

REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

TO

VISIT THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND FARM.

The Joint Committee, appointed to visit the Agricultural College and Farm, having performed that duty, respectfully make the following report:

THE COLLEGE BUILDING.

We find the College Building, which has been erected under the management of the present Board of Trustees, presents a very fine external appearance, fully sustaining the impression conveyed to the mind, by the engraving to be found in the second annual report, which has been laid upon the desks of the members of the Legislature. The internal arrangements in regard to lecture and recitation-rooms are somewhat faulty and insufficient, but we believe changes to remedy this can be made at a small expense.

Mr. Reichard, the contractor, appears to have spared no pains in having the masonry, the carpenter work and the plastering, so far as completed, honestly and conscientiously executed. He has labored under many difficulties in the fulfillment of his contract,

which are rarely met with by a contractor. Hands had to be procured and materials obtained at great distances from the College Farm while workmen frequently had to be retained under pay, while waiting for materials to arrive. We believe these reasons furnish sufficient excuse for his failure to complete the building within the time specified in the contract.

The committee were advised of a claim for extra work performed by the contractor, also of a claim for additional compensation on the original contract, based on alleged erroneous estimates made by the architect, by reason of which the amount of material required largely exceeded the estimates on which the contract was made. We were not advised of the details of the facts, and therefore are unable to make any recommendation upon the subject.

HEATING APPARATUS.

It was the intention to heat the building by means of hot air furnaces, but the lamentable and complete failure of these furnaces to furnish pure, warm air when applied to large buildings is too well known to need any comment. Whatever else we do, it is all important that the students attending the college should be furnished with air to breathe as pure as it is supplied to us by the bountiful hand of nature. The introduction of stoves would not only require a largely increased amount of fuel, but would also be highly injurious to the building, and be attended with great danger from fire. We hope, therefore, no hesitation will be felt in granting the appropriation asked for to heat the building by steam.

ESTIMATES OF TRUSTEES.

We have carefully examined the estimates of the Trustees, and the amounts asked for, and have come to the conclusion that the appropriation requested from the State Treasury can be very materially reduced by applying to a part of the same objects, a portion of the fund, which has already accumulated, and which is now lying idle.

The law of Congress donating the lands to the State provides (Section 3) "That all the expenses of management, superintendence, and taxes, from date of selection of said lands, previous to their sale, and all the expenses incurred in the management and disbursement of the moneys which may be received therefrom, shall be paid by the State to which they may belong, out of the treasury of said State, so that the entire proceeds of the sale of said lands shall be applied without any discrimination whatever, to the purposes hereinafter mentioned." It also provides (Section 4) "That the proceeds of sale of lands and land script shall be invested in United States or State stocks, yielding not less than five per cent. upon their par value: and "That the moneys so invested shall constitute a perpetual fund, the capital of which shall remain forever undiminished (except so far as may be provided in Section 5 of this act) and the interest of which shall be inviolably appropriated * * * to the endowment, support and maintenance of at least one College," &c., &c. It is further declared (Section 5) that "no portion of said fund, nor the interest thereon shall be applied directly or indirectly under any pretense whatever, to the purchase, erection, preservation, or repair of any building or buildings."

None of the lands have been sold, and of course no proceeds of sales have been received. But treating the moneys derived from leases, as if it was interest, your committee are of the opinion that it is intended and allowed by the law of Congress under the words "maintenance and support" that the income may be applied to all the usual means and instruments of education, and therefore to the purchase and supply of all things necessary which do not constitute a part of the buildings, or the fixtures thereof, and which are designed to be movable, transient and perishable.

The committee therefore recommend that the amount asked for:

Lecture room furniture and Library.....	\$ 5,000
Furniture for student's rooms, recitation and professors rooms, and tools for students.....	10,000
Library fixtures.....	1,000
And for Philosophical, Astronomical and Mathematical Instruments and apparatus.....	2,000

A total of \$18,000 be deducted from the appropriation requested by the trustees, with the understanding that they have power to use the interest fund for the purpose of supplying these wants.

PROFESSORS' DWELLINGS.

The amount asked for by the Trustees for the purpose of building suitable dwellings for the use of the faculty, is \$10,000. After a careful examination of the subject, we have concluded that \$12,000 will be required for this purpose, in order to erect dwellings that in any manner will be adequate to the purpose.

BOOKS, ACCOUNTS AND VOUCHERS.

We examined the books, accounts and vouchers of the farm, and found that the method of keeping them had been greatly improved within two years, but there is still a lack of system and arrangement; also, a want of proper books for preserving accurate records of transactions, receipts and expenditures. To supply this want, we would suggest that a new and complete set of books be prepared, expressly for the use of the Superintendent of the farm. That an account be opened with each object of expenditure named in the appropriations granted by the Legislature, which shall be credited with the amount appropriated for that object, and debited with the several amounts expended from time to time. The farm fund should also be credited with the amount of sales and charged with all the expenses attending the management of the farm and the cultivation of the crops.

A farm-book should be provided, in which should be kept a proper record of all the transactions of the farm; also a journal, in which a note should be made of all liabilities as they occur, as well as receipts and expenditures of money; also a ledger, to which all moneys received and expended, shall be posted under the proper heads of account, as named in the appropriations.

We recommend that a competent book-keeper be employed for a brief period by the Trustees, who shall under the direction of the Auditor, provide a set of books for this purpose, and open the several accounts, so that hereafter there may be no difficulty, and a perfect system of accounts adopted.

ROAD.

While at the farm, the attention of the committee was called to the road running south of the farm. Several years ago the Board of Trustees made an arrangement with Mr. Porter, the owner of the land lying south of the farm, in which it was agreed, that in order that the road should follow a high dry ridge, and avoid a bad slough that extends along the line, an exchange of land should take place between the State and Mr. Porter—the State taking the land lying north of the road as it crossed Mr. Porter's land (about fourteen acres), and Mr. Porter receiving from the State the land lying in the south-west corner of the farm, and cut off by the road (about seventeen acres). This exchange was made subject to the sanction of the Legislature, which has never been given. Your committee are of the opinion that the best interests of the College and farm demand that this exchange should not be ratified, but in order that harmony and good feeling may prevail, we would recommend that a small sum be appropriated to be expended under the direction of the Superintendent of the farm, for the purpose of making a good road along the south side of the farm.

THE FARM.

Taking into consideration the combination of the various kinds of prairie soils common to the State, such as low bottom, second bottom, gradually-undulating prairie, