Inmate count
In 1895: 2,650

(Continued From Page 1) daily, from the City, Insane Asylums, and Metropolitan Hospitals, the insane Asylums, and Alms- house. Other facilities where inmates worked under keeper super- vision included the Steam- boat Department, the Store- house, Stable, Bakery, City Cemeteries, the Post Office De- partment, and the Branch Work- house. Inmate labor gangs worked at various locations un- loading coal and masonry. Mechanical labor, as distin- guished from "ordinary labor," was also carried on, as the Barge for Homeless Men, carpenters and painters; Alms-house, carpenters, paint- ers; Metropolitan Hospital, carpent- ers, masons, bricklayers and engineers.

Reform's Reasons Focused on Patients
(Continued From Page 1) the State Charities Aid Associa- tion whose leaders made clear their concerns at a hearing held by Mayor Strong Tuesday, May 7, 1895, in City Hall.

They noted the campaign for separation had begun at least a dozen years earlier in response to a series of proposed legislation and that re- ports by panels probing problems at the Ward's Island Insane Asylum had called for it.

Leading social reformer, Mrs. Charles Russell Lowell, said: "Un- fortunate was the condition of the frighten
ing and contamination of criminals," and others who, through accident of birth, or disease, were thrown upon city charity, should all be deprived of the stigma of the asylums and contamination of criminals.

Prof. Charles F. Chandler pointed out the bill did in no way as far as reformers wanted in removing inmate work details from the charity institutions, and it was believed, through the efforts of some to be employed as nurses in the hospital. Their employment has always being a crying evil.

As President, Charles S. Fairchild noted that in all other cit- ies in the state, jails and charitable institutions were operated sepa-

rate; he described the need for an over- sight of the poor, the poor and charitable members of the city, the same as a leper in a hospital. The association official Carl Schurz de- clared, however, the desire was to stop the "immorality" and transfer to other institutions in the state.

DOC Rail Both Penitentiary & Workhouse

As far back as 1876, the State Legislature mar- ried two state prison funds in Albany, the other, in New York City. The first such City Operated State prison was created in 1877 in Greenpoint. In 1856, New York re- placed a penitentiary near Bellevue Hospital. In 1832, the main building of the Bellevue Penitentiary was erected in 1845. The Bellevue complex was divided, one reason being the intent to move all its inmates to Blackwell's. A decade later, the north wing was added to Blackwell's Penitentiary.

The complete facility housed nearly a thousand inmates, the same number as the Bellevue. Land and Railroad similar facility at Bellevue. Contain-

The Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island.

The Workhouse on Blackwell's Island.

Before Rikey's, Blackwell's Was DOC's Island Home

Before Rikey's Island became Correction's chief island base, Blackwell's Island filled that role. Blackwell's was the name that for nearly two centuries identified what is now known as Roosevelt Island, whose aerial tramway cable cars glide over the East River can be seen from the Queensborough Bridge. The sawed-sized 125-acre island, bridged the bridge.

Robert Blackwell to title it to 1712.

New York City acquired the island on July 19, 1828, through a foreclosure - later ruled to have been illegal. Total final price: $52,250. The facil- ities the city was to construct in 1850: a Penitentiary, Alms House, Hos- pital for Incurables, Workhouse, Asylum for the Insane, among others -- were built of granite in the forties style from 1830 to 1840. The hospital was erected with convict labor as was the seawall around the hospital.

About the time DOC became a separate agency, Blackwell's housed a population of approximately 7,000 - inmates and patients. Visitors needed agency permits to come across the ferry that made the round trip from East 26th St. twice daily. Department steamboats transported inmates between the Tombs and Blackwell's Island.

The Penitentiary stood 600 feet long with a projecting wing on the north side. The main building was constructed with gray stone taken from a quarry on Blackwell's Island, and had 800 cells in four tiers back-to-back in the center of the structure. Scandals in the early 1900s, involving charges of inmate overcrowd-

ing, drug-dealing, and favoritism, prompted "reforms," includ- ing a change of name. Under the law creating the DOC clearly had sought eventual removal of inmates from the Island to the Island Hospital. That transfer didn't happen in earnest until 1890 when the 1900s led to real reform during the administration of Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. In January 1934, LaGuardia's re-form Correction Commissioner, Austin H. MacCorkick, led a raid on the Welfare Island penitentiary to expose conditions. This brought about the removal of all inmates to Rikey's Island, where new facilities were just being com- pleted. Welfare Island was turned over exclusively to the care of the aged and the ill.

Blackwell's Island inpatient workshops

Ch.912 Redefined Roles
For Charities, Correction
(Continued From Page 1)

The law authorized the Correction Commissioner to arrange for inmate labor for the service needs of the City's charities. The law required the correction commissioner to do so in consultation with the head of the department responsible for the inmate work. The law also required the commissioner to consult with the head of the department responsible for the inmate work. The law also required the commissioner to consult with the head of the department responsible for the inmate work. The law also required the commissioner to consult with the head of the department responsible for the inmate work. The law also required the commissioner to consult with the head of the department responsible for the inmate work. The law also required the commissioner to consult with the head of the department responsible for the inmate work. The law also required the commissioner to consult with the head of the department responsible for the inmate work. The law also required the commissioner to consult with the head of the department responsible for the inmate work.

Further sections of the chapter provided for the eventual resettlement of island property so that Blackwell's Island would become, in a sense, more Correction Department territory.