

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME
LOCATED AT
DAVENPORT.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:
GEO. E. ROBERTS, STATE PRINTER.
1888.

REPORT.

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

Your committee appointed to visit the Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children, located at Davenport, beg leave to report that they have performed that duty, and herewith submit their report:

Your committee report that they visited the above named Institution on the 19th day of January, 1888, and made a thorough examination of all the buildings connected therewith. That they visited each school room, inspected each cottage, the food and clothing furnished and in use; and, so far as practicable, inquired into the treatment of the inmates of the Institution.

Your committee is pleased to report that the Institution appears to be well managed; that the children, 302 in number, are well and economically provided for; that their course of instruction is good; and that their training there would appear to be such as to fit them for good citizenship in our State.

In compliance with your instruction we would report that in our opinion:

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

Secand. That they have been expended for the object appropriated.

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

On the 10th day of November, 1887, the main central building, containing the administrative department, with stores, was struck by lightning and burned, full report of which was made to the General Assembly by the Governor. That in building a wooden structure to supply the immediate necessities of the Institution, made necessary

by the disastrous fire referred to, an indebtedness of \$936.24 was incurred, above the appropriation of \$4,500 made from the Providential Contingent Fund, and further indebtedness, reported by the Governor, was incurred for the purchase of supplies to replace those lost by the fire. This new building, costing \$5,436.24 is used for dining room and chapel, offices, store-room, kitchen, pantry and sleeping rooms for employes not lodged in the cottages. For the money expended in its construction it seems to be well adapted, and is answering the purposes very well.

Fourth. There appears to have been no diversion of money from the purpose for which it was appropriated.

Fifth. The names, number of persons employed, and the salaries paid, and that which each receive, in addition to salaries, is reported herewith, from the sworn statement of the book-keeper as follows:

COPY OF PAY ROLL.

NAME.	Rate per month.	Duty.	
S. W. Pierce.....	\$135.35	Superintendent.....	Board and furnished room.
F. M. Pierce.....	50 00	Matron.....	" " " "
W. F. Peck.....	33.35	Physician.....	Nothing but salary.
C. F. Gates.....	40.00	Principal of Schools..	Board and furnished room.
Ama Craft.....	35.00	Assistant Matron ...	" " " "
F. L. Draper.....	30.00	Book-keeper.....	" " " "
A. D. Kent.....	30.00	Fireman.....	" " " "
H. Mead.....	26.00	Baker.....	" " " "
L. H. Hagman....	26.00	Shoemaker.....	" " " "
C. H. Lyon.....	25.00	Laborer.....	" " " "
W. A. Hyde.....	15.00	Watchman.....	" " " "
C. McCarty.....	18.00	Laborer.....	" " " "
C. E. Mitchell....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
M. L. Church.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
N. L. Louk.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
M. A. Hilles.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
A. P. Mead.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
L. A. Anderson...	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
R. J. Evens.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
L. M. Cooper.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
E. R. Little.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
M. Worthington..	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
S. E. Brown.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
H. S. Elrick.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
P. A. Harrison....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
E. Poster.....	20.00	Cottage Manager.....	" " " "
E. B. Smith.....	25.00	School teacher.....	" " " "
H. M. Smith.....	25.00	School teacher.....	" " " "
C. B. Roe.....	25.00	School teacher.....	" " " "
M. A. Logan.....	25.00	School teacher.....	" " " "
M. A. Kinsey.....	25.00	School teacher.....	" " " "
S. Moore.....	18.00	Sewing room manager	" " " "
A. Seal.....	10.00	Seamstress.....	" " " "
M. Knox.....	12.00	Seamstress and assist.	" " " "
J. Sullivan.....	10.00	Seamstress.....	" " " "
L. A. Tichnor....	10.00	Seamstress.....	" " " "
N. J. Bagley.....	8.00	Seamstress.....	" " " "
G. E. Hulbert....	8.00	Seamstress.....	" " " "
E. E. LeClair....	12.00	Housekeeper.....	" " " "
H. E. Penley.....	20.00	Hospital Manager....	" " " "
L. M. Stephenson.	25.00	Kitchen Manager.....	" " " "
J. Penton.....	10.00	Kitchen help.....	" " " "
S. Wagner.....	8.00	Kitchen help.....	" " " "
Mary Mulcron...	20.00	Laundry manager....	" " " "
Maggie Mulcron..	15.00	Laundress.....	" " " "

Sixth. The inmates of the Institution are all lodged on the first floor of cottages requiring no special arrangement for fire escape. The only places where children are kept above the first or ground floor is in the second story of the brick school house, which is as safe from fire as school houses in cities and towns usually are.

