

The ability of parents to pay support of child in Institution is determined by Board of Supervisors of county of which said child is a resident.

All parents and guardians having children of this class, who are unable to pay tuition, are supported by the State, on receiving from the county board a certificate of their disability to pay said support.

At least three suits and changes of clothing are required when a pupil is admitted, and suitable clothing must be provided by the parents or county during said pupil's residence in Asylum.

O. W. ARCHIBALD, M. D.,

Supt. Asylum for Feeble-Minded Children, Glenwood, Iowa.

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
ASYLUM FOR FEEBLE MINDED CHILDREN
LOCATED AT
GLENWOOD.

[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

DES MOINES:
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1880.

REPORT

TO THE EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

YOUR Committee appointed to visit the Asylum for Feeble-Minded Children, at Glenwood, respectfully present the following report:

On the 3d and 4th instant, we visited the Asylum and made as careful an examination of the buildings, grounds, accounts, and general management of the institution, as our time would allow, giving special attention to the questions which we were required to answer by concurrent resolution of the General Assembly. We found that, in the opinion of your committee, the appropriations had been wisely and economically expended, and for the objects for which they were made; that there were no outstanding debts at the close of the biennial period, and that there had not been any diversion of funds.

The following table shows the names of all persons employed, the kind of service they severally perform, and the price paid each per month. All of these persons have their board, fuel, light, and washing, at the expense of the State. A child of the superintendent, about two years old, also boards in the institution. Aside from this child, there is no one not in the employ of the institution receiving anything excepting those for whose benefit the institution is maintained:

NAME.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE EMPLOYED.	Salary per month.
O. W. Archibald	Superintendent	\$ 100 00
Mrs. S. A. Archibald	Matron	33 33
Miss Jennie Van Dorin	Teacher	30 00
Miss Sabrina Archibald	Teacher	30 00
Miss Lucy Russell	Teacher	20 00
Miss Laura Baker	Teacher	20 00
A. C. Rogers	Clerk	35 00
Miss Emma Brown	Housekeeper	15 00
Miss Cordelia Barr	Supervisor	15 00
Mike Mahana	General work	20 00
Mrs. M. F. Martin	Seamstress	15 00
Miss Nettie Martin	Seamstress	12 00
Miss Sadie Wells	Attendant	12 00
Miss Andrea Hanson	Attendant	12 00
Miss Mamie De Vore	Attendant	12 00
Miss Miriam Libby	Nurse	12 00
Miss Phoenia Helton	Cook	12 00
Miss Maggie Helton	Cook	12 00
Miss Lena Hettrick	Ironing girl	12 00
Mrs. Eliza Gilpen	Laundress	15 00
Miss Dulcinea Stuart	Dining-room manager	12 00
Martin Lambert	Attendant	20 00
Joseph Robertson	Attendant	20 00
Frank E. Doyle	Attendant	20 00
Robert Burns	Outside man	18 00
William Martindale	Wood-cutter	10 00
T. K. Winter	Night watch	20 00

Your committee feel that they cannot speak too highly of the general management of the institution by those immediately in charge. They were surprised to witness what has already been accomplished in this institution in the way of improving the condition of the class of unfortunates for whose benefit it was founded. The fact has there been practically demonstrated that children who are so imbecile as to be unable to walk about or to feed themselves, or of themselves to supply their simplest wants, can be taught, not only to wait upon themselves, but to become self-supporting by their labor; while not a few of them can be taught the rudiments of an English education.

In the minds of the committee the duty of the State to support the institution does not admit of a doubt. To the regret of the committee the report of the Trustees had not been issued so that we could have the benefit of it in our examinations.

The advance sheets of a portion of one copy was all they had, and that was borrowed of the Superintendent. For most of the facts of interest in relation to the institution, we refer to that report.

We examined and compared the books, and all the vouchers relat-

ing to some of the funds, and nearly all those relating to all the other funds except the support fund, and found them all correct. As to the support fund we simply examined the books and the quarterly settlements made with the Treasurer by the Superintendent and County Auditor, as provided in the act of the Sixteenth General Assembly, creating the institution. These settlements had been regularly made as provided by law and were apparently correct, and were certified by the County Auditor. As it was impracticable at the time to examine fifteen or eighteen hundred bills, each containing numerous items, and as the balances on the books agreed with those statements of settlement we assumed they were correct.

It is proper to say that after the special appropriation for repairs was exhausted accidental breakages and other incidental demands were met by money taken from the support fund; but in the opinion of the committee this was fully warranted by the law, which provides that the fund is for the *support of the institution*.

