

REPORT  
OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE  
TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE  
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE  
COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

LOCATED AT  
VINTON.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## REPORT.

*To the twenty-third General Assembly of Iowa:*

Your committee appointed to visit the College for the Blind, at Vinton, Iowa, do hereby report that we have made a careful examination of the said institution in accordance with the joint resolution passed by the Senate, the House concurring, in regard to the different institutions, and we make the following suggestions in regard thereto:

*First.* The appropriations made by the last General Assembly, have been wisely and economically expended.

*Second.* As far as the appropriations have been expended they have been expended for the purposes for which they were made.

The appropriations made and expended during the last biennial period have been as follows:

PURPOSE APPROPRIATED.	Amount ap- propriated.	Expended- to date.	Balance on hand.
For contingent and general repairs.....	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 620.59	\$ 379.41
For bedding and furniture.....	500.00	499.59	.46
For library and school apparatus.....	300.00	101.00	199.00
For washing machine.....	300.00	345.00	59.84
For painting.....	7,050.20	7,050.20	.....
For new roof, cornice, gutters, etc.....	300.00	119.52	180.48

*Third.* The expenditures have all been made according to chapter 67 of the acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly.

*Fourth.* There has been no diversion of any money from the purpose for which it was appropriated.

*Fifth.* That the following named persons are employed at said institution for the purposes named, and the salaries paid each, and also whether any person so employed receives anything in addition to his salary in the way of board, room, clothing, lights, fuel, or anything else at the expense of the State is stated, viz.:

NAME.	EMPLOYMENT.	Time em- ployed.	Salary.	REMARKS.
Thomas F. McClure.....	Principal.....	One year.....	\$ 1,200.00	Lives in building.
James A. Brown.....	Secretary.....	One year.....	300.00	Months in building.
Mrs. Elizabeth L. O'lynn.....	Physician.....	One year.....	450.00	Receives nothing else.
Miss Mary McHugh.....	Assistant.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Miss Sue Shaw.....	First teacher.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Miss Loran Matlock.....	Fifth and sixth grade teacher.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Miss Emily Alden.....	Third and fourth grade teacher.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Miss Minna Keith.....	Professor of music.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Miss Ellen Sewell.....	Second music teacher.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Mrs. Frances Barrens.....	Tyld music teacher.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Miss Jennie Bossey.....	Sewing teacher.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Miss Ida Spink.....	Boys' nurse.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Miss Mary Loy.....	Girls' nurse.....	Ten months.....	300.00	Lives in building.
Miss Anna Brough.....	Second cook.....	Ten months.....	150.00	Lives in building.
Miss Elizabeth Brough.....	Third cook.....	Ten months.....	150.00	Lives in building.
Miss Kate Hedley.....	First laundry girl.....	Ten months.....	150.00	Lives in building.
Simon Nurnmeyer.....	Third laundry girl.....	Ten months.....	150.00	Lives in building.
Miss Dora Herz.....	Chamber work.....	Ten months.....	120.00	Lives in building.
Miss Mary Yoggy.....	Chamber work.....	Ten months.....	120.00	Lives in building.
Miss Bertha Hunt.....	Dining room work.....	Ten months.....	120.00	Lives in building.
Miss Mary Lindenmuth.....	Dining room work.....	Ten months.....	120.00	Lives in building.
Miss Tillie Lindenmuth.....	General help.....	Ten months.....	120.00	Lives in building.
John Sawyer.....	Visitors' attendant.....	Ten months.....	120.00	Lives in building.
L. Bixley.....	Assistant steward.....	Ten months.....	120.00	Lives in building.
Victor Rosenmans.....	Night watch.....	One year.....	840.00	Months.
Patrick Hart.....	Porter.....	One year.....	480.00	Receives nothing else.
	Fireman.....	One year.....	240.00	Lives in building.
		Six months.....	116.00	Months.

*Sixth.* There seems to be ample arrangements for fire escapes, in the four iron stairways leading up to the top from the bottom of the building, with landings on each floor, and proper means of exit on the lower floor; the stairways and the connections of the different parts of the building are so arranged that if one stairway should be closed in case of fire the inmates may pass out by the other without material disadvantage or delay. The students are carefully and frequently drilled in the matter of making their exit from the building and they have become so proficient in this that within three or four minutes after the sounding of the fire alarm they can all be safely out of the building. The means of controlling and suppressing fire in the building consists of two rubber hose on each floor, one at each end of the building, long enough to reach to every part of the different rooms on that floor and conveying water from two large tanks in the top of the building, each tank having a capacity of six hundred barrels. The water is supplied to these tanks by a force pump, operated by steam, from a well one hundred feet in depth, which furnishes an inexhaustible supply of water. The Trustees, in their last biennial report, ask for an appropriation of \$3,000, for the purpose of extending the mains from the water works system of the city of Vinton up to and around the College building and for the putting in of additional plumbing, so that the water may be used throughout the whole building. This, in our judgment, would be a wise expenditure of money, and result in giving not only a perfect fire protection, but would also give a good supply of fresh water at all times for use throughout the building, which cannot now be done during the summer months except by running the engine constantly.

