



## Work House.

- 4th Oct. 1873—James Green, keeper.  
Free Labor Bureau.
- 5th Aug. 1873—Wm. Douglass, clerk.  
23d Sept. 1873—Fitzgerald, clerk.  
8th Oct. 1873—Jacob H. Theobald, clerk.  
Lunatic Asylum, B. I.
- 7th Aug. 1873—Thomas Redden, watchman.  
11th Aug. 1873—Abraham Cooper, engineer.  
Insane Asylum, W. I.
- 20th Oct. 1873—Thos. Rooney, attendant.  
20th "—Matthew Maloy, "  
Randall's Island Nursery.
- 11th Aug. 1873—Wm. McFarland, engineer.  
14th Oct. 1873—Leah E. Strang, nurse.  
Twenty-sixth Street Dock.
- 11th Aug. 1873—Jesse Winant, dock master.  
Out Door Poor Department.
- 11th Aug. 1873—Thomas Campbell, visitor.  
Reception Hospital, Ninety-ninth Street.
- 13th Sept. 1873—Dr. Hammond, ambulance surgeon.
- Reception Hospital, Centre Street.
- 19th Sept. 1873—John Taylor, engineer.  
Ward's Island Improvement.
- 15th Oct. 1873—E. T. Simpson, superintendent.  
Bakery, B. I.
- 10th Oct. 1873—Alfred Chancellor, sup't.

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Claims, including pay rolls, amounting in the aggregate to \$400,462.05, have been transmitted to the Comptroller for payment.

## REPORTS.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:  
Report on the escape of Wm. J. Barclay from City Prison on July 4, 1873.  
Warden Johnston says that on the 4th day of July, he left the Toms about 5 o'clock, P.M.; was on the third tier at 3 o'clock. Keeper Golden was on duty, and says that he turned the key of the cell at the proper time. It is the order that those persons should be locked up at 4 o'clock.  
That F. J. Golden says: I have been in the prison as a keeper three years, was on duty July 4th from 6 A.M. until 7 o'clock, P.M. I locked Barclay up on July 4, 1873, at ten minutes past 5 o'clock, P.M. This man was working on the tier, and that is the reason he was not locked up at 4 o'clock. I know nothing about his escape. Nothing was carried to his cell by the messenger, to my knowledge, and I do not now understand his manner of getting away.  
Daniel Friel says: I am a keeper at the City Prison, and have been since last February, was on duty on the night of July 4, 1873, at 7 o'clock, P.M., as was also keepers Bennett and McCaffrey. I saw, as I supposed, Barclay, in his bed, at 7 1/2 o'clock. After that time I did not see him. In the morning when the cell was opened we found the man was gone. I do not know how or by what way Barclay made his escape; suppose it must be by way of the tank; and in my opinion could have been made during the relief of keepers taking place. There was nothing given to him after I went on duty. I was on duty on tier from 7 to 9 1/2 o'clock, and then all around, including the Boys' Prison, as is my duty every night. I do not understand how any man could escape during the night without the knowledge of myself, Bennett and McCaffrey, and I do not believe the man was in the cell at all during my being on duty. I think it a keeper's duty to know that the prisoner is in his cell and in bed at the proper time. When I looked in I thought he was in bed, but it proved to be the bolster done up to represent a man.  
It is my opinion that all three of the keepers at night are in fault if the man escaped previous to McCaffrey being relieved by the night warden. In any event, keepers Bennett, Golden and Friel should to my mind be discharged at once.

July 9, 1873—Laid over to await information from the District Attorney, which, not being received up to this day, Aug. 8, 1873, the foregoing was ordered to be entered upon the minutes of the Board:

- July 16, 1873—F. J. Golden, keeper.  
24, " John McCaffrey, "  
25, " Daniel Friel, "  
28, " Thos. A. Bennett, "

Were ordered to be discharged.  
By Commissioner Stern—

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES AND CORRECTION, NEW YORK, Aug. 2, 1873.

Report of Commissioner Stern to his Honor the Mayor, Wm. F. Havemeyer, and to the Board of Public Charities and Correction.

