REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

Institution for the Deaf and Dumb

LOCATED AT

COUNCIL BLUFFS.

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:

Pursuant to a concurrent resolution, and the appointments made by the Honorable President of the Senate and the Honorable Speaker of the House, your committee beg leave to make the following report in reference to the condition of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Council Bluffs, Iowa:

Your committee remained at the Institution for a number of days, and endeavored, to the best of their ability, to make a thorough investigation of said Institution in all of its different departments and management, and were much aided in their researches through the kindness and courtesy of the Superintendent, the Matron, Principal of the Schools Department and officers in charge. And while we believe that the present status and condition of said Institution is far in advance of its record in former years, we are nevertheless constrained to say that some changes should be made in its several departments.

In answer to the first and second interrogatories contained in the concurrent resolution above referred to, we take great pleasure in saying that the appropriations (so far as we were able to discover) made by the last General Assembly have been wisely and economically expended, and expended for the purposes for which they were intended. And in answer to the third question contained in said resolution, we are also glad to say that chapter 67 of the acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly have been complied with, in not contracting indebtedness in excess of the appropriation.

BOOK-KEEPING.

Your committee were glad to note that in this direction the changes suggested by former committees had been pretty well carried out. As a consequence of this change, the Institution now has a very complete system of double entry book-keeping, and it is with some

degree of satisfaction that the books may now be referred to and accounts verified on demand.

RECORD OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

We also found that the record of The Board of Trustees is now being kept in a very satisfactory manner, showing in detail all the proceedings of its meetings. This method is also an improvement on the old order of things.

SCHOOL ROOM AND SCHOOL FURNITURE.

The school rooms are now well furnished and equipped with desks, chairs, blackboards and other apparatus necessary for the comfort and instruction of the pupils who are in attendance at an institution of this kind. The rooms are well lighted, well ventilated, pleasant and cheerful. Whether they are well heated is a subject that more properly belongs to another division of this report (heating apparatus), and will there be discussed.

LIBRARY.

It is unnecessary for your committee, in this report, to enter into a dissertation on the importance of this branch of the Institution to the children who are gathered there by reason of a common affliction, which shuts them off from these chief sources of information excepting through the eye. Their entire success and happiness, their moral and intellectual advancement, depend upon their taste and ability to read, and the means with which they are furnished opportunity in this direction. And yet your committee (and we were there some days) does not recall a single instance where a pupil was found reading a book of any kind after recitation hours were finished for the day; and in looking around to discover the cause of this, we were not at all surprised when the library was examined by us. In comparison with what it should be, in order to furnish to the pupils the intellectual food to all classes there, and in comparison with that of other institutions in sister States, it is simply a burlesque.

If children, and girls especially, would be interested in statistics, State reports and ancient histories, then these children would be fairly well supplied with reading matter; but if their taste does not run in this direction, or they are not sufficiently educated to enjoy this class of literature, they are then, so far as this library is concerned, left with absolutely nothing in this direction.

Your committee simply call the attention of the General Assembly to the utter dearth of suitable reading matter for the various classes of children in the Institution, with the suggestion that as soon as the great State of Iowa can afford it, that something be done in this direction; for without at least a fairly good library the instruction given them in the school department is incomplete.

And yet there is one redeeming feature in connection herewith, which your committee had well-nigh forgotten, and that is, the introduction and establishment of a reading room. This is a recent innovation, and when in complete running order is intended to contain all suitable periodicals and exchanges, and will undoubtedly reflect credit on its author. Still, we would recommend $400 for a library.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Your committee spent all their available time in company with the Principal in the class room, for the purpose of ascertaining as completely as they were able to do, the methods of instruction adopted and used by the various teachers, their individual fitness through acquirement of training and nature for the peculiarly delicate tasks which they have in hand; and also the results of their works as evidenced by the progress of the scholars, and your committee is glad to be able to say that the progress made by the scholars will average fairly with that made by those in other institutions in other States; and that with few exceptions the teachers are well qualified for their work; and as your committee is informed, if it were not for the fact that very often the Principal of the school finds his best teacher leaving him under the inducement of a higher salary offered them by some other institution in some other State, and thus finds it necessary to make temporary appointments, there would be no difficulty in this direction. This is a matter, however, which will materially right itself, if the head of the school department remains under the supervision and control of a competent principal. And while your committee is pleased to note all the good points in the department of the Institution, we nevertheless feel constrained to say that in this, the most important trust of all, much improvement can yet be made. It is true that on account of changes in principals, instructors and various other obstacles, which have in the past retarded the progress of the Institution, much allowance should be made for any apparent deficiencies in this department now. Nevertheless a uniform system

or grade should be established and adhered to, so that a pupil entering the lowest class could by faithful work and proper instruction finish this part of the course in a given length of time. And the course of study should be uniform and preparatory to a higher or classical education.

