

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE
TWENTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
PENITENTIARY OF THE STATE
LOCATED AT
FORT MADISON.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:
GEO. E. ROBERTS, STATE PRINTER.
1886.

REPORT.

To the Twenty-first General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

The undersigned, consisting your committee to visit the Penitentiary at Fort Madison, beg leave to submit the following statement of their doings as such committee, under Concurrent Resolution No. 9, defining their duties, as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9.

Resolved by the House, the Senate concurring:

That there be appointed committees to visit the several State institutions, such of said committees to be composed of three members, one from the Senate and two from the House, said committee to report to the General Assembly on or before the fifth of February, 1886. They shall examine and include in their report:

First. Whether the appropriations made by the last General Assembly have been wisely and economically expended.

Second. Whether they have been expended for the objects appropriated.

Third. Whether chapter 67 of the acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly have been complied with, in not contracting indebtedness in excess of the appropriations.

Fourth. Whether there has been any diversion of any money from the specific purpose for which it was appropriated.

Fifth. Said committee shall report also the names and number of persons employed by the several institutions, for what purpose employed, and what salaries; also whether any person so employed receive or have received anything in addition to his salary, in the way of board, rooms, light, food or clothing, or anything else at the expense of the State.

Sixth. Said committees shall also report the means of escape from fire, and make recommendations thereto.

Seventh. Said committee shall also report the sanitary conditions of such institutions, and make recommendations thereto.

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION.

And that the committees may and are hereby authorized to examine any person under oath if they deem it necessary to gain the information called for.

VISITING COMMITTEES.

Hospital for Insane at Clarinda—Hon. J. A. Overholtzer of Audubon, W. H. Robb of Union.
 Asylum for Deaf and Dumb—Hon. Thos. Teale of Decatur county, Hon. C. S. Ranck of Johnson county.
 Penitentiary at Ft. Madison—Hon. R. S. Benson of Franklin county, Hon. J. T. Hamilton of Linn county.
 College for Blind—Hon. J. R. Bradley of Wayne county, Hon. J. E. Craig of Lee county.
 Soldiers' Orphans' Home—Hon. Phil. Schaller of Sac county, Hon. G. W. Hayzlett of Black Hawk county.
 Reform School at Eldora—Hon. R. H. Spencer of Kossuth county, Hon. I. T. Roberts of Crawford county.
 Reform School at Mitchellville—Hon. Ole Nelson of Story county, Hon. W. W. Kline of Keokuk county.
 Asylum for Feeble-Minded Children—Hon. J. A. Lyons of Guthrie county, Hon. M. Hammond of Fremont county.
 State Hatching-house at Anamosa and Spirit Lake—Hon. Aaron Custer, of Jasper county, Hon. Theo. Nachtwey of Allamakee county.
 State University—Hon. R. G. Cousins of Cedar county, Hon. N. B. Holbrook of Iowa county.
 Agricultural College—Hon. Silas Wilson of Cass county, Hon. H. B. Mitchell of Jefferson county.
 Hospital for the Insane at Mt. Pleasant—Hon. D. A. LaForce of Wapello county, Hon. John Coleman of Clinton county.
 Hospital for the Insane at Independence—Hon. G. L. Dobson of Buena Vista county, Hon. H. J. Stiger of Tama county.
 Normal School—Hon. W. S. Withrow of Henry county, Hon. D. M. Harris of Harrison county.
 Penitentiary at Anamosa—Hon. C. L. Anderson of Warren county, Hon. J. T. Hamilton of Linn county.

We arrived at the prison on Wednesday morning, Jan. 20, 1886, and remained until Jan. 25, 1886, devoting our entire time to a personal examination of the prison, its workings and management. We had frequent interviews with the prisoners and made a thorough examination of the books; compared the receipts for all moneys paid out with the entries upon the Warden's books, and found them to correspond and agree both with the entries upon his books and also with his business report to the Governor.

