

## CURRENT EXPENSE ACCOUNT—CONTINUED.

DATE.	Voucher and warrant.	TO WHOM ISSUED.	ON WHAT ACCOUNT.	Amount.
1877.				
Nov. 6	1189	L. Gould & Co.....	Broom, corn and wire.....	\$ 107.75
Nov. 6	1190	Labor account.....	Wages, employes.....	325.20
Nov. 6	1191	Robert Carothers.....	Travelling expenses of pupils...	29.25
Nov. 6	1192	Jacob Springer.....	Services, trustee.....	15.00
Nov. 6	1193	J. L. Gay.....	Services, trustee.....	10.00
Nov. 6	1194	S. H. Watson.....	Services, trustee.....	5.00
		Total expend'res to Nov. 6, 1877.....		\$58,013.28
		Balance on hand Nov. 6, 1877.....		815.07
		Total.....		\$58,828.35

S. H. WATSON, *Treasurer.*

## REPORT

OF THE

## JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND,

AT

VINTON.

DES MOINES:  
R. P. CLARKSON, STATE PRINTER.  
1878.

## REPORT.

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*To the Seventeenth General Assembly:*

The committee appointed to visit the College for the Blind, have performed that duty and hereby report as follows:

We found a building some three hundred feet long, sixty to ninety feet deep, averaging somewhat over seventy feet, five stories high, including basement, and equaling in horizontal space about two and one-half acres, or over one hundred thousand square feet in all the stories. In the basement of one wing is the large dining room, capable of seating two hundred or more, together with the kitchen and culinary department. Much of the remainder of the basement appears to be but little used at present. The upper stories are divided into extensive halls, recitation rooms, numerous music rooms, a large chapel seating several hundred, dormitories, parlors, office and reception rooms, besides various other apartments for the use of the official incumbents and families. This vast structure is built of hewn stone covered with a slate roof, is complete inside and out, and apparently in good condition, showing that those in charge exercise generally a careful supervision. It is situated on elevated ground, with large area in front planted with a variety of shade trees and ornamental shrubbery. Along the line of the street in front has been laid a stone base wall, capped with handsome cut stone coping, designed for fence to be built of iron, for which purpose an appropriation is asked by the trustees of \$4,000. All would be very fine were it not for the heavy cost. This item, your committee think should be passed by for the present. Your committee regret that a fancy landscape gardener has been permitted to disfigure these handsome grounds by numerous excavations for the purpose of clumping trees, making serpentine walks, and an artificial lake, which is to be supplied by a fountain already planned directly in front of the central building. All these will be pleasant enough when done, but they cost money, meet no real necessity, and serve only to please the eyes of visitors and of the occasional few who pass that way. It is said an appropriation of \$1,000 was made for this purpose. An appropriation was asked, for improvement of grounds, and granted

for supposed *necessary* improvements. Your committee are of opinion that this thousand dollars would have served a better purpose if it had been expended in the purchase of some plain furniture and mattresses for the various dormitories, for which an appropriation is again asked. We desire to say that we speak of these things frankly as they appeared to us, but not in the spirit of fault-finding.

We have thus far spoken of the main building only. The others are unimportant and need no particular description except it be the engine house and heating apparatus. There are two wood houses, two barns or stables, one building utilized as a broom factory, and sundry pens and shelters for pigs. The stable and pens might be better, but they answer present necessities very well; are as good or better than the average community have.

The engine house and stock, including engine and boilers, are on a large scale located over one hundred feet from the main building. There are three boilers, equal in the aggregate, as reported to us, to seventy-five horse power. This great power—besides driving a little machinery in the washing and ironing-room—forces the steam through large pipes in an underground tunnel or stone arch-way, to the basement of the main building, where it is distributed to all parts where needed. Eight hundred tons of coal are consumed in a single season, costing \$4.50 to \$4.58 per ton. Such is a general description of grounds and buildings without pretending to be minutely accurate.

In this vast edifice first described, we found as reported to us, one hundred and fourteen of the blind—a few more than the regular report shows—which count up only ninety-nine—in the several classes.

