

STATE REFORMATORIES.

How They Are Conducted in Some of the Older States.

Some Facts of Interest to All Classes.

New York's Splendid Institution at Elmira.

Exhaustive Report Thereon by Secretary of State L. H. Brown.

During the summer of 1896 Secretary of State L. H. Brown was authorized by the State Board of Examiners to visit a number of reformatory institutions in the East, with a view to reporting to the board the methods employed by the older States in taking care of their criminal element.

The Secretary of State is the Vice-President of the National Prison Association, and takes great interest in the reformation of criminals. A number of the reports on the institutions visited by him have been submitted to the Board of Examiners, and others will follow.

Among the reports already on file is that on the New York Reformatory, at Elmira. That institution, Secretary Brown says, is a model of the first class, and in view of the fact that outside of its reform schools for juvenile offenders, California has no prison training in military discipline and trades teaching.

The New York State Reformatory at Elmira, N. Y., was established in July 1876. Of all the penal reformatories in this country, or any other, this one excels. It is first in moral and physical training, in military discipline and trades teaching.

Here are confined 1,420 felons, whose ages average 25 years. Since the opening of the reformatory in 1876, to July 1895, 7,886 inmates were received. Of the number, 6,386 have been paroled or discharged.

Had the definite law been in force there would be twice the number of inmates in the reformatory, because there would have been three more years of commitments added to the number already there, owing to their term of sentence being three years longer.

The total cost of 280 acres of land (15 acres being inclosed between the walls) and buildings, is \$1,500,000. There are 1,300 cells in tiers of three or four, one above the other.

On entering the reformatory the prisoner's clothing is taken from him, his hair is shaved, a complete and careful inspection is made of his body, to note any physical ailments, or deformities, and to discover marks that would assist in identification, if necessary.

Each convict is given a complete outfit of clothing, together with necessary bed furniture and necessaries. The outfit consists of a cheviot jacket, cut in fatigue style, with a row of nickel-plated buttons at the front; two pairs of drawers, one for shop wear and one for drills, school exercises, etc.

He may also incur losses through fines for bad or poor work, carelessness, waste-fulsness, for each of which offense a fine of 50 cents is imposed. He is charged for his board, room and washing 30 cents a day, in the lower

first grade. The charge for the upper first grade is 40 cents per day. The rooms are better and also the diet. The convict may advance or retrograde; he commences as mentioned above in lower first grade and may advance to the upper first grade or backward to the second grade.

By good conduct a prisoner after six months, may earn his promotion to the upper grade; for bad conduct he may be reduced to the second, or lowest grade. After six consecutive months of good behavior in the upper first grade he is entitled to a parole hearing. He is not under any circumstances paroled under one year's residence at the reformatory, for he is kept in the grade he enters six months, and same length of time in the grade he is paroled from.

A few hours after the inmate's admission, he is taken before the General Superintendent, where he is subjected to a searching examination of his whole history, the questions pertaining to his parentage, youthful environment, employment, habits, ambitions; whether he has been arrested for minor crimes (it must not be forgotten that all criminals sent to Elmira Reformatory are felons), whether any of his ancestors had been criminals or afflicted with insanity, or epilepsy, and what was their vocation.

The examination is one of considerable latitude, and at its termination, the Superintendent is better able to judge, as to the mental capacity, moral suzerainty, and the technical training required. The convict is given instructions by the Superintendent, in detail, as to the system in vogue, with the privileges and restrictions and penalties, in fact all the workings of the reformatory are outlined to him.

In the Police Court yesterday morning Jimmie Garber, Martinez and Willie Ford admitted that they had thrown cobbles at Arthur York and had succeeded in catching their victim on the crown and laying open his scalp.

Neither of the urchins were over 7 years of age, and after straining his eyes to see them the Justice gave them a fatherly talk and bade them go and sin no more.

Alma Hanson was examined for lunacy yesterday by Judge Johnson and Drs. Ross and Hart and was committed to the Stockton Hospital for the Insane.

M. S. Warhaftig passed an excellent examination before the Supreme Court this week and was admitted to practice in the courts of this State.

The opening sale to-day at The Model Clothing Co., will be an opportunity to get first pick of the new suits, Seventh and J.

See the improved "Domestic" and \$35 Pommer Sewing Machine, before buying. Pommer's, Ninth and J.

The El Dorado saloon and family resort, 826 J street and 1008 Ninth street, strictly first-class in all respects.

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IT DIDN'T WORK. Judge Davis Took No Stock in Ed Jones' Plea of Insanity.

The September Monthlies. Harper's, Black Cat, Godey's, Scribner's, St. Nicholas, Ladies' Home Journal, Metropolitan, Nickel, Pocket, Argosy, What To Eat, Strand, Quiver, Recreation, New Illustrated.

VERY FLATTERING. LA INTERNACIONAL THE GREAT MEXICAN CIGAR.

THE STATE FAIR. SEPTEMBER 6th to 18th. CALIFORNIA'S ANNUAL EXHIBITION.

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NOTICE TO HUNTERS. NO SHOOTING OR HUNTING WILL be allowed on the Rancho Del Paso.

RAILROAD TIME TABLE. SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY (PACIFIC SYSTEM). AUGUST 15, 1897.

Table with columns: LEAVE (From), TRAINS RUN DAILY, ARRIVE (To). Lists routes to Ashland, Portland, Eugene, etc.

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