

EVENING SESSION, 8:15 o'clock P. M.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

The roll being called 26 Senators answered to their names, showing a quorum present. Messrs. Bailey, Law, MacWilliams, Miller, and Scott being absent.

By permission -

Mr. Faulkner, Chairman of the Special Committee to visit the Reform School at Marianna, submitted the following report, which was ordered spread upon the Journal:

Senate Chamber,
Tallahassee, Fla., June 1st, 1903.

Hon. Frank Adams,

President of the Senate:

SIR - The joint committee, which was appointed for the purpose of visiting the Florida State Reform School, situated at Marianna, Florida, beg leave to make the following report, and ask that the same be spread on the Journal:

We, your committee, have visited said school and found that the buildings on the premises were in good condition; we also found six hundred acres of land, the property of the State, used for the benefit of said school, and two brick buildings situated thereon; and for the benefit of the school, we found five mules and all the necessary implements for cultivating the land.

We regret to say, that the present management of the school does not come up to your committee's expectation, of what is right and necessary for the government of an institution of this kind, or what the law requires in the management of said school. The inmates of said school number forty-four (44); five white boys, the others colored, two being females. We found them in irons, just as common criminals, which in the judgment of your committee, is not the meaning of a "State Reform School," as defined by the law creating said school, and should not be so construed by those in authority of said Reform School. We have no hesitancy in saying, under its present management it is nothing more nor less than a prison, where juvenile prisoners are confined.

We also found that the business methods of said school were worse than bad. The Superintendent of said school kept no records or books showing entries or memorandums of any purchases for supplies, or for anything connected with said school. He, the Superintendent, told your committee that he kept no books, but referred us to the Treasurer of said school for such information as your committee desired.

Upon said findings, as aforesaid, your committee respectfully recommend that he, (the Superintendent of said school) hereafter be required to keep a correct and uniform system of books for

defraying the expenses of said school, and all accounts of whatever nature concerning said school shall be correctly kept by said Superintendent, in a business manner.

We further recommend that the white and black inmates be separated, as they are now eating in the same dining room, and kept together in the same inclosure in the day time. We recommend that this be discontinued at once, as the law does not authorize, but requires that the whites and blacks be separated.

We further recommend that the Superintendent of this school, or those in authority, be required before purchasing any supplies for said school, to advertise by posting in three public places, or in one newspaper published in the county of which said school is situated, sufficient notice of their desire to purchase supplies for said school and that he or they will receive bids for said supplies and he or them will be required to purchase from the lowest bidder, but in all cases he or they shall accept only the bids of those who have offered the lowest and fairest bids, and to the interest of the State.

We further recommend that the State Auditor be required to visit said school at least once every year and to go over and check up the books and accounts kept by the Superintendent and other officers of said school, and report the same in his annual report made to the Governor of the State, and to the Legislature of the State of Florida.

We further recommend that the inmates of said school be more humanely treated, and that the Superintendent be required to remove the shackles from the inmates of said school, and some other less cruel method be provided for keeping them within the confines of said institution.

To all the matters and things set forth above, your committee do respectfully subscribe.

W. D. FINLAYSON, Chairman.

J. W. WHIDDEN

T. J. FAULKNER,

On Part of the Senate.

W. S. FEAGLE

W. W. TRAMMEL,

On Part of House