

## IOWA SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME.

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*To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Your Joint Committee, appointed to visit the "Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home," beg leave to report the following:

That on the 13th and 14th of February, 1866, they visited the Home, or a branch of the same, situated at Cedar Falls, in Black Hawk county, on the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad, one hundred miles west of Dubuque.

This branch of the Institution was commenced on the 28th September, 1865, with five soldiers' orphan children, and has continued to increase and prosper to this time, and now has under its care one hundred and two such orphans, from the following named counties:

Benton, 13; Black Hawk, 20; Butler, 9; Clayton, 19; Cerro Gordo, 2; Delaware, 8; Dubuque, 4; Floyd, 3; Franklin, 9; Fayette, 4; Hardin, 3; Jackson, 4; Marshall, 3; Mahaska, 2; Pottawattamie, 1; County not known, 5. Total, 109.

This branch is under the management of Arthur Morrison, as Superintendent, and Mrs. E. G. Platt, as Matron; besides these, there are one male and nine female employees. Of these, the pay is now, Superintendent, per month,  $\$83\frac{1}{2}$ — $\$1000$  per year; Matron, per month,  $\$50$ ; Steward, per month,  $\$20$ ; First teacher, per month,  $\$20$ ; Music teacher, per month,  $\$20$ ; Seamstress, per month,  $\$14$ ; two employees, each  $\$12$  per month,  $\$24$ ; four employees, each  $\$10$  per month,  $\$40$ . Whole amount for employees,  $\$271\frac{1}{2}$  per month, or the gross amount of  $\$3,256$  per year. The gross expenditures of this branch for the month of January, 1866, was  $\$872.33$ , on an average of about ninety orphans, which is at the rate of a little over  $\$100$  per head, per year.

The building occupied by this Home was originally built and used as a hotel; the front part is built of brick,  $30 \times 62$  feet, three

stories, with two projections from the rear, 28 x 40 feet, two stories, and built of wood. This building is upon Main street, in the city of Cedar Falls, upon a plat of ground 8 x 16 rods, extending in the rear of the building. There is upon this plat of ground another brick building 32 x 40 feet, two stories high, not now occupied by the Home, but will be. These premises are all now rented by the Home corporation for the term of three years, for \$1,100, seven hundred of which may be expended on the premises, in repairs and improvements, and about two years' rent is already paid in this manner. This building is not the most conveniently arranged for this purpose, nevertheless it serves a good purpose. Many of the rooms are furnished in a good, plain, comfortable manner, by the Ladies' Aid Societies of Black Hawk and surrounding counties. Others are furnished equally well by the Institution, much of the furniture, particularly the beds and bedding, being that once belonging to the Government, and donated in part to the Home for this purpose. This branch can accommodate, when the building and rooms are all prepared and furnished, about 150 children. It is the rule of this Home to receive orphans from two to sixteen years of age, though this rule is frequently varied, in those cases where the child has lost both parents. The children at this Home will compare favorably with an equal number of children gathered promiscuously anywhere. They are all plainly but comfortably clad, and in appearance are bright and cheerful, and happy. We found none sick, and there have been no deaths at this Home. We believe this institution is well conducted, and very successful. We find among the citizens of Cedar Falls a very friendly and sympathetic feeling toward this branch of the Home, and an earnest desire that it may be continued and supported at that place. Constant applications are coming in for places, and from the best information we can gather, the institution will be filled to its utmost capacity in six months to come. There is an excellent school connected with this institution, conducted by a teacher with whom one of your committee has been personally acquainted for the last five years, and knows her to be superior in this capacity. All children that are old enough are required to attend school, and on the Sabbath, the Sabbath School, and Church. They are allowed to attend the Church where the parent or guardian prefers.

Your Committee further report that on the 20th and 21st of Feb-

ruary, they visited the Home at Davenport, in Scott county. This Home embraces what was formerly Camp Kinsman, with all its buildings, and thirty-three and one-half acres of ground. The buildings are situated in the form of a hollow square. What was the officers' head-quarters, upon the east side of the square, is occupied and used by the Superintendent, and some other officers of the Institution, and for store-rooms. At the right and left of this, across the north and south sides of the square, are eighteen buildings now called cottages, and occupied by the children. Since the camp has been occupied as a Home, the cottage buildings have been partitioned, and lathed and plastered, and are now very comfortable. Each of thirteen of these cottages is occupied with about 28 children, and a cottage manager. They are nearly uniform in their arrangement inside, having a sitting room with fire; a bedroom for manager; a clothes press for their garments, and one large sleeping room; some are occupied by boys, others by girls exclusively. These buildings are all built of good pine lumber, with first quality pine shingle roof on each. On the west side of the square are situated 24 well-built and capacious buildings, formerly used as stables, not now in use at all, but may be renovated and fitted up as cottages, should occasion ever require. In the south-west of the square is the spacious room, formerly a drill-room, fifty by one hundred feet, now fitted up, finished and furnished as a dining hall, supplied with seventy-five tables and other suitable furniture, where all the children and managers together take their meals; and following in the rear and outside of this hall is an extensive kitchen and kitchen arrangements, and a complete bakery; and further on, a laundry, a drying room, and an ironing room, all connected and well arranged. In the south-east of this village of cottages and other buildings, at a distance of from twenty to thirty rods are four good and well-fitted school rooms, in one building, with schools in operation under competent and experienced teachers.

