

# REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY

OF IOWA STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND FARM.

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*To the Honorable*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives :*

The undersigned, a Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm, appointed to present to your Honorable body their acts and doings as authorized by the Law of March 22d, 1858, incorporating and making appropriations for a State Agricultural College and Farm, have to report,

That their first meeting under said law took place in the Capitol on the 10th day of January, 1859; that there were present at said meeting all the members appointed by the last Legislature and named in the law, excepting Messrs. M. W. Robinson, John D. Wright, E. H. Williams, Clement Coffin, and the Governor, R. P. Lowe. Mr. E. H. Williams, having resigned his trustee-ship, John Pattee was duly elected to fill the vacancy.

One of the first duties of the Board being the election of permanent officers, Wm. Duane Wilson, was duly elected Secretary, to hold his office for two years from the 22d of March 1859, and Richard Gaines was duly elected Treasurer, to hold his office for one year, who was re-elected for a like term at the meeting of the Board in January last. The trustees and officers executed their bonds of office as required by law. In deciding the terms of ser-

vice of the members of the Board, as required by law, the following was the result:

Messrs. M. W. Robinson, Timothy Day, J. D. Wright, Wm. Duane Wilson, Richard Gaines and John Pattee, each drew the term of four years from the 10th of January, 1859, and Messrs. G. W. F. Sherwin, Suel Foster, J. W. Henderson, Clement Coffin and E. G. Day each drew the term of two years, from the 10th of January 1859. Proposals for the sale of lands for the College Farm were issued from this meeting and circulated over the State, to be acted upon at the second meeting of the Board in June last. At that meeting propositions were received from the counties of Hardin, Polk, Story, Marshall, Jefferson and Tama. The Board having determined to examine the sites offered, a selection was not made until the next meeting in the same month, when it was located in Story County, on the west fractional half of section number (3) three, the east fractional half of section No. (4) four, the east half of south-west quarter of section No. (4) four, and the east half of north-west fractional quarter of section No. (4) four, in township No. (83) eighty-three, north of range No. (24) twenty-four, west of P. M., Iowa, containing six hundred and forty-nine and fifty one hundredths acres: providing the conditions of the bond, accompanying it, and subsequently added to the propositions made by the citizens of Story and Boone Counties, and the county of Story, are complied with in accordance with a resolution of this Board.

The offers made by Story county and some of the citizens thereof, and the citizens of Boone county, embraced \$10,000 of County Bonds which had been voted by the legal voters of Story county, near \$4,000 in individual notes, at 10 per cent interest from the date of location, payable in two years, and 1000 acres of unimproved lands in Story and Boone counties, in the vicinity of the farm.

#### QUALITY OF THE FARM LAND.

The land is well calculated for the uses intended, there being a good portion of dry rolling prairie, of the general character of our State, some of it a little wet, and some creek bottom; Squaw Fork Creek, lasting water, runs through the east side of the land; an excellent never failing spring in the prairie near the center of the farm; a good supply of timber, probably 150 acres; and good clay for brick upon it. There is also donated a sufficient stone

quarry which is situated about one and a half miles west of the farm, being a plain quality of stone, between sand and lime stone.

#### BUILDING SITES.

The public road leading from Nevada to Boonsboro, passes through the farm east and west, near the south line. It is intended to change this road to the south line. The Farm is in fractional sections, being one mile and a fourth east and west, and containing  $647\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

The place selected by the Executive Committee for the College buildings, is about 60 rods from the south line, and 130 rods from the west line. There is a small creek running east along and near the south line, somewhat crooked. At this place it makes a curve to the south leaving a handsome swell of land, elevated about 25 feet above the small creek and about 45 feet above Squaw Creek, which is three-fourths of a mile east. This is nearly the height of the high prairie of the Farm, excepting two or three ridges somewhat higher, not large enough, however, for building sites. A Topographical Survey of the Farm has not been made, believing it might be dispensed with until the school is opened.

It is intended to lay off a farm road, north and south from the College building, just half a mile from the west line of the Farm.

The site for the Farm House, is about 40 rods N. N. E. of the College building, and on the east side of the farm road. The Barn is to be 20 rods N. N. E. of the house, and within 30 rods from the large spring which lies N. N. E. This spring can be conveyed by means of an Hydraulic Ram to all these building sites.

