

## REPORT.

---

*To the Members of the Sixteenth General Assembly:*

GENTLEMEN:—Your Committee appointed to visit the Hospital for the Insane at Independence would say that they have discharged that duty, and respectfully submit the following report:

That so far as the building has progressed, we find that everything indicates the most thorough, substantial and durable work; that only the best material has been used in its construction, and we are glad to say that we believe the selection of persons to superintend the same has been wise.

Our examination of the books and accounts has not been as scrutinizing as it might have been but for the fact that duplicates of all matters pertaining to the institution are accessible to all, at all times, at the office of the Auditor of State.

We devoted much time to the examination of the wards of the patients, and found them cleanly, well warmed and ventilated. It seemed to us that every possible care had been taken to provide for the safety and comfort of the inmates.

We freely give it as our opinion that the methods, rules and discipline of the various departments are in a great degree proper and necessary.

At present the institution is in a crowded state, and as the center building is still unfinished and only the first and second stories in condition for use, we respectfully suggest that this part of the building be at once finished, and thus make room for fifty more patients, and in this connection further suggest that some plan be made by which the institution be further relieved by the removal of that class of inmates known as "incurables, imbeciles, weak-minded and harmless patients" to some place other than the Insane Hospital proper.

Safety and economy seem to demand a better system for lighting the hospital. The present facilities are not sufficient to insure the inmates

against accident and danger. And we believe that the appliances for the manufacture of gas should be at once procured.

A generous supply of water, so necessary to all, is especially so in institutions of the character here considered. Thus far the supply has been adequate, but with additional demands which will accrue we are confident that another reservoir should be made to obviate any possibility of failure in the supply of water, either by drought or otherwise.

We cannot close this report without referring to the fact of the suspension of work at this time, with less than one-third the expense of the contemplated buildings to be made, and that its completion will give place for more than double the present number of patients.

We believe humanity and economy alike demand the vigorous prosecution of the work, and further think provision should be made by enactment for the continuation of the work when again construction is commenced.

J. H. MERRILL,

*On the part of the Senate.*

A. M. GILTNER,

L. BROWN,

*On the part of the House.*

---

[No. 20*a*.]

FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Commissioners of the Hospital  
FOR THE  
INSANE AT INDEPENDENCE.

---



## COMMISSIONERS REPORT.

---

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, CYRUS C. CARPENTER, *Governor of the State of Iowa:*

The Commissioners appointed by an act of the general assembly entitled an "Act to permanently locate and to provide for the erection of an additional institution for the insane," beg leave to submit the following report of their action in relation to that institution, and the expenditure of the appropriation of seventy-five thousand nine hundred dollars made by the last legislature for the purpose of completing the work already commenced on the hospital for the insane at Independence.

Since the date of their last report, the commissioners have prosecuted the work, already commenced, provided for in the appropriation, under the supervision of Mr. Josselyn, the Superintendent of the building. His report, which is herewith submitted, contains an account of the progress of the work and of the present condition of the building.

The report of the Hon. Geo. W. Bemis, treasurer of the hospital, is also herewith submitted, which contains a statement of the funds received from the state treasury, and an account of the disbursement of the same; from which it appears that the whole appropriation has been exhausted with the exception of \$1,679.12, which will be absorbed by an outstanding claim.

It is evident that this whole work might have been done, and the whole building might have been made as fit for occupancy a year ago as it is now, had not the legislature limited the commissioners to the expenditure of forty thousand dollars in the year 1874.

The whole sum appropriated by the legislature for the construction of the hospital, from the beginning to the present time, amounts to five hundred and sixty-five thousand nine hundred dollars. The great cost of this building, so greatly exceeding the expectation of the commissioners, has been explained in their former reports. But it has been chiefly owing to the enormous quantities of irredeemable, depreciated



paper money, with which the country has been inundated which has enhanced the prices of all building material and the wages of labor. The north wing is now entirely finished, and all the rooms ready for occupancy.

In very cold weather in the winter, when the wind is in the west or north-west, the hospital standing on the highest ground in the vicinity, the wind is driven with such force through the crevices around the windows, that it is almost impossible to keep some of the rooms in the north wing warm and comfortable, and the patients are in danger of suffering from cold. To prevent this, and at the same time, to save expense in fuel, it is indispensable that double windows should be introduced into the north side of the transverse sections and into the west side of the longitudinal sections of this wing. This arrangement was not contemplated in the original plan, but experience has shown that the comfort of the patients, as well as economy, require it.