There are now at this Home 331 soldiers' orphans. Of these, 38 are over 13 years of age, and 63 between 10 and 13 years; the remainder under 10 years.

These children are from various counties, as follows: Appanoose, 16; Boone, 4; Clinton, 13; Muscatine, 22; Clarke, 3; Carroll, 3; Dallas, 3; Des Moines, 3; Decatur, 8; Davis, 18; Fayette,

3; Clayton, 1; Greene, 2; Henry, 11; Jones, 15; Johnson, 11; Jasper, 20; Jackson, 6; Jefferson, 12; Keokuk, 6; Lee, 7; Linn, 17; Louisa, 1; Mahaska, 11; Madison, 2; Marion, 11; Monroe, 4; Polk, 30; Pottawattamie, 1; Poweshiek, 6; Scott, 6; Story, 4; Union, 4; Van Buren, 5; Wapello, 9; Warren, 2; Washington, 4; Wayne, 11. From fifteen to twenty have been received since this report was made by counties, and the number is constantly increasing.

This institution is now under the management of Rufus Hubbard, as Superintendent, and Mrs. L. B. Ely, as Matron, and forty other employees, with pay as follows: Superintendent, per month, \$100; Matron, per month, \$50; one teacher, per month, \$25; three teachers, \$20 per month each, \$60; fourteen cottage-managers, \$20 per month each, \$280; one seamstress, per month, \$25; two seamstresses, \$12 per month each, \$24; one in linen room, per month, \$15; six in laundry, \$12 per month each, \$72; one baker, per month, \$50; one chief-cook, per month, \$50; two cooks, \$12 per month each, \$24; two dish-washers, \$12 per month each, \$24; one in dining-room, per month, \$12; one commissary, per month, \$20; one water-man, &c., per month, \$20; one fire-man, &c., per month, \$30; five extra help, \$12 per month each, \$60. Whole expense for help, \$973 per month; whole expense for help, \$11,676 per year, at present rates.

Your committee found many of the inmates of this institution suffering from measles, of which there were reported 130 cases; that the item of extra help is on this account. This disease has passed entirely through this institution, and nearly all are now convalescent. At the time your committee were visiting, four cases only had proved fatal; these children are said to have been weakly and sickly when they came to the Home. This is a much smaller percentage of deaths than occurs from this disease outside of the institution, as reported by the physician. Aside from measles we report no cases of sickness. The best of care and the kindest attentions are bestowed by all concerned, on these suffering children. The citizens of Davenport deserve commendation for their kindness in volunteering to nurse the sick. This Home property is now estimated at \$85,353; of this amount \$1,211 was paid for the land; \$16,542 for improvements; the balance was donated by the Government, by joint resolution of Congress; of this we are assured by

correspondence of Hon. Hiram Price; the land was deeded in fee to the Association by private individuals, and properly evidenced by title deeds and records.

The removal of this Home from Farmington late in the fall and early part of winter, and fitting up of this place was attended with extraordinary expenses, which will not again occur.

The capacity of this institution may be extended to about one thousand children by fitting up all the buildings now on the premises. Applications are quite frequent for places for orphans at this institution, and it is estimated by your committee that in the course of this year the number at this institution will reach at least 450 or 500 orphans, and here, as at Cedar Falls, it is estimated that \$100 per head per annum, is as small an amount as will feed, clothe, and educate each child. On this estimate they will have at both these institutions, within the next year 600 orphan children, at an estimated expense of \$60,000 or \$65,000.

The available means, as reported, of the corporation is about \$37,400 in Government bonds, and about \$40,000 on subscriptions; this they hope to collect, and in cash \$2,223. Additional subscriptions and donations are now very difficult to obtain, and as a private enterprise, this institution cannot be maintained much, if any, to exceed another year; the question then arises, shall the institution be suffered to go down?