In this connection the attention of your committee was called to the meagerness of salaries paid to instructors. We are, however, of the opinion that inasmuch as those who receive the smaller salaries are resident teachers and have a living furnished by the State, and in view of the fact that the hours of instruction are not as long as in other Institutions, that the amount of salaries now paid is sufficient. It is true, however, that the teacher of the deaf and dumb must have a peculiar training for the work, and in this regard becomes an expert and is undoubtedly entitled to more salary than the ordinary school teacher in our common schools for the same amount of work and the same number of hours. But while this is true, on the other hand teachers should only be selected who have become qualified for the work, either by special training as students or by long experience as teachers, and some method of examination should be adopted through which all applicants for the position should be required to pass before they should be employed.

ARTICULATION.

Your committee do not deem instruction in articulation as important as many other branches, and yet we feel that every well-appointed Institution should have its articulation teacher or teachers; and it was a pleasure while making this visit to see some wonderful instances of the progress which the scholars have made in this direction.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

No argument is necessary to demonstrate the importance of this branch of the Institution. The deaf and dumb, graduated without some knowledge which he can put into practical use, is after all but a helpless thing to be tossed about in the world; and the deaf and dumb girl, too, when she has graduated should have some education in an industrial course.

The industrial shops were built in 1875 and intended for the accommodation of about one hundred (100) pupils. They are at present

inadequate to accommodate the pupils who are anxious to be educated, and should be, in this direction.

While your committee were at the Institution we were constantly importuned by the boys to make larger and better provisions for their education in this manner. The report of the Trustees call attention to the same fact, and ask for an appropriation of $1,500, with which your committee heartily approve of and recommend.

This is a department which is self-sustaining, and which, if better supplied and equipped, could be made available for State purposes in many ways.

ART DEPARTMENT.

Your committee were well pleased with the specimens of fine work in this apartment. The deaf and dumb child, through the very nature of his affliction, being left wholly dependent upon his sight, oftentimes becomes an adept in art work. There are many beautiful drawings and paintings which adorned the walls of the Institution, and yet like some other departments in the Institution, more room for students and enlarged facilities are needed to fully develop the talent there.

DINING ROOM, TABLE, ETC.

The dining room is already too small to accommodate any large increase of students, but your committee do not deem it necessary at this time to recommend any outlay in enlarging it, for the reason that there are so many other places in which money should be spent to insure the comfort and meet the actual necessities of the scholars.

The table furnished seems to be a most excellent one, supplied with good, wholesome food in abundance and variety. In fact, the kind Matron and Superintendent look well to the necessities of the children in this direction, and your committee were pleased to note the orderly behavior and cleanly appearance of the students while at meals. The method of supplying the table has been much improved under the new regime, and many opportunities for waste in the culinary department, and over-charges and deficiencies in goods purchased cut off.

HEALTH AND HOSPITAL.

The health of the scholars for the past two years has been generally good. There has been one or two deaths from fever contracted

before leaving home, but by prompt action on the part of the officials the spread of the disease was prevented.

When your committee was there we found a few cases of a trivial character, and those cases were confined in two rooms situated in the center of the main building, upon the second floor, called a hospital. This condition of things should be remedied at once, and in the judgment of your committee a cottage hospital should be built so that those afflicted by disease may be properly cared for, and absolutely separated from the other scholars. We recommend an appropriation of $25,000.

BARN AND DAIRY.

The Institution should be provided with a dairy, and the necessary outlay in purchasing cows and erecting a barn would prove a paying investment in the amount of money saved by the consumption of milk. And for the purpose of erecting a barn your committee recommend an appropriation of seven hundred dollars ($700), and for the purchase of cows eight hundred dollars ($800).

GYMNASIUM.

It seems strange that the great State of Iowa is unable to furnish even an apology for a gymnasium, and that the boys in this Institution must get their only physical exercise in shoveling coal when they should be studying, in order to economize in help. There is a room in the basement provided with a single iron bar, probably improvised by some boy, and this room is dignified with the name of gymnasium! There is not even a dumb bell or club to be found, physical culture is wholly disregarded, but at this time your committee appreciate the theory of retrenchment and reform, and desiring to make a practical application thereof refrain from recommending an appropriation in this direction, even where a few hundred dollars is so much needed.

