

We therefore recommend the adoption of the resolution herewith presented:

Resolved, That the seat held in this Senate by John W. Henderson, from the 27th Senatorial District be and the same is hereby declared vacant.

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

STATE FISH HATCHING HOUSE,

LOCATED AT

ANAMOSA.

[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

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F. M. MILLS, STATE PRINTER.
1880.

REPORT.

Report of the Joint Committee of the Eighteenth General Assembly appointed to visit the State Hatching House at Anamosa.

TO THE EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

YOUR committee appointed to visit the State Hatching House at Anamosa, respectfully report as follows:

On the 5th day of February, 1880, we discharged the duty assigned to us. We found the Hatching House situated about three miles from Anamosa, in Jones county, in a beautiful wooded gien, on twenty acres of land owned by the State.

A summary of the result of our observations and inquiries may be given, as follows, without any great reference to system:

The appropriation by the Seventeenth General Assembly seems to have been expended strictly according to the terms thereof. The appropriation was for the continuance of the work of propagation and distribution of fish, and did not authorize any buildings or permanent improvements.

The books of the Commissioner are kept in great detail as to all transactions and expenditures, and were found to be correct.

All bills were approved by the executive council.

The committee are unanimous in the belief that Commissioner Shaw is thoroughly competent for the position he holds, and that he is scrupulous and conscientious in expenditures of appropriations for his department. He has apparently managed the affairs of the Hatching House, as carefully as he would had the establishment been his own. Your committee are not prepared to express an opinion as to the value of the work of the commission to the State at large, other members of the General Assembly can judge of that

matter as well as the undersigned, but we believe that all the affairs pertaining to the Hatching House are well and skillfully managed. There is considerable evidence, however, that the people of the State are taking interest in the work of the commission, and desire that work continued.

Letters pertaining to the fish business reach the Commissioner at the rate of from seventy-five to one hundred per month, nearly all such letters being from citizens of the State.

As to employes, committee report:

Mr. G. F. Slocum, the Commissioner's assistant, is employed all the time, receiving \$45 per month. He occupies the residence above the Hatching House free of rent. He also cuts his wood from the States' land, and uses a piece of ground which he has cleaned of brush, for a garden. He is allowed five dollars per month additional for hauling fish feed, and seventy-five cents to one dollar per trip for hauling fish when they are to be shipped. Mrs. G. F. Slocum is occasionally employed in the Hatching House at seventy-five cents per day, when her services are needed. Mr. E. R. Shaw, the Commissioner's son, is occasionally employed, when work is urgent at \$35 per month. He was employed but little during the biennial period just past.

The expenditures of the commission for the past two years aggregated \$5,838.56, leaving a balance of \$848.20 on hands.

A fair estimate of the property of the State may be given as follows:

Twenty acres of land, worth probably.....	\$ 450 00
Hatching house 20x40 feet, with dwelling up stairs.....	1500 00
Three ponds walled with stone	200 00
Tanks and reservoirs.....	200 00
Barn with stone basement.....	250 00
Root house	100 00
House containing food-cooker, boiler, etc.....	50 00
Other outbuildings.....	75 00
Nets, seines, cans, tubs, dishes, etc., used on trips to the river after fish	400 00
Total	\$ 3225 00

The Commissioner in response to the committee's inquiry, stated the number of fish on hand to be about as follows:

Two thousand two and a-half year old salmon trout; 1,000 two year old salmon; 200 two year old brook trout; 15,000 one year old salmon trout, brook trout, and land-lock salmon; 350,000 young salmon trout; 100,000 young brook trout; 25,000 young land-lock salmon; also 20,000 brook trout eggs, taken from fish in the hatching house.

Fish were distributed during the past two years, as follows:

Mississippi river, natives, 1878.....	2,648,500
Inland water, natives, 1878.....	641,500
Shad, 1878.....	100,000
Lake trout, 1878.....	619,000
Lake trout, 1879.....	411,000
Salmon	281,510
Land-locked salmon.....	15,000
Brook trout.....	66,300
Fish at hatching house.....	25,000
Salmon trout eggs.....	500,000
Total	5,307,800

The only permanent improvements made about the premises, during the biennial period, may be enumerated as follows: A small frame shed in which to cook fish food, the lumber for which cost \$13; a food cooker costing \$11; a cellar built in the hillside by Mr. Slocum, without cost to the State.

Respectfully submitted.

LAFAYETTE YOUNG,
Com. of the Senate.

J. B. BELFRAGE,
Com. of the House.

NOTE—Hon. Z. T. Fisher, of the House, appointed as a member of this committee, received a telegram, after reaching Anamosa, announcing the death of his grand-child, at Red Oak, and started homeward on the first train, as affection prompted, and therefore was not able to visit the Hatching House. Hence, his name does not appear to this report.