

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE
EIGHTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
GIRLS' DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE REFORM SCHOOL
AT
MOUNT PLEASANT.

[PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.]

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REPORT.

Report of the Visiting Committee to the Girls' Department of the State Reform School.

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

YOUR joint committee appointed to visit the Girl's Department of the State Reform School, beg leave to report that they have discharged that duty, and as the result of their investigation, have the honor to submit the following, to-wit:

Your committee, on arriving at the school, were pleased to find a neat, and what at one time was a commodious building, situated west of the city of Mount Pleasant. The premises consist of a beautiful plat of ground containing forty-three acres, on which is a large orchard, which bears, we were informed, excellent fruit. The grounds are beautifully decorated with shade and ornamental trees. There are abundant out-buildings, consisting of a large barn, corn cribs, wagon sheds, hog pens, etc., etc.

Everything necessary is found in the surroundings to render the place pleasant, attractive, and well adapted to the purposes for which it is now used. The addition, consisting of a brick building 30x40 feet and two stories high, and the repairs made in pursuance of the act of the Seventeenth General Assembly, providing for preparing and paying rent of buildings on Girls' Department of the Iowa Reform School, are all that could be expected from the appropriation made; in fact, we are credibly informed that the citizens of the place supplemented the appropriation to the amount of several hundred dollars, in order that the School might be provided with suitable accommodations.

In regard to the location, it is in a retired portion of the neighborhood, on a well defined elevation, with such surroundings as give to it a remarkable air of comfort, and an appearance so perfectly home-like

that your committee feel sure that the influence cannot be otherwise than salutary.

Your committee learned from the Superintendent of the Institution that when the School was removed to its present place, one year and a half since, there were then about fifty-two inmates; since that time it has increased almost forty per cent, so that the accommodations that were at first ample are quite insufficient now.

Such is the rapid increase of inmates that it would hardly be possible to accommodate the probable increase even of one more year.

A permanent location somewhere is very desirable. Your committee are of the opinion that the State could not do better than to permanently locate the Girls' Department of the Reform School in the place where it now is, as they understand that the site can be had for the sum of about nine thousand dollars. Should this not be deemed advisable, then they recommend that the lease be continued, and appropriations for necessary improvements made.

The main or old building is largely taken up by the Superintendent, Matron, and employes.

The new building is occupied by the girls constituting the School. This part of the building is too small for either comfort or health of the inmates. More sleeping room is absolutely necessary; more than sixty persons are now crowded into a sleeping-room 30x40 feet. The present school-room should be enlarged by taking in the dining-room, and a wing might be added, the upper story of which would furnish additional sleeping-rooms and the lower a suitable dining-room. All the cooking is now done in a room 12x16. Other enlargements are also necessary as the School increases in numbers. It would require at least four thousand dollars to make all improvements needed to make the institution as it should be for the health and comfort of those who are compelled to remain during the hot months of summer.

We believe the Superintendent, Mr. L. D. Lewelling, and the Matron, Mrs. L. D. Lewelling, are well qualified for the full supervision of all the departments connected with the School.

Your committee availed themselves of the opportunity afforded them to interview the school girls by themselves; they all spoke in the highest terms of those in authority over them. The only complaint your committee heard was that two or three wished their time was up so that they could go home.

Your committee examined every department. Everything appeared clean, and showed neatness throughout the building. Their food was

well arranged, making several changes during the week. We think a more desirable variety of food might be provided if the support fund were increased, the present monthly allowance (\$8 per month) being inadequate when all the expenses for board, clothing, schooling and payment of employes are paid therefrom.

Your committee will here insert the bill of fare, as now served up by the present Superintendent:

SUNDAY.

Breakfast—Coffee, meat, gravy and bread.

Dinner—Baked beans, fruit, bread.

Lunch—Pie, cake, or sandwiches.

MONDAY.

Breakfast—Bread, coffee, boiled potatoes, gravy.

Dinner—Light rolls, meat, hominy, dressing.