Your committee beg leave to say, that as a general rule, they have found the institution well and systematically managed; that these orphans are cheerful, happy, and contented, and on this point your committee made especial inquiry and investigation; that all those who are old enough and able, are required to assist in the work of the institution; that they are all required to attend day schools, Sabbath schools, and religious service;\* that in the opinion of your committee, the great majority of these children are better cared for, and are under better influences than ever before, or than they would be again were they turned out upon the world; that as they are the children of those who saved us and our country, it is our privilege and duty, and ought to be our pleasure, to save them from sin, from ignorance, and from vice, and make them the brightest ornaments of society, and to this end we believe the State should

\* The four school rooms at this Home are so arranged that on the Sabbath they can be opened into one room, where religious services are held.

lend a helping hand, that this noble institution should not now be suffered to fall into decay, but that the whole property of the State should be taxed in some judicious manner for its support.

Your committee would further report that they find the "Soldiers' Orphans' Home," under the control of a private corporation, styled the "Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home," of which the following are the officers:

President—Hon. C. C. Cole.

Vice Presidents—Hon. R. P. Lowe, Hon. J. A. Parvin, Hon. William Vandever, Mrs. J. Meyer, Hon. J. W. Cattell, Hon. P. Melendy.

Corresponding Secretary and Gen'l Agent—Rev. P. P. Ingalls.

Recording Secretary—Mary Kibben.

Treasurer—B. F. Allen.

Board of Trustees, 1st Dist.—Mrs. C. B. Darwin, Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer.

2d Dist.—Hon. Hiram Price, Mrs. L. B. Stevens.

3d Dist.—Hon. J. A. Elliott, Hon. Z. D. Scooby.

4th Dist.—Hon. J. R. Needham, Mrs. N. H. Brainard.

5th Dist.—Hon. James Wright, Hon. T. H. Benton.

6th Dist.—Hon. G. M. Woodbury, Hon. Isaac Pendleton.

With this report, we submit a copy of the Articles of Incorporation, and its by-laws, for the information of the General Assembly on the subjects contained in the same.

At the last meeting of this association, a committee was appointed, consisting of the Judges of the Supreme Court, and Judge Woodward, to confer with this General Assembly on the subject of State appropriations for the benefit of the Home, and we are assured by said committee that the association will accede, on their part, to all reasonable requirements of the Legislature, in regard to the management of the funds, or the conduct of the association, should they see proper to make an appropriation; that they will be willing to concede to the State the choice of a majority of managing officers of the association. And your committee are assured that no benefits accruing from any legislation on the part of the State, is sought for, or expected, on the part of the association, unless they shall comply with all the requirements and conditions that may be imposed. Your committee would suggest that, should an appropriation be made, it be accompanied with a proviso that the

same be not used until such association shall accept, formally and officially, of the conditions imposed; and in this manner we may be assured of the proper application of the funds. The officers of the association report to your committee that about \$132,000 has been subscribed for the purposes of this institution, and that there has been paid on such subscription the sum of eighty thousand dollars. The moneys for this association have been received by the General Agent, P. P. Ingalls, B. F. Allen, Treasurer, and by local Co. Treasurers in those counties where such societies have been organized.

The Treasurer is now absent from the State, and your Committee are unable to ascertain and report the exact condition of the finances. Some moneys are yet in hands of County Treasurers, and we are not able to ascertain this amount. All of these officers are reported to have given approved security, as provided by the association. The General Agent gives bonds in the amount of \$5,000; the Treasurer in the sum of \$50,000; local agents, such bond as is required by local associations. These bonds are all conditioned for the faithful application of the fund collected for the purposes of the Orphans' Home. The Treasurer receipts for all moneys received by him, and pays out the same on the order of the President, countersigned by the Secretary. To the Superintendent of the Home money is paid, on presentation of estimates approved by a visiting committee, vouchers for all moneys expended are taken and filed in the office of the Secretary. The Superintendent is under bonds for the faithful application of all moneys and property in his hands; this bond is in the sum of \$2,000, which, in the judgment of your Committee, is insufficient. We are assured, however, that measures are taken to raise the same to the sum of five thousand dollars. The President, Trustees, Executive Committee, and Recording Secretary of the Association, are all without compensation. The only officer of the Association receiving pay is the General Agent and Corresponding Secretary. This officer informs your Committee that his expenses of travel and correspondence have been paid, and that the amount of his salary is to be determined by the Trustees. No amount has ever been fixed; he only claims what is reasonable and just in the judgment of the Trustees.

Your Committee are clearly of the opinion that the "Iowa

Soldiers' Orphans' Home" is in good hands, and that it has been well and economically managed; and that its originators are its present managers, and they have prove themselves among the dearest and truest friends of humanity, and have enshrined their memories in the hearts of all the true friends of the soldiers throughout our State.

Your Committee are decidedly of the opinion that this institution should be sustained, and that the States should render assistance.

All of which is respectfully submitted without further recommendation.

L. W. HART,  
A. M. LARIMER,  
R. M. BURNETT,  
H. M. THOMSON.