

Mr. Dashiell made the following

REPORT:

Report of the Joint Standing Committee of the General Assembly of Maryland, composed of the Senate Committee on Public Institutions and the House Committee on Public Buildings:

March 29th, 1904.

To the General Assembly of Maryland:

The Joint Senate and House Committee on Public Institutions and Buildings, Senator S. F. Dashiell, Chairman on the part of the Senate, and Delegate R. S. Dodson, Chairman on the part of the House, beg to submit the following report:

Your committee on Feb. 18th, 1903, visited the Maryland House of Correction. They were received at the institution by Supt. Jesse J. Moore and Messrs. Frank I. Duncan and E. Y. Goldsborough, of the Board of Directors.

After an informal discussion concerning the affairs and management, addresses were made by Messrs. Dashiell, Dodson and Hall, of the Committee, which were responded to by Messrs. Duncan, Goldsborough and by Rev. Will. C. Stondenmire, after which the committee were conducted through the different departments of the institution. The attention of the committee was called to the fact that in a large majority of cases, the inmates were sent up for short terms of 30 or 60 days, and that as it requires about 30 days to instruct the incarcerated individuals in the work to be done at the institution, little profit is derived by the institution from their labor. A large percentage of cases are those of persons convicted of stealing rides on railroads.

As the House of Correction is a reformatory rather than a penal institution, the suggestion was made by Messrs. Duncan and Goldsborough and concurred in by members of the committee, that it be recommended that persons convicted of these trivial offenses whose sentences are for a shorter term than four months be committed to the county jails, instead of the House of Correction, and that if necessary, the law be amended to that end.