The average number does not vary far from one hundred. There are some thirty-five other inmates, a part in the capacity of superintendents, professors and teachers, and a part as employes in the various necessary duties in caring for this large family.

In the care, management and instruction of the school, your committee find nothing to disapprove. On the contrary, the proficiency shown in the recitation rooms, the attainment in music, instrumental and vocal, and the general deportment were of a character highly creditable to all concerned.

At the same time your committee doubt the propriety of arranging a curriculum of study embracing so many of what are called the higher branches of education for this Institution. So far as intellectual training is concerned in the case of these, as well as other dependents upon public charity, it is believed that the State will have discharged its

whole duty, when it shall have qualified them for the duties and avocations common to the mass of community, any extra effort should be in the direction of some industrial occupation, which might aid them, in some degree, toward self support in their after days of life. Few of them are capable of attaining any high degree of skill, but many may be taught something useful. The present official incumbents are doing considerable in this way already, and the committee would advise increased effort of this kind, in all cases where there is any encouragement, rather than spend too much time in pressing the studies of metaphysics, physiology, astronomy, or the higher branches of mathematics. True, this class of unfortunates enlist our feelings and sympathies, and we reluctantly refuse anything suggested in their behalf, but our duty as trusted agents acting for others, requires us to look not in one direction only, but also to the condition of the average mass of community on whose shoulders we lay the burden of these *charities*. We believe that those who are blessed with health and strength, and in the full enjoyment of all the faculties given to a perfect manhood, will not refuse, or hesitate even, to contribute to the relief of those whom God, in His providence, has smitten with afflictions. But when these burdens are felt to be unnecessarily heavy, they will not only ask, but demand to know the reason why. In the case of the College for the Blind, your committee frankly say, that an expenditure has been incurred vastly beyond the wants of the school in its present condition, or, judging by the past, any probable wants in the future. To furnish house and school room for about one hundred inmates, a few more or less, the State has been taxed for cost of buildings, as reported to us, \$285,000.00, or about \$2,850.00 each for one hundred pupils. The superintendent states the capacity of the building when full, at one hundred and thirty inmates; divided by this number it would give \$2,192 as cost of building for each scholar; but this is not all, the extra expense of caring for and warming the building is in the same proportion. The pay-roll of employes shows that their monthly wages run from \$315 to \$412 per month. The engineer and others state that they burn about eight hundred tons of coal annually at a cost of \$4.50 to \$4.58 per ton; add to cost of coal wages of engineer and assistant, with sundry repairs and the cost of heating the building, will amount to more than \$5,000 per season, or \$50 per head for each scholar.

Some cord wood is used for cooking, and warming of apartments. By adding the various expenses to the necessary repairs, and interest on the cost of the grounds and buildings, it will be found that the actual cost

to the State, for each of the pupils now in attendance, will lack but little of \$500 for the school year of nine to ten months. This unfortunate showing results mostly from the enormous expenditure in building the last wing—an addition hardly needed at all, if the room in the older building had been properly utilized. Whether it was the result of fault or folly, miscalculation or combined voting to secure large appropriations, your committee cannot say, but the result is fixed and the load is upon us—suggestive, at least, of great caution on the part of the General Assembly, when called upon to vote large appropriations for the erection of new wings, or new buildings, either.

There are three pupils at the institution from without the limits of the State; these, we understand, have been embraced in the certified list for which support has been drawn from the State at the rate of \$40 per quarter, or \$160 per year.

We are informed by the directors that the expenses of the same pupils have been collected from parties without the State also, which additional amount has been expended for the college, in addition to that drawn from the State. It is claimed that the law allows this double collection. If so, it ought to be amended.

There is one other point to which your committee desire to call attention. It is claimed by many professing to have knowledge on the subject, that not less than one in ten of these unfortunates, could, under proper treatment by a skillful oculist, receive their sight. Would it not be advisable to authorize a correspondence with some one of reputation in that profession, to visit the institution under proper and reasonable arrangement, so far as pay is concerned, and that a small appropriation be made for this purpose.

