestionably necessary to adapt the institution to the purposes for which it was originally designed.

Your committee fully concur with the report of the committee appointed last year to visit the Penitentiary, in recommending that the executive committee be separated from the board of directors, and be put under their control. They have accordingly reported a bill for the purpose. It is wrong in principle to allow that committee to be at once the executive of the institution, and the judges of their own acts afterwards.

Great excitement seems to have existed for a number of years amongst the managers of the institution, which it is to be feared, instead of producing a salutary watchfulness, has led to results injurious to the best interests of the State. It is alleged on the one hand that all the difficulty has arisen from the anomaly of having the executive committee a part of the board, and that allegation has been sustained by the affidavits of highly respectable, talented and disinterested individuals. The committee therefore recommend that a change in this particular should be made, and that what is now called the executive committee should be styled the actuaries of the Penitentiary.

The committee herewith report a bill carrying out the suggestions just made.

All which is respectfully submitted,

CORNELIUS McLEAN, Chairman.