We also think it right to call the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that the law does not in terms declare how the pupils shall be clothed, nor whether private pupils shall be clothed as well as supported in other respects by the State, on the payment by the parent or guardian of the amount allowed for the monthly support of other pupils.

The Trustees of the institution have construed the law for support not to include clothing. Accordingly, the actual cost of clothing furnished private pupils has been charged to the parents, in addition to \$10.00 per month; and for clothing furnished other pupils, bills have been made out against the counties from which the pupils came. These bills have almost uniformly been paid by the several counties, and the amount has been passed to the support fund from which the money had been taken to purchase the clothing. The committee find that \$2,518.33 were expended for clothing during the biennial period. That of this amount \$1,073.73 had been repaid by counties, and \$538.15 by private persons, before the close of the period; that at the close of the period there was charged to counties \$582.10, most of which has since been paid, and there is still due from private persons, for clothing, \$262.43. The balance of \$61.92 to be accounted for to make up the sum of \$2,518.33, probably represents the amount of clothing and material on hand at the close of the biennial period; but as no invoice was made of the amount on hand at that time this cannot be proved,

though we are informed that there was some material and clothing on hand at that date.

The committee found that there were in attendance 144 pupils, which is more than can be well accommodated with the present conveniences. Every available place is occupied with beds, and still in very many cases two pupils are compelled to sleep on the narrow beds designed for only one.

The school rooms are as full as they can be, and yet there are about twenty boys of a low grade who have no place and no teacher, and who can have only such instruction as an attendant, who is not a teacher, can give for a short time each day.

There are only four teachers in the institution, while there surely ought to be eight, in order to be able to obtain the best results, and with less than six it is hardly possible to get along.

We examined the hogs and cows belonging to the State, at the Asylum, and find them in excellent condition, showing that they were well cared for.

By reference to the report of the Trustees, it will be seen that a majority of them are of the opinion that the institution should be removed to a different location. In this opinion your committee concur. Some of the reasons for our opinion are the following. 1st. There is no water available for the use of the institution except it be pumped from a well 125 deep. To do this, and carry the water up into a tank so as to supply the building, requires a pressure of about seventy-five pounds to the square inch. The institution is provided with a wind-mill to do this pumping, but it requires so strong a breeze to work it that much of the time the pumping must be done by hand; besides all this, it is very doubtful whether sufficient water for the prospective needs of the institution can be got even at that depth. If the institution is to remain where it is, a steam engine to do the pumping will be a necessity.

2d. There is no coal nearer than 140 miles, and the institution is heated with twenty-four wood stoves. It is plain that such an institution ought not to be so heated, both on account of the danger of fire and the danger to the lower grades of pupils. At present, in some rooms wire screens to keep children from falling against the stoves have to be maintained.

Nothing seems clearer to the committee than that when the institution comes to be heated with steam, we shall have to use coal as fuel.

3d. There is no sewerage. The Trustees report that a sewer 1300 feet long might be constructed, emptying into the creek; but this would have to be built across lands not owned by the State nearly the whole way, and would compel, no doubt, the purchase of the lands. Such a sewer, if built, would be likely to fill up unless there were a sufficient water supply to frequently flush the sewer, and this there is not, and we doubt if there could be, even if an engine were provided to do the pumping. The creek into which the proposed sewer would empty is rather a sluggish one, and from the place where the sewer would enter flows along south and west of the town of Glenwood, and not far from it. Thus it will be seen that in the summer season, when the water is apt to be low and the weather hot, the prevailing south-west winds would carry the poisonous exhalations directly toward the town, to the great danger, your committee believe, of the lives and health of the inhabitants.

4th. More land is absolutely necessary to give employment to the boys, and to make it possible to keep a sufficient number of cows to supply the institution with milk, which is an essential article of diet for many of the children. At present the State owns only fifteen acres, and this is not fortunately located. The road to the Asylum is across private property, which the owner is about to fence up. It is true there is still a way to reach the land without crossing private grounds, but it is not convenient. More land can be bought adjoining at from \$30 to \$40 dollars per acre, and residents allege the soil is good; but it is rough and stumpy, and such as no one of your committee would buy for his own use, unless compelled by circumstances.

It will therefore be understood that the recommendations by the committee are made on the theory that the State ought not to put any more money into improvements there than will just suffice for present necessities. What we recommend is not what will meet the wants of the institution, but only what we think ought to be appropriated on the theory above stated. And we believe it would be best for the State to immediately decide the question, whether the present location of the institution shall be the permanent one or not.

