

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME

LOCATED AT
DAVENPORT.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:
G. H. RAGSDALE, STATE PRINTER.
1890.

REPORT.

Your committee to visit the Soldiers' and Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, at Davenport, have performed that duty, and beg leave to submit the following report for the consideration, and, it is hoped, the aid of the Twenty-third General Assembly.

Very properly we can present our findings and recommendations more clearly by keeping in mind the resolution under which we acted, and by answering *seriatim* the objects there pointed out.

Our investigation was, we believe, thorough and efficient.

I.

We find that the appropriations of the last General Assembly have been expended usefully and economically. Not all, however, has been used. Some \$1,900 has been converted back into the treasury. Twenty-five hundred dollars was appropriated by the Twenty-second General Assembly for building a kitchen to the main building. This main building is a temporary wooden structure, hastily erected, to fill the place of the brick one destroyed by fire in 1887. In the nature of the case, this wooden building cannot be of long duration, and hence the Board of Trustees thought it expedient to add \$2,500 more to such a structure. Instead they used \$600, in making more serviceable the place they now occupy for kitchen purposes, and turned the \$1,900 back into the State treasury. We think this decision wise and economical.

2. The appropriations were expended for the objects named in the law.

3. There is no indebtedness, nor have there at any time in the last two years been any expenditures in excess of the amounts appropriated.

4. The money appropriated has not been diverted from the specific purposes for which it was appropriated.

5. Herewith we return the pay roll, which is hereto annexed, marked Exhibit A, giving names of employes, salaries, etc. They are furnished with board, lodging and washing, bed and lights, in addition to their salaries.

6. There are sixteen cottages for the inmates, only two of which—those erected since 1888—are two stories high. Two other buildings, the school-house and the hospital, are two stories high. The stairs in these buildings are broad and easy of access from all parts of the buildings, while the distance to the ground from the windows is very short. The means of escape in case of fire are, therefore, adequate.

7. The sanitary condition of the cottages, school and hospital, in view of the constantly present possibility of disease, from lack of water, seepage from the cemetery near, and the out-houses in the immediate rear of the buildings, is very good. The cottages were cleanly kept and thoroughly ventilated.

II.

In considering the needs of the institution for the next biennial period it is proper to take into consideration its purpose, the care and consideration given the children, and the fund from which the necessary appropriations must come.

The institution was originally intended for the patriotic purpose of caring for the orphans of those Iowa citizens whose lives and energies had been sacrificed for our nation during the civil war. As years passed the numbers of those coming under this category diminished rapidly and it then became a practical question whether to abolish the institution entirely or turn it into other channels. The wisdom of our predecessors dictated the latter course, and its doors were thrown open to the indigent children of the various counties. In our judgment this action was wise and timely. The children of the poor can now be sent from their respective counties and find in this institution good care and education; their habits are looked after wisely, and, in a great degree, the inevitable tendencies to vice which are often prevalent in poor houses, are escaped. Then, too, these poor can be cared for more economically in this institution than in the poor houses, taking into consideration their education and moral training.

The care shown these unfortunate children by the officials in charge is highly commendable. The children looked healthy, cleanly and happy; while conversations with them in the absence of their

teachers elicited the fact that they were perfectly contented. The school privileges are of a high grade. The course of study is as thorough as in the best of our common schools, while the character of instruction gives evidence of good work being done. We must emphatically commend the excellent manner in which the Superintendent, J. R. Bowman, and the Matron, M. A. Bowman, discharge their duties.

The sources from which this institution draws its support are two, viz: A monthly allowance of \$10 per child from the counties sending children, and the appropriations from the legislature. The first sum covers board, clothing, fuel, lights, salaries, hospital necessities, etc., and all of these have been obtained in the past for a little over \$8 per child. The appropriations cover buildings, repairing, water, insurance, etc. It is only as to the last that this report has to deal, and our recommendations are all based upon the thought that all requests made by the Board are legitimate and just, and their allowance should only be refused, if at all, because other needs of the State are more pressing than those demanded by this institution.

1. While we think a main building should be erected at as early a time as practicable, and while the temporary structure now occupied is inconvenient and fails to meet the demands of the institution in many particulars, yet we are not prepared to urge this expenditure with earnestness. However, we do ask that it be granted if the finances of the State admit it.

2. The allowance asked for furniture depends largely upon the action taken in regard to the main building. If that building is provided for, then, in order that it may fulfill its intended purposes, the furniture must be supplied.

3. We recommend heartily, and urge emphatically, that the amount necessary for a proper supply of water be granted.

The present water supply is insufficient in quantity and probably impure in quality. The institution stands in such relation to a cemetery upon its immediate east as to make the seepage from its large area in part find channels in the direction of the water supply. Then, too, the drainage from the institution itself is in the direction of the water supply, while said supply is in as practicable a place as possible under existing circumstances.

Further than this, there is only one bath tub in the whole institution, and that in the hospital, there being no water supply which makes their use practicable; hence, all bathing must be done from hand dishes, and the water carried by hand to the various bathing

closets. This is so inconvenient as to render thorough bathing impossible. Heretofore, by watchfulness, the dangers arising from this lack of water have been kept to the minimum, but the constantly pressing fear of a sudden outbreak of some epidemic can only be removed by immediately improving upon the water supply. Health, decency, and humanity demand this much.

4. A suitable amount for contingencies and repairs should be allowed, and we recommend the full amount asked.

5. The library is a necessary adjunct of the school facilities, and we recommend its allowance.

6. The property of the institution is valuable; it should be protected by sufficient insurance. In the past, this we believe, has been paid out of the support fund. This property is the State's; it is erected from appropriations, and those appropriations should be protected from the same fund; it should not be taken out of the children's mouths or off of their backs. We commend the amount asked.

