

stored to their friends and society, and not a few have risen to eminence as men of genius and culture. It is also worthy of special remark, that not a solitary instance has appeared in history, of a congenital mute, educated by articulation, who has risen to any prominence. The fact has also some significance, that the most successful articulators of whom the world has heard, have resorted to other methods of communication in intercourse with their familiar friends. Saboureaux de Fontenai, the favorite pupil of Pereira, who was a cotemporary of De l'Epee, was exhibited before the Academy of Sciences at Paris, for his ability to articulate, yet he was in the habit of conversing with his friends by spelling and writing. Lowe, the celebrated pupil of Dr. Watson, and a deaf mute barrister of London, informed Dr. Peet that his usual mode of communication with his family was by the fingers, and with strangers by writing. The practical value of articulation as a means of easy communication with hearing persons, is revealed by such facts more forcibly than theory can do, and it would seem to prove that it gives but a slight return for the immense labor it costs to acquire it.

Although, as already intimated, the introduction of deaf-mute instruction into this country, dates something more than fifty years after its permanent establishment in Europe, yet the work has been here most intelligently and successfully pursued. We have taken hold of this great interest with the good sense and practical wisdom which is characteristic of our people. In several particulars, I think, we may claim for our Institutions a pre-eminence over those of any other country in the world.

REPORT  
OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
STATE OF IOWA,  
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE  
INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB,  
LOCATED AT  
COUNCIL BLUFFS.

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[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

DES MOINES:  
F. M. MILLS, STATE PRINTER.  
1880.

## REPORT.

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TO THE EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

YOUR joint committee, appointed to visit the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, have made a careful examination of its condition and management, and submit the following report:

The main building has been substantially completed, and of the \$40,000 appropriated therefor, by the Seventeenth General Assembly, only \$34,322.92 has been expended in its construction. It has been built in pursuance of the original design, which provided for another wing, and it is not now in all respects as convenient as could be desired. With the building as now constructed, we are unable to see how any more judicious arrangements can be made for the convenience of all concerned than such as now exist.

We deem it unfortunate, that the girls are now compelled to occupy the fifth floor for sleeping apartments, but until the east wing is rebuilt it will be impracticable to remedy this inconvenience without causing a greater one. We understand that the east wing can be rebuilt, and the whole Institution completed as contemplated in the original design, at a cost not exceeding \$30,000.

The building is supplied with water and gas, and warmed by steam.

In case of fire, there are provisions for water, with suitable hose upon each floor in both the main building and wing, and arrangements have also been made so that in case of fire upon any floor of the main building the occupants can escape through the wing. Fire escapes are also provided for the main building which are accessible from each floor.

Portions of the walls of the east wing are still standing, and its foundations are probably as good as before the fire.

The west wing is now used for study and recitation rooms, and sleeping apartments for the boys. There is in this wing one large room, now used as a study and recitation room, which is not provided with sufficient heating apparatus to make it warm and comfortable in the coldest weather. We are of the opinion that this difficulty can be remedied by the use of "storm," or double windows, and that such change should be made. The room, however, in its present condition, can be kept comfortable except during the coldest weather when the wind is strong from the west or north. The main building is supplied with sufficient heating facilities, except, that possibly, some of the large rooms on the north may need larger or additional radiators.

There is a basement, a short distance from the main building, in which are two large boilers now used for heating the buildings. It seems to have been the design to build upon, or above this basement a building for laundry purposes. This, we understand, can be done at a cost not exceeding \$5,500. This building should be completed as soon as practicable. As now arranged there is a boiler with pumps in the brick workshop for the purpose of supplying water for the reservoir and hot water for laundry purposes. Such change should be made so as to have this work all done in the basement, by means of which the services of one man could be dispensed with and a large saving made in the fuel account.

From examination made in compliance with your instructions, your committee are of the opinion that the appropriations made by the last General Assembly have been wisely and economically expended; that they have been expended for the objects for which they were appropriated; that there has been no indebtedness contracted in excess of the appropriations made for said institution, and that there has been no diversion of money from the specific purpose for which it was drawn out of the State treasury.