By reference to the last or thirteenth biennial report of the College, it will be seen that the Trustees ask an appropriation by this Legislature of the following named sums, to supply the wants of the institution for the next biennial period, to-wit:

For ordinary running expenses.....	\$32,000.00
For furniture, bedding, &c.....	3,000.00
For iron and other fences.....	4,000.00
For cattle barn and piggery.....	1,000.00
For general repairs on grounds.....	1,000.00
For contingent expenses.....	700.00
Total amount asked for.....	\$41,700.00

After a somewhat careful consideration of the subject, based on the impressions we have as to the wants of the College, your committee have concluded that these demands may be safely lessened somewhat. We recommend appropriations as follows:

For ordinary running expenses.....	\$20,000.00
For bedsteads, mattresses, bedding and chairs for pupils.....	1,000.00
For fence and repairing stables and pens, including the necessary lumber.....	400.00
For contingent expenses.....	400.00
Total.....	\$21,800.00

ALFRED HEBARD,

*On part of the Senate.*

N. B. HOLBROOK,

WM. B. PERRIN.

*On part of the House.*

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

In response to our interrogatories we received the following answers to questions contained in concurrent resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives, of the Seventeenth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, a copy of which is hereto appended :

Question No. 1. What were the total receipts of your institution during the last biennial period?

Answer. \$70,258.36.

Q. 2. From what sources were they obtained?

A. Balance on hand on account of special appropriations at commencement of biennial period.....	\$ 102.30
Received from special appropriations.....	11,997.50
Balance on hand, current expense account at commencement of biennial period.....	421.13
Received from State appropriation.....	53,650.37
Interest on State warrants.....	300.20
Industries, sale of stock, &c.....	3,786.86
Total.....	\$70,258.36

Q. 3. What amount of appropriations by the State?

A. \$65,647.87.

Q. 4. What amount from any and all other sources?

A. \$4,610.49.

Q. 5. What number of acres belong to the institution?

A. Forty acres.

Q. 6. How many acres of same are under cultivation?

A. None.

Q. 7. What kind of produce was raised? What its quantity? What its value?

A. Nothing raised.

Q. 8. What kinds of stock are kept on the premises? How many of each and every kind?

A. One horse, four cows, and fifty-five hogs.

Q. 9. State the number of horses and their value?

A. One horse, value \$25.00.

Q. 10. State number of cattle and their kind; also the value of each; number of milch cows and their product.

A. Four milch cows; yield, twenty-four quarts of milk per day; valued at \$30.00 each.

Q. 11. Number of vehicles; their kind, and value of each?

A. Three; one coach valued at \$75.00, one market wagon valued at \$25.00, and one ash wagon valued at \$15.00.

Q. 12. Number of hogs and their value?

A. Fifty-five; valued at \$350.00.

Q. 13. What farm machinery, and its value?

A. No farm machinery.

Q. 14. State all other articles or items not herein mentioned, from which the institution does or should derive a revenue or benefit?

A. There are none.

Q. 15. What amount of stock has been slaughtered and consumed by the institution, and what its value?

A. There has been no stock slaughtered or consumed that was raised or owned on the premises.

Q. 16. What the kind of stock sold? What is the value of the same?

A. One horse, \$80.00, cows, \$270.00; and hogs, \$662.00.

Q. 17. What produce; the amount and value of same, raised on farm and consumed by the institution?

A. None.

Q. 18. What produce, what amount, and what the value thereof, sold by the institution?

A. None.

Q. 19. What amount of labor is let by contract, and what are the proceeds thereof?

A. None.

Q. 20. What amount of labor is employed by the institution; for what purpose and what its value?

A. Embraced in answer to questions 36 and 40.

Q. 21. Have you any surplus labor; if so, in what way could it be utilized?

A. There is no surplus labor.

Q. 22. What amount has been derived from labor performed by the inmates outside of the institution, and not otherwise accounted for?

A. Not any.

Q. 23. What amount of waste from table and kitchen, and how is it disposed of and what its value?

A. Ordinary kitchen and table slop. It is all fed to the hogs on the premises belonging to the State, estimated to be worth \$400.