In speaking of the absence of a gymnasium, your committee is reminded of the fact that there is an absence of wardrobes and furniture in the sleeping apartments of the children. Clothes must be carefully hung up upon the floor, and children if they find it necessary or comfortable to sit down while in their rooms must sit upon the beds. Your committee would recommend that at least an appropriation of five hundred ($500) dollars be made for the purchase of furniture. Sometimes a few dollars judiciously spent is good economy, and so we think that a system of call bells or some means of communication between the various departments centering in the Superintendent's office would save much time to him which he might use more valuably to the State than he now does, running around to find the inquirer, or some other person whose service may at that time be needed. There should also be an attendant whose duty it should be to wait upon visitors and show them through the Institution, and a clerk whose duties would be numerous and assigned to him each day.

REPAIRS.

Your committee also recommend the appropriation of five thousand ($5,000) dollars as a repair and contingent fund. The reason why a fund of this kind is necessary must be apparent on a moment's reflection, without at this time giving the reasons.

LIGHT.

While your committee was at the Institution it was a serious question whether or not we could have light. The gas-house and all apparatus for making light will necessarily have to be rebuilt and replaced at once. This matter has been very much discussed by those interested and estimates given to your committee from which we are of the opinion that an electric plant can be established there cheaper than the old gas-house and machinery can be remodeled and replaced, and we recommend an appropriation for this purpose of six thousand ($6,000) dollars.

HEATING AND BOILERS.

The attention of this honorable body has before been called to the need of new boilers for heating and power purposes. With a temperature of twenty degrees below it is as proper to have an Institution of this kind properly heated—and with about three hundred pupils constantly in the buildings it would seem just that the State, if it attempts to care for them at all, should at least see that their lives were not exposed through the existence of unsafe machinery. As we understand there are five boilers in use. No. 1, runs the engine and drives machinery in laundry; also pumps and heats water and dries clothes in drying room. This one is too small for the work required of it, and in bad condition and has been occasionally shut down and repaired. Nos. 2 and 3, heat the school-building and chapel. They are also too small, but in fair condition. Nos. 4 and

5, are in bad condition and liable to give out at any time. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 can be reset, but Nos. 4 and 5 must be replaced. Hence your committee recommend an appropriation of five thousand ($5,000) dollars for this purpose.

WATER.

Some changes have been made in the method of supplying water to the buildings, and your committee believe that for fire and other purposes the connection should be made by a one and a half inch pipe from the main pipe to the cistern, in order to keep the cistern full constantly. The cistern is the direct source of supply in case of fire, but this is a matter which will probably be remedied by those upon the ground.

FIRE ESCAPES.

The main building is supplied with two fire escapes, which the children would probably never reach from their sleeping apartments in case of fire. Your committee thinks a few hundred dollars could be well expended in this way, and the safety of all enhanced.

SANITARY CONDITION.

Your committee made all inquiry and investigation that could be made in this regard, and are satisfied that the buildings are in fair condition. At the request of the Board of Trustees, a careful examination was made the last of December, 1887, by Thomas B. Lacy, M. D., of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who reported the sanitary condition excellent.

R. S. Finkbine also filed a report in reference to the safety of the buildings and repairs needed, in which he suggested the laying of new floors, plastering in many places, and also called attention to the settling which had taken place in the west wing of the main building, but pronounced the building safe, and your committee necessarily rely on these reports in arriving at these conclusions in this branch of the report.

It occurred to us, however, that while the building might be safe it did not have the appearance of being strong, and while the sanitary condition was good, it was not the best. However this can only be properly explained in connection with the cellars, vaults, waste-pipes etc.

Your committee is of the opinion that the fourth interrogatory is

truthfully answered in the negative. There has not been any diversion of funds from the purpose for which they were appropriated, but temporary demands have been made upon the current fund for repairs and other purposes.

This should not be necessary or allowed, and if the repairs recommended herein made is allowed, the necessity of borrowing from one fund to another will cease.

WORK-SHOP FOR ENGINEER.

We found the engineer supplied with hardly any of the necessary tools, and those were in a cold room, a long way from the engine.

