

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
State Hatching House

LOCATED AT
SPIRIT LAKE.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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REPORT.

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

Your committee appointed by concurrent resolution of the Twenty-second General Assembly to visit the State Fish Hatching House at Spirit Lake, ask leave to submit the following report:

That pursuant to an agreement between the several members of the committee, an endeavor was made to reach Spirit Lake and meet for duty on Friday, January 21st. That after traveling a great part of the distance, it was found impossible for two of the members of said committee to reach said point on account of the snow blockade, which continued until the expiration of the vacation of the Assembly for visiting the State institutions.

Your committee, therefore, returned to Des Moines for duty without having accomplished the proposed examination; and again on Tuesday, February 6th, went to Spirit Lake to visit said Fish Hatchery, which is under the control of Fish Commissioner E. D. Carleton, and located one and one half miles northeast from the village of Spirit Lake.

The property on which the hatching house is located consists of three and forty-seven hundredths acres of land, finely situated immediately south of the track of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railway, and in close proximity to the Orleans Hotel, at said place.

This property was deeded to the State by the Spirit Lake Hotel & Transportation Company and the Cedar Rapids & Iowa Falls Land & Town Lot Company. The first deed from said Hotel & Transportation Company, which conveys three acres of said land, however, provides that in case the use of said property as a fish hatchery is discontinued by the State, then the land so conveyed shall revert to the said Hotel & Transportation Company.

Your committee found that this property was fenced with wire, that the hatching house consisted of a frame building, 20 x 40 feet,

with 14 feet front, with stone foundation $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, with cemented floor and sides; said buildings being not finished inside.

We found that the Commissioner had put a temporary partition in said building, inclosing a space of about 20 x 20 feet square, for hatching purposes. In this space we found two troughs, through which the water passes, containing trays of fish spawn in process of incubation, there being, as we were informed, 90,000 lake trout eggs and 50,000 brook trout eggs, same having been furnished by the United States Fish Commissioner free of charge to the State.

We also found numerous troughs, trays and other appliances for hatching purposes, not now in use, but stored in the unused part of the building mentioned above.

We were also informed that in addition to the said building there had been dug five ponds, 10 x 20 feet each, cemented, etc., two ponds each 25 x 35 feet, and one 25 x 75 feet; making in all eight ponds, in which the Commissioner states that he has 24 big mouth black bass, four years old, 35 mirror carp, three and four years old; of other varieties of carp, about 250, also about 500 silver bass, 15 adult gold fish and 10 goldsides; these are the breeding fish now on hand.

Your committee wish to say that these ponds were entirely covered with snow and ice during our visit and we could not see them.

There has been considerable losses and expenses expended in digging trenches and laying pipes out into the lake for the purpose of conducting the water to the hatchery.

There seems to be a large demand from various parts of the State for the different varieties of native fish as is shown by the correspondence in the office of the Commissioner.

We find, on a careful investigation of the books of Mr. Carleton, the Commissioner, that the appropriation made by the Twenty first General Assembly, has been carefully disbursed, for a detailed statement of this we refer to the Commissioner's printed report now on file in the office of the Secretary of State.

No indebtedness has been incurred by the said Commissioner, but the appropriation for the last biennial period is now about exhausted.

The Commissioner has in his employ one laborer, Ole Bjorson by name, at a salary of \$30.00 per month, without board.

Beside the property described above, the State owns in connection with the Commission, a horse and some vehicles which are not of very great value.

Including the expenses incurred by the Commissioner, in traveling

round and endeavoring to prosecute violators of the laws against the destruction of our native fish, the various improvements on the plant referred to above, etc., the whole amount expended in conducting the Commission, since the same came into the hands of Mr. Carleton, is not very considerable. Still your committee feel called upon to say that the showing made by this Institution is not very encouraging, and we would respectfully suggest that if the Commission is to be continued and reflect any credit on the State, the Commissioner should be furnished sufficient funds to carry on the work with much greater efficiency than has been attained in the past biennial period.

Much expense is incurred in answering the calls to various parts of the State in prosecutions for violations of the laws referred to above. Your committee would suggest that such prosecutions could be more economically conducted by allowing them to be attended to by local parties, which is more practically under our present system of county attorneys than formerly.

We do not feel like advising a discontinuance of the work at Spirit Lake, as the correspondence in the Commissioner's office shows that a certain degree of interest is taken in the project by many citizens of the State.

We also feel that the time has been too short since the removal of the Commission to this point for very satisfactory results to be accomplished, still we would suggest (that if the Commission is continued) great effort shall be made by the Commissioner, who by the way, appears to be a careful, hard working and painstaking officer, to make a better showing at an early date. The building ought to be finished at once and other needed improvements effected as soon as possible, thus placing the Institution on a footing to reflect more credit on the State during the present biennial period.

In conclusion, your committee would recommend that an appropriation of \$3,000.00 be made for continuing the work of the Commission at Spirit Lake.

Respectfully submitted,

L. S. HANCHETT,
On part of the Senate.

JAS. G. BLYTHE,
I. S. HUNTER,
On part of the House.