#### IMPROVEMENTS MADE ON THE FARM.

The improvements and preparations for improvements are as follows:

Breaking 70 acres of prairie, at \$2.50 per acre, . . . . .	\$175.00
Fencing contracted to be done.	
213 $\frac{1}{4}$ rods post and rail.	
213 $\frac{1}{4}$ rods Virginia rail.	
213 $\frac{1}{4}$ rods Posts and 5 boards.	
640 rods requiring in all 9200 posts and rails, at \$1.50 per hundred, to be cut from timber on farm and delivered . . . . .	138.00

Lumber for fencing, 7,500 feet at \$1.50 per hundred.....	125.50
Lumber for building house and barn, 69,800 feet of which 7000 feet is to be finishing lumber, at \$1.80 per hundred, and 62,800 feet at \$1.50 per hundred, making, which is all contracted for and being delivered,.....	1068.00
Shingles, 62 M. at \$3.50, of white Oak or Black Walnut contracted for and being delivered,.....	217.00
Cellars for house and barn, contracted for at 15 cts. per cubic yard, estimated to cost in all,.....	120.00
Well dug and partly walled, at \$1.00 per foot, estimated,	30.00
Stone for building foundations :	
100 perch, quarried, at 50 cents per perch,.....	50.00
100 perch contracted to be quarried at same price,.....	50.00
Hay stacked on farm, ten tons at \$3 per ton,.....	30.00
For fencing the same,.....	1.50
	<u>\$2005.00</u>

Some of the above are paid for out of the individual donations to the College, to amount of about \$300; the exact figures we are unable to furnish, and about \$800 in cash from the State appropriation, which deducted from \$2005.00 leaves a balance of \$900 to be paid for in material and labor contracted for.

## FINANCIAL CONDITION.

### RECEIPTS.

Appropriation by the State,.....	\$10,000.00
Bonds of the county of Story,.....	10,000.00
Notes of individuals due July 1, 1861, but which will be paid when called for, in labor or material,.....	4,420.00
Subscriptions, considered good, but not yet put in form of individual notes,.....	920.00
731 acres of land, embracing some of the best in the counties of Story and Boone, most of which is loca- ted contiguous to College Farm, deeded to State, valued at.....	4,925.00
250 acres of land, of which we have bonds for deeds, es- timated value,.....	1,090.00
	<u>\$31,355.00</u>

### EXPENDITURES.

For purchase of Farm, 647 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres,.....	\$5,379.12	
Of location,.....	349.97	
For improvement of Farm,.....	873.10	
President pro tem. for per diem and travel- ing expenses,.....	274.30	
Agents, stationery, office furniture, printing, Clerical services, &c., &c.....	176.50	7,052.99
		<u>\$24,302.01</u>

The prospect for providing the farm with the best implements of husbandry, without cost to the State, is very flattering, as we have had many offers from manufacturers in every section of the United States, to donate such as might be needed, with the view, on their part, of having them tested in the most satisfactory manner, and if found valuable, the attestation of the fact to our farmers. Persons also, in the East, as well as at home, have, to a limited extent, proffered us the gift of procreative animals, such as cattle and hogs of the most valuable breeds. And for Horticultural purposes, we have a proposition from Mr. James Smith, of Polk County, to furnish the College Farm with nursery stock to the value of one hundred dollars, provided one half of this amount be taken in apple trees the coming spring. Numerous will be the donations, embracing the above named classes of husbandry, as well as all the others, we have no doubt will be made to the State whenever we are prepared to receive them, by parties in and out of our borders, who feel a lively interest in the prosperity of an Institution which is destined, at no distant period to wield an immense influence for good in developing our Agricultural resources, and without which we would lose them.

### COLLEGE BUILDINGS--PLANS.

The President pro tempore and Chairman of the Executive Committee, has taken a good deal of pains in procuring a plan for a College building, having corresponded with the officers of the Michigan and New York Agricultural Colleges, who have had

some experience in the Farmers' Colleges of those States, and procured some of the plans of their buildings. He visited in person, the Farmers' College near Cincinnati, and the Female College at the same place, which Horace Mann said was the best arranged College building he had ever seen. It is warmed with steam, which they think far superior to any other mode of warming yet discovered. He also visited the Farmers' High School, of Pennsylvania, a building begun on an extensive scale, a part only being finished, sufficient to open the school with 100 students. This building is well arranged for the uses intended.

We have not yet come to the conclusion whether we had better build our College in three separate buildings, one at a time, and far enough apart to be safe from fire from each other. This will be a matter for further consideration.