With proper tools and a suitable room there would be a great saving in repairs, both in money and time, as the Institution is so far from the business portion of the town. Should an appropriation be made for the extension of the dining hall, which will be an absolute necessity upon *any* increase in the school the upper room would be very convenient for a library, a portion of the dining hall could be used for kitchen purposes, and a portion of the present kitchen, which is directly over the engine, could be used for a work-shop. We would therefore recommend an appropriation of $5,000 for the extension of the dining-hall and chapel.

ORDINARY AND CURRENT EXPENSE FUND.

The State provides for a current expense fund, from which all the living expenses of the Institution are paid. Also an ordinary fund from which all salaries and wages of laborers are paid.

The current expense fund is fixed at $35 per quarter for each pupil, and is ample provision, as it is increased with the increase of pupils. The ordinary fund, on the contrary, was fixed at a certain sum several years ago, and with the increased attendance of the Institution requiring more teachers and more help, it is entirely insufficient for meeting the necessary expenses to be paid from that fund, requiring other funds to be robbed to keep the Institution running, as shown by report of trustees.

We would recommend an additional appropriation of ($6,000) six thousand dollars to the ordinary fund.

FIRE PROTECTION.

Your committee would recommend an appropriation of three hundred dollars for fire plugs, hose and fire extinguishers, as there is nothing of the kind about some parts of the buildings and premises.

ELEVATOR.

An elevator could be built and operated at a trifling expense, and would be a great convenience, as the trunk rooms are on the third floor.

It would also be a great protection to the health of the lady pupils of the Institution.

As there is the requisite water pressure from the reservoir, we recommend an appropriation of eight hundred dollars for the same.

Ordinary fund	$ 6,000
Dining hall and chapel	5,000
Library	400
Industrial School	15,000
Light, electric plant	6,000
Boilers	5,000
Cows	800
Hospital and cow barn	2,000
Repair fund	5,000
Furniture	500
Elevator	800
Fire protection	300

Your committee have, in this unsatisfactory manner, attempted to render an account of the trust imposed upon them, and while we would be glade to note our observations in regard to many matters not contained in the above report, we refrain from so doing and respectfully submit the same.

JOS. S. LAWRENCE,
On part of the Senate.

S. E. FIELD,
C. G. HIPWELL,
On part of the House.

PAY-ROLL FOR MONTH OF MAY, 1887.

NAME.	KIND OF SERVICE.	Amount.
G. L. Wychoff	Superintendent	$ 125.00
S. E. Wright	Matron	50.00
D. W. McDermid	Teacher	166.66
Smilaus Roberts	Teacher	166.66
C. Sprint	Teacher	166.66
C. Szorbaugh	Teacher	150.00
Frank Hallway	Teacher	150.00
Edwin Southwick	Teacher	122.22
E. McK. Goodwin	Teacher	111.11
Cora Van Dorin	Teacher	77.77
Phebe J. Wright	Teacher	53.55
Helen White	Teacher	66.66
Florence Clement	Teacher	72.22
Virginia Cowden	Teacher	55.55
Florence Wilcoxson	Teacher	50.00
Tillie Garman	Teacher	33.33
Alex. Hardin	Book-keeper	50.00
J. H. Jernigan	Shoemaker	65.00
F. W. Baluff	Engineer	60.00
G. L. Taylor	Carpenter	70.00
D. W. Faster	Printer	60.00
Chas. Pool	Pumper	30.00
Peter Lurille	Fireman	25.00
Joseph Wells	Night watchman	30.00
Ira Sprint	Cook	50 00
T. K. Winter	Foreman of farm	60.00
J. J. Kies	Farm hand	25.00
Ed. Gladwin	Farm hand	20.00
John Flannery	Gardener	20.00
Michael Kilfoyle	Gardener	20.00
W. E. Dobson	Boys' Supervisor	30.00
David Rickabaugh	Janitor	20.00
Martha Dinsdale	Girls' Supervisor	29.16
Annie Pool	Ironing room	18.50
Emma Van Behren	Seamstress	25.00
Ada Magee	Nurse	20.00
Hester Bridges	Small boys' Supervisor	18.00
Selma Dixon	Pastry cook	20.00
Mary J. Carlisle	Laundry	18.50
Minnie Page	Laundry	18.50
Clara Steele	Domestic	12.00
Lucy Steele	Domestic	12.00
Julia Anderson	Domestic	12.00
Caroline Anderson	Domestic	12.00
Maggie Benson	Domestic	12.00
Charlotte Lurille	Domestic	12.00
Armedia Rinehart	Domestic	4.00
Chas. Goodall	Monitor	4.00
Eddie Pyle	Monitor	