

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.

[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

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

MAJORITY REPORT.

TO THE EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Your committee, appointed under concurrent resolution of the general assembly, with instructions "to consider and report upon the question of the removal of the asylum for feeble-minded children at Glenwood, whether or not such removal is desirable," after a careful examination of the buildings, grounds and adjacent territory, and study of the present and future needs and requirements of such institution, respectfully present the following as a majority report:

That in the class of persons known as idiotic, or feeble-minded, the physical training and development are as essential and necessary for their good and welfare as is their mental development and culture, and that the former is not only an aid, but in many cases a necessity, to success in the latter. That the variety of work in gardening and farming occupations, much of which requires neither skill nor very much judgment, is the best employment for feeble-minded persons. The asylum furnishes a market for the produce so raised, and such work becomes an element of economy in the annual expense of the institution. For which reasons we find that good farming land (in amounts proportioned to the size of the institution), adjacent thereto is a necessity for the successful management of such an institution, and is desirable as a measure of economy. The lands adjacent to the asylum as now located are entirely too rough and broken to fill the requirements of a farm for such an institution. That, as a more full and perfect knowledge of the object and capabilities of the institution is acquired by the people of the State, a very much larger percentage of the higher grade of feeble-minded persons will be sent to the institution; hence the pressing necessity for making suitable provision in time to meet the demand of this class for education in physical as well

as mental acquirements. That the increase of such higher grade will occur in the very near future, we think is evidenced by the fact that from Mills county (in which said institution is located) there were received eleven inmates—a much larger number than was received from the most populous counties of the State—many of whom are of the higher grade of such class, and that from many counties none are received but those of the lowest grade, in fact, proper inmates for a custodial and not for an educational institution of this character. This difference as to number we do not attribute to an increased number of such unfortunates in Mills county, but simply to the fact that by reason of their proximity to the institution, the citizens thereof have acquired a knowledge of the advantages to be derived from an attendance in the institution, and hence send a grade of such class as are not sent from other counties.

In regard to the matters of water supply, sewerage, and supply of fuel, we found substantially as stated in the report of the visiting committee, and the same are of very great importance, and that unquestionably a new location of the institution could be made much more advantageous in these particulars and with a saving in the annual expenses therein, than the present location. Yet we consider the same as at present located of secondary importance to the question of having a suitable farm attached to the institution, and the latter question alone was sufficient basis for our conclusion as hereinafter stated.

At the time of the present location of the institution, the same was in a measure experimental in its character, and the expediency of establishing same was questioned by many, and the needs and requirements of such an institution was fully understood by few or none, hence the same were located in buildings owned by the State, designed for other purposes, and but illy adapted for the purposes of such an institution, and the same with the additions and improvements made since the location, are wholly inadequate to meet the present demands and requirements made upon the institution. And we are of opinion that within a very few years room and accommodation for five hundred inmates will be required; that to remodel and add to the present buildings to meet such requirement, will cost as much as to erect new buildings.

We, therefore, find that the "removal" of the Asylum for Feeble-Minded children, at Glenwood, "is desirable," and that for the perfect success of the institution in the purposes for which it was established, its removal is an absolute requisite.

C. HEDGES,
JOHN RUSSELL,
On part of Senate.

W. S. RUSSELL,
On part of the House.

MINORITY REPORT.

The minority of the special committee to visit the institution for the feeble-minded at Glenwood, with reference to removal, report that they are opposed to the removal of that institution, for the following reasons:

First—The State has established the plan and policy of scattering the various institutions in the different localities in the State, instead of concentrating them at the capital, or other central location; and this institution and the deaf and dumb asylum are the only institutions located in the western half of the State, while several millions of state funds have been expended in the eastern portion of the State in constructing public institutions.

Second—For health and beauty of location and pure drinking water no better location than the present could be found in the State. The buildings are erected on a hill, above the low and malarial grounds, where an abundance of pure air, so necessary for this class of persons, is supplied; and the location is as sightly as that on which the new capitol building is now being erected. A careful examination of the facilities for procuring water satisfies us that an abundant supply can be easily furnished by deepening the present well, or by means of a steam pump located not over six or seven hundred feet from the building, to be supplied from a never-failing stream. Fuel is as cheap as at most of the institutions of the State, the price of good dry wood being at the present time but \$2.50 per cord, and coal mines producing the best quality of coal, with veins six feet in thickness, located on the line of the C., B. & Q. R. R. only about 120 miles distant, thus requiring no change in transportation on different lines of road and extra expense caused thereby to furnish an abundant supply of coal.

Third—The opportunities for complete and perfect drainage by means of a sewer are afforded by the elevated grounds and the close proximity of a running stream of water.

Fourth—The location, taking all things into consideration, we believe to be better than the average location of the other State institutions; and judging the future by the past, as to the locations of these institutions, we believe it to be better than would be secured by a re-location. While an individual mind might perhaps have selected

better locations for every public institution in the State, we are satisfied that in the scramble of different localities the chances would be against securing a better location for this institution by legislative action.

Fifth—The fifteen acres of land now owned by the State, and about ten acres more offered to the State for the sum of three hundred dollars, gives an easy ascent to the building and the right-of-way from the public streets of the town, and furnishes a beautiful grove for the pleasure grounds for the inmates of the institution.

Sixth—The land adjacent to the land owned by the State is what is known as the alluvial deposit of the Missouri Slope, and surpasses in fertility the average quality of the rich prairie land of the State, and while lands in other localities might be procured for farming purposes more desirable than these lands, yet we see no serious objection in this respect, as from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and sixty acres of land, adjacent to the land owned by the State, of good quality and mostly in a good state of cultivation, can be purchased by the State for thirty dollars per acre. This, we think, would afford an abundant supply of land for farming purposes, and for keeping the necessary stock to furnish the institution a sufficient supply of milk and meat. We are frank to say that we have but little confidence in the plan of carrying on a farm by the inmates of this school. We are of the opinion that to do this would require an attendant for every two or three persons engaged in the business, and that the probable expense would decrease rather than increase the revenues of the State.

Seventh—To remove the institution would require a sacrifice of from thirty to forty thousand dollars of State property, and would necessitate the expenditure of as much more to replace this property at another point. The loss to the State would, in our judgment, overbalance any advantages which would arise by a re-location, even if that change could be made to the most available point in the State. The land now owned by the State was donated by the citizens of Mills county, and while this is but of slight importance, it should be considered in any change of location.

T. R. STOCKTON.

J. F. DUNCOMBE.