One other reason, not heretofore mentioned, for the removal, is the fact that the land of private parties comes up to within a few feet of the main building; and when the new building authorized by the last General Assembly came to be built it was absolutely necessary to buy some ground. Two acres were bought and deeded to the State, but as

there was no fund from which the payment could be legally made, O. W. Archibald, the Superintendent, advanced the money, \$125, which sum, with interest, ought to be repaid. The Superintendent has also, at his own expense, provided a team for the use of the institution ever since it was opened, and a portion of the time two teams while it was necessary to haul the water from town. The team has, however, been fed at the expense of the State.

A team, with a spring wagon suitable for marketing and for carrying the children and guests to and from the depot, your committee regard as a necessity. If the State would furnish a spring wagon, and an arrangement could be made with the Superintendent to keep and use his own team for a reasonable compensation, that would, in the opinion of the committee, be the best thing for the State. Your committee judge a suitable spring wagon could be procured for one hundred and twenty-five dollars; and they estimate that a team and harness, if these have to be bought, would cost two hundred and thirty dollars more.

There is no safe about the institution, and a fire might consume all the books and papers belonging to the institution. We recommend that a fire-proof safe be purchased at a price not to exceed two hundred dollars.

The roof of the old building and much of the plastering, and perhaps some of the floors, will have to be renewed during the biennial period. We recommend for these and other necessary repairs the sum of one thousand dollars.

The distance between the two buildings is about twenty-five yards. Most of the boys sleep in the second story of the new building. Thus in going to bed at night and when they get up and come to wash in the morning, as well as whenever the pupils pass to or from the school-room in the day time, they have to go out of doors. This exposure, even for a few moments, of persons of such low vitality as many of the pupils, your committee think, with the Trustees, must be hurtful. We recommend an appropriation for the purpose of building a covered passage between the buildings. The Trustees ask for five hundred dollars, and we are not sure that this is too much.

The appropriation asked for, for furniture, bedding, etc., we think ought to be allowed. The carpets are several of them worn out, and the bedding they now have would be insufficient were not fires kept up all night.

We think the State, unless it is determined to let the institution permanently remain where it is, ought not to put in steam heating nor build nearly so expensive a cow barn as that asked for by the trustees. We think a suitable shed for the cows can be built on the hillside for one hundred and fifty dollars. Additional school-books and furniture will be needed, and ought to be furnished by the State. The law should be made definite as to how the children are to be clothed. Water must be had, and in view of the great depth from which it must be pumped from the well, and the great advantage in having soft water for the hot water boiler and for bathing and other uses, we think the cheapest and best way is to build one or more large cisterns. There is great need for more room for laundry and a room for drying clothes in bad weather when they cannot be dried out of doors.

Your committee are of the opinion that we ought not to expect 144 children to be properly bathed if we furnish no better opportunity than common tubs to be carried when used to the play rooms, and the water to be carried in pails. If a small room were fitted up with bath-tubs, with proper hot and cold water pipes, as might easily and cheaply be done now that they have a range with boiler, we think the good done would much more than pay. The institution is now supplied with good bread at an expense of less than \$9.00 per capita per year. Your committee are perfectly satisfied that this is cheaper than to provide an oven and a baker, and buy fuel and flour. We do not therefore recommend an appropriation for an oven.

We think the institution needs and ought to have, even in these hard times, for the next biennial period the following:

For salaries and wages.....	\$ 7500
For corridor.....	500
For cisterns.....	500
For repairs.....	1000
For furniture and bedding.....	2500
For cows.....	200
For laundry.....	300
For cow stable.....	150
For buggy.....	125
For team and harness.....	230
For books and school furniture.....	500
For safe.....	200
To reimburse Dr. Archibald for money paid for land.....	140

\$13845

And now, in submitting our report, permit us again to say that for the opportunities, we think the management is admirable, and the institution one of the most worthy of support of any in the State.

The kindness and attention shown to these poor unfortunate ones by Superintendent, officers and teachers, seem to your committee to merit great praise.

R. M. HAINES,

On the part of the Senate.

B. T. SEAMAN,

J. W. HAYDEN,

Com. on part of the House.

REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT UPON THE QUESTION OF THE
REMOVAL OF THE ASYLUM FOR FEEBLE-MINDED
CHILDREN FROM GLENWOOD.

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