BIENNIAL REPORT

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OF THE

STATE BOARD OF PRISON DIRECTORS

OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE

SIXTIETH AND SIXTY-FIRST FISCAL YEARS

1909-1910.

SACRAMENTO
W. W. SHANNON - - - SUPERINTENDENT OF STATE PRINTING
1910

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WARDEN'S REPORT.

SAN QUENTIN, CAL., October 24, 1910.

To the Honorable State Board of Prison Directors.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit herewith my report of the State Prison at San Quentin, California, for the sixtieth and sixty-first fiscal years, accompanying which you will find the reports of the Clerk of the Prison, Captain of the Yard, Captain of the Guard, Commissary, Distributing Officer, Resident Physician, Turnkey, and Chaplain, and Librarian; also a detailed statement of the operation of the jute mill during the said two years.

Prison population.—There has been a steady, but comparatively rapid, increase in the population of this institution during the past two years. At the close of the fifty-ninth fiscal year the population was 1,702. There were received during the sixtieth fiscal year 747, and 635 prisoners were discharged, being an increase for the year of 112, and leaving a total population June 30, 1909, of 1,814. During the past fiscal year, ending June 30, 1910, there were received 778, and 670 prisoners were discharged, making an increase of 108 for the year, and a total population at the close of the year of 1,922.

The number of United States prisoners has been materially diminished, as in January last there were 11 of said prisoners transferred to the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and it seems now to be the policy of the Government to send only very short term prisoners here.

Notwithstanding the crowded condition of the institution the health of the inmates has been good.

Discipline.—The prison discipline has been excellent and there have been no escapes during the past two years.

Cost of maintenance.—Owing to the severe loss sustained through the fire which destroyed one of our jute warehouses and contents, besides damaging a large amount of jute in another warehouse, the cost of maintenance was materially increased for the sixtieth fiscal year. It will be observed, however, that the net cost of maintenance for the sixty-first fiscal year has again assumed a normal figure, being 33.1 cents per capita per day.

Repairs and improvements.—The usual care and attention have been given to the matter of repairs and improvements, but owing to our appropriation for maintenance being inadequate to our needs, on account of the high prices we have been compelled to pay for supplies,

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it has been necessary to exercise the strictest economy in this respect. The road gang has been steadily employed in improving the roads of the prison grounds, and for the past year has also been engaged in making extensive improvements and repairs on the county roads of Marin County.

Parole system.—Comparatively, our parole system may be said to be very successful, as will be seen by reference to the reports of the turnkey (Table No. 10). For the sixtieth and sixty-first fiscal years there were 308 paroles granted; the average percentage of violations for the two fiscal years is 10.45. The slight increase in the percentage of violations may, I think, be justly attributed to the fact that we now have three good men connected with the state parole office who are active in looking after our paroled prisoners, and the result has been that a greater number of violations have been detected and reported than formerly. It is also to be expected that there will be a slight increase in violations, due to the fact that recidivists are now parolable. Thus far, however, the increase from this source is not appreciable.

Increase in guards' salaries.—The increase in the salaries of the guards of this institution, which took effect January 1, 1910, though small, has had the effect of a material decrease in resignations and changes in the personnel of our guard force, and this has also been augmented by the restoration of the allowance to guards of $10 per month in lieu of board, and the partial restoration of commissary privileges.

Construction work.—I would suggest that steps be taken to secure a further appropriation during the coming session of the state legislature for continuing the construction work at this institution, in order that a new dining room, kitchen, chapel, and additional cell accommodations may be provided without unnecessary delay.

Conclusion.—I beg to extend to your Honorable Board my sincere thanks for the many courtesies shown me during my administration.

I also feel myself under deep obligations to the officers and guards of the institution for their hearty coöperation with me in my endeavor to carry out the policy of your Board.

Very respectfully,

JOHN E. HOYLE, Warden.

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CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD'S REPORT.

OFFICE OF CAPTAIN OF GUARD,
SAN QUENTIN, CALIFORNIA, July 1, 1909.

To Hon. JOHN E. HOYLE, *Warden of State Prison at San Quentin, Cal.*

DEAR SIR: I hereby submit my report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1909. It affords me great pleasure to report that no escapes have taken place during the past year. One attempt was made by a carpenter working at one of the officer's houses, who secreted himself under the house and stayed there five days before he ventured from his lair, and was caught by one of the guards at 2 A. M. No opium or other drugs have been smuggled into the prison during the past year.

But one serious incident happened this year to mar your most successful administration. An unfortunate fire started in one of the large jute warehouses situated at the water front, owing to spontaneous combustion. Four hundred prisoners were working outside the walls at the time, and the discipline among the prisoners was excellent. Thirty-five of the prisoners were kept out all night to fight the fire, and no attempts were made to escape. Unfortunately one prisoner was fatally injured at the fire.

No. 7 gatling gun post, which was situated on the top of the warehouse that was burned, was destroyed, and has been rebuilt and put in action this month.

Target practice is taking place this month, and the officers and guards are making satisfactory scores, and continue to improve with practice.

I would recommend that eighteen new sawed off shotguns be purchased for the armory as soon as convenient, as the ones now in use are in bad shape, owing to long usage. I would also recommend that Winchester rifles .32-40 caliber be adopted in place of our present rifles, as they are more modern and easier handled, and shoot more effectively than the guns in our armory, and I am informed that most of the prisons in the United States are adopting guns of a smaller caliber.

During the past year there were received on commitments to this prison 747 prisoners, while the discharges for the year numbered 635, showing an increase of 112 for the year.

With pleasure I report that the guards under my charge have been faithful and watchful, and have been attentive to their various duties, and with their valuable assistance my work has been made a pleasure.

I hereby append in tabulated form my report on the number of

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prisoners received and discharged from this institution during the past fiscal year; also, the number of prisoners having receptions; also, the number of visitors shown through the prison during the fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted.

E. V. ELLIS,
Captain of Guard.

TABLE No. 1.

Prisoners received and discharged.

Prisoners received.		Prisoners discharged.	
1908—July	60	1908—July	62
August	39	August	58
September	53	September	40
October	55	October	72
November	56	November	33
December	72	December	54
1909—January	82	1909—January	48
February	65	February	54
March	72	March	58
April	61	April	46
May	67	May	55
June	65	June	55
Total	747	Total	635

On hand June 30, 1908	1,702
On hand June 30, 1909	1,814
Increase	112

TABLE No. 2.

Visitors from July 1, 1908, to July 1, 1909.

Prisoners granted visits		Visitors shown through the prison.	
1908—July	242	1908—July	335
August	306	August	426
September	234	September	462
October	265	October	328
November	240	November	142
December	221	December	174
1909—January	206	1909—January	162
February	244	February	193
March	239	March	179
April	245	April	216
May	283	May	277
June	265	June	325
Total	2,990	Total	3,219

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