GENTLEMEN:—The communication of his Honor the Mayor, under date of 6th inst., enclosing a slip from the *New York Saturday Review*, wherein it is stated that three boys had been conveyed on the public boat, the steamer "Harlem," by some officers to the House of Refuge, handcuffed, and that two of the boys were guilty of no breach of the law, and which, in the opinion of his Honor, requires some investigation; having been referred to me, I most respectfully report:

The House of Refuge is not under the control of this Department, but under a Board of managers, having no connection with this commission. The boys are consigned to that institution by order of the examining magistrate, and transferred there by the sheriff, who has the exclusive custody of the boys from the time of their commitment by the magistrate to the time of their delivery to the superintendent of the House of Refuge. The complaints advanced, therefore, in the article referred to, even if grounded on facts, are beyond the power of redress by this Board. I might stop right here, but the subject being of vital importance, I may be pardoned for continuing this report.

On examining the records of the city prison, it has been ascertained that on the day named in the newspaper article referred to, no boys were transported from the City Prison to the House of Refuge, and it is likely that the three boys who were on that steamer came from Brooklyn (a mode of conveyance the authorities there, I understand, avail themselves of quite often), and consequently beyond the jurisdiction of this city's authorities. It is probably too true that some of the subordinate officers who take charge of the unfortunate victims of the law execute their trust with little or no consideration, and in too many cases abuse the little brief authority in which they are dressed, by unfeeling, harsh and cruel treatment. The attention of the people in establishing the House of Refuge was to institute a reform school, not a penal establishment, and the records of the institution show that the managers endeavored to impress the inmates of it with the conviction that they were not there for the purpose of paying a penalty, but for receiving a proper education and training and fitting them for the vocation of a useful life. The children of that institution are subjected to no severe discipline. They are allowed all the freedom compatible with the good government of that institution, and receive mental and industrial instruction, and to coordinate authorities ought, therefore, to take good care to assist the managers in carrying out their object. It must be deprecated, therefore, that the boys of the age as would bring them within the care of the House of Refuge, should be exposed to public gaze, their sensibilities wounded, and their self-respect injured. It might be proper for this Board to take the necessary steps to prevent in future such abuse, by communicating with the authorities who have direct charge of this matter, and, if possible, adopt our system of transportation by covered wagons, with plenty of air and light, and by boat, where they are entirely unseen by the public—the same as we transport all the inmates under our care, and at an expense probably not exceeding forty to fifty cents per capita. Altogether the system of furnishing youthful offenders of the law needs careful revision and a thorough reform of the law. Boys under the age of eighteen are, in my opinion, not proper subjects for such penalties as are meted out to them. Confinement in prison where confirmed criminals are secured is more than a punishment—is providing food for a more developed criminal passion, and is serving the very seed of crime and vice. What moral effect can imprisonment have on a boy who is kept, together with a number of congenial street Arabs, without proper employment, without an attempt to awaken the moral conscience, or instilling love for labor, and recognizing the fact that the pursuit of honest labor is necessary to make social enjoyment and happiness, instead of making criminals believe that labor is part of their punishment, and inculcate the desire in him that as soon as the term of his imprisonment expires he will cease to labor, the latter having become so hateful to him as his confinement, and by following the inclination of idleness, naturally fall in the same error of committing crime over again? But to return to the boys. Either a boy has committed a wrong from mere wantonness, and ought to be let off with a reprimand, and restored to the care of his parents or guardian, or he is already so depraved as to require thorough discipline and constant supervision, and in such case commitment for a short term to a prison fails entirely of its object. Such boys must be placed in a reformatory institution, where they receive proper training a course of years. Magistrates and other officials who examine into the cases of youthful offenders ought to make a conscientious investigation. The success or failure of a whole life hangs on their decision. The life of every individual is dear to society, for which in a measure it is responsible.

In no case, however, should a needless exposition be made of those who have become subjects of criminal justice. Handcuffs should be used then only when there is danger of violence on the part of the criminal, and not to gratify the malicious propensity of a heartless officer, or to save him the trouble of keeping better guard over his prisoner. One other subject deserves our careful consideration. The practice, as it prevails, of permitting the associating together of youthful offenders, without regard to the degree of the offence which they may have committed, or their criminal disposition. Boys of various ages are kept in the same prison or school; are subjected to the same discipline, and the real criminal placed on the same footing with the boy who is merely a vagrant—made so by no fault of his—or who is mischievous without malice. All these subjects require patient and careful consideration. Great reform can be effected only, however, by co-operation of the various authorities charged with the care of our criminals, and it would be proper if this Board were to request a meeting of the representatives of the various reformatory and penal institutions and societies, to consult and advise together on the proper measures to be initiated in order to carry out best the object they pursue in common; as we must assume that all of them are animated by one desire to do the best in promoting the interests of society by acting in accordance with the dictates of advanced morality and humanity.

