

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
Iowa Soldiers' Home

LOCATED AT
MARSHALLTOWN.

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DES MOINES
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REPORT.

To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Your joint committee appointed to visit and report upon the condition of the Iowa Soldiers' Home, located at Marshalltown, have discharged that duty and report as follows:

By act of the Twenty-first General Assembly, the sum of \$75,000 was appropriated for the building; \$25,000 for furniture and support: The citizens of Marshalltown donated 128 acres of land bordering the Iowa river on the west side. They also gave \$12,000, additional in cash, and water from the city water works to be furnished five years free.

The city also extended the water main to the edge of the State's ground at a cost of \$3,000; this was in excess of the original offer. The building cost \$63,740. The expense of the locating commission, (\$862.50), was paid out of the building fund. On January 14, there was a balance of \$3,656 of the building fund undrawn in the State treasury. The vouchers on the building fund were presented to the State Auditor, and on his warrants the money was paid direct to the contractor. Of the \$25,000 support fund, the commissioners have draw from the State treasury \$20,093.59, and of that sum there was on January 14, 1888, in the hands of Captain C. W. Burdick, treasurer of the commission, a balance of \$7,535.67. Of the "Marshalltown Fund" consisting of \$12,010, there is a balance in the hands of Captain Burdick of \$6,701.46; total balance in C. W. Burdick's hands, \$14,236.13. Mr. Burdick exhibited a certificate of deposit for the sum of \$13,799.80 from the Savings Bank at Decorah, Iowa, and a like certificate issued by the First National Bank of Marshalltown, Iowa, for the sum of \$436.33, the two certificates aggregating the total above mentioned. The building is 120 by 210 in size, four stories high, including basement. Your committee find that the building was built within the appropriation and that no amount of money

was diverted from the purpose for which it was intended. No indebtedness has been contracted in excess of the appropriations.

The Home was opened for the reception of honorably discharged soldiers, November 1887, and now has eighty-two permanent guests. The Home will accommodate 500 inmates, when used to its fullest capacity; there are now 200 beds. The employes of the State are as follows, with the monthly salary named:

Milo Smith, commandant.....	\$100.00 per month.
A. D. Gaston, adjutant.....	50.00 per month.
Ben. E. Eberhart, quartermaster.....	50.00 per month.
W. M. Fisher, engineer.....	50.00 per month.
A. G. Dodd, cook.....	50.00 per month.
W. B. Waters, surgeon.....	37.50 per month.
W. G. Hibarger, fireman.....	30.00 per month.
Dan. Lawson, fireman.....	30.00 per month.
Will. Dodd, assistant cook and baker.....	20.00 per month.

All these employes, excepting the surgeon, board and lodge in the Home at the expense of the State, in addition to their salaries. The building seems to be well calculated for a Home. The brick and stone, out of which the structure is made, appear to be of good, durable quality; the floors and interior wood work are drying out under the influence of the steam heat. A mistake was evidently made in not placing the boiler house in a more detached and distant situation from the main building, on account of the smoke, soot and dust incident to too close proximity to the rooms that are occupied by the veterans. The boiler house should have been larger, and duplicate sets of boilers should have been put in as a matter of precaution. The three boilers are now required to be used to their fullest capacity to heat the building. In the severest weather, if one of them should be disabled, the building could not be comfortably heated.

All appliances and arrangements pertaining to the kitchen seem to be ample and of the best known for such purposes. Fire plugs are to be found on each floor for fire protection, but hose has not yet been provided to use in connection with them. The building is lighted by gas made on the premises. All such institutions should be lighted by electric light, especially when steam is required for other purposes, and when the expense of putting in the electric light plant would not be great. At some future time the system can be changed.

Your committee find that the Home is a very comfortable place, but think that an immediate appropriation should be made for the es-

tablishment of a library; for the purchase of daily and weekly papers and monthly periodicals; also for the purchase of appliances for innocent entertainment and amusement. Under present circumstances, especially in inclement weather, there must certainly be times when the veterans do not know what to do to while away the time, and amusement should be provided to render their indoor life more pleasant. A library of 500 or more volumes should be provided at once. Books are coming in slowly by contribution, but many of them are not of the most thrilling interest, being such as the owners had no use for; such a source cannot be depended upon for a library for immediate use. Possibly there are some good books now in the State library that could be spared for the Home.

