

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE
SEVENTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
GIRLS' DEPARTMENT
OF THE
STATE REFORM SCHOOL
AT
SALEM.

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

Report of the Joint Committee of the Seventeenth General Assembly, appointed to visit the Boys' Department of the State Reform School, at Eldora.

TO THE SEVENTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA :

Your joint committee, appointed to visit the Boys' Department of the State Reform School, beg leave to report that they have discharged that duty, and as the result of such visit, have the honor to submit for the information of the General Assembly the following facts and observations :

Your committee labored under great disadvantage, in the discharge of their duties, from the fact that Mr. Johnson, the superintendent during the most of the biennial term, had just left, and Mr. Winans, the present superintendent, could give us little information in regard to affairs. Mr. Moir, the book-keeper, was absent, and we were unable to secure his aid in the explanation of the manner in which the books had been kept.

There is a general appearance of unthrift, that at once makes an unfavorable impression upon the visitor. The condition of the stock shows the need of a wide-awake, thoroughly practical farmer.

There is a fine stock of hogs, both Polands and Berkshires, showing good blood ; but shoats of forty pounds weight, with brood sows, and fat hogs weighing four hundred pounds, all run together, with no shelter except such as they can find in the straw and hay stacks. Had the winter been cold and stormy there would, no doubt, have been large numbers smothered.

The cattle, large and small, all run together, and we noticed a number of large calves and yearlings sucking the cows. No care is exercised as to when the cows shall come in ; and something like a dozen young calves were drinking the milk that could be fed with much greater profit to the boys.

Many of the horses on the place are old and of little value. Younger and better horses would be secured at once by a live farmer who had any hopes of making a success of his work.

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE.

To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Your joint committee appointed to visit the Girls' Department of the State Reform School, beg leave to report that they have discharged that duty, and as the result of such visit, have the honor to submit for the information of the General Assembly the following facts and observations:

The school is located in Lee county, six miles south of Salem, on a tract of land belonging to the Society of Friends. Said property was leased by the State in 1868, for a term of ten years. The lease expires in April next, and cannot be renewed for more than one year; hence it will devolve upon this General Assembly to make some provision for the future of the institution. Inasmuch, therefore, as some immediate action must be had in this case, and as we have reliable information that a place consisting of suitable buildings and grounds, which can be put in good repair for \$1,000, can be obtained for their accommodation a few miles from where they now are, and about one and one-half miles from the railway station at Mt. Pleasant, for the sum of \$500 per annum for five years, we would recommend that the trustees be authorized to lease said property and remove the school to that place in April next, unless the General Assembly at this session see fit to *permanently* locate the school "at or near the seat of government" or elsewhere. If no action be taken on the subject, the trustees will, before the meeting of the next General Assembly, be compelled, under existing laws, to remove the girls to the Reform School, at Eldora, where the boys now are.

Considering the character of the girls, and the causes for which most of them have been committed, your committee are emphatically of the opinion that any attempt to keep them in or near the same school with such boys as are sent to Eldora would prove utterly demoralizing and subversive of the purposes for which the school was established.

This opinion is sustained by the unanimous experience of the officers of like institutions in other states. Superintendent Lewelling has

taken pains to ascertain the opinions of the Superintendents of the leading Reform Schools of the country on this subject, and *not one* of them favors co-education, or the locations of Reform Schools for the two sexes in close proximity to each other. We are permitted to give the following extracts from these letters:

"STATE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, }
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY. }

* * * I believe it would be unwise to put a building to be occupied by fit subjects for a Girls' Reform School, contiguous to the Boys' department. Respectfully,

H. F. PERRY."

"HOUSE OF REFUGE, }
CINCINNATI, OHIO. }

* * * My experience teaches me that the farther boys and girls are separated from each other in Reform Schools, the better. They will exert evil influences over each other in spite of all the vigilance you can bring to bear against it. I have more trouble with forty-five bad girls than with two hundred boys, and can not at all times prevent most corrupting correspondence between them. I would certainly move the girls miles away if I could.

Very respectfully,

H. A. MONFORT, *Supt.*"

"GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, }
DELAWARE, OHIO. }

* * * My opinion is decidedly opposed to such contiguity. * * * Where cases are in any degree based upon or connected with improper sexual propensities, desires or practices, the presence of the opposite sex is decidedly injurious. I find, as I presume you do, that a very large proportion of cases under care are of this class. The near proximity of the other sex is, of course, the worst, but harm comes of their being within sight or hearing only. The farther apart the better, I think. There are other objections to this proximity, but this is sufficient. * * *

R. HILLS, M. D., *Supt.*"

"STATE REFORM SCHOOL, }
PONTIAC, ILLINOIS. }

* * * My opinion is, that with the class of inmates who are generally confined in Reform Schools, it would not be judicious to have them (girls and boys) together. Respectfully,

"J. D. SCORILLER, *Supt.*"

"INDIANA REFORMATORY INSTITUTION }
FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, INDIANAPOLIS. }

* * * My answer would be decidedly 'No.' It interferes with the discipline of both departments. A large proportion of girls sent to Reform Schools, are sent on account of their fondness for the other sex, and the fewer they come in contact with the better their reformation. If on the same ground they will get together, pass notes and give trouble, I care not how well they are watched. Respectfully,

