

North wing of the prison thereby causing the loss of the labor of more than 200 of the most profitable hands, for upwards of three months, the cost of reconstructing said building with iron roof, and improved means for manufacturing amounts to near eight thousand dollars, the high price of provisions, and all raw material, such as cotton, yarns, wool &c., without any corresponding increase in the price of manufactured goods, together with the financial troubles that have affected the whole country making the sales of goods manufactured in the prison less than the usual average, have caused the expenses of the institution for the last two years to be far greater than its earnings.

The actual difference between the earnings, and the expenditures for the year 1856 is stated to be \$13,318.30, eight thousand of which has been met by the annual appropriation of the State, leaving the actual deficit of \$5,318.30. The amount of manufactured goods and materials on hand, at the date of the report for 1856 is stated to be \$24,172.41. For 1857, the deficit is stated to be \$26,189.92, independent of the annual appropriation of \$8000 by the State; and the amount of dry goods and materials on hand, on the 30 of November last amounting to \$20,473.08.

To relieve the institution from present and future embarrassment, the Board of Directors are of opinion that an appropriation of \$50,000, will be required from the present Legislature.

Notwithstanding the necessity of this large appropriation for the causes assigned above, I feel it my imperative duty to renew the recommendation made in my last message, for the enlargement of the prison buildings. The necessity for additional room increases yearly, and the maintenance of the proper prison discipline will soon become a matter of utter impossibility, with the present imperfect and insufficient accommodations.

The number of convicts in the prison on the 30 of November last was 415, of which number more than one third, nearly one half are negroes. In connection with this fact, I beg leave respectfully to suggest, to the Legislature, the propriety of repealing or modifying the Law of 1845, Chap 340, respecting the punishment of slaves and their confinement in the Penitentiary of the State. I am fully convinced that the discretion which was vested in the Courts of Law, before the passage of that act, touching the sale and transportation beyond the limits of the State of slaves convicted of the lower grades of felonies, was well bestowed, and that a similar discretion vested in the Circuit Courts now, would be exercised with benefit to the State, and would relieve the Penitentiary of a large class of convicts not reformable by our prison discipline, and whose confinement in the prison in such numbers, seems to be attended with such