All of which is respectfully submitted by  
Yours, very respectfully, &c.,  
MYER STERN.

By Commissioner Bowen:  
Report on the escape of John Donovan from Penitentiary.  
Statement of James T. Couenhoven, deputy warden: I detailed 28 men to the two keepers, told both keepers that they were each responsible for all the men. The knowledge of the escape was made known by a prisoner at 9:30 to 10 o'clock. I suppose he escaped in the canal boat 15 minutes before. The keepers knew nothing of the escape when they were notified of

it. I had directed the keeper Mullaney, in the coal yard, to stand at the opening, so that he could have supervision of the prisoners. When I informed him of the escape he was in a corner of the coal yard. Gallenick was at the boat when the man escaped. I cautioned both keepers that morning several times to guard their men carefully. The escape was known to neither keepers until I or Henry Miner informed them.

Aug. 13, 1873.—By the Board, keepers Gallenick and Mullaney, dismissed.  
By Commissioner Laimbeer:

NEW YORK, Aug. 14, 1873.

To the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction:

By resolution of the Board, I have made the examination of the prison in Centre street, and find that by an expenditure of a large sum of money many repairs could be made, and even improvements—such as taking away or building up of the present kitchen buildings to the height of the main building, converting the present bummer room into a cook house, and the making of the lodge or station house into a so-called bummer room for male and female.

I cannot at present recommend, only for the safety of the prisoners, a new iron gate on the inside of the Franklin street entrance, and a wooden gate on the outside, all properly secured. This, in view of the movements being made toward the construction of a new prison, is all that is required for a time at least, therefore,

Resolved, That the contract for gate constructions be awarded to Richard Bolger, his being the lowest estimate, and that the same be done under the supervision of Engineer Knapp, and to the satisfaction of this Board, at a cost of \$480, as per estimate annexed.

August 14, 1873. Report accepted by the Board and resolution adopted.

By Commissioner Stern:

Resolved, That the salary of Wm. Hughes, acting as messenger, driver and engineer in the Central office, be fifty dollars per month from 1st inst.

Aug. 5, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That the building now occupied by Dr. Parsons be vacated on the 9th of August, to be used by the Warden, and that Dr. Parsons make use of rooms in the Asylum.

Aug. 7, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That Mr. Flagler at once proceed to make an inventory of any and all property movable in each of the dwellings occupied by wardens, clerks, doctors, and of other employes by this Department, the same to be made in a book, and after completion to be left in the office of the Board.

Aug. 11, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern:

Resolved, That from and after 15th inst. the fare on the steamboats to Blackwell's Island and return be 30 cents; Ward's and Randall's Island and return, 40 cents; to Hart's Island and return, 50 cents; the destitute and poor to visit their relatives gratis.

Aug. 12, 1873. Adopted.

Ayes—Commissioners Laimbeer and Stern.

Nay—Commissioner Bowen.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That the compensation of Superintendent of Stables be at the rate of \$100 per month from date, and that he be relieved from any duty on Hart's Island.

Aug. 13, 1873. Adopted.

Ayes—Commissioners Laimbeer and Stern.

Nay—Commissioner Bowen.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That after this date the compensation of the Purchasing Clerk of this Department be at the rate of \$2,000 a year.

Aug. 13, 1873. Lost.

Aye—Commissioner Laimbeer.

Nays—Commissioners Bowen and Stern.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That the position of keeper at the Ward's Island Improvement be abolished, and that the duty be performed by the Superintendent until the further order of the Board.

Aug. 13, 1873. Adopted.

Ayes—Commissioners Laimbeer and Stern.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That the compensation of the Superintendent of the Soldiers' Home, Ward's Island, and now acting as Resident Physician, be at the rate of \$100 per month in full for all services, with board at the table of Inebriates, after 15th August.

Aug. 13, 1873. Adopted.

Ayes—Commissioner Laimbeer and Stern.

Nay—Commissioner Bowen.

By Commissioner Bowen:

Resolved, That in view of the small number of patients at the Small-pox and Fever Hospitals, the compensation of the members of Charity Hospital, detailed to attendance on those hospitals, be \$20 per month until the future action of this Board, in lieu of their present compensation.

