

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME AT CEDAR FALLS.

DES MOINES:
G. W. EDWARDS, STATE PRINTER,
1872.

REPORT

To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa :

Your Committee appointed in compliance with a joint resolution of the Fourteenth General Assembly to visit the Soldiers' Orphans' Home at Cedar Falls, having performed that duty would now ask leave to submit the following report :

The Home is pleasantly situated on a piece of rising ground, about one and one half miles south-west of the business part of the city of Cedar Falls. The location is a beautiful one, and when the ornamental and forest trees, now planted, shall have attained a larger growth, the surroundings will be well calculated to have an elevating and a refining influence upon the minds of the children whose orphanage has caused them to become inmates of this home.

In regard to the history of this home, we take the following article from the Iowa State Reporter, a paper published at Waterloo, which gives a brief and very correct history of the Home from its first organization :

"The Cedar Falls Home was organized under the auspices of the Association, in 1865. An old hotel building was fitted up for its use."

"The first children, Rufus C., Mary L., and Emma L. Bauer, were received October 5th, of this year. During that month eleven entered the Home, and on the first of January, 1866, the children numbered sixty. During 1866, 216 were received; nine died, and twenty-two were otherwise discharged. In 1867, 142 were received, one died, and eighty-seven were otherwise discharged. In 1868, sixty-six were received, and forty-nine discharged. In 1869, sixty-six were received, one death occurred, and thirty-five were discharged. In 1870, seventy-five were received, one died, and sixty-four were discharged. In 1871, thirty-nine were received, and sixty-four discharged. To March 1st, 1872, five have been received

"and twelve discharged. Total number received since the organization, six hundred and sixty-nine." There are now two hundred and eighty-seven children in the home—one hundred and fifty boys and one hundred and thirty-seven girls. Their ages vary from five to sixteen years, and are divided as follows: One is five years old; six are six years old; nine are seven years old; thirteen are eight years old; thirty-seven are nine years old; forty-five are ten years old; thirty-two are eleven years old; thirty-six are twelve years old; forty-eight are thirteen years old; thirty-three are fourteen years old; twenty-three are fifteen years old, and four are sixteen years old.

The sanitary condition of the Home is good. But one death has occurred during the past two years, and there are now only two in the Hospital. In fact, the healthful appearance of the children may be regarded as an indication that they are receiving proper care and attention, and are provided with wholesome food in proper quantities avoiding alike both extremes—excess and insufficiency. Indeed, it would be hard to find, in any community, a more happy and healthful lot of boys and girls than can here be seen as they gather round the table in the dining-hall, and seat themselves in family groups.

The educational interests of the children are equally well provided for. The schools are graded, thus affording all the advantages of the most approved systems of teaching. The school-rooms are quite comfortable, well lighted, and warm; with a corps of teachers equal to any like numbers in the State. The usual number of school-weeks in a year is about forty, with a spring and fall vacation.

The children are also taught habits of industry, as much so as circumstances will admit. The girls are better provided for in this respect than the boys. The girls are instructed in most kinds of house-work. They help to make and repair their own clothing; help by detail in the kitchen, the dining-room and in the laundry. The boys chop wood and do chores in the winter, and in the spring and summer they do the general farm and garden work, and thus become quite familiar with the use of farming tools.

Your committee was also highly pleased with the high standard of moral training. It appears to be the aim to make the household a happy and loving one—in a word, a "*Christian home*," a *home* in the highest sense, where every child's individuality is respected and

sympathized with. This fundamental principle of life is sought to be constantly impressed upon their minds and hearts that the foundation of their future usefulness and happiness must be in *THEIR OWN* good character and conduct, in their industry, integrity, and regular attention to the duties of their several stations. The children are generally cleanly in their habits, orderly in their behavior, chaste in conversation, respectful and obedient to those who have the rule over them. Whilst all sectarian instruction is properly ignored, they are nevertheless taught to "Remember their Creator now in the days of their youth." They attend Sunday-school and divine worship held in the chapel on the Sabbath. The superintendent is assisted in these exercises by the ministers of the different christian denominations in Cedar Falls.