Q. 24. Is such waste sold, and how much is derived therefrom?

A. It is not sold, but fed to hogs on the premises.

Q. 25. How are boxes, barrels, sacks, and old garments disposed of?

A. Sold as far as possible. When cannot be sold, boxes and barrels are used for fire wood. No old garments.

Q. 26. If sold, for what amount?

A. Cannot state; included in amount of industries and sale of stock.

Q. 27. How is the clothing of inmates obtained? Is it made in the institution?

A. Some of our pupils are clothed at the public expense, and the sewing machine department is utilized to aid in the work as far as practicable.

Q. 28. If not made in the institution, is it practicable to do so?

A. In part it is. Cannot profitably do the whole work at the institution.

Q. 29. What school facilities and what moral and religious training is afforded?

A. The same branches are taught in the English language as are usually taught in schools and academies, with all facilities used to impart knowledge to the blind. Scriptures are read and prayers attended each morning and evening; Bible class on the Sabbath and preaching Sabbath evening.

Q. 30. What was the number of inmates at the close of the last biennial period?

A. 107.

Q. 31. What is the capacity of the institution?

A. 130 will crowd the institution.

Q. 32. What is the number of students enrolled, and what is the average attendance?

A. 114.

Questions 33 and 34 applicable to Agricultural College only.

Q. 35. What amount of tuition is paid by students?

A. Three non-resident pupils each pay \$160 annually.

Q. 36. State number and names of officers and teachers of the institution?

A. There are fifteen officers and teachers in the institution, as follows: Robert Carothers, Principal; Emeline E. Carothers, Matron; F. F. McCune, Assistant Principal, and Teacher; T. S. Slaughter, Music

Teacher; S. O. Spencer, Musical Director and Teacher; Mrs. C. A. Spencer, Teacher; Miss Grace A. Hill, Teacher; Miss Mary Baker, Teacher; Miss C. R. Miller, Teacher; Miss Lorana Mattice, Teacher; Miss A. M. McCutcheon, Teacher; Mrs. H. C. Harger, Teacher on Sewing Machine; John Cisna, Foreman in Broom Shop; George Krous, Mattress and Basket Making; M. Meredith M. D., Physician.

Q. 37. The salary of each per month?

A. Robert Carothers, Principal .....	\$100.00	per month.
Emeline E. Carothers, Matron .....	33.33½	per month.
F. F. McCune, Assistant Principal .....	50.00	per month.
T. S. Slaughter, Teacher .....	66.66⅔	per month.
S. O. Spencer, Teacher .....	66.66⅔	per month.
Mrs. C. A. Spencer, Teacher .....	25.00	per month.
Miss Grace A. Hill, Teacher .....	29.16⅔	per month.
Miss Mary Baker, Teacher .....	25.00	per month.
Miss C. R. Miller, Teacher .....	25.00	per month.
Miss Lorana Mattice, Teacher .....	25.00	per month.
Miss A. M. McCutcheon, Teacher .....	20.00	per month.
Mrs. H. C. Harger, Teacher .....	20.00	per month.
John Cisna, Teacher .....	33.33½	per month.
George Krous, Teacher .....	8.33½	per month.
M. Meredith, M. D., Physician .....	12.50	per month.

Q. 38. The services rendered and time employed by each?

A. Robert Carothers, Principal, whole time.

Emeline E. Carothers, Matron, whole time.

F. F. McCune, Assistant Principal and Teacher of Penmanship, Grammar, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Rhetoric, Logic, and Mental Philosophy; whole time.

T. S. Slaughter, Music Teacher, whole time.

S. O. Spencer, Musical Director, whole time.

Mrs. C. A. Spencer, Teacher, Moral Philosophy, Physiology, Physical Geography, Botany and Geology; whole time.

Miss Grace A. Hill, Teacher, Grammar, Literature, English and American; History, Ancient and Modern; Astronomy, whole time.

Miss Mary Baker, Teacher, Mathematics, whole time.