Aug. 14, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Bowen:

Resolved, That the Chief of Staff of Charity Hospital be directed to report if the services of steward and other employes of Small-pox Hospital may not be dispensed with, in view of the small number of patients in that hospital.

Aug. 14, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That after the first day of September next, the cows, chickens and hogs, now kept and owned by any warden, clerk, or other employe of this Department, must be disposed of and removed from any of the islands, as nothing of the kind will be allowed in future, until the further action of this Board.

Aug. 14, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:  
Resolved, That free passes to any of the Islands be only given by the members of this Board exclusively.

Aug. 14, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern:  
Resolved, That the attendants (other than keeper of light-house) at Lunatic Asylum, and at the Epileptic and Paralytic Hospital, receive from and after this date the same compensation as paid for similar service, viz.: \$20 per month.

Aug. 14, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That from this date, August 14, 1873, the Purchasing Clerk of this Department shall, upon receiving the requisitions from this Board, proceed to purchase the goods required in the open market, and that it shall be mandatory on him in all cases to buy at the lowest cash prices, and that lists of goods shall not be given to individuals or firms to furnish until he shall know from inquiry and examination that they are the lowest and best, and that in all cases it shall be his duty to enter in a book, kept for that purpose, a statement of the firms to whom he has applied for the several kinds of goods and the prices asked, and, where time will permit, samples must be presented to the Board for their approval.

Aug. 14, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Bowen:

Resolved, That the furniture provided for the Resident Physician's late residence on Lunatic Asylum Grounds, B.I., shall remain in that house, and such furniture in the rooms of the late warden, not required by the Resident Physician, shall be transferred to the residence referred to.

Aug. 15, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Bowen:

Resolved, That Messrs. Lawrence and Flagler be directed to confer and report to this Board on the best mode of keeping the account books of this Department, having in view especially that the account books of the general office and of the general store-keeper, shall agree and be a check upon each other.

Aug. 19, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That the Commissioners of Docks be respectfully requested to assign to this Department a dock landing for small boats, to and from the several Institutions on Blackwell's Island, in the vicinity of Sixty-first street, East River.

Aug. 21, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That Dr. Armond Dufloo be appointed as Resident Physician of Convalescent Hospital and Physician of Industrial School, Hart's Island. Compensation to be at the rate of \$750 a year, during the pleasure of the Board, and that Mrs. Ellen Dufloo be appointed matron of Industrial School and Convalescent Hospital at a compensation of \$500 a year, during the pleasure of the Board, with residence, fuel and light, the residence to be the building now occupied by the present matron, and their duties to commence on the 1st of September, 1873.

Dr. Dufloo, previous to entering upon his duties, is to receive from Dr. Hamilton a certificate of qualification, and to deposit it with this Board.

Aug. 29, 1873. Adopted.

Ayes—Commissioners Laimbeer, Bowen and Stern.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That the Counsel to the Corporation be respectfully requested to give to this Board his opinion as to the right of this Board to employ and pay any chaplains or ministers of the Gospel for the several Institutions under our charge.

Aug. 30, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer:

Resolved, That after the 31st day of August, all persons now receiving compensation as Chaplains and Ministers of the Gospel in the several institutions under charge of this Board, be and are hereby relieved from duty, and that, hereafter, all services in the performance of religious instruction be given without any compensation from this Department, under such rules and in such manner as this Board may prescribe from time to time, and for the interest of the men, women and children under our charge. Voluntary service on the part of any desiring to perform good service to the unfortunate inmates of the several institutions will be accepted by this Board, and every accommodation offered for their conveyance to and from the several islands and to be properly provided for during such visits.

Aug. 30, 1873. Lost.

Aye—Commissioner Laimbeer.

Nays—Commissioners Bowen and Stern.

Commissioner Stern adds the following:

For explanation of my vote on the above resolution, I would say that the laborer is worthy of his hire, and the inmates under our care require spiritual as much as physical attendance for their welfare and happiness, and therefore I am opposed to the resolution offered by the President.

Aug. 30, 1873.

MYER STERN.

By Commissioner Bowen:

Resolved, That six dollars per week be allowed the Chief Clerk of the Free Labor Bureau, in lieu of the rooms now occupied by him, from 1st of September.

Resolved, That Commissioner Stern be a committee to assign such rooms in the building of the Free Labor Bureau, as he may deem expedient, for the use of the Matron and the employes lodging in the building, and that all other room be turned over to the Chief Clerk for the exclusive use and business of the Bureau.