SARAH J. SMITH, *Supt.*"

"CONNECTICUT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL }
FOR GIRLS, MIDDLETOWN. }

* * * I should consider it very *unfortunate* for your Reform School to have the buildings of the Girls' Department contiguous to the Boys' Department. Under such circumstances, you will find great difficulty in carrying out the objects of your institution. You must erect prison walls around your school, and even then you will be compelled to exercise "eternal vigilance." Our school for boys is at Meriden—eight or ten miles from this place, and under no circumstances would we be willing to have it nearer. The results have been *unsatisfactory* in Philadelphia, where the Departments are contiguous. * * *

Very truly yours,

C. H. BOND, *Supt.*

"STATE REFORM SCHOOL, }
LANCASTER, OHIO. }

* * * I do not think there is a single instance on record where both sexes are in the same school that the Board of Managers approve of the plan. I am certain that this school would be injured by such an arrangement. My son, who had charge of the House of Refuge in Toledo, found great trouble in having girls, and they are now rejected from the school.

In Pennsylvania they have both sexes, but do not like it. One bad girl in an institution will do more harm than twenty ministers of the gospel can counteract. * * * Long experience in the work has thoroughly convinced me that nothing can be more disastrous to the reformatory influences of a school than to introduce both sexes to the same school.

Very truly,

G. E. HOWE."

Superintendent Lewelling afforded the committee every facility for inspecting the management and condition of the institution. Everything about the institution had an air of neatness and cleanliness. The food and clothing of the inmates was plain, but substantial and comfortable.

There are at present fifty-three girls in the school, divided into two

classes—one class attending school four hours in the forenoon, and the other an equal length of time in the afternoon each day. The class not in school is kept at work sewing, knitting, cooking, washing, &c. All the house-work of the institution is performed by the girls. The sewing department is under the immediate care of Mrs. Belle Collins, a most excellent christian woman, whose good influence over the girls can scarcely be over estimated. Under her supervision in this department, all the clothing used by the inmates is manufactured.

Spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and English grammar are taught in the school. The recitations were quite good. The teacher, Miss Almeda Nickolson, is doing a noble work.

The supervision of the girl's department of the reform school is managed by L. D. Lewelling, to whose wise economy and untiring devotion for the welfare of the institution, its success is mainly due. Mrs. Lewelling, the matron, has, by kind treatment and earnest efforts to promote the best interests of the inmates, won their respect and confidence. Her whole heart seems to be enlisted in the work. The order and discipline under her supervision are excellent, and yet no severe punishments are resorted to. She is peculiarly fitted for her work, and your committee can not too highly commend her efficiency and usefulness. The girls were quite contented and cheerful. Their deportment was orderly and respectful. Although the girls were permitted to converse freely with the committee, not one of them made any complaint of the manner in which they were treated by the managers of the school. On the other hand, many of them expressed their thankfulness, and only seemed anxious about how they would be received or how they would get along after leaving the school. We find that the reformatory measures here used have a most salutary effect. The training given is well calculated to fit the girls for honorable and useful lives.

So far the Superintendent has been enabled to procure homes or places in families for all who have left the institution. Of the thirty-five girls who have left the school, twenty-two are known to be doing well, seven are not doing well, and of the other six nothing is known.

In view of the almost total failure of the crops, on account of the excessive rains in that portion of the State, we think the trustees ought to make a reasonable rebate of the money-rent due from tenants on the farm.

In conformity with the concurrent resolution instructing visiting committees to ascertain and report certain facts, we herewith submit the following questions by the committee and answers by Superintendent Lewelling:

Question 1. What were the total receipts of your institution during the last biennial period?

Answer. \$9,715.91.

Q. 2. From what sources were they obtained?

A. Through the Superintendent of school, (boys' department,) from rents and sale of stock.

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

A. \$10.00 per month per capita.

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

A. None except as stated.

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

A. One hundred and twenty, (by lease).

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

A. All.

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

A. The crops in this vicinity have been almost a total failure for the last three years on account of the continued wet weather.

We cut a few acres of oats last year, while the wheat was not regarded as worth the expense of cutting. A small quantity of wheat was harvested during the past summer, but proved so poor in quality that we used it to feed the hogs in the absence of corn. As an example of the crops on a great portion of the farm, there is lying before our door, a half section of land which last spring was planted in corn, and now, after the summer's work, the amount of corn grown on the whole half section, at a most generous estimate, will not exceed one thousand bushels of an inferior quality.

Of farm products we had for the year

1876:

Tons of hay.....	65
Bushels of potatos.....	85
Pounds of pork.....	1,800
Bushels of sweet potatos.....	40

1877:

Bushels of corn.....	250
Tons of hay.....	70
Pounds of pork.....	1,600
Bushels of turnips.....	40
Heads of cabbage.....	1,000
Bushels of sweet potatos..	25

The garden has always proved a valuable auxiliary to our table. It is difficult to approximate in bushels or pounds the amount and kind of garden vegetables. It is sufficient to say that during the last two years we have had a fair supply of green corn, green beans, beets, radishes, lettuce, peas, parsnips, melons, and a great abundance of tomatos in their season.