Your committee would commend the treasurer, Mr. Stubenrauch, for the business-like and systematic manner in which he has kept his accounts with the institution.

Exhibit "A" hereto attached and made a part hereof contains a list of the names of the persons employed, the purpose for which

employed, and the amount which each one receives for his or her services. The employes receive no other or greater salary than is shown in said exhibit.

Your committee have given especial consideration to the complaints which have been made regarding the diet, and care of the children, and the general charges of mismanagement. We have taken the testimony, under oath, of several persons, both in and out of the institution, some of whom have made complaints and others of whom were not especially friendly to the present management, and we are led to believe that the quantity of food furnished has been ample, and that the quality and variety have been equal to if not superior to that enjoyed by a majority of the children of the State. One of the teachers who had been connected with similar institutions in New York and Michigan stated that "the food provided our children compares well with, and I am inclined to think is better than that furnished in similar institutions in other States." The bread is furnished by a baker in Council Bluffs who stated under oath that he provided them with the same kind that he furnished to his city customers, that he used the best spring or winter wheat flour and that he never adulterated it with alum.

The bedding is of good quality and sufficient in quantity. The Assistant Matron informed us, under oath, that she had always been able to supply all demands for extra bedding.

For a time the gas furnished was of such poor quality that there was just cause for complaint. This was owing to the inefficiency of the person employed in the gas house; but this difficulty has been fully overcome and the gas now manufactured is good in quality and ample to furnish good and abundant light for all necessary purposes.

The range now in use is in a broken and dilapidated condition and should at once be exchanged for a new one.

The grounds about the buildings are at present in an unattractive condition. Some effort should be made to improve and beautify them, and the surroundings of these unfortunate children should be made more pleasant and attractive.

As a rule we believe that the teachers and matrons are faithful and zealous in the discharge of their duties. They seem to fully

realize the importance of their respective positions, and they labor with an enthusiasm seldom seen in our public schools.

For some time the school was without an articulation teacher; but one has recently been employed, and is already at work.

The children seem to be healthy, happy and contented. They are eager to learn and seem to make the best use of their opportunities. Their progress, in the acquisition of knowledge, is all that the most sanguine could expect.

Concerning the management of the institution, your Committee are frank to suggest that they believe that the Superintendent has not hitherto been sufficiently self-reliant and decisive in proposing and enforcing such rules and regulations as are desirable for the government of an institution of this character. We are constrained to believe that if he had displayed more self-reliance and firmness in asserting his opinions and conclusions, and more vigor and boldness in carrying them forward, his relations with the teachers and pupils would have been quite as pleasant and his usefulness increased. His position has been by no means an enviable one. He assumed control of the institution as the representative of a new order of things—the master of a period of economy and retrenchment. It was very natural for the teachers and pupils to refuse to heartily indorse the new system of economy, and equally natural that they should not be pre-prejudiced in favor of the representatives of this change of management.

When he took his present position he was not familiar with the habits and characteristics of this class of children, nor with the general management of institutions of this character. He had good grounds for believing that the friends of the old management, both in and out of the institution, did not deem it a religious duty to aid and assist him in his efforts to obtain a knowledge of the wants of the institution, and a favorable standing with the teachers and children. Under such circumstances it is quite probable that he has been inclined to be cautious and timid in the exercise of his authority. A bold and confident use of his powers, without submitting to the conflicting counsels of others, would have made his position easier to himself and better for all concerned.

We are informed and believe that as he becomes more familiar with the wants and needs of the institution he assumes more respon-

sibility, and is more confident and determined in the exercise of his authority. He has been uniformly kind and pleasant in his dealings with the teachers and children.

There is nothing harsh or tyrannical in his nature, and while he is at the head of the institution parents may rest assured that he will not permit their children to suffer for want of the comforts of life; nor will he allow them to be subjected to cruelty or ill treatment at the hands of others.

