

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE
NINETEENTH 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.

DES MOINES:
F. M. MILLS, STATE PRINTER.
1882.

REPORT.

To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Your committee, appointed to visit the State Fish-hatching House at Anamosa, beg leave to report that they have discharged the duties required by said appointment.

The committee visited the Hatching-house on the 31st day of January and found it well located some three miles from the town of Anamosa on a tract of twenty acres of land belonging to the State. The buildings are not large, but seem to be well adapted for their designed use. The chief building is 20x40 feet in size, two stories high, with an addition 12x12 feet. The first story of the main part is chiefly occupied by hatching and feeding troughs and appurtenances necessary to their proper use. The remainder of the building is occupied by Mr. G. F. Slocum as a dwelling. In addition to the above are a small wooden building, in which fish food is prepared, a small barn and sheds. The entire establishment was found to be in excellent condition, excepting the addition to the main building, which was not entirely completed. This has been constructed within the last two years at an expense of less than one hundred dollars, and is a needed improvement. Several ponds well stocked with fish of different kinds and sizes are adjacent to the fish house, and a series of carp ponds is nearly completed. The addition to the house and various fish ponds were made without other expense to the State than the cost of the materials on the ground. In the judgment of the committee a small sum could be advantageously used to finish the addition and for painting and repairs.

After a careful examination of the establishment and of the results thus far achieved, the committee conclude that the Fish Commission has been a wise investment on the part of the State, and should be continued. Although it has been in operation but a few years it has demonstrated the fact that the depleted waters of the State can be successfully stocked, not only with native fish, but also with varieties of great value not heretofore found in Iowa waters. Thus far it has cost the State for each fish distributed, about one mill. In this amount is included the cost of all property belonging to the Commission.

A valuable result of the Commission has been the stimulation of

fish raising by private parties. The Commissioner is in constant receipt of large numbers of inquiries from all parts of the State in regard to the construction of private fish ponds and the propagation of fish therein, and the number of such ponds, with the aid the Commissioner is enabled to give is largely increasing.

In regard to special matters upon which you have required us to report, we have to say that in our judgment the appropriations made by the last General Assembly have been wisely and economically expended, and for the objects for which appropriated so far as used.

The sum of \$1,330.08 remained unused on the date of our visit, for reasons explained by the Commissioner in his report. No indebtedness in excess of appropriations has been contracted, nor has there been any diversion of money from the specific purpose for which drawn from the State treasury. Besides the Commissioner, who is paid a stated salary of \$1,200 per annum without other compensation, only one person is regularly employed. Mr. Slocum is constantly employed at forty five dollars per month, and in addition is furnished comfortable quarters for himself and family and is permitted to obtain his firewood from the land of the State. In view of the valuable service rendered by Mr. Slocum, we consider his compensation moderate. Occasionally extra help is needed, and in such cases it is paid for by the day or job.

While the committee found no fire-escapes, they believe reasonable precaution has been taken against fire, and that the danger therefrom is not great.

We deem it unnecessary to set out in detail the work of this Commission during the last two years. This has been done in the report of the Commissioner, excepting as to operations carried on since October last, but in conclusion we would say that we believe the present Commissioner to be a faithful, efficient, and very zealous officer, and that his continuance in office would be to the great advantage of the State.

Respectfully submitted,

G. S. ROBINSON,

On the part of the Senate.

E. L. LEMERT,

ELVIN TILTON,

On the part of the House.

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