The central building is so far finished that the several offices on the first floor, (indeed, the whole of the first floor,) are occupied, and also the apartments assigned to the families of the superintendent and steward on the second floor. The carpentry and the painting in the rooms above remain to be done. The main stairway is in use, but the hand rail for it is yet to be made and put in its place, and the portico over the main entrance and the steps approaching it are to be constructed. When this work is done, and the south wing constructed, the hospital will be finished complete, according to the original design.

We estimate the cost of the work mentioned on the central building, and putting in the double windows in the north wing, at fifteen thousand dollars, and the cost of the construction of the south wing, according to the plans and specifications adopted, at three hundred thousand dollars. It, therefore, seems expedient to the commissioners in order to finish the hospital with all its appointments and conveniences, to recommend to the general assembly to appropriate annually one hundred thousand dollars for three years.

This hospital, according to the original design, was intended to have the same capacity for patients as that at Mount Pleasant, to accommodate three hundred patients. But, with this limited capacity, it was apparent to the Commissioners that it would be inadequate to furnish accommodations to all the insane persons then in the State. But by making some changes in the plan without increasing the size of the building, the Commissioners were enabled very much to increase its

capacity. By fitting some rooms for patients in the fourth story of the transverse sections, in addition to the other rooms, one hundred more patients in each wing can be provided for; making the complement for the whole institution five hundred instead of three hundred patients. This change in the plan, and fitting up more rooms, has to some extent increased the cost of the hospital, but by no means in proportion to the increased capacity.

For several years past there has been a large immigration of people to this State. This influx of population has brought with it considerable numbers of the insane. There is reason to believe, that at this moment there is a sufficient number of lunatics in the State to fill this whole hospital to its utmost capacity, suffering for want of its accommodations.

The engine-house, with its steam engine and machinery for heating and ventilation; the laundry, with its apparatus for washing, drying and ironing; the kitchen, with its furniture for preparing, cooking and distributing food, are provided for the whole hospital and its complement of five hundred patients, and all are now used for maintenance of only two hundred and fifty. The Superintendent, Assistant, Physician, Steward, and Matron, all the resident officers, are appointed and receive their regular support and salaries, and, while they devote their talents and accomplishments to the care of two hundred and fifty patients only, are perfectly competent, without additional compensation, to take charge of and administer remedial treatment to five hundred patients.

The largest item in the cost of carrying on the operations of the hospital, is the consumption of coal, by which the building is heated and ventilated and the food of the patients is cooked and distributed. With one wing of the Hospital finished, the maintenance of two hundred and fifty patients requires, annually, the consumption of fifteen hundred tons of coal. With both wings finished, an addition of five hundred tons to the consumption will maintain double the number of patients. Thus economy, not less than humanity, calls aloud for the completion of the south wing of the Hospital.

MATURIN L. FISHER,  
ERASTUS G. MORGAN,  
GEO. W. BEMIS.

*Iowa Hospital for the Insane, at Independence, November 1st, 1875.*



## TREASURER'S REPORT.

*To the Commissioners of the Iowa Hospital for the Insane at Independence, Iowa:*

GENTLEMEN: As your Treasurer I herewith submit the following detailed statement of money paid out of the appropriation made by the Fifteenth General Assembly:

By cash paid carpenters .....	\$10,259.56
By cash paid brick and stone masons.....	6,406.37
By cash paid stone cutters.....	4,981.17
By cash paid for plastering .....	6,515.47
By cash paid superintendent, salary and expenses.....	2,955.83
By cash paid commissioners, secretary and treasurer.....	1,246.50
By cash paid for tin and iron work.....	528.82
By cash paid steam and gas fitters.....	742.29
By cash paid laborers.....	4,091.64
By cash paid clerk .....	251.00
By cash paid painters .....	999.42
By cash paid teamsters and teams.....	927.27
By cash paid for freight, railroad and express .....	2,590.69
By cash paid for lumber .....	5,675.39
By cash paid for brick.....	4,075.48
By cash paid for iron cornice.....	3,060.42
By cash paid for hardware, iron, &c.....	2,590.96
By cash paid for steam, gas, water pipe and fittings .....	2,169.09
By cash paid for cast-iron radiators.....	3,069.25
By cash paid for wrought-iron guards.....	416.86
By cash paid for registers and register frames.....	1,341.99
By cash paid for tin.....	392.50
By cash paid for iron water tank.....	765.35
By cash paid for brass castings.....	70.50
By cash paid for stone and granite.....	232.30
By cash paid for stone rubble.....	43.08
By cash paid for stone, ashlar.....	1,426.39
By cash paid for lime.....	984.59
By cash paid for cement.....	126.18
By cash paid for sand.....	432.11
By cash paid for stucco.....	147.75
By cash paid for lead.....	67.39