Aug. 30, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern :  
Resolved, That from and after this date, the keepers of the City Prison shall fill out and hand to each person paying a fine for any offense committed a receipt for the amount so paid, and fill out on the margin of a receipt-book, furnished for that purpose by this Department, the particulars of the same. Said receipt must be given whether the parties request it or not, or whether the same is accepted or not.  
Sept. 1, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern :  
Resolved, That from and after this date (1st September) the salary of Wm. E. Jones, gate-keeper at the Tombs, be at the rate of \$75 per month.  
Sept. 8, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern :  
Resolved, That from and after this date (1st September) the salary of Patrick McGovern, janitor of the Free Labor Bureau, be at the rate of \$62 50 per month, and that of Louis P. Eldridge, clerk at the Free Labor Bureau, be at the rate of \$50 per month.  
Sept. 8, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern :  
Resolved, That the New York Mutual Gas Company be respectfully requested to lay their pipes on streets where the institutions belonging to this Department, are located with the view of obtaining a supply of gas from said company, they charging \$2 25 per 1,000 feet, while other companies charge \$2 75 per 1,000 feet, by which means a saving of 50 cents per 1,000 feet will be saved.  
Sept. 9, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Bowen:  
Resolved, That the Commission on Accounts be respectfully requested to examine the account books of this Department, and to make such suggestions in respect thereto as they may deem expedient.  
Sept. 9, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern:  
Resolved, That Warden Brennan be and is hereby instructed to examine into and report to this Board all cases that are treated in any of the hospitals belonging to this Department, arising out of injuries caused by individuals or corporations, and with such reports present the bill of expenses incurred for treatment of said patient, in order that the same may be collected by this Department from the parties liable for such injuries inflicted.  
Sept. 12, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Bowen:  
Whereas, There is an inadequate supply of water to the institutions of this Department on Ward's Island; therefore,  
Resolved, That the Commissioner of Public Works be respectfully requested to cause a six-inch pipe to be laid from the New York shore to Ward's Island, for the conveyance of Croton water to the Insane Asylum and to the Inebriate Asylum on that Island, at as early a period as practicable.  
Sept. 16, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Bowen:  
Resolved, That on and after the 1st October the rates of board at the Inebriate Asylum shall be as follows:  
First class, from \$10 and \$12 to \$14 and \$16 per week; second class, from \$5 to \$8 per week; third class, from \$2 50 to \$3 per week, and fifty cents per dozen for washing.  
Sept. 18, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern:  
Resolved, That Thomas Elliot and Ellen C., his wife, be and are hereby notified to show cause before this commission, on Monday morning, at half-past nine o'clock, why a certain indenture, dated June 3, 1871, (relating to the custody of an infant named Julia Foy, in said indenture), should not be cancelled by this Commission, and the said Julia Foy removed from the custody of said Thomas Elliot and Ellen C., his wife.  
Sept. 19, 1873. Adopted by the Board.

By Commissioner Stern:  
Resolved, That John Donnelly, clerk in the Central Office, receive at the rate of \$1,000 per annum from and after 1st October.  
Sept. 23, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern:  
Resolved, That from and after the first day of October next, the practice heretofore existing in presenting members of the Medical Staff appointed by this Board with cases of surgical instruments, be and is hereby discontinued.  
Sept. 23d, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern:  
Resolved, That Dr. Fluhrer, of the Park Reception Hospital, detail a physician daily at ten o'clock A. M., to the City Prison, for the purpose of examining insanity cases, and sign certificates to that effect.  
October 25, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer—  
Resolved, That the expenses now being paid for printing be not continued from and after the 1st November, 1873, and the employees be so notified.  
October 24, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Bowen—  
Resolved, That A. P. Butler, Examining Clerk, be allowed on and after 1st October \$100 per annum for car fare, in addition to his salary.  
Sept. 26, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern—  
Resolved, That hereafter Mr. John E. Flagler, general storekeeper, shall examine all the requisitions emanating from the different institutions, and as far as provisions are concerned, examine and compare the quantities asked for with the causes and the dietary allowances laid down for each of the institutions, and certify to each requisition, if the same is correct, and if otherwise to point out the errors.  
Sept. 27, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Laimbeer—  
Resolved, That the plan proposed by Dr. Hamilton, in relation to the Park Reception Hospital medical force, be, and is hereby adopted, to take effect April 1st, 1874, instead of October 1st, 1873, as recommended in his report.  
September 29, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Stern—  
Resolved, That the warden of the City Prison be and is hereby instructed to have every prisoner—male and female—searched before entering the prison wagon for transportation to the boat, and if any knives, weapons or any kind of instruments be found on their person, the same be taken from them and returned to them on their release.  
Resolved, That no boy committed by this Commission shall ever be handcuffed whilst in transit between the City Prison and the boat.  
October 3, 1873. Adopted.

