

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
SEVENTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME,

AT
DAVENPORT.

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

REPORT.

To the Seventeenth General Assembly:

The Joint Committee appointed to visit the Iowa "Soldiers' Orphans' Home," at Davenport, would respectfully report that they made a careful and quite thorough investigation into its various departments, examining the books of account, the condition of the buildings, the management of the children, and the wants of the institution; and as a result, the committee are led to conclude, that the Home, and its interests, are in the hands of faithful, competent and devoted persons.

The interrogatories contained in the resolution of instruction, were put to the officers of the institution, the answers thereto taken, and are hereto attached.

The Home embraces some twenty buildings, situated on forty acres of land, and in war times was known as Camp Kinsman.

These buildings—temporary in their object and structure, by constant repairs, have in a measure, been made comfortable; but they are fast falling into decay, and most of them are really unfit, as respects comfort, convenience, or safety for longer occupancy.

The trustees have within the past two years, erected two neat, substantial brick cottages, capable of accommodating twenty-five children each.

They have also erected a comfortable brick laundry, with steam apparatus, to supply the place of the one destroyed by fire, for which an indebtedness of \$2,225.00 was incurred. The committee would recommend that an appropriation, to cover the above sum, be made.

They would also recommend that \$10,000.00 be appropriated for the building of other cottages, similar in structure and cost to the two above mentioned.

The land upon which the Home is located, embraces much that is low and wet, and unsuitable for purposes of cultivation.

As it is very desirable that the older children should be occupied in some useful employment, the officers are anxious that more tillable land should be added to the Home; they therefore ask an appropriation of \$4,000.00 for that purpose.

The committee are of the opinion that unless a system of industry, embracing several of the mechanical arts, be established, (which they would most earnestly recommend,) the above amount ought to be appropriated, and it is quite probable, that even with a system of industries, it would be advisable to procure additional land.

The Superintendent and Matron of the Home, appear to take a deep interest in the welfare of those under their control: giving their personal supervision to all matters of discipline, to the intellectual, moral, and religious instruction of the children, and to the various departments of labor and industry carried on there. The books and accounts were found to be kept in a business like way—vouchers being furnished for all expenditures of the past two years— and the committee are satisfied that the funds appropriated, have been faithfully and judiciously expended. At the time of the visitation by the committee, there were one hundred and eighty-two children in attendance at the Home, separated into eight divisions; each occupying a cottage by itself, and each presided over by a manager, whose special duty consists in giving personal attention to the comfort and cleanliness of the children, and who are responsible for the clothing, bedding, furniture and other property of the Cottage, accompanying the children to the dining hall, and attending to their special wants, both in sickness and in health.

A graded school, comprising three departments, presided over by as many teachers, affords facilities for the education of the children; and so far as the committee were able to judge, a fair progress was being made.

A library of thirteen hundred volumes, divided as to subjects, into religious, biographical, historical, scientific, travels and juvenile stories, is accessible to the children, and is a source of amusement and instruction. The books seem to have been judiciously selected, and with reference to the tastes and demands of children. (See catalogue of said library.)

The committee would recommend that \$100.00 annually be appropriated for the purchase of books for this Institution. Much of the furniture of the Home is in a worn and dilapidated condition; the committee would, therefore, recommend that \$1,000.00 be appropriated for the purchase of new furniture and carpets. The committee cannot speak in too high terms of the sanitary condition of the Home.

Probably, in no rank or condition in life, can an equal number of children be found who have less sickness, or who are freer from ailments, than are the children here. This is undoubtedly due in part to

the favorable location, but largely to the regularity of habits, the plain nutritious and abundant food, and warm and comfortable clothing of the children.

In respect to the other items, for which the Trustees ask appropriations, the committee are in doubt as to the amount that ought to be appropriated; but they would recommend as liberal dealing with this institution as the condition of the public treasury will admit.

The committee would be very loth to recommend any course of dealing with the Home, that would in any way cripple or embarrass the beneficent work which it is accomplishing; but in view of the depreciation in value, and the decline in prices of almost every article consumed at the Home, the committee would suggest that nine dollars a month per child might perhaps meet all the demands.

The committee would recommend that an additional Trustee be elected, and that the terms of the service of the Trustees be so fixed as that only two shall expire at any one time.

DELOS ARNOLD,

On part of the Senate.