*Seventh.* The sanitary condition of the College and the various portions of it seem to be excellent. The rooms are kept clean and well aired and the students are orderly in the care of their rooms.

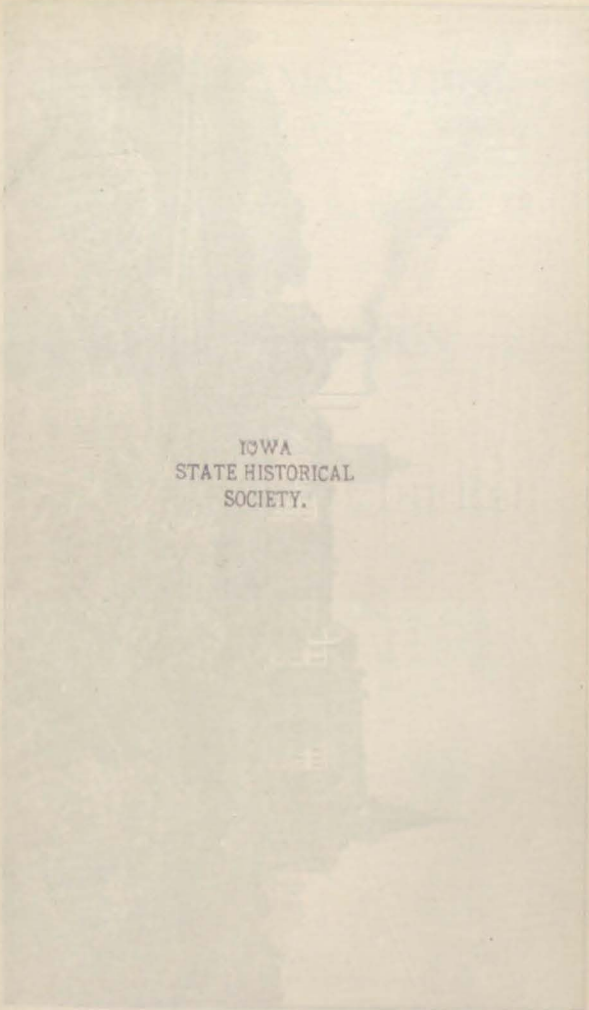
*Eighth.* After examining the building thoroughly and the books kept by the secretary, we wish to say that in our opinion the Trustees should provide a fire proof safe for the protection of the records of the institution, and would also suggest that with a small outlay for dynamo, wiring, lamps, sockets, etc., that the buildings might be lighted with electricity, which would be very much preferable to the present plan of lighting with lamps, as more than sixty lamps are used daily about the premises and an accident liable at any time to happen, might result in the loss of life and property. If the engine is of sufficient power, a comparatively small amount would light the building and prevent any disaster of this nature.

We find the new roof to be in good shape and apparently an excellent job of work. The front portico and steps have been rebuilt in a good and substantial manner with solid masonry. We find the amounts asked for for bedding and furniture of \$2,000, will apparently be necessary for the biennial term. The amount asked for for library and school apparatus of \$1,000 will, we doubt not, be a wise appropriation of that amount, and will supply some needed apparatus and make suitable additions to the library, which seems to be a very necessary part of the institution and one in which much interest is felt by the students. Your committee found the books and accounts of the institution kept in excellent shape and in a very painstaking manner. We believe the secretary is doing his whole duty. We found the Principal, Mr. McCune, doing an excellent work. He maintains thorough discipline and apparently with very little friction. He has been with the College a long time, and has the well being and advancement of the College and students thoroughly at heart. His administration seems to your committee to be wise and progressive. The students are orderly and attentive to their various occupations and studies. Representative Gitchell, one of your committee, failed to receive timely notice of the time of our visit to the College and was not present with us, and consequently does not join in this report.

All of which your committee respectfully report.

EDGAR E. MACK.

J. F. HOLIDAY.



IOWA  
STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY.