

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
State Normal School

LOCATED AT
CEDAR FALLS.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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REPORT.

To the Hon. President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Your committee appointed to visit the Normal School at Cedar Falls, having performed that duty in compliance with concurrent resolution, and present the following as the result of their investigations:

We made a thorough examination of all the different departments, being continuously assisted therein by resident director, W. M. Field, Principal H. H. Seerley, and the steward.

We found the steward's or boarding department well managed; and it has, during the last biennial period, paid off an existing debt on this department of about eleven hundred dollars, with very little extra expense to pupils for board and incidentals. We found, further, that the supplies for this department, have been principally purchased at competitive prices, and economy is practiced in all the details connected therewith, and we would only suggest to the trustees that a more definite method of keeping account with the students be adopted so that any one may readily understand the financial condition of this department.

We found that the appropriations had been used for the various purposes for which they had been appropriated, and with commendable economy.

We found that chapter 67, of the acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly, had been complied with, no debts having been contracted during the biennial period.

We would further report that we found the following persons employed in and about the Institution as instructors:

	Salary per annum.
H. H. Seerley, principal.....	\$2,000
M. W. Bartlett.....	1,600
D. S. Wright.....	1,500
W. N. Hull.....	1,400
Miss Laura Ensign.....	1,100
Miss Addie McGovern.....	1,000
Miss Delia M. Knight.....	850
Miss Mary Wheeler Bagg.....	800
Miss Sarah M. Rigg.....	650
Miss Emma L. Chase.....	650

And the following persons are employed in and about the Institution by the steward, and have, in addition to their salaries, board and rooms. All salaries in this department are paid out of the department income, which depends upon, 1st, room rent and board of students; 2d, contingent fee of \$1 per month paid by each student.

Steward.....	\$ 50.00 per month, 12 months.
Matron.....	20.85 per month, 12 months.

These, in addition, have board and room for themselves and their children.

- One engineer at \$46 per month for 11 months.
- One assistant engineer at \$15 per month for 4 months.
- One chore boy at \$15 per month for 12 months.
- One teamster at \$20 per month for 12 months.
- One janitor at \$23 per month for 11 months.
- One head cook at \$17 per month for 10 months.
- One second cook at \$14 per month for 10 months.
- One pastry cook at \$17 per month for 10 months.
- Six dining-room girls at \$10 per month for 10 months.
- One hall girl at \$10 per month for 11 months.
- One laundry girl at \$15 per month for 11 months.

We would further report that there has been erected on the old building two new iron fire-escapes in addition to the old wooden one, thereby giving ample opportunity, we think, to avoid any danger by fire.

The new building, or South Hall, has no outside fire-escape, but the broad halls and the several broad stairways extending to the top story of the building, and the various means of exit, do not demand any special action.

We cannot say too much in condemnation of the sanitary condition of the Institution. We found that the system of sewerage and ven-

tilation was very imperfect and inadequate to the wants of the Institution. The only provision for water supply is from tanks, and the taps, water-closets, etc., are very imperfectly finished. In fact we found the effluvia from these sources permeating the halls and corridors of the main building, to the very top, and thus endangering the health and lives of the inmates. This is a matter which we think ought to be attended to at once. We do not know just what ought to be done to remedy the evil, but presume that it will be necessary to put in an entire new system of sewerage. We recommend an appropriation for this purpose, and we believe that the Governor ought to be empowered, if he has not the power, to send some competent sanitary engineer there to superintend the work.

In the old building we found the floors in a dangerous condition. Having been in use for about seventeen years, they are utterly worn out, and have been patched until it is almost worth a limb to attempt a survey of the various rooms. The ceilings of the old building are also ready for the gutter. They have been patched until they present a most unsightly appearance. Both ceiling and floor should be replaced immediately with new material, and the floors should be hard wood.

We would further report that we found the Institution wholly lighted by kerosene lamps, which, in our judgment, involves the State in great risk of loss by fire, and the inmates great danger of life.

We also found that the steward and his wife were compelled to use very small and incommensurable rooms in the building, and that the principal and his family were compelled to live in two small rooms of the new building, with only an extra room across the hall for bedroom; and that even in this crowded condition he allowed one lady student to room with them.

From the foregoing it will be seen that there is no dwelling for any officer or employe of the Institution on the grounds, and that with an attendance or between four and five hundred pupils during the year, it is very necessary that there be at the school, at all times, some of the officers. For this reason the principal and steward are now occupying the crowded quarters assigned them.

We find this Institution doing a great work for the teachers of the State every year, sending about 300 back to the common schools of the State, better prepared by having at least one year's normal training to teach, thus raising the standard of the common schools, and

filling a long-felt want that no other kind of an educational institution can supply.

We have made a thorough investigation of the wants and needs of this Institution, and recommend that the following appropriations be made for the next biennial period:

For teachers' fund.....	\$23,000.00
For regular contingent.....	4,000.00
For library and chemical apparatus.....	1,000.00
For two new pianos.....	600.00
For repairs to steam heating apparatus	500.00
For repairs on old building.....	2,000.00
For sewerage and ventilation.....	2,000.00
For cottage for principal	2,500.00
For new students' hall for girls.....	10,000.00
For steam heating apparatus for same.....	1,500.00

We further report that we have made a *very careful* estimate of the needs, and have only recommended appropriations for the *actual necessities* of this much neglected Institution.

If an appropriation should be made for the much needed students' hall, we would recommend that it be built for girls alone, and but two stories high, and of such architectural design that it can be added to as the future needs of the Institution make necessary.

In conclusion we beg leave to say that in the opinion of the committee the school is accomplishing great good under the most adverse circumstances, and that were it put on an equal footing with other like institutions of the State, greater and more satisfactory results would naturally follow.

D. B. DAVIDSON,
On the part of the Senate.

E. W. WILBUR,
J. C. BEEM,
On the part of the House.

Since writing the above report, we have learned that scarlet fever has broken out among the students, and although Prof. Seerley writes that the cases are of a mild nature, and that they are in hopes of suppressing and preventing its spread, yet the fact that a contagious disease has made its appearance there, emphasizes what we have already said about the sanitary condition and necessity of speedy improvement.