

279. No officer is permitted to strike a convict under any circumstances, except in self defence, or to suppress revolt, prevent escape, or as a punishment ordered by the Warden.

280. No officer shall permit a convict placed under his charge to leave his gang, nor shall he permit a convict not placed in his charge to join his gang, without the written order of the Warden or Deputy Warden, or Chief Keeper.

281. When a convict is obliged to retire for necessary purposes, the officer in charge shall take care that the place is so conspicuous, that the convict cannot leave it without being fully seen, that only one is permitted to be in the place at a time, and that he is absent for a reasonable time only. Any delay in such cases should arouse suspicion at once, and the officer must immediately make certain that all is right.

282. No officer shall take the statement of one convict against another convict, on which to make a report for punishment, respecting the convict complained of, but shall report the fact nevertheless to the Warden.

283. If a convict makes complaint to an officer of any order given him or of any action towards him, by which he considers himself aggrieved, it shall be the duty of the officer to inform the Warden thereof, at the earliest moment convenient thereafter, and the Warden will act in the matter as he may think reason and justice may require; but the officer shall in the meantime see that the convict obeys the order given him.

284. Every report against a convict shall be entered in the Report Book by the officer who makes it, or by the Chief Keeper, and signed by the officer reporting.

285. No officer shall tamper with the religious belief of any convict, nor attempt to proselytise either by speech, or by giving books or in any way whatever, under pain of instant dismissal.

286. In forming their opinions with respect to the industry of a convict, officers will bear in mind that as one convict may be able to do more work in a given time than another, so their reports on this head will have regard more to the continuous labor of the convict, the care bestowed upon it, and the evidence of his desire to do all he can, than upon the absolute quantity he does, as compared with others. An amount of work which may thus be sufficient for one man, may be quite insufficient for another, and the officer's report for the remission of sentence will be based accordingly.

287. In all their intercourse with the convicts, officers shall be careful to maintain a quiet firm demeanor, under any provocation, recollecting that the convict, however disposed to be violent or abusive, is entirely in their power.

288. Should a convict be apparently attempting to escape, it shall be the duty of the officer observing him to order him to go to his work or other duty. Should the convict refuse, the officer will give the alarm by the readiest means, or if necessity require it, by firing his piece in the air, in a direction however, in which he is sure the bullet can inflict no injury; and should the convict still endeavor to effect his escape, the officer shall