Miss C. R. Miller, Teacher, Intermediate, whole time.

Miss Lorana Mattice, Teacher, Second Primary, whole time.

Miss A. M. McCutcheon, Teacher, First Primary, whole time.

Mrs. H. C. Harger, Teacher on Sewing Machine, whole time.

John Cisna, Foreman in Broom Shop, whole time.

George Krous, Mattress and Basket-making, whole time.

M. Meredith, M. D., Physician, whole time.

Q. 39. Give the number and names of guards, their salaries, and length of time employed?

A. Have no guards but ought to have.

Q. 40. Give number and names of employes of all kinds not before enumerated; describe their service and length of time employed, and what amount paid to each person?

A. The following receive per month:

R. E. Stevens, engineer.....	\$65.00
Alex. Whitehead, fireman.....	18.00
James Sawyer, Assistant Steward.....	40.00
Robert Squires, Porter, and general work.....	20.00
Mary Kannott, cook.....	20.00
Emma Kannott, assistant cook.....	18.00
Mrs. Maria Pratt, kitchen and dining-room.....	12.00
Ella Johnson, dining-room.....	12.00
Ella Cowell, dining-room.....	12.00
Paulina Simmons, dining-room.....	5.00
Lizzie Lenderman, chamber-maid.....	15.00
Susie Richmond, chamber-maid.....	15.00
Carrie Hart, chamber-maid.....	12.00
Tobitha Caver, general work.....	12.00
Mollie Jewell, seamstress.....	14.00
Mrs. Almira Herrick, nurse.....	25.00
E. Elkins, laundry.....	16.00
Mary Elkins, assistant in laundry.....	14.00
Joseph Hartley, kitchen and dining-room.....	4.16½
Charlie Carothers, visitors' attendant.....	10.00

Of these, Mrs. Maria Pratt, Ellen Cowell, Susie Richmond, Carrie Hart, Tobitha Caver, Mollie Jewell, Mrs. Almira Herrick and Charlie Carothers draw pay during term time, the others during the year.

Q. 41. What amount has been expended for furniture, beds and bedding during the past two years, and what is the quality of the same?

A. \$2,292.48. Of good quality.

Q. 42. What officers, employes or members of either families or other persons, not inmates of the institution, board or dwell therein, and for what length of time has each person done so?

A. All of the officers and employes mentioned in answer to questions 36 and 40 board in the institution, with the exception of T. S. Slaughter; and the principal has two children, and S. A. Spencer and wife two children, who board in the institution; have boarded since the present term commenced.

Q. 43. Have you vouchers for all your disbursements?

A. Yes.

Q. 44. What amount of funds are now on hand?

A. 100.43.

Q. 45. How and where are your supplies purchased?

A. Under direction of the Principal, in Vinton, and at wholesale rates.

Q. 46. What kind and what amount of fuel has been used?

A. Coal.....	\$7,511.00
Wood.....	261.25
Total.....	\$7,772.25

Q. 47. How are your buildings lighted, and what has been expended for that purpose?

A. Kerosene is used for lighting building. Cannot estimate the cost of same. The kerosene account is included in grocery account.

Q. 48. What are the real necessities of this institution for this biennial period?

A. For ordinary running expenses.....	\$32,000.00
For furniture, bedding, etc.....	3,000.00
For iron and other fences.....	4,000.00
For barns and piggery.....	1,000.00
For general repairs to grounds.....	1,000.00
For contingent expenses.....	700.00
Total.....	\$41,700.00

Q. 49. What is the wholesale purchase price paid per sheet for writing paper, pencils, and other stationery?

A. The principal kind of paper used at this institution is braille, which costs us nine cents per pound in New York, and is furnished to the pupils with pencils and other stationery.

Q. 50. What is the price at which each of said articles are sold at retail to the students, and how are the proceeds of such sales disposed of?

A. The articles named are not sold to the students, but distributed gratuitously as required.

Q. 51. State the amount paid for stationery during the two years now past, and the total amount derived from the sale thereof?

A. The whole amount expended for stationery, music, violin strings and braille was, \$224.94. None sold.