

1. The full name of the applicant.
2. The year, month, and day of birth.
3. The place where he was born.
4. The cause of the deafness; if not born deaf, when and how the person became deaf.
5. Whether the child is bright and active, or dull and stupid.
6. Whether there are any deaf and dumb relatives.
7. The names and post-office address of the parents or guardians.

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

FOURTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

DEAF AND DUMB ASYLUM, AT COUNCIL BLUFFS.

DES MOINES:

G. W. EDWARDS, STATE PRINTER.

1872.

[No. 13A.]

REPORT.

To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa :

Your committee appointed to visit the State Institution for the education of the Deaf and Dumb, located at Council Bluffs, have performed that duty and ask leave to submit the following report :

The building now occupied has been erected since the adjournment of the previous General Assembly, and our attention was first directed to its examination. As is known to you, the central portion of the structure, as originally designed, and one wing, are now completed. The basement story of stone, and the stories above of brick, seem to be of good material and well built, with the exception of one corner of the wing, where the foundation is defective, and has been so depressed by the weight that the wall in one place is badly cracked, and some apprehension is felt that it may sink still further, or even slide out so as to endanger the building. As a proper precaution against this possible result, it would, in the opinion of competent architects consulted, as well as our own, be wise to build an abutment of stone, against this corner, which, it is thought, would make it entirely safe, and not involve any considerable expense.

A WRETCHED PIECE OF CARPENTRY.

The wood-work of the building is inexcusably bad. The lumber used, besides being of a poor quality, was not well seasoned and has shrunk very much. The windows and doors are so open that it is next to impossible to make many of the rooms comfortably warm on a cold, blustering day. The floors, doors, and door-casings, window-casings, and base-boards, are so shrunk as to be full of gaping cracks and

fissures—a standing reproach to all who had anything to do with their structure as well as to the State. Capable builders have estimated the damage resulting from this imperfect carpenter work at \$4,312. As there is still remaining of the appropriation for the building an unexpended balance of \$4,475, your committee would suggest that it could not be put to a better use than in repairing this defective and really disgraceful work; and would recommend that this sum, or so much of it as may be necessary, be thus expended during the approaching summer.

THE PUPILS.

Your committee visited the various study and recitation rooms, and saw nearly all the classes in their daily routine of instruction.

The one hundred pupils, with two or three exceptions, were all in their places, and seemed to be well taught and making good progress. They appeared cheerful and happy, seemed to be fairly provided for, and doing as well in all respects as could be reasonably anticipated.

One of your committee who examined the dinner table of the pupils, somewhat critically, is of opinion that they should have a more generous diet.

It is also suggested that the somewhat expensive furnishing of a large spare room, known as "The Governor's Room," is hardly consistent with the fact that there is not even a strip of carpeting on the floors of the young ladies sleeping-rooms, which must be constantly occupied, while the former seldom has even a transient occupant. Your committee do not know who is responsible for this inequality, but hope that a friendly hint may be sufficient to prevent similar injudicious expenditures in the future.

COST OF FUEL.

This is noticeable; the expense for the item of fuel alone for thirteen months, ending November 1, 1871, was \$6,854.15. This is doubtless somewhat larger than it would have been, but for the open condition of the building, resulting from the bad carpenter work already spoken of. It has been found necessary to use hard coal in

the heating furnace, which has also increased the expense considerably. This subject deserves the careful attention of the Superintendent and of the Trustees.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT.

We were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing an industrial department in connection with this institution. According to the latest reports of the thirty-eight American institutions for the instruction of the deaf and dumb, twenty-one (including really all in the States) have industrial departments, comprising cabinet-making, shoe-making, tailoring, carpentering, printing, book-binding, dress-making, knitting, etc., etc. In the minds of your committee there is in question as to the importance of such a department in connection with every institution of this kind. For the happiness and usefulness of a deaf-mute, a good trade, or a thorough acquaintance with some kind of work, is not less necessary than a literary education. Both are important, and the State can and should provide for both. It is probable, at least in the beginning, that it would make some additional cost to carry on any trade or trades, so as to give the pupils a chance to learn them, but the increased advantage would more than compensate for the increased expense, and your committee most earnestly recommend that a sufficient appropriation be made to employ foremen, buy tools, stock, etc., to make at least a good beginning in two or three trades, such as cabinet-making, shoe-making, tailoring, and dress-making. On the grounds belonging to the Institution there is room for farming on a small scale, and also for gardening, horticulture, etc., and in these employments some of the pupils could be engaged a portion of their time much to their advantage, both in the way of health and in gaining useful information.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Institution is furnished with water by a wind-mill on a small stream a half a mile distant. The supply is too small to be of much benefit in case of fire, and is also liable to become insufficient for ordinary purposes in case of a calm of several days continuance. A bluff,

near the Institution, and towering above it, affords a good site for a reservoir, and, in the opinion of the committee, this site should be secured and an ample and permanent reservoir erected as soon as practicable; but not being able to learn the price of the land, or the expense of building the proposed reservoir, we are not prepared to recommend a definite appropriation for this purpose.

THE NEW WING.

While it would be very desirable to have the remaining wings of the Institution erected immediately, your committee, in view of the many and pressing demands on the limited resources of the State Treasury, do not feel warranted in recommending an appropriation for that purpose at this time.

APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDED.

To put the Institution in good working order your committee recommend appropriations as follows:

To build a good barn.....	\$ 3000 00
To build a house for fuel.....	1000 00
Fire proof building for gas works.....	1500 00
Desks for study-rooms.....	400 00
Book-cases for school-rooms.....	200 00
Furniture for dining-room and kitchen.....	250 00
Wardrobes for girls sleeping-rooms.....	200 00
Carpets for pupil's dormitories and halls.....	300 00
Beds, bedding and bed-room furniture.....	1000 00
For industrial department.....	2150 00
Total.....	\$10,000 00

Your committee agree with the Trustees that the general appropriation for the current expenses should be \$12,000.00 per annum, and \$40.00 per quarter for each pupil as heretofore.

CHARLES BEARDSLEY,

On part of the Senate.

M. A. LEAHY,

J. G. NEWBOLD,

On part of the House.