## 1875.] OF INSANE HOSPITAL AT INDEPENDENCE.

By cash paid for coal.....	\$ 31.65
By cash paid for blacksmithing and machine work.....	850.74
By cash paid for wells.....	670.12
By cash paid for felting.....	34.44
By cash paid for bath-tubs, stop-cocks, etc.....	402.00
By cash paid for glass.....	482.39
By cash paid for tiles.....	61.93
By cash paid for dumb waiter.....	48.25
By cash paid for painting materials.....	618.34
By cash paid for advertising, printing, and blanks.....	92.60
By cash paid for planer, and molding machine knives.....	41.50
By cash paid for furniture.....	801.95
By cash paid for marble wash-basin tops.....	142.77
By cash paid for castings.....	321.56
By cash paid for room moldings.....	37.03

Total.....	\$74,220.88
Appropriation, 15th General Assembly.....	\$75,900.00
Balance on hand, November 1st, 1875.....	\$ 1,679.12

GEO. W. BEMIS, *Treasurer.*



## REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION.

*To the Commissioners of the Iowa Hospital for the Insane, at Independence :*

GENTLEMEN :—I submit to you the following report of the progress of the work done on the Hospital Buildings since my last report, November 1st, 1873 :

Early in the spring of 1874, the workmen commenced working on the unfinished parts of the second transverse and longitudinal sections of the north wing. They laid the floors, hung the doors, and otherwise completed the four wards in the sections, so that they were ready to be occupied by fall. The heating and plumbing necessary to the use of these wards was also done during that spring and summer, as well as the completion of the ventilating flues in the attic.

The same spring a contract was let to Mr W. J. Dees, of Dubuque, for plastering the three stories of the first longitudinal section, which contract was completed early in the fall.

As the brick and stone-work of only two stories, and the basement of the main center building, had been built out of the former appropriation, a contract was made with Mr. Thos. Coltman, of Independence, to furnish the required amount of brick to complete the other three stories. A contract was also made with Mr. John Webb, of Cedar Rapids, for the furnishing of limestone for facing the outside of the walls. Mr. Coltman, in consequence of several severe storms and a good deal of bad weather, could not finish the whole amount of brick required for the building, so we were obliged to procure some 100,000 from Mr. E. V. Epley, of Cedar Rapids.

By the first of May we had a full force of stone-cutters and brick-layers on the ground; so the work on the building progressed as rapidly as possible, and by the first of September the walls were sufficiently high to commence putting up the framework for the Mansard roof, which forms the fifth story. The window frames and sash were made during the summer months, and were glazed in the fall ready to be put in their places early the following spring.

By the first of November the walls were up and the woodwork of the roof so far done as to enable the tin to be put on. A contract had been made with Mr. R. Godson, of Independence, in the summer, to do all the galvanized iron work and tin work required; but on account of cold weather, the iron dormer windows, cornices, etc., were not put up and finished until the following season, at which time the slating was also done.

About this time a contract was made with Mr. J. H. McKay to cut the stone and build the two stacks of chimneys, which he did, cutting the stone during the winter, and as soon as the weather permitted in the spring they were laid up and finished.

As soon as the plastering was sufficiently dry in the first longitudinal section, the carpenters commenced work in the third story, and by the first of February, 1875, one ward was occupied. This left two wards unfinished in this section, which were completed during the spring and early part of the summer of 1875.

In the spring of 1875, bids were invited for the plastering of the main center building, and the contract was awarded to Mr. J. H. McKay, of Independence. As soon as Mr. McKay could procure the necessary materials he commenced the work, and by the middle of August the first two stories were ready for the carpenters to commence on the wood work, and the whole of his contract was completed by the first of November.

During the progress of the plastering on the main center, the carpenters were getting the doors and other work ready, so that by the first of November the first and second stories were so nearly done that we expect they will be finished by the twentieth, ready to be occupied.

The heating apparatus and all the necessary pipes, etc., for supplying the first longitudinal section and the first two stories of the main center building with hot and cold water, as well as the sewerage and ventilating pipes, have been introduced, and are in working order.

This will leave three stories of the main center not finished; the principal work to be done is carpenter work and painting; also the heating and plumbing for the three stories, the stone portico and steps to the front entrance, and some mason work in the basement. The whole will probably cost about \$12,000.00.

GEO. JOSSELYN,

*Superintendent of Construction.*

NOVEMBER 1, 1875.