Some months ago the sewer was found to be defective, and, until repaired, its gases escaped into some of the rooms of the main building. We could not make such an examination as would enable us to speak with certainty, but we feel that it is quite probable that a new sewer will be required, or that at least considerable work will have to be done upon the old one before the meeting of the next General Assembly.

We therefore recommend an appropriation not exceeding \$1,000, to be used if, in the judgment of the Trustees that amount, or any part thereof, shall be needed to furnish a new sewer or repair the old one. We also recommend that there be appropriated for a new range, \$500; for improving the grounds, \$500; for building the laundry house and changing the boilers and pump, \$6,000; and for the teachers and official incumbents, \$11,000. The increase in the last-named fund is made necessary by the large increase in the number of scholars and the necessity for additional teachers.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. J. RUSSELL,  
J. F. GREENLEE,  
*Of the Senate.*

L. B. WADLEIGH,  
A. L. BEACH,  
N. S. HORNADAY,  
*Of the House.*

EXHIBIT "A."

Moses Folsom, Superintendent, \$800 per annum, with board and washing for himself, wife and child.  
J. A. Kennedy, teacher for nine months, \$650, board and washing.  
Mrs. J. A. Kennedy, temporary teacher, \$30 per month, board and washing.  
C. S. Zorbaugh, teacher, for nine months, \$675 and house rent.  
Edwin Southwick, teacher, nine months, \$500 and board.  
James Simpson, teacher, nine months, \$500 and board.  
M. B. Southwick, teacher, nine months, \$300 and board.  
Margaret Pollock, teacher, nine months, \$350 and board.  
F. C. Holloway, teacher, nine months, \$450 and board.  
Helen White, teacher, nine months, \$180 and board.  
F. C. Booth, teacher, nine months, \$450 and board,  
S. E. Wright, matron, yearly, \$400 and board.  
E. Willard, assistant matron, yearly, \$300 and board.  
Peter West, boys' supervisor, monthly, \$30 and board.  
A. Darnell, pumping engineer, monthly, \$25, board and house rent.  
A. Nevin, watchman, monthly, \$25, board and house rent.  
W. S. Wilkins, gasmaker, monthly, \$30, board and house rent.  
W. B. Heath, shoemaker, monthly, \$25, board and house rent.  
J. Neven, heating engineer, monthly, \$40.  
C. H. W. Brown, foreman broom and carpenter shop, monthly, \$50.  
F. Gall, kitchen boy, monthly, \$10 and board.  
R. C. Williams, barn man, monthly, \$25.  
M. S. Coe, seamstress, monthly, \$16.66 and board.  
M. E. Parsons, nurse, monthly, \$16.66 and board.  
Kate Harrington, pantry girl, monthly, \$15 and board.  
Hattie Henderson, cook, monthly, \$20 and board.  
Delia Hill, ironer, weekly, \$3 and board.  
Hannah Devine, assistant cook, weekly, \$3 and board.  
Nettie Oleson, laundry, weekly, \$3 and board.  
Christina Oleson, laundry, weekly, \$3 and board.  
Mary Starkey, laundry, weekly, \$3 and board.  
Julia Hande, laundry, monthly, \$7 and board.  
Emma Kirkendall, kitchen girl, weekly, \$2 and board.  
Christina Christensen, hall girl, weekly, \$2.50 and board.  
Nettie Lawson, hall girl, weekly, \$2.50 and board.  
Annie Lanning, hall girl, weekly, \$2.50 and board.  
Lizzie Bathurst, dining room, weekly, \$3 and board.  
Matilda Anderson, dining room, weekly, \$3 and board.  
Jennie Van Tassell, articulation teacher, monthly, \$45 and board.  
Lights, washing and fuel are furnished to nearly all of the teachers and employes.

FOURTEENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

IOWA COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND,

LOCATED AT VINTON, BENTON COUNTY,

TO THE

EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

OCTOBER, 1879.

[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

DES MOINES:  
F. M. MILLS, STATE PRINTER.  
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