

Owing to the stagnation of business we have been unable to find full employment for the prisoners. During the first half of the fiscal year we had only about sixty of the convicts contracted for. The State employed one hundred and ninety-one in making cotton plaids, carpets, and performing other labor required about the Institution, leaving eighty-five unemployed.

At the present time we have one hundred and forty-seven of the convicts contracted for as follows: to Charles Murdock, making wooden ware, sixty-seven; to Theodore R. Smith, making tin ware, fifty; to F. W. Flinspach & Co., making shoes, thirty; and employed by the State in making mattresses and doing other labor required about the Institution, seventy-three, leaving unemployed one hundred and one.

By the Report of Dr. Hank, you will perceive that the health of the prisoners is good; comparing favorably with their condition in former years.

As your attention has been called in former Reports of the Warden to the number of insane prisoners in the Institution, who ought to be sent to the Asylum for the Insane, I would remark that this evil is increasing. We have additions made to that class every year; thereby increasing the risk of injury to the officers in charge, and the prisoners themselves. As the State expects the labor of the prisoner to sustain him, it will be seen that this class of prisoners must be a tax on the Institution not properly belonging to it, and that their proper place would be in an Institution where they could receive suitable treatment for their malady.

On assuming the duties of Warden in May last, I found the Institution in a clean and tidy condition. During the summer and fall the exterior of the buildings has been improved by painting; putting new roofs on the avenues leading to the eastern and western dormitories; repairing all the roofs, and re-topping the chimneys. Improvements have also been made in the gas-fixtures for lighting the dormitories. New pipe has been laid for conveying steam to the wash-house, and many other alterations have been made to increase the convenience and comfort of the female convicts in washing for the Institution.