*All Institutions—Blackwell's Island.*  
Report of Commissioner Laimbeer:  
Examination of buildings, on Blackwell's Island, September 26, 1873, and reporting the repairs required, viz.:  
Light house, pavilion, roofs, gymnasium, warden's residence, asylum, cook house, heating, plumbing, verandah, the lodge, work-house, gas house, engine house, retreat, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, centre and main buildings, ice house, store house, boat house, dead house, water closets, carpenter and shoe shops, male cook house, hospital for incurables, male and females, chapel, wash house, female department, gardener's house, warden's house, hog pens, stables, old blacksmith shop, east side shops, warden's house, roofs, paints, cooking kettles, charity and small-pox buildings.

And for presenting the following resolution :  
Resolved, That the foregoing report be received and placed on file, and that the repairs therein set forth as being required, be done by the men from the penitentiary and the work-house, under orders of Supervising Engineer Knapp, and that he is hereby authorized to exercise all due economy in said work.  
October 8, 1873. By the Board.  
Unanimously adopted.

By Commissioner Stern—  
Whereas, The advertising for supplies of fresh meats not having proved successful; therefore—  
Resolved, That the resolution adopted by this Board to advertise for proposals to furnish meats to this Department, adopted on the 26th September, 1873, be and is hereby rescinded.  
Resolved, That Chas. G. Cornell be and is hereby appointed purchasing clerk of meats for this Department, and his compensation to be one-half cent per pound for the meats so purchased, subject to such rules and regulations as this Board may from time to time adopt. Said appointment to take effect from and after the 1st day of November next, and continue during the pleasure of the Board.  
October 14, 1873. Adopted.

Ayes—Commissioners Bowen and Stern.  
Nay—Commissioner Laimbeer.  
By Commissioner Laimbeer—  
Resolved, That from and after this date no person in the employ of this Department shall be permitted to purchase goods of any kind from the stores of this Department, as heretofore, until the further order of this Board.  
October 15, 1873. Adopted.

Ayes—Commissioners Laimbeer and Stern.  
Nay—Commissioner Bowen.  
By Commissioner Laimbeer—  
Resolved, That hereafter any man or woman employed in this department, who may be in the habit of drinking rum, whisky, or other intoxicating liquors, and shall thereby become intoxicated, shall be deemed incompetent, and discharged from this department, and that the wardens of the several institutions are hereby ordered to report any and all such cases to this Board immediately as they occur.  
October 15, 1873. Adopted.

By Commissioner Bowen—  
Resolved, That on and after the 1st of November all rooms, except those of the attic, be assigned, under direction of chief clerk, to the public business of the Bureau.  
Resolved, That after the 1st of November, Mrs. West, matron, be allowed at the rate of \$750 salary per annum, without rooms, and that Mrs. Molon be allowed \$540 salary per annum, all without rooms.  
October 16, 1873. Adopted.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER LAIMBEER.  
On this day I have made a personal examination of the prison at One hundred and twenty-ninth street and Fourth avenue, under our charge, and find it in a very bad condition. The floors throughout are rotten, as also the bunks. The walls need painting, and it is not a proper place for the confinement of any one. I recommend that this Board secure a proper place, as the business is increasing very largely. If there is any property owned by the city, say 25 or 50 feet by 100 feet, a cheap building could be erected that would answer for the court and prison combined.  
Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to report to this Board the term of the lease of the present property, and all particulars relating thereto.  
October 18, 1873. By the Board.  
Report accepted and resolution adopted.