J. H. BOLTON,

JOHN McCARTNEY,

On part of the House.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

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

A. \$47,224.51.

Q. 2. From what sources were they obtained?

A. From State Treasurer, and from sale of clothing, books and stationery, groceries and provisions, fuel, &c.

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

A. \$45,610.11.

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

A. \$1,614.40.

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

A. 40.

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

A. 7 5-6.

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

A. Corn, potatoes, onions, beans, squashes, beets, cabbage, tomatoes, &c., viz:

700 bushels corn, valued at.....	\$ 280.00
316 bushels potatoes, valued at.....	94.80
1,211 bushels onions, valued at.....	484.40
44 bushels string beans, valued at.....	8.80
28 bushels shelled beans, valued at.....	56.00
32 dozen squashes, valued at.....	24.00
145 bushels table beets, valued at	50.75
2,913 heads cabbage, valued at.....	87.39
152 bushels tomatoes, valued at.....	45.60
18 bushels peas, valued at.....	3.60
126 bushels turnips, valued at.....	37.80
38 bushels parsnips, valued at.....	15.20
165 bushels carrots, valued at.....	41.25
18 bushels sweet potatoes, valued at.....	22.50
10 bushels ruta-bagas, valued at.....	3.00
460 bushels mangel-wurzels, valued at.....	138.00
173 dozen cucumbers, valued at.....	5.19
318 dozen ears sweet corn, valued at.....	19.08
20 loads pumpkins, valued at.....	40.00

225 pounds asparagus, valued at.....	\$ 4.50
320 pounds pie plant, valued at.....	3.20
70 pounds lettuce, valued at.....	1.40
14 tons hay, valued at.....	84.00
Total value.....	\$1,550.46

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

A. Four horses, twelve cows, thirty-nine hogs and shoats, and sixty fowls.

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

A. Four horses, valued at \$450.00.

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

A. Twelve cows, valued at \$450.00; all giving milk. Twelve thousand and forty gallons milk produced. No butter made. Milk all used on tables.

Q. 11. Number of vehicles, their kind, and number of each.

A. One spring wagon, \$150.00; one open buggy, \$100.00; one cutter, \$30.00; one one-horse spring wagon, \$25.00; one two-horse wagon, with two beds, \$120.00; two old wagons, \$30.00.

Q. 12. Number of hogs, and their value.

A. Thirty-nine hogs and shoats, valued at \$150.00.

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

A. Four plows, \$50.00; one harrow, \$20.00.

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

A. None.

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

A. 2,788 pounds of beef, valued at.....	\$222.80
1,119 pounds of veal, valued at.....	89.52
3,210 pounds of pork, valued at	257.92
471 pounds of poultry, valued at.....	44.24

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

A. Pigs, \$56.00; calves, \$8.00.

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

A. See answer No. 7. All consumed by the institution, except 638 bushels onions, as shown in No. 18.

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

A. 638 bushels onions sold for \$245.86. Sold since biennial report.

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

A. None.

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

A. See pay roll.

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

A. We have a surplus of labor, which can be well utilized by giving us more land; also by establishing some manufactories, that would teach our children trades.

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

A. \$14.10 for labor of boys, and \$9.00 for labor of man and team.

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

A. From one and one-half to two barrels of swill per day, fed to hogs. Can't estimate its value; it is of a very poor quality.

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

A. No.

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

A. Sold.

Q. 26. If sold, for what amount?

A. From sale of boxes, barrels, and flour sacks, \$31.15. Rags sold to the amount of \$75.17.

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

A. Made in the institution, except hats, caps, boots, shoes, socks, and the Sunday hats for the girls.

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

A. Nine months in the year in graded school, except for the older boys, who have from five to six months. Morning and evening prayer; Sunday school; church service each Sabbath, with a constant teaching by precept and example in morals.

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

A. 180.

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

A. 250.

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

A. 181, number of students, and 177 as the average attendance for last month.

Q. 36, 37, 38. State number and names of officers and teachers of the institution? The salary of each per month? The services rendered and time employed by each?

A. See pay roll.

Q. 39 and 40. Give the number and names of guards, their salaries, and length of time employed? Give number and names of employees of all kinds not before enumerated; describe their service and length of time employed, and what amount paid to each person?