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

A. Cows, horses and hogs. Four horses, nine cows, fifteen hogs and pigs.

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

A. The four horses are all worth \$275.00.

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

A. Nine milch cows and six yearlings; average value, about \$20.00, each. Almost milk and butter enough to supply the wants of the institution.

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

A. Two wagons; \$75.00 each.

Q. 12. What farm machinery, and its value?

A. Two plows, harrow, cultivator, and hoes; \$150.00.

Q. 13. State all other articles or items not herein mentioned, from which the institution does or should derive a revenue or benefit.

A. None.

Q. 14. What amount of stock has been slaughtered and consumed by the institution, and what its value?

A. Seven hogs, one thousand and eight hundred pounds.

Q. 15. What the kind of stock sold? What is the value of same?

A. Stiff horse, calves, hogs, pigs and beef cows; \$131.76.

Q. 16. What produce sold by the institution?

A. None.

Q. 17. What amount of labor is let by contract?

A. None.

Q. 18. What amount of labor is employed by the institution; for what purpose, and what its value?

GIRLS' DEPARTMENT.

A. L. D. Lewelling and wife, superintendent and matron.....	\$800.00
Mrs. B. Collins, sewing-room.....	150.00
Miss Ollie Mace, teacher.....	240.00
Miss Emma Perkins, cook.....	168.00
Henry Meyer, farmer.....	216.00

Q. 19. What amount has been derived from labor performed by the inmates outside of the institution, and not otherwise accounted for?

A. Nothing.

Q. 20. What amount of waste from table and kitchen; how is it disposed of, and what its value?

A. Very little; fed to hogs.

Q. 21. How are boxes, barrels, sacks and old garments disposed of?

A. Boxes and barrels, none, except such as are used for the institution; sacks on hand; old garments made into carpets for the institution. \$10 worth once sold, and proceeds used to purchase pictures for girls' rooms, ties for girls, &c. Kerosene barrels used on two occasions in exchange for wood-sawing.

Q. 22. How is the clothing of inmates obtained? Is it made in the institution?

A. Purchased with State funds. Yes.

Q. 23. What school facilities, and what moral and religious training is afforded?

A. The school has been made an important feature of the work; the girls have been divided into two grades or classes, grade 1 attending school four hours in the forenoon, and grade 2 the same time in the afternoon.

Thus each girl receives four hours schooling daily, and four hours instruction in some special branch of household industry. It is but humble praise to the efficiency of our teacher, Miss Ollie Mace, to say, that we have been delighted with the success of the school. Only those who have known the very meager attainments of girls upon entering the school, can realize the rapid progress of many in their studies; and we are glad to say that the school-room is a place of attraction, and study a real pleasure, rather than a kind of mechanical drudgery.

School is in session during the whole year except a two weeks' vacation in the spring and fall. During the long evenings of the fall and winter seasons, the girls have kept up among themselves an interesting Literary Society, and so interesting has it become, that all members of the household are pleased to be guests on these important occasions.

Other evenings are also occupied very frequently by the officers of the institution, in select reading, social talks, knitting schools, prayer meetings, and various other exercises.

We have daily devotional exercises with the addition of occasional

prayer meetings, in which the girls, many of them, participate; also an excellent Sunday-school and occasional religious exercises by benevolent ministers.

Q. 24. State number and names of officers and teachers of the institution?

A. See response to question 18.

Q. 25. The services rendered and time employed by each?

A. From ten to fourteen hours per day.

Q. 26. Give number and names of guards?

A. No guards employed.

Q. 27. What amount has been expended for furniture, beds and bedding, during the past two years, and what is the quality of the same?

A. Much of goods used for bedding is also used for clothing. We cannot thus state the amount expended. Beds are plain walnut, bedding, straw ticks, army blankets, comforts, muslin sheets, feather pillows and muslin slips.

Q. 28. What officers, employees or members of their 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 officers of the school board in the institution. No other persons.

Q. 29. Have you vouchers for all your disbursements?

A. Yes.

Q. 30. What amount of funds are now on hand?

A. \$292.79.

Ques. 31. How and where are your supplies purchased?

Ans. Wholesale principally, at Ft. Madison and Keokuk. Shoes at Mt. Pleasant.

Ques. 32. What kind and what amount of fuel has been used?

Ans. Wood and coal. Biennial cost of fuel and lights, \$250.26.

Ques. 33. How are your buildings lighted?

Ans. With oil.

Ques. 34. What are the real necessities of this institution for this biennial period?

Ans. Ten dollars per month per capita and \$30,000 for a new building and grounds.

The questions of the resolution not found in the foregoing are omitted by the committee, either because they are not applicable to this institution or because the information sought to be obtained is found elsewhere in this report.

M. N. JOHNSON,

On part of the Senate.

J. KAUFFMAN,

F. A. J. GRAY,

On part of the House.