Supper—Bread, coffee, gravy, fruit.

TUESDAY.

Breakfast—Bread, butter, syrup, coffee.

Dinner—Bread, beef soup, beef, rice pudding.

Supper—Bread, butter, fruit, milk.

WEDNESDAY.

Breakfast—Bread, coffee, hash.

Dinner—Baked beans, bread, apple rolls with dressing.

Supper—Bread, gravy, baked potatoes.

THURSDAY.

Breakfast—Fried mush, fruits, coffee, bread.

Dinner—Beef soup, beef dressing, bread.

Supper—Bread, butter, syrup, rice.

FRIDAY.

Breakfast—Bread, rice, syrup, coffee.

Dinner—Bread, meat, pie, hominy.

Supper—Oat meal mush, milk, fruit.

SATURDAY.

Breakfast—Fried mush, coffee, fruit, bread.

Dinner—Beans, soup, pudding, bread.

Supper—Bread, fish, fruit.

This bill of fare we found posted up for the government of those in charge of the culinary department, and your committee was informed that the above is the usual fare, which is seldom changed at this season of the year.

We attended their school; heard them recite their several lessons, which were well done. They sung several pieces of music, which was done with taste and in good time.

The children nearly all look healthy. There has never been a death in the School since its organization, and no serious illness of any of the inmates.

Your committee further report that they made an estimate as nearly as possible of all the property belonging to the State connected with the School. We arrive at these figures from the Superintendent and the report of the Trustees, having no other guide:

Live stock, horses and cows	\$ 650 00
Farm implements and wagons	275 00
About fifty tons of hay (part old).....	110 00
Tools of various kinds.....	10 00
Grocery chest.....	15 00
Oil tank, lamps and brackets.....	30 00
School-room furniture and stove.....	210 00
School library and school books	90 00
Laundry furniture and stove.....	50 00
Beds and bedding	450 00
All other furniture in the house.....	1000 00
Other articles such as pickles and canned fruit	80 00

The above is as near as your committee can make an estimate of the true value of the above named articles, having no means either to weigh or measure the same.

1. In answer to question one, we would say, so far as we could ascertain, said appropriation has been wisely and economically expended.

2. In answer to question two, the amounts received, we believe to have been expended for the purposes for which drawn.

3. No indebtedness has, so far as we could learn, been contracted, there being a small balance on hand.

4. In answer to this we would say, that we found the sum of \$549.68 had been expended for water closets, digging of wells, repairs of pumps, and building of sidewalks, all of which were absolutely necessary.

5. In answer to question five, we report as follows:

L. D. Lewelling, Superintendent.....	\$ 800 00
Mrs. L. D. Lewelling, Matron.....	
Miss Ollie Mace, teacher, per month.....	20 00
Annie Phar, in charge of sewing-room, per month.....	15 00
Mary Marshall, in charge of cooking, etc., per month.....	15 00
Mary Fagan, in charge of laundry, per month.....	15 00
Arch. Williams, farm hand, per month.....	18 00

All of the above have subsistence from the State, including board, rooms, light, fuel—nothing else from the State. The above statement includes all the employes your committee could find as being employed by the State.

We, your committee, considering the character of girls who are the inmates of this institution, and the character of the boys in the other branch of the Reform School, would recommend that in our opinion any removal, or attempted removal, with the view of uniting said institutions, would be a great wrong to the inmates and detrimental to the best interests of the State.

We find the opinion held by all who have had any experience in the management of like institutions, that it would not only be demoralizing, but the main objects for which said institutions were founded, would be utterly subverted.

By reference to the report of the joint committee of the Seventeenth General Assembly, we find Superintendent Lewelling had received the written opinion of superintendents of like institutions in other states, who express a unanimous opinion opposed to the uniting of the two branches of said institution.

All of which your committee respectfully submit.

G. A. MADSON,

On part of the Senate.

O. H. LYON,

J. C. PORTER,

On the part of the House.