7. Provision was made in part two years ago for a suitable system of steam and furnace heating; it has not been completed, and we recommend an allowance sufficient to complete it.

While it would undoubtedly add to the effectiveness of the good work being done at this institution to make ample preparation for suitable industrial instruction, yet we are not prepared to recommend the same, as it would necessitate the appropriations asked for a new main building, furniture for the same, a proper building suitable for industrial instruction and proficient instructors, all of which would go far beyond what, in our opinion, would be authorized by the necessities of this and other State institutions and the financial condition of the State.

We adopt the following recommendation of the visiting committee of the Twenty-second General Assembly, and urgently reiterate what is there said, and recommend that \$1,000 be appropriated for the purpose therein set forth.

"That the law relating to the Institution be so amended that when inmates are placed there that the State assumes the power to find homes for and secure their adoption into good homes and families when this can be done. Beautiful as this charity is, and strongly as it appeals to the hearts of Christian people, yet we believe that children that are reared in good private homes, trained to habits of industry and self reliance, are better fitted for citizenship; that it is much better for the child and State, than to rear them at public expense and educate them to dependence on public charity or support.

Their welfare could be looked after, and their good treatment secured by an agent of the home, whose duty it should be to keep track of them in the homes in which they were adopted. This would cost much less than to support them, and would, in the judgment of your committee, tend to make them self-reliant and self-supporting citizens."

Our State has reason to be proud of this institution; it appeals to all that is best in our splendid manhood and womanhood; it is along the line of that elevated character which has made possible the dotting of our commonwealth with these magnificent charitable institutions which are our pride and glory. We therefore submit this report to the respectful consideration of this General Assembly.

ED. P. SEEDS,

Committee on part of the Senate.

JAS. A. SMITH,

ED. HART,

Committee on part of the House.

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

EXHIBIT "A."

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

SOLDIERS' HOME

AT

MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA.

Number.	NAME.	WHEN EMPLOYED.	DUTY.	RATE.
1	J. R. Bowman	June 1, 1888	Superintendent	\$100.00
2	M. A. Bowman	June 1, 1888	Matron	50.00
3	L. L. Woodard	November 25, 1888	Matron assistant	30.00
4	W. J. Harritt	November 21, 1880	Book-keeper	35.00
5	C. E. Mitchell	October 30, 1886	Matron cottage No. 1	22.00
6	Jennie Linn	February 1, 1888	Matron cottage No. 2	22.00
7	H. T. Wamboldt	September 1, 1888	Matron cottage No. 3	22.00
8	Nettie Wylie	September 2, 1880	Matron cottage No. 4	22.00
9	A. F. Mead	.....	Matron cottage No. 5	22.00
10	L. A. Anderson	October 11, 1887	Matron cottage No. 6	22.00
11	H. A. Will	June 17, 1889	Matron cottage No. 7	22.00
12	L. Madden	August 18, 1888	Matron cottage No. 8	22.00
13	E. R. Little	May 12, 1882	Matron cottage No. 9	22.00
14	M. Worthington	August 17, 1888	Matron cottage No. 10	22.00
15	L. Cox	May 1, 1888	Matron cottage No. 11	22.00
16	S. E. Brown	September 1, 1887	Matron cottage No. 13	22.00
17	M. L. Bailey	October 1, 1889	Matron cottage No. 14	22.00
18	Emma Blackwood	.....	Matron cottage No. 15	22.00
19	E. Porter	September 28, 1888	Matron cottage No. 18	22.00
20	S. C. Buck	September 2, 1889	Principal of school	25.00
21	Lillie Bundy	September 4, 1889	Teacher	25.00
22	L. M. Cooper	October 27, 1887	Teacher	25.00
23	M. M. Sullivan	September 2, 1889	Teacher	25.00
24	N. L. Louck	September 2, 1889	Teacher	25.00
25	M. G. Murphy	September 2, 1889	Teacher	25.00
26	C. B. Roe	September 2, 1889	Teacher	25.00
27	G. E. Griffith	December 1, 1888	Teacher of music	12.50
28	Hattie Mead	August 8, 1889	Dining hall manager	45.00
29	Alice Hicks	September 17, 1889	Kitchen manager	20.00
30	S. C. Cunningham	September 1, 1889	Cook	15.00
31	Mrs. D. Enoch	.....	Kitchen help	10.00
32	Lida Damon	March 1, 1889	Kitchen help	8.00
33	M. Cahill	September 4, 1888	Sewing room manager	20.00
34	Augusta Chancellor	September 10, 1889	Seamstress	12.00
35	L. T. Smith	August 26, 1888	Seamstress	12.00
36	Amie Cahill	November 1, 1889	Seamstress	12.00
37	N. B. Smith	October 16, 1889	Seamstress	12.00
38	A. Brotherton	May 1, 1889	Nurse	40.00
39	Mary Mulron	September 16, 1888	Laundry manager	20.00
40	Maggie Mulron	August 10, 1877	Laundress	12.00
41	K. E. McCabe	November 1, 1888	Laundress	12.00
42	Frank Traeger	October 8, 1889	Baker	36.00
43	I. H. Hugman	March 24, 1887	Shoemaker	36.00
44	D. Enoch	December 1, 1888	Carpenter	30.00
45	Hans Solvovs	September 16, 1888	Farmer	24.00
46	W. A. Hyde	.....	Watchman	15.00
47	D. C. Eldridge	December 3, 1889	Fireman	30.00
48	N. E. Lee	.....	.....	.....

NOTE—In addition to these salaries they are furnished house, board, room, washing, ironing, and rooms cared for.

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1889.