BLACKWELL'S ISLAND INSTITUTIONS—A MID-NIGHT INSPECTION BY COMMISSIONER STERN—THE IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED.  
Commissioner Stern presented the following report of his nocturnal visit to the Department of Charities and Correction:  
*To the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction:*  
GENTLEMEN:—Though we are regularly informed of the condition of the institutions under

our charge by the reports transmitted to us and by actual observation during our visits, yet there are many things that escape our attention in the hurried inspections, and many defects are overlooked that would demand our serious consideration when they are brought before us in the proper manner. A visit to the Island one night this week (commencing at 9 o'clock P. M. and ending at 1 o'clock A. M.) convinced me that there remains much to be done to make the institutions as nearly perfect as possible in order to respond with the benevolent and humane spirit in which they are conceived. I must state, however, in justice to those officers who are placed in charge of them, that they are vigilant and earnest in the discharge of their duties and do all they can to execute faithfully the task imposed upon them with the means placed at their disposal. Particularly gratifying was the attendance and regular administering of medicine to the patients at the Charity Hospital by the night physicians, the watchful matron and nurses, whom I found promptly engaged in their respective duties in each and all the wards of the hospital.

At this time, however, I propose to discuss two serious defects, both of them arising out of want of room. The first is endangering the safety of the Penitentiary, the other a violation of the trust imposed on us by the people of New York in placing under our care the unfortunate beings who are bereft of reason—the inmates of the Female Lunatic Asylum—as stated above, both arise from lack of accommodation to lodge properly those who are assigned either to our protection or correction.

Permit me to call your attention to the want of room for placing the female prisoners confined in the Penitentiary. It appears that all the available cell room is needed for the accommodation of the male prisoners. There are 726 cells in the Penitentiary and 765 male prisoners. Room has been found for placing the 133 female prisoners now confined in the Penitentiary. Seventy-eight of them have been located in the workhouse and forty-seven in the hospital room within the Penitentiary building. The hall may be roomy enough, but it seems very questionable to place forty-seven Penitentiary prisoners in an apartment, and still more so with no one present to control their conduct and as a safeguard against mischievous intent. Any number of them might conplot together, some of them having been found in the middle of the night enjoying the luxury of tobacco smoking, though they are punished when detected. A continuance of a practice so dangerous to the safety of the institution against fire is not easily prevented. The movements of all the female prisoners cannot be kept under such strict surveillance as those of the male prisoners. They are engaged in the kitchen, wash-house, and other portions of the buildings, gardens, and grounds, and thereby come frequently in contact with outside parties that have more or less business to visit the Penitentiary. Even during my visit in the middle of the night I smelt the fumes of tobacco, and who will guarantee us that, either through a want of caution or the malice of one more desperate than the average class of prisoners, the place is not set on fire, endangering the lives of a thousand human beings. There is only one radical remedy to this defect, and that is the erection of an additional wing to the Penitentiary for the accommodation of female prisoners. In the meantime, some temporary safeguard must be provided. We cannot wait until we shall have an additional building. The remedy, I think, consists in using part of the chapel as a dormitory, thus diminishing the number of prisoners confined in one room and in appointing two female keepers to take charge of those prisoners. Forty or fifty prisoners, or even twenty, confined for crime, must not be left by themselves without control or guard, and propriety demands that none but a female should remain in a dormitory of females. The prisoners should be carefully searched before being locked up for the night, to prevent them smuggling in materials dangerous to the safety of the inmates of the house. This precaution will at least secure us against accidents dreadful to contemplate.

My visit to the female department of the Lunatic Asylum revealed the fact that the demands made upon that institution far exceed its ability of proper accommodation. The single rooms available at present have been exhausted, and in order to find lodgings for those entrusted to the care of the Asylum, it became necessary, in the language of the officials, to "double up." This means that two patients are placed in a room calculated only for the accommodation of one person, and as there is not sufficient space for two bedsteads, one of the inmates must be satisfied with having her mattress stretched on the floor. In some rooms the bedsteads have been removed altogether, as a means to increase the available space for lodgers, so that I found several rooms where six inmates occupied a room that ought not to contain more than three bedsteads. Even with stretching thus the capacity of the present building, it became necessary to transfer a number of the patients to the Workhouse, so that the latter contains people from the Penitentiary, the Lunatic Asylum, and those assigned to it as alone coming within the proper sphere. I am aware that it is only necessary to state this condition of things to insure the efforts of the Board to provide the proper remedy. During the summer months no great harm might ensue from the use of the floor as a couch, but in the winter, it cannot, and ought not, to be tolerated. I am also aware that there is a class of patients in the Lunatic Asylum, either of a violent character or of such filthy habits as to make it an imperative necessity to lodge them on the floor; but when this unfortunate necessity does not exist, we are compelled to provide proper accommodation for the patient. This can easily be done. I would recommend the erection of additional pavilions, with a capacity

each for accommodating not more than forty patients. They are in my opinion best fitted for dormitories for gentle patients, while those of a more violent character can be housed in the rooms of the main building, the Lodge and the Retreat. Economy in this case would be misplaced and inhuman, and in direct conflict with the benevolent and humane intention of our people, and a violation of our duties as the trusted guardians of these unfortunate creatures, that are handed over to the wardenship of the city and county.

