

W Perintany  
Commissioners Ref

Jan 1878

March 1878  
Synopsis

I call my attention  
to any important  
matters.

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March 1878



**EXECUTIVE OFFICE,**  
**STATE OF TEXAS,**

spoke in need (see)



 Austin  
 visits all camps (but of which were doing well  
 at least visit)
 
187
  
W. K. White reports, At Cabries' farm much complaint  
 as to food and bad treatment of convicts, water not sup-  
 plied to them as they work, men complain of being  
 flogged severely. White has about come to conclusion  
 that only remedy is to take away his force.

L. E. Shepard reports, W. W. Watts, 13. counets. doing well. Insufficient ~~fire~~ guard. Nearly all the force are trustees.

At all the Camps found 3 or 4 trustees;  
when orders are positive to allow but two. Does  
not believe there has been a successful escape at any  
of his camps.

*J. F. Gamies reports. at D. I. Penys. 28. men, all right.  
Saw too many trustees. Has ordered more guards.*

Prison, complaint<sup>185</sup> as to preparation of food. (and not unfounded), 2<sup>nd</sup> as to variety. - explained by fact that beef is too poor to eat: hence use has been almost entirely.

Has been an attempt at combination to escape. Difficult  
to find out extent and participators. Locked in cells. Those sus-  
pected, and six since bolted and chained. "We think  
this will put a stop to it at present."

Office Commissioners  
Texas State Penitentiary  
Huntsville July 31. 1878

To His Excellency  
Gov A. B. Hubbard  
Governor

Herewith I have the  
Honor to submit my report of the Condition  
of the Convict Camps in my district for  
the present month. Col C. Bakers Camp  
has been considerably improved since my  
last visit, yet there was still room for  
improvement, and I think after one or two  
more visitations I can get the Condition  
of this Camp up to a proper standing.  
**Cabine's Camp** I found to be not in  
so good Condition as when I visited last,  
this is what we term one of our "hard"  
Camps, and it is a difficult matter to get  
the Managers of it to do right, notwithstanding  
my efforts to induce them to do so.  
All the other Camps are in fair Condition  
in respect to feeding and humane treatment,  
one or two of the prisons had not sufficient  
ventilation, but I gave instructions to have  
the buildings <sup>well</sup> ventilated.  
There was  
more or less bilious fever among the

Governor:

I have this month visited all the camps in my district except one or two small camps which I have always found in very good condition. Cabiness' prison was dirty & some of the convicts had had no change of clothing for two or three weeks, the Sergeant said he had no change of clothing for them which was his excuse for not having the clothing washed: the books of the Reever show that they have had three suits each.

At Baker's Camp there had been frequent whipping, and upon examination I found evidences of the strap upon two of their persons; the force will be withdrawn from this camp on a change made in the Sergeant.

Col Davis' hands made no complaint, they seem to be very well treated here.

Men Westbrook, Watts & R.J. White were doing very well, except that they were mending pants & shirts badly, several other camps were in the same condition.

The prison at the Alston farm

was in a very dirty condition and  
infested with moun, some of the  
men had worn their clothing three  
or four weeks without a change,  
there was a great deal of complaint  
here about bad cooking, & I thought  
the complaints were just.

The Bureau thought they  
could have had the winter cloth-  
ing all supplied by 1<sup>st</sup> Dec'r but  
have failed to do so, they assure  
us that all the camps will be fully  
supplied in one or two weeks more,

The disposition to disregard  
your order in regard to trustees  
seems to prevail at nearly all the  
camps. Visiting one of Mr. Thomson's  
camps when I was not expected,  
when there were twenty men, eight  
were under guard, the others were  
scattered around at various employ-  
ments, and no guard near them.  
From two to five camp convicts at  
most of the other camps were not  
under guard.

When I would reprimand  
the Sergeants and refer them to  
your order, they would disclaim  
having any trustees and say the

men were kept in sight of the guard,  
but I did not believe this. I tried  
to impress upon the necessity of  
their compliance with your orders,  
they would promise compliance, but  
I will see how it is done when I  
start around the circle again,  
which will be in a few days, With  
a few exceptions the men were well  
clad. There would be no reason to  
complain of the treatment of the Con-  
victs. The health of the convicts  
in my district was excellent.

Very Respectfully

H. H. White  
Commissioner