We have studied every way to economize the funds of the State, having all the time in view a good school rather than a display of architectural beauty,—no costly dome, or curious winding stairs—but a solid stone foundation, a plain brick superstructure of four stories, with pilasters, dental brick cornice, projecting roof with brackets, with portico over the doors at each end; all of good respectable appearance, about good enough for the farmers of our State, and good enough for any body else. For further details you are referred to the plans and specifications prepared by Mr. Milens Burt, of Muscatine, architect and builder, a prudent, judicious, and excellent mechanic, and a man of much care and prudence in all things.

We have had a good deal of deliberation in regard to building three or four stories above the basement. Our plan is for four stories, 120 by 42 feet. To get the same accommodations with three stories, must extend the length to 150 feet, at an additional cost of \$1,500 to \$2,000. We think the convenience of the building will well pay for the change, if the State can afford it.

The cost of this building is estimated at \$30,000, without stoves, furnaces, or steam for warming; of sufficient size to accommodate 100 students, a President and his family, two or three Professors, lecture and recitation rooms, library and reading rooms, &c.; and in the basement, store rooms, pantries, steward's rooms, kitchen, dining room, homes, lodging and boarding for 120 persons. It has required much time and effort and skill to arrange all this in one convenient building.

The plan of the barn is 42 by 60 feet, lengthwise north and south, upon a gentle slope of ground to the east, with underground stables, built with stone walls on three sides, eight feet high and one foot below the ground in the stable;—16 foot posts, with floor lengthwise, so that we can add at the south end, any length we choose. Horse-stable and harness room above ground.

Farmer's house, 32 by 42 feet, two stories, brick, with pantries and kitchen back, 16 by 24, one and a half stories, of brick. Back of this is wash-room, milk-room and wood shed, 24 by 24, one story, of wood.

A plan of these buildings is herewith submitted, by Mr. Burt, but no accurate estimates are given,—would suppose it to be \$1000 for the barn and \$4000 for the house.

There must necessarily be a tool-house, granary, corn-cribs, hog-house, slaughter house, joiner and black smith shops, and wood house, all of which will cost \$1500 to \$2000. We must also improve the farm with additional breaking, fencing, planting of trees, orchards and gardens, for all of which we hope to collect from subscriptions and notes.

If your honorable body deem it expedient to make an appropriation, at the present session, the sum of \$40,000 will be sufficient to erect the main building, and fit it up for use previous to your next session, without an appropriation of another cent to complete it throughout; but as it is probable the demands for appropriations for other institutions of the State, now in an unfinished condition, will absorb all the means which the tax payers of the State have ability to meet, or the Legislature may feel disposed to grant, we shall not press an appropriation at this time.—With the available means in our possession, we shall be able we trust, to erect necessary farm buildings, and place the farm, or a portion of it, in good working condition. By the time of the meeting of the next session of the Legislature, you will, no doubt, be placed in possession of the wishes of the people of the State, in regard to this Institution, when you can determine more satisfactorily to yourselves, perhaps than you can at present, in regard to the extent to which the State will give it her fostering care. Whilst we insist upon and expect no appropriation at the present session of the Legislature, we esteem our Institution one demanded by the imperative necessities of agriculture in the State,

one which is heartily endorsed by those who bear the burden of taxation.

MATTERS ON WHICH LEGISLATION IS ASKED.

The title to the lands outside of the College farm is taken in the name of the State of Iowa, for the use of the Agricultural College. We recommend the sale of this land at as early a day as practicable, to assist in the improvement of the College Farm, and the passage of a law authorizing the Governor and Register of the State Land Office to grant deeds to parties purchasing any of the lands which are or may be donated to the Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm, upon certificates of purchase signed by the President of the Institution, and countersigned by the Secretary thereof.

We respectfully ask the passage of an act legalizing the issue of the bonds of Story county.

The act of incorporation requires that vacancies in the Board of Trustees, caused by the expiration of terms of service be filled by the Legislature. There are five that will occur on the second Monday of January next; it will therefore, be necessary to elect five at the present session, who shall hold office for four years from that time. The judicial districts in which these vacancies will occur, are the 4th, now filled by G. W. F. Sherman of Cherokee county;—the 7th, now filled by Suel Foster, of Muscatine county;—the 8th, now filled by J. W. Henderson, of Linn county;—the 9th, now filled by Peter Melendy, of Black-hawk county, and the 11th, now filled by E. G. Day, of Story county.

All of which is respectfully submitted, etc.,

WM. DUANE WILSON,  
M. W. ROBINSON,  
SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.