

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

APPOINTED TO VISIT
THE STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

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

REPORT.

To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa :

Your joint committee, appointed to visit the State Reform School, proceeded during the recess to discharge that duty, and herewith present the following report :

That we made personal examination of the premises, and found the buildings in good condition, and kept in the best of order. Your committee believe that the money appropriated at the last session of the General Assembly for the support of the school, has been legitimately and economically expended. We found the youth in charge under the skillful management of Superintendent McCarty, well cared for mentally, morally, and physically, being comfortably clothed, cleanly in appearance, and under the influence of wholesome restraint, and proper education.

Your committee are unanimous in the opinion that the institution is one of vital importance to the State ; that while its beneficial effects are already being felt in a large degree, we are fully persuaded that its influence for good has only begun.

Inasmuch as the present location is near one corner of the State, on rented ground, and with a view to a permanent location of the school, we would recommend that the trustees be at once authorized to purchase grounds, at some central point, on or near some line of railroad, for a permanent location of the school upon the grounds so purchased and owned by the State ; and that appropriations be made to secure the requisite buildings thereon, and other needful facilities, at the earliest possible day.

We would represent to you that the fencing on the farm is in very bad repair ; and inasmuch as the school cannot be removed this year, and the lease of the State has six years to run, we are of the opinion that it would be to the best interest of the State to appropriate a sufficient amount to repair the fencing on the farm.

Your committee are also of the opinion that idleness is one of the great incentives to crime; and in order to reform the youth they must have employment, both mentally and physically; and owing to the limited number of teams and farming implements in the hands of the superintendent, and but few work-shops on the farm, he cannot now profitably employ all the boys in school. We are therefore unanimous in the opinion that it would be to the interest of the school for the State to purchase at least three or four more teams for use of same, giving employment for a greater number of boys, and hence cultivating more land, thereby making the school a source of income.

Your committee recommend that such legislation be had as will secure to the school all the facilities necessary to render it in the highest degree successful. And that an appropriation sufficient to permanently locate the school be made.

It might be proper for your committee to state, that they believe the school has been managed as successfully, up to the present time, as could have been expected with the limited means and facilities in hands of the trustees; and recommend that an appropriation be made adequate to meet the current necessities without placing the Trustees under the necessity of borrowing money without authority.

For a detailed account of the present condition of the institution we refer you to the biennial report of trustees and superintendent of said school.

Submitted by,

E. T. SMITH,

On part of the Senate.

D. T. DURHAM,

ROBERT STRUTHERS,

On part of the House.

EIGHTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF CURATORS OF THE IOWA STATE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY,

FOR THE

BIENNIAL PERIOD, ENDING DECEMBER 1, 1871,

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF IOWA.

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