We find the appropriations made by the Twentieth General Assembly, and the amounts belonging to the different funds, to be as follows:

STEAM HEATING FUND.

Amount of appropriation.....	\$ 3,000.00
Amount of former appropriation.....	794.11
Amount not drawn.....	\$ 200.00
Amount in Warden's hands.....	124.51— 324.51
Amount expended by Warden.....	\$ 3,469.61
Leaving a balance in hands of Warden and State Treasurer unexpended of \$324.51, which will probably be needed in this fund.	

TRANSPORTATION FOR CONVICTS AND FURNITURE.

Amount of appropriation.....	\$ 2,200.00
Amount expended.....	1,710.42
Balance in Warden's hands.....	\$ 489.58

CONTINGENT FUND AND REPAIRS.

Amount of appropriation.....	5,000.00
Amount expended.....	3,188.14
Balance in hands of Warden.....	\$ 1,811.86

IRON BEDSTEAD FUND.

Amount of appropriation.....	1,500.00
Amount expended.....	1,392.75
Balance in hands of Warden.....	\$ 107.25

PORCELAIN BUCKET FUND.

Amount of appropriation.....	\$ 375.00
Amount expended.....	300.00
Balance in hands of Warden.....	\$ 75.00

PRISON AID ASSOCIATION.

Amount of appropriation.....	1,000.00
Amount expended.....	880.86
Balance in State Treasurer's hands undrawn.....	\$ 119.14

We find that the buildings and all property under the Warden's care belonging to the State has been well cared for, but the buildings being old are unavoidably in bad condition and will require quite an expenditure in order to put them in first-class repair.

New floors and joice in the work shops are required. In places the prison walls need painting up, the roofs of the Warden and Deputy Warden's houses leak and should be repaired; the stable is old and needs new roof.

The buildings all being old should be painted in many places, in order to preserve the wood work, as well as give a clean and tidy appearance. The door at the entrance of the prison should be repaired. The facilities for lighting the prison is inadequate. We therefore recommend, in the interest of economy and safety to the prison, that the appropriation asked for by the Warden for the purpose of putting in electric light plant of \$7,500 be made, as a great portion of this amount will be required in case the gas works are improved and made safe. We believe the Warden has made careful estimates of the amounts necessary to run the prison for the next biennial period, and therefore recommend that such appropriations be made, viz: A small amount would be required to extend and place pipes and fixtures in the Deputy Warden's house, so that same could be heated by steam. We therefore recommend that the Warden be authorized to make such extension and place such pipes and fixtures in the Deputy Warden's house, as it will not require extra expense to the State after the repairs are made. We recommend that the expense for such work be paid out of repair fund.

We found the sanitary condition of the prison as good, and even better than we expected. Dr. Hoffmeister is a veteran prison physician; attends carefully to the wants of the sick convicts.

J. G. Berstler, the prison clerk, has kept the accounts of the prison in a very satisfactory manner. All vouchers, contracts and receipts called for by your committee were forthcoming, and show that the accounts of the prison are kept in a methodical manner.

William Moore, hospital steward, is a very worthy, competent and pains-taking officer. We believe that as a matter of justice to the three last named gentlemen that their salaries should be increased, as the present salaries barely enable them to support their families, yet their time is fully employed at the prison work.

The duties of the chaplain of the prison are very important and laborious. He is also the teacher, and conducts a school five nights

in each week. The person who will faithfully, and with fitness and ability discharge the duties of chaplain and teacher, ought to be paid at least one thousand dollars per annum.

One thing we believe should receive the especial attention of the General Assembly, and that is the pay of the guards, who are required to work twelve hours per day and seven days each week, and the pay allowed is barely sufficient to support an ordinary small family. We therefore earnestly recommend that the salary of both night and day guards be increased from \$50 to \$60 dollars per month.