Your committee endorse the recommendation of the trustees concerning appropriations for cottages, barn, quartermaster's rooms and office, vegetable cellar, etc., and would urge that not less than \$10,000 be expended in ornamenting and beautifying the grounds, and that the work be begun so soon as the frost is out of the ground. The Home should be made as attractive as possible and at once, as the veterans are passing away and will not need these comforts many years. They should have *them now*.

No consideration of taxation or expense should enter into the discussion when the welfare of the brave men who helped to save the Union is to be provided for. They are entitled to the best that money will buy. Your committee understands that a competent landscape engineer, by action of the trustees, has already prepared plans for the improvement of the grounds, and that some work has already been done under such plans. The work should be resumed and completed as speedily as possible. A macadamized road should be made through the grounds to a connection with a principal street or driveway, and we doubt not that the city would extend it on to the business center. We need not here repeat the recommendation of the board of commissioners, who have charge of the Home, for their report is in the hands of the State Printer, and will be laid before the General Assembly very soon. They ask for a total of \$20,800 for cottages, for offices, for quartermaster's office, improvements of grounds, etc., and your committee believe that that sum is necessary. We would also recommend the appropriations of \$1,000 for library and \$500 for the purchase of appliances for amusement, in addition to the sum asked for by the commissioners.

Your committee carefully compared the records of the Commission with the vouchers exhibited, and find their accounts correct. The Commission has been careful and business-like in all their doings, and in their purchases have endeavored to get the lowest prices. For their efforts to keep within the appropriations at their disposal we commend them. We also believe they have been fortunate in electing officers for the Home.

We believe the Home is a good institution, and that the management has started out right.

The following bills of fare will give evidence that the veterans are substantially provided for, the food being well cooked and served promptly:

BILL OF FARE—IOWA SOLDIERS' HOME.

SUNDAY.

Breakfast—Oat meal, liver, bacon, potatoes, coffee, bread and butter.
Dinner—Roast beef, potatoes, turnips, pie, coffee, bread and butter.
Supper—Mush and milk, cold meat, cheese, tea, syrup, bread and butter.

MONDAY.

Breakfast—Oat meal, beef steak, potatoes, coffee, bread and butter.
Dinner—Corn beef and cabbage, potatoes, coffee, bread and butter.
Supper—Mush and milk, cold meat, sauce, tea, syrup, bread and butter.

TUESDAY.

Breakfast—Oat meal, hash, coffee, bread and butter.
Dinner—Bean soup, pork and beans, tomatoes, potatoes, coffee, bread and butter.
Supper—Cod fish, apple sauce, cheese, tea, syrup, bread and butter.

WEDNESDAY.

Breakfast—Oat meal, breakfast bacon, potatoes; coffee, bread and butter.
Dinner—Boiled beef, potatoes, sweet corn, coffee, bread and butter.
Supper—Rice, ginger cake, tea, syrup, bread and butter.

THURSDAY.

Breakfast—Oat meal, Irish stew, potatoes, coffee, bread and butter.
Dinner—Soup, corn beef and cabbage, potatoes, coffee, bread and butter.
Supper—Mush and milk, cold meat, sauce, tea, syrup, bread and butter.

FRIDAY.

Breakfast—Oat meal, boiled mackerel, potatoes, coffee, bread and butter.
Dinner—Fresh fish, potatoes, stewed corn, coffee, bread and butter.
Supper—Mush and milk, cod fish, cheese, sauce, syrup, tea, bread and butter.

SATURDAY.

Breakfast—Oat meal, sausage, potatoes, coffee, bread and butter.
Dinner—Veal with dressing, potatoes, hominy, coffee, bread and butter.
Supper—Cold meat, apple sauce, tea, syrup, bread and butter.

The average expense of boarding the veterans so far has been 18 cents per day.

RULES OF THE HOME.

Your committee found in force the following rules established for the government of the Home:

1. All inmates of the Home will conduct themselves at all times in a gentlemanly, soldierly and orderly manner, observing strict courtesy towards the officers and towards each other. They will discharge such duties as may be required of them by the Commandant or Subordinate Officers.
2. Habitual intoxication, disobedience of orders, or refusal to perform any labor or duty imposed upon him, will bring upon any inmate summary discharge.
3. The use of intoxicating liquors on the grounds, or in the buildings, is prohibited. Any inmate bringing liquor on the grounds or in the buildings, will be liable to immediate discharge.
4. Scrupulous cleanliness in person, in dress, and in care of quarters, is enjoined.
5. All inmates will be required to bathe once a week.
6. Profanity and vulgarity are forbidden, and quarrels among the inmates or employees, will subject the offenders to punishment.
7. No smoking will be allowed in the buildings except in the smoking room.
8. That men requiring continual care and attention by reason of insanity or imbecility, will not be retained at the Home, because no provisions have been made to take care of such persons.
9. All inmates are positively forbidden the carrying of matches about their person or to their rooms.

10. Water, sweepings or refuse of any sort, shall not be thrown from the windows or doors of the buildings, but must be put in places designated by the Commandant.

11. Marking on the walls is forbidden; and defacing buildings, trees, fences or grounds, will not only subject the offender to punishment, but will render him liable to the Home for damages done.

12. Inmates shall not enter the barns, stables, shops, kitchens, laundry, or detached buildings, without permission of the Commandant.

13. No inmate, unless assigned to such duty, shall, at any time, interfere or meddle with the furnaces, ranges, lights, sewers, or water works of the Home.

14. Inmates shall appear at all times, in the uniform or dress established by the Board of Commissioners.

15. At reveille the inmates shall rise, wash and dress themselves neatly; and when assembled for breakfast, before entering the dining room, the officer in charge of each detachment, shall inspect his men and report any neglect to the Commandant.

16. A call to be sounded fifteen minutes before each meal to allow preparation therefor.

17. Persons that are admitted to the Home, having dependent families or relatives, and draw a pension, shall pay the same to the Commandant for the use of such dependent families or relations; but the Commandant may, in his discretion, allow such person to retain not to exceed one-tenth of such pensions; and if such person has no dependent family or relations, and draws a pension, he shall pay the Home for his clothes, or such portion thereof as the Commandant may require.

18. The officers in charge of detachments will call the roll of their respective detachments respectively at reveille and tattoo, and absentees will be reported to the Commandant.

19. Complaints of neglect or ill treatment must be made in writing to the Board of Commissioners, through the Commandant.

20. At tattoo all inmates shall retire to their quarters, and at taps all lights will be extinguished.

21. Sick call will be sounded each day—when all inmates requiring medical attention, will report to the surgeon's office.

22. Any inmate of the Home may be expelled by the Board of Commissioners, the Executive Committee, or Commandant, for a willful violation of the rules and regulations.

23. Whenever an inmate has been expelled from the Home, he may be re-admitted upon application to the Board of Commissioners or Executive Committee, upon satisfying the Board or Committee that he will in future conduct himself properly, and observe and obey the rules and regulations of the Home, and perform such duty without compensation as the committee shall deem proper.

24. Any inmate of the Home may receive an honorable discharge at any time, upon his application therefor, providing his conduct has been meritorious.

25. Whenever the Board of Commissioners are satisfied that any inmates has sufficient ability or means to support himself, they may discharge him.

All discharges shall state the reason therefor.

Furloughs may be granted to inmates of the Home by the Commandant, whenever he may deem it necessary or proper.

COL. MILO SMITH,

Commandant.

CAPT. A. D. GASTON,

Adjutant.

In concluding this report your committee desire to urge upon the various Grand Army posts, and citizens generally the duty and necessity of looking up the cases among the homeless and decrepit veterans of their locality, and see that they are reported to the officers of the Home, and have transportation furnished, in order that such deserving veterans may be able to enjoy the comforts provided by the generosity and patriotism of the people of Iowa.

LAFAYETTE YOUNG,

On the part of the Senate.

ED. C. RUSSELL,

A. J. CHANTREY,

On the part of the House.