Your committee would further report that in addition to the superintendent and matron, there are now employed as follows: Of men, one teamster, one cobbler, one engineer, and one for general work; and of women, six teachers, nine ward-managers, four washerwomen, two cooks, one in dining hall, four tailors, one book-keeper, two bakers, and one night-watch.

As far as your committee could examine during the limited time at their disposal, they are of the opinion that the books and accounts are properly kept, and that the appropriation made by the Thirteenth General Assembly has been honestly and judiciously expended for the various purposes named in said appropriations.

The following is a condensed exhibit of the receipts and disbursements for the period therein named :

The Receipts and Disbursements of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Homes at Cedar Falls, For the Biennial Period, ending October 31, 1871, were as follows :

Dr.	
To balance.....	\$ 1025.62
To received from J. Myre, treasurer.....	21220.00
To received from T. B. Carpenter, treasurer	14680.00
To received from T. B. Carpenter, treasurer	5000.00
To received from sales to employees.....	624.15
To received from donations.....	60 00
	\$ 42609.77

ORPHANS' HOME AT CEDAR FALLS.

Cr.	
By paid for improvements and repairs.....	\$ 7991.56
By paid for furniture, crockery, and cutlery	1214.52
By paid for clothing and furnishing.....	7178.50
By paid for groceries and provisions.....	9638.81
By paid for fuel and light.....	3376.17
By paid for medicine.....	149.20
By paid for books and stationery.....	499.73
By paid for salaries.....	8549.80
By paid for stock and implements.....	461.00
By paid for incidentals.....	2664.14
Balance.....	886.34
	<u>\$42609.77</u>

Dr.	
To balance.....	\$ 886.34
To received from T. B. Carpenter, treasurer	35450.00
To received from T. B. Carpenter, treasurer	6045.28
To received from T. B. Carpenter, (Gerring note).....	50.00
To received from sales to employees.....	158.34
To received from sales of stationery.....	23.11
To received from sales of old iron.....	18.20
To received from sale of sewing machine...	28.00
To received from sale of stock.....	85.00
	<u>\$ 42744.27</u>

Cr.	
By paid for improvements and repairs.	\$ 10440.47
By paid for furniture, crockery, and cutlery	778.91
By paid for clothing and furnishing.	5669.55
By paid for groceries and provisions.....	10375.44
By paid for fuel and light.....	2711.38
By paid for medicine.....	205.29
By paid for books and stationery.....	688.90

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

By paid for salaries.....	\$ 8452.08
By paid for stock and implements.....	234.00
By paid for incidentals.....	1610.55
By balance.....	1582.70
	<u>\$ 42744.27</u>

Your committee would recommend the continuance of the monthly allowances, as provided in sec. 1, of chap. 66, acts Twelfth General Assembly, and a special appropriation of six hundred dollars (\$600,) to be used in putting up window-shutters, and also the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200,) for a sewer and drain.

In conclusion, permit us to congratulate you, and through you the people of the State, on the kind sympathy and generous support heretofore granted to the orphan children of our dead heroes. These children are not mere objects of charity, or pensioners upon our bounty, but have just claims, earned by the blood of their fathers, who voluntarily endangered their lives in the cause of their country in the most trying hour of its existence, and we should not forget as they left their homes and their little ones, and started to go to our country's battle-fields, how we pledged our words that if they fell that these their children should become the children of the State. Iowa has nobly responded to these obligations in the generous support she has given these—her wards, the living legacies which have been bequeathed us by the men who laid down their lives for the country.

Hereafter, the defenders of our country will not falter when they reflect that should they fall, they have in the State a paternal protector of their beloved ones, and that their children will be provided for.

We trust that the same generous support will be continued while there remains a soldier's orphan in the State.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

JOHN P. WEST,

On the part of the Senate.

M. GOODSPEED,

IRA E. DRAPER,

On the part of the House.