

And their main purpose now is to say, that any change restraining or controlling their authority in any of these particulars would seriously impair their usefulness, or that of any other board that might be appointed in their places.

The only change that occurs to them that could be made with advantage, would be to place the appointment of the Warden with the board of Directors.

So far the most perfect harmony has prevailed between the board of Directors and every one connected with the Institution and they have no reason to doubt that it will continue. But the fact that the subordinate officers of the Institution are threatening to approach your Honorable Body with a memorial for an appropriation, in order that their salaries may be increased, impels the Directors to say that such a movement is entirely irregular and improper and ought to be disregarded by your Honorable Body. The Directors think they are the proper judges of the compensation to be allowed to any of the subordinates of whom they have control; and as they have never found any difficulty in obtaining the services of competent officers at such salaries as in their judgment they thought proper to award, they do not doubt their ability to do the same in future. Should they be mistaken in this, however, and it should be found necessary to apply to your Honorable Body for an appropriation to increase the salaries of their subordinates, or for any other purpose, the Directors will make such application in due time and form, without any doubt, if proper reasons are shown therefor, that it will be responded to in the same liberal manner as every such appeal has been met heretofore.

But no such necessity is apparent at present and they hope it may not be for a long time.

In conclusion they would remark, that the salaries of the officers of the Institution have been advanced, since the present board of Directors assumed control of the Institution more than 40 per cent., and that any further change which in the judgment of the Directors circumstances will justify will be freely and promptly made.

Respectfully submitted to your Honorable Body by,

JNO. HURST,

E. L. PARKER,

WM. CHESNUT,

G. W. WARD,

JOHN COATES,

*Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary.*