A. The teachers are employed for nine months in the year, and from five to five and one-half hours a day, and five days in a week, in the school-room. They have no duties outside the school-room, except to teach in Sabbath-school each Sabbath morning. The physician attends us whenever we call on him, either as surgeon or physician. The ladies in sewing-room and laundry work ten and one-half hours each day. The others devote their entire time to the care of the children.

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. \$1,970.15.

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. My own children are boarded in the institution. The wife of the baker is boarded here, when not employed at sewing in the sewing department. While she is boarding she pays her board. The wife of the book-keeper occupies one of our buildings, and keeps house for herself and husband's father. The building was in bad repair, and Mr. Suter, (the book-keeper,) agreed to fix it up and keep it in repair for the use of it, which he has done at a cost of \$30.00, at least. He has occupied this building for a nearly a year.

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

A. Yes; on file in office.

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

A. \$1,061.19

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

A. By Superintendent, in Davenport.

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

A. The amount of fuel was seven hundred and twelve tons of soft coal, and fifty-three and one-half cords of mill wood. Mostly soft coal; some mill wood. Cost, \$2,532.42.

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

A. With kerosene; cost, \$261.17.

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

A. The real necessities of this institution are the new buildings that we ask for in the report, and more land to cultivate. We cannot rent land near here for a term of years, and I feel that we must have it. The several appropriations asked for are all necessities.

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

A. Foolscap, \$2.40 per ream.

Note, \$1.75 per ream.

Letter, \$2.25 per ream.

Envelopes, \$2.50 per thousand.

Pencils, \$1.20 per gross.

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

A. Paper and envelopes sold only to employes, practically at cost. Pencils to children at one cent, each, and proceeds credited to the State.

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

A. Amount paid, \$323.78.

Amount received, \$55.52.

PAY ROLL FOR FEBRUARY, 1878.

NAMES.	WHEN EMPLOYED.	DUTY.	Period Paid for.	Rate per Month.	Amount Paid.	PAYMENT RECEIVED BY.	
						Room, bed, lights and washing.	Boards
1 S. W. Pierce.....	December 1, 1867.	Superintendent.....	.....	\$100 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
2 F. W. Pierce.....	December 1, 1867.	Matron.....	.....	50 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
3 W. F. Peck.....	December 1, 1867.	Physician.....	.....	33 35	.....	.....	Receives no board.....
4 G. M. Suter.....	October 14, 1872.	Book Keeper.....	.....	30 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
5 W. M. Brown.....	January 1, 1877.	Wat hman.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
6 C. P. Lake.....	December 12, 1876.	Laborer.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
7 H. Mead.....	June 20, 1877.	Baker.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
8 M. E. Tomlinson.....	November 15, 1877.	Cottage Manager.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
9 J. R. Evans.....	February 19, 1877.	Cottage Manager.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
10 Lucetta Hines.....	November 12, 1877.	Cottage Manager.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
11 A. W. Cummings.....	July 28, 1877.	Cottage Manager.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
12 N. Connor.....	December 29, 1876.	Cottage Manager.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
13 S. J. Edwards.....	March 7, 1866.	Cottage Manager.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
14 P. A. Hibbs.....	July 4, 1877.	Cottage Manager.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
15 R. A. Painter.....	August 6, 1877.	Cottage Manager.....	.....	30 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
16 Olive Capwell.....	September 11, 1876.	Teacher.....	.....	30 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
17 M. J. Anderson.....	October 4, 1876.	Teacher.....	.....	25 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
18 Nellie Capwell.....	September 10, 1877.	Teacher.....	.....	25 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
19 Ella Virden.....	November 12, 1877.	Sewing-Room Manager.....	.....	15 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
20 Mel. Carleton.....	.....	Seamstress.....	.....	10 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
21 Emma Fletcher.....	1, 1877.	Kitchen and Dining-Hall Manager.....	.....	25 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
22 Lizzie Miller.....	July 14, 1876.	Kitchen help.....	.....	12 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
23 L. R. Wood.....	October 2, 1877.	Superintendent's house-keeper.....	.....	12 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
24 Mary Maicron.....	June 17, 1878.	Laundry Manager.....	.....	15 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
25 Maggie Maicron.....	October 12, 1871.	Laundress.....	.....	12 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....
..... Geo. Fellows.....	August 1, 1876.	Carpenter.....	.....	26 00	.....	.....	Boards in the Institution.....