We found the discipline of the prison to be first-class in every respect. The deputy warden, Mr. J. Townsend, seems to be a man particularly fitted for the management of a prison and its convicts both by nature and the long training which he has had at the prison, having occupied nearly every lower position in the prison for a long term of years. The selection of guards and other officers of the prison by Warden Crosley seems to be excellent; all seem to perform their respective duties in a business-like and gentlemanly manner.

The two steam boilers used for heating the prison are constantly in use. In case anything should occur, or either boiler should be disabled, the prison could not be warmed. We therefore recommend that an appropriation of \$1,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, be made for the purpose of putting in a third boiler.

There should be an appropriation made for the construction of a solitary cell house, as such an improvement is much needed for the discipline and convenience of the prison. As it is, when a prisoner becomes noisy and unruly, he disturbs the whole number of convicts, and a separate place should be provided for such convicts. We therefore recommend that an appropriation of \$1,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be made for that purpose.

We also recommend that the sum of \$200, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be made for the purpose of putting in an electric call system connecting the offices with the shops and different departments.

We find that chapter 67, Acts of the 17th General Assembly, have been fully complied with, and no debts have been contracted in excess of appropriation.

There are no means of fire escape, but owing to the situation of the prison we think little suffering would occur in case of fire; the prisoners could be allowed to pass into the hollow square made by the walls of the prison.

It is not the province of this committee to bestow flattery, yet we feel that we should be unmindful of a plain duty to a deserving officer, if we did not say to the General Assembly that we consider George W. Crosley, the Warden, a man fitted by nature and experience for the discharge of his duties. He is honest, just, and humane.

LAFAYETTE YOUNG,
On the part of the Senate.

R. S. BENSON,
E. SHAW,
On the part of the House.

ALL EMPLOYES OF STATE PENITENTIARY AT FT. MADISON.

OFFICERS.

G. W. Crosley, Warden.....	\$166.87
J. Townsend, Deputy Warden.....	100.00
J. G. Berstler, Clerk.....	70.00
W. C. Gunn, Chaplain.....	70.00
A. W. Hoffmeister, Physician.....	50.00
William Moore, Hospital Steward.....	50.00
A. Scherfe, Turnkey.....	50.00

GUARDS.

A. E. Whitney.....	\$ 50.00
H. C. Townsend.....	50.00
G. R. Crosley.....	50.00
C. H. Jamieson.....	50.00
Andy Young.....	50.00
Joseph Moore.....	50.00
P. L. Carbaugh.....	50.00
A. R. Ravenscroft.....	50.00
L. R. Jones.....	50.00
W. F. Glasgow.....	50.00
T. P. Hollowell.....	50.00
A. Patterson.....	50.00
D. Kent.....	50.00
Geo. L. White.....	50.00
S. C. Berstler.....	50.00
R. F. Carter.....	50.00
A. R. Parish.....	50.00
A. Ellis.....	50.00
J. F. McKaig.....	50.00
W. L. Ray.....	50.00
J. L. Ferrell.....	50.00
M. L. Tracy.....	50.00
I. B. Snyder.....	50.00
A. Edwards.....	50.00
G. W. Yocum.....	50.00
J. J. Wallace.....	50.00
R. Evans.....	50.00
J. L. Pleasant.....	50.00
W. H. Garner.....	50.00
T. Stone.....	50.00
A. R. Thayer.....	50.00

R. I. Rathbun.....	\$ 50.00
A. J. Powell	50.00
Chas. L. Boyles	50.00
J. B. Williams	50.00
W. D. Masters	50.00
Chas. Bowen.....	50.00
M. L. Lane.....	50.00
James Everst.....	50.00
L. Simmons	50.00

OTHER STATE EMPLOYES.

P. S. Stone, teamster.....	\$ 40.00
Hiram Finch, pump-house man.....	40.00
E. M. Hedges, janitor and messenger	25.00
Charles Boll, teamster, per day	1.25

The four last are paid out of general support fund.