The time occupied in this nocturnal inspection was too brief to enable me to lay before you a carefully drawn statement of the exact number of inmates that exceed the nominal number. This can be ascertained if required by a subsequent inspection. It seems to me, however, that no time shall be lost in taking the necessary steps to afford the relief required as speedily as possible, and therefore offer the following resolutions for the adoption of this Board.

Resolved, That this Board will, as soon as possible, procure plans and specifications for an additional wing to the penitentiary, capable of holding at least 250 additional cells.

Resolved, That this Board will, as soon as possible, procure plans and specifications to erect seven additional pavilions for the use of the lunatic females under our charge, capable of accommodating at least 300 patients.

Resolved, That it be the special duty of the President of this Board to see the above carried into effect, and with power to do so.

Resolved, That two suitable female keepers be appointed without delay, to take charge of the dormitories in the penitentiary.  
Respectfully submitted.

MYER STERN.

October 7, 1873. Adopted.

Commissioner Stern—  
Report on providing comfortable night shelter to respectable homeless poor during the ensuing winter.

*To the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction:*

GENTLEMEN—The signs of the times point to a winter of great suffering and destitution among the large class of our population who are dependent for their support by their daily labor and upon an uninterrupted employment. We all know that an overwhelming majority of our laborers, journeymen, clerks and factory hands have not the foresight to provide in times of prosperity and fullness for a time of want and death. They live from week to week upon their earnings, and never think during the bright days of sunshine of the rainy season that may drop in. The recent panic in financial circles though not as disastrous as it appeared at first, has nevertheless paralyzed commerce and trade to such an extent as to stop the operations of extensive manufactories, bankers and dealers, that gave employment to thousands of honest hard-working operators and clerks, and has caused the discharge of many that would otherwise have been comfortable. We must therefore expect an unusual pressure upon our resources, and it behooves us to take such measures in advance as will meet the increased demand made upon us. The number of houseless and homeless poor respectable people, who are not in the habit of applying for public or private charity will be increased, and our Station Houses, where these unfortunate people have usually found a shelter such as it is will prove insufficient to offer the necessary accommodation required. Neither would it be right to huddle the respectable poor—the victims of distress—together with the drunkard, the confirmed pauper and the criminal. In order to carry out the idea of providing this temporary shelter, I inquired of our public spirited Comptroller, Mr. Green, who at all times is ready to extend to this Board every facility, and has always met every judicious demand made upon him, whether such buildings as are now under the control of this city, by virtue of these fraudulent leases foisted upon the city by the extinct rule, could not be placed at our disposal for the purpose of using them for temporary lodging houses during the winter months, under such rules and regulations as we may deem proper to establish, and the following is a communication from the Hon. the Comptroller on the subject, which speaks for itself.

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE,  
COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, Oct. 28, 1873.

Myer Stern, Esq., Commissioner of Public Charities and Correction:

DEAR SIR—In a conversation with me a few days since, you expressed a desire to do what you could to provide for the destitution that is likely to exist this winter, and stated that in your opinion it is probable there will be necessity to make increased provision for those who may be thrown out of employment. I sympathize most fully with your foresight and kind intentions, and shall aid you, to the extent of my ability, to carry out your wise and charitable intentions.

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund have charge of the unoccupied houses belonging to the city, and will, I have no doubt, readily place, temporarily, at the disposal of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, such of these premises as they may deem suitable, to furnish increased accommodations to the poor during the inclemency of winter.

I would suggest that some of the unoccupied portions of the markets might be also available for these purposes.

As soon as you are ready to proceed I will indicate the premises that will be placed at your disposal for the winter.

Very respectfully yours,  
ANDREW H. GREEN,  
Comptroller.

It is but just to recognize and acknowledge in this place and at this time the willingness and

