

Also, from a Select Committee, reported

A bill, entitled an Act to repeal sections 194, 196 and 197, of chapter 35, of Article IV, of the Code of Public Local Laws, relating to docks, and to re-enact the same with amendments.

Which was read the first time.

Mr. Blake from the Joint Special Committee, appointed to visit the Penitentiary and House of Refuge, submitted the following

REPORT.

To the Honorable, the General Assembly :

The undersigned, a Joint Special Committee, appointed by your Honorable Body to visit and examine into the condition of the Maryland Penitentiary and the House of Refuge, beg leave, respectively, to report that in the discharge of the duties assigned them, they visited the Penitentiary and House of Refuge, and made a thorough examination into the condition and management of each, and found them under the control of able, capable and faithful officers, and both Institutions in as perfect order, as the means, at the disposal of the Directors and Warden of the former, and Superintendent of the latter, could be made available.

The healthy and general appearance of the convicts in the Penitentiary, and their cleanly condition, made a most favorable impression on your Committee; and that everything consistent with the proper discipline of a convict prison had been done for the health and comfort of the prisoners, and the highest sanitary condition was maintained among the inmates. An examination of the medical records of the prison exhibited conclusive evidence of entire success in that direction.

At the date of our examination, there were confined in the Penitentiary, 669 convicts. These were divided as follows : White males 203; colored males 408; white females 6; colored females 52—total whites 209; colored 460—showing an excess of 251 colored over whites.

The number employed under contract at mechanical labor was 400, and are divided as follows :

Manufacturing shoes, boots and brogans, 120; barrels, 106; furniture, plumbers and marble, 73; harness, 16; caning chairs, 53; brooms, 20; match-boxes, 38; making a total, mechanically employed, of 460. Those not employed in the work-shops, are engaged as hospital nurses, servants, runners, etc., except such as are sick and physically disabled.

The appropriation at the last Session of the General Assembly to enlarge the dormitory for the more comfortable and