Seventh. The sanitary conditions are good, with the exception only of inadequate outhouses. For the small children especially there is a very great necessity of better arrangement in this respect. The intensely cold weather of winter makes it very nearly impossible to keep the outhouses used by so many little children in a fit condition for their use. We believe that the superintendent endeavors as best he can to overcome the trouble from this source, but it is almost, if not impossible at such season of the year to do so.

Eighth. The expenses of replacing the burned administration building added to the sum asked for in special appropriations by the trustees of the Home, would amount to very nearly one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). The special appropriations asked would, all doubtless be desirable, but the finances of the State considered with regard to necessities of the Institution will not warrant the expenditure of such a sum. The central building should be rebuilt as soon as the condition of the State finances will permit.

Your committee believe that by the expenditure of \$2,500 for enlarging the kitchen and pantry and providing a cellar and bakery, the re-building of the administration building may possibly be postponed for several years, if necessary. The dining room will answer for a chapel, as it has heretofore done.

The water supply is inadequate and arrangements should if possible be made with the city water works to supply the Home, by extending their lines the one mile necessary to do so. The uncertainty of obtaining water by boring for an artesian well, makes that method too uncertain to commend it to your committee.

The \$5,000 asked for is probably not too large for this purpose.

For extending the steam pipes to warm the cottages now warmed by stoves, and for putting in a new boiler for that purpose \$3,500 will probably be required at least, and is a real necessity.

For general repairs, \$1,500 will doubtless be required.

For contingent fund, \$1,000 is asked and should be granted.

For fencing and grading, \$1,000 is asked by the trustees. Three hundred dollars for this purpose will enable the Institution to go through the next two years.

We recommend \$2,000 for furniture and the full amount asked, \$500, for library.

For school house we recommend the amount asked \$6,000.

This leaves out all additions by way of buildings, except school house, all of which would be desirable, perhaps, if the expenditure therefor could consistently be made.

With a view to reducing or limiting the future expense of this institution to the State, we would respectfully recommend:

That the law relating to the Institution be so amended that when inmates are placed there that the State assumes the power to find homes for and secure their adoption into good homes and families when this can be done. Beautiful as this charity is, and strongly as it appeals to the hearts of Christian people, yet we believe that children reared in good private homes, trained to habits of industry and self reliance are better fitted for citizenship; that it is much better for the child, and State, than to rear them at public expense and educate them to dependence on public charity or support. Their welfare could be looked after and their good treatment secured by an agent of the Home, whose duty it should be to keep track of them in the homes in which they were adopted. This would cost much less than to support them, and would in the judgment of your committee tend to make them self reliant and self supporting citizens.

Second. Among the "Indigent children" for whom this Institution offers a home, are many born, and until brought here, reared in homes of vice, of criminal or pauper parents, inheriting and possessing the depraved instincts and habits induced by heredity and association. Among them are incorrigibles and depraved, whose association tend to corrupt the innocent unfortunates, as beautiful and pure as any children in the State. They also make by their example and misleading, discipline difficult, and introduce the most fruitful source of discord.

Authority should be granted to the trustees more summarily to cause them to be sent to the Industrial Schools of the State, thus placing them where they may receive the training intended for their kind, and also relieving the Home and innocent inmates from their influence and examples.

We call attention to the fact that in our belief a system should be adopted applicable to this and all other similar State Institutions for the purchase of supplies, the needed supplies for a year or shorter

time should be estimated and advertised for, a bond being required of the successful bidder. This will secure the lowest prices, which private purchase does not necessarily do. In respect to quality and prices, your committee find no cause to complain. But the adoption of this system would be likely to prevent the purchasers of supplies from buying so as to receive profits in the purchases; a thing which is wholly inconsistent with the interest of the State.

We do not find that the State has suffered any loss from this source in this Institution, though purchases of shoes have been made for the Home to a considerable amount through a firm of which the present Superintendent is a member, and from which he derives a profit. This firm is the only wholesale boot and shoe house doing business in the city of Davenport, and the destruction of the stores of the Institution by fire in November, made immediate purchases necessary, and the orders were filled through the wholesale house referred to. So far as the examination of the goods bought and the prices paid could determine in the minds of your committee, the purchases were at fair prices for good goods. But the practice is one which cannot be commended, and should be made impossible by a provision of the kind indicated.

We desire to commend the general management of the Home and care taken of the inmates by the Superintendent, Mr. Pierce, and the matron, Mrs. Pierce. They have devoted many years to the care of these unfortunate children, and are following their duty apparently, and as we believe, with Christian zeal and fidelity.

Respectfully submitted.

J. H. SWENEY,

On the part of the Senate.

WM. W. BUELL,

On the part of the House.

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

Iowa Soldiers' Home

TO THE

TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:

GEO. E. ROBERTS, STATE PRINTER.

1888.