

## DISBURSMENTS.

To December 1st, 1869, as shown by report of Commissioners of that date (page 10)..	\$ 35774 90
From December 1st, 1869, to May 1st, 1870, per above statement.....	8163 96
From May 1st, 1870, to December 1st, 1871, as shown by report of Treasurer.....	246468 50
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	\$290407 36
Balance on hand December 1st, 1870.....	\$ 4329 04

## REPORT

OF THE

## JOINT COMMITTEE

TO THE

## FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

INSANE ASYLUM AT INDEPENDENCE.

DES MOINES:

G. W. EDWARDS, STATE PRINTER.

1872.

## REPORT.

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*To the Members of the Fourteenth General Assembly:*

GENTLEMEN: Your Committee appointed to visit the Hospital for the Insane, located and in course of erection at Independence, would submit the following report :

The work as far as done appears to be *well* done, and honestly ; it is substantial, plain, and durable; and your Committee are of the opinion, that, as the work progresses, great care is exercised to prevent a necessity for further changes, one source of great expense and inconvenience in the management of hospitals.

Your Committee examined with care the books, papers, accounts and vouchers, in the hands of the Commissioners; also the price paid for labor and material at different seasons of the year; also the manner of working and overseeing the mechanics and laborers, and have no hesitation in saying that the Commissioners and Superintendent have done all that could have been done under the circumstances with the means placed at their disposal by the last General Assembly.

Your Committee took occasion to ascertain the reasons, (by an examination of the present status of the building, and the report of the Visiting Committee to the Thirteenth General Assembly,) why portions of the left wing are not now ready for occupancy.

The Visiting Committee of the Thirteenth General Assembly used the following language: " Your Committee would suggest that a sufficient appropriation be made, at least to complete two additional sections of the left wing, permanent engine-house, heating apparatus, water-works, etc., and put that portion of the building in a condition to be occupied at the earliest day possible. By completing two additional sections of the left wing, one longitudinal, and one transverse, the transverse section being a large four story building, economizing

room and using the basement under the four-story section temporarily for kitchen purposes, there will be room for the accommodation about one hundred and twenty patients."

The Committee estimated the appropriation necessary to complete as above, and make those sections available, at one hundred and sixty-four thousand dollars.

Your committee are of the opinion that the General Assembly in making the appropriation, the exact amount suggested by the committee, intended to carry out their recommendation. Upon an examination of the act, however, it will be seen that the Commissioners were not permitted to carry out the suggestions of the Visiting Committee.

Section 2, chapter 120, Laws of the Thirteenth General Assembly, directs that the Commissioners "Shall, with the least possible delay, cause to be erected and completed the remainder of the north wing, the rear center building, the engine-house, &c.

Section 5, same act, reads, "That in addition to the sum appropriated by the Twelfth General Assembly, there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the State treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of one hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the completion and furnishing of said portions of said Asylum, and for the improvement of the grounds and farm."

The language of the law admits of but one construction, viz.: It directs the Commissioners to complete the north wing, the rear center building, engine-house, improvements of the grounds, and farm; in fact, proceed with the building as originally contemplated, (except the front center building,) entirely ignoring the recommendation of Visiting Committee, except in the amount appropriated.

After a thorough survey of the situation, your committee are of opinion that the Commissioners followed the law in every particular, and, in doing so, permit us to express our opinion, that they decided wisely; and have expended the appropriation in a manner the most advantageous to the State.

In view of the pressing want, amounting to an absolute necessity, for all the room that will be available upon the completion of the center building and north wing, your committee are of the opinion

that it would be economy for the State to make at this session an appropriation sufficient to complete said portions and prepare them for patients.

As the insane of the State must be provided for, and, as the hospital at Mt. Pleasant is already filled to its utmost limits, your committee, by the assistance of the Superintendent, Mr. George Josslyn, estimated the very least that would enable the Commissioners to complete these portions necessary to occupancy, and find two hundred thousand dollars the minimum amount that should be appropriated.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. IRELAND,

*On the part of the Senate.*

B. F. KEABLES,

J. F. DUNCOMBE,

*On the part of the House.*