

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND FARM

LOCATED AT

AMES.

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REPORT.

To the Twenty-third General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Your committee appointed in accordance with a concurrent resolution to visit and examine the State Agricultural College and Farm at Ames, beg leave to report as follows:

That on the morning of the 25th of February, 1890, we met at the College and farm and through the kindness of President Chamberlain and other Professors were shown through the main college building, shop, laboratory, etc., after which we met at the President's office for the purpose of examining the books, vouchers, etc., and after a thorough and careful examination were unanimously of the opinion,

First—That the appropriations made by the last General Assembly have been wisely and judiciously expended.

Second—That they were expended for the specific object appropriated.

Third—We are satisfied that no indebtedness has been contracted in excess of the appropriation.

Fourth—We are satisfied that there has been no diversion of any money from the specific purpose for which it was appropriated.

Fifth—That we are of the opinion that the amount set forth in the annual report of the Board of Trustees is the total amount received by the President and Professors for services rendered.

Sixth—Your committee find that there is no mode of escape from the building in case of fire, except by the ordinary stairways, and make recommendation in another part of this report.

Seventh—That the sanitary condition and system of sewerage is good.

Eighth—That certain new structures should be erected and certain repairs and additions should be made, as recommended in another part of this report.

We are fully satisfied after a careful investigation that the amount of appropriation asked for by the Board of Trustees is very desira

ble, and in fact a large portion of it is, for the good of the institution, and for the credit of the State, absolutely necessary.

The appropriations asked for by the Board of Trustees are detailed as follows, viz.:

1. Fire proof building for museum, library, chapel, and recitation rooms and remodeling main building.....	\$5,000
2. For repairs and improvements on main building and dormitory cottages.....	5,000
3. Boiler house and boiler for mechanical department, and heating mechanical buildings.....	5,000
4. Enlargement and repairs of chemical and physical building.....	2,000
5. Two houses for professors.....	5,000
6. House for the president.....	5,000
7. Repairs and improvement of farm buildings.....	2,500
8. Addition to office and room for postoffice.....	800
Total.....	\$61,000

The fire proof building, for library, museum and chapel, in the opinion of the committee, is very desirable, and, to a certain extent absolutely necessary for the protection of the large library and museum already collected, and for the reason that after the removal thereof from the main building, additional room can be made for about sixty (60) more students, which room the institution needs very much.

The repairs on the main college building and dormitory cottages in the way of painting, new floors, etc., are absolutely necessary, and cannot be deferred any longer.

The necessity for a new boiler and a new boiler house has been frequently urged before the General Assembly; the present boiler is very old, defective and unsafe..

In order that there may be no interruption in the power necessary to run the machinery and furnish the electric light, there should by all means be a new boiler provided and a suitable building erected in which to place the same.

The enlargement and repair of the chemical and physical building would, in the opinion of the committee, be a very wise and judicious expenditure, as it is only contemplated to raise the roof and brick walls of what is now a one story building, thereby making it two stories with large and commodious rooms upstairs which the Institution is sadly in need of.

Your committee carefully examined the property formerly owned and occupied by the late Dr. Welch, now occupied by President Chamberlain, and consider it worth the amount for which the estate offers to sell it.

Also considered the proposition to erect two cottages for professors; such additions and improvements would, in the opinion of the committee, be very desirable.

The addition to office building for the accommodation of the postoffice, and to secure a few additional sleeping rooms for the members of the Board of Trustees when visiting the College, is very desirable, but your committee make no recommendation.

Your committee would recommend the purchase and erection of fire escapes at two of the windows in the main College building, also the purchase of a sufficient amount of rubber hose to be placed on each floor, and connected with the large water tank situated in the upper part of said building.

Owing to the severe storm and extreme cold, your committee did not examine all of the farm buildings.

Those we did examine are in need of repair, especially the main farm barn and cow stable.

Relative to the experimental station so ably conducted by Captain Spear, your committee is of the opinion that if the result of the experiments are to be of material benefit to the agricultural interest of the State, there should be some suitable building provided for the storage of cereals and other products, deemed by the Superintendent worthy of distribution among the farmers, to the end that they may derive the benefit contemplated, and not as is now done, sell the products in the market.

Your committee are of the opinion that the Board of Trustees are entitled to a great deal of credit and are deserving of the highest compliments of the people of the State for the conservative and judicious manner in which the endowment fund has been managed from the organization of the Institution to the present time, which will doubtless continue in the future as in the past. If your committee were to make any suggestions relative to the management, it would be that the Board take care that the Institution does not drift from the object contemplated by the act of Congress making the grant.

We believe the Board should procure a better class of stock, especially cattle, so as to have a few typical animals of the leading classes. If the Institution does not have a large number of animals, it should have the very best as to breeding and individual merit, that they may be used as object lessons.

Respectfully submitted this 17th day of March, A. D., 1890.

J. H. SMITH,
On part of the Senate.
ALLAN SMITH,
T. A. THORNBURG,
On part of the House.