

REPORT  
OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
STATE OF IOWA,  
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE  
SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME,  
LOCATED AT  
DAVENPORT.

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[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

DES MOINES:  
F. M. MILLS, STATE PRINTER.  
1880.

## REPORT.

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TO THE EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

THE Joint Committee appointed to visit the Soldiers' Orphans' Home, at Davenport, would respectfully report that they have made a careful and quite thorough examination into its various departments, the management of the children, the condition of the buildings, the wants of the institution, the books of account, and a special examination in the direction suggested and directed by the concurrent resolution of instruction.

Your committee conclude:

That the management of the Home and its interests are in faithful and competent hands.

All of the buildings except the new bricks are really unfit for use, and if the Home is to be continued, as your committee think is for the best interests of the State, eight new cottages must be built, which would probably cost about sixteen thousand dollars. We recommend that an appropriation be made to build as many of these cottages as the state of the public treasury will admit.

The Superintendent and Matron seem to be deeply interested in the welfare of the children under their care and control, personal supervision being constantly maintained. The personal cleanliness, the intellectual, moral and religious training of the children are scrupulously observed. Your committee examined carefully into the clothing, the beds and bedding, the diet, the general care of the children, and heartily indorse it. The wants and necessities of the younger ones are carefully met. The sanitary condition of the Home is excellent; and it is probably owing in a great measure to regular habits and healthful and abundant food.

A library of about twelve hundred volumes, very properly divided as to subjects, is accessible to the children. The trustees ask an appropriation of two hundred dollars for said library, which your committee would respectfully recommend. An appropriation is also asked for repairs. Something is needed, but the exact amount will depend largely upon the number of new cottages built. As to the other items for which appropriations are asked, your committee is in doubt as to the amount that should be appropriated, but recommend as liberal dealing with the institution as the state of the public treasury will permit of, believing that it is doing a valuable work for the State, growing good, self-supporting citizens out of those, many of whom would otherwise remain through life her wards.

Your committee has examined the last report of this institution to your honorable body, and finding it correct, would refer to said report for a more specific statement of the past work and expense and the present needs of this Home.

The class for whom the Home was originally intended is passing away, but there are a large number of indigent orphan children in the various county poor-houses of the State. These children, in the opinion of your committee, should be removed to the Home. Some law should be enacted compelling the counties to send them there, and furnish compensation for their support and education.

Your committee have examined House File No. 274, A Bill for An Act to provide for the future care of indigent children, and are inclined to the belief that it should become a law.

In response to the inquiries propounded in the Concurrent Resolution, your committee would answer:

*First.* We are of the opinion that the appropriations made by the last General Assembly have been wisely and economically expended.

*Second.* That they have been expended for the objects appropriated.

*Third.* That chapter 67, Laws of the 17th General Assembly, have been complied with in not contracting indebtedness in excess of the appropriations.

*Fourth.* That there has been no diversion of any money from the specific purpose for which it was drawn out of the State Treasury.

*Fifth.* The following is a list of the persons employed by the Home, showing for what employed and at what monthly salary:

Number.	NAME.	DUTY.	PER MONTH.	BOARDED IN INS.
1	S. W. Pierce.....	Superintendent .....	\$ 100 00	Boarded in Ins.
2	F. W. Pierce.....	Matron .....	50 00	Boarded in Ins.
3	W. F. Peck.....	Physician .....	33 35	Not boarded in Ins.
4	P. A. Steffa.....	Book-keeper .....	20 00	Boarded in Ins.
5	Edwin Wrench.....	Watchman .....	12 00	Boarded in Ins.
6	H. Meade.....	Baker .....	26 00	Boarded in Ins.
7	N. B. Collier.....	Laborer .....	15 00	Boarded in Ins.
8	A. G. King.....	Engineer and carpenter	26 00	Boarded in Ins.
9	R. J. Evans.....	Cottage manager.....	20 00	Boarded in Ins.
10	M. F. Rudolph.....	Cottage manager.....	20 00	Boarded in Ins.
11	N. Connor.....	Cottage manager.....	20 00	Boarded in Ins.
12	S. J. Edwards.....	Cottage manager.....	20 00	Boarded in Ins.
13	R. A. Painter.....	Cottage manager.....	20 00	Boarded in Ins.
14	Lida Middleton.....	Teacher .....	25 00	Boarded in Ins.
15	Jennie Middleton...	Teacher .....	25 00	Boarded in Ins.
16	Ida Wagener.....	Sewing-room manager..	15 00	Boarded in Ins.
17	Mrs. L. Haid.....	Seamstress .....	10 00	Boarded in Ins.
18	Lois Talbot.....	Seamstress and knitter..	6 00	Boarded in Ins.
19	Mary S. Joy.....	Kitchen, D. & H. Man..	20 00	Boarded in Ins.
20	Ella McDonald.....	Kitchen help.....	10 00	Boarded in Ins.
21	Mrs. Lizzie Burrell.	Supt's housekeeper....	12 00	Boarded in Ins.
22	Mary Mulcron.....	Laundry manager.....	15 00	Boarded in Ins.
23	Maggie Mulcron....	Laundress .....	12 00	Boarded in Ins.

J. D. GILLETT,  
*On part of the Senate.*

S. L. GLASGOW,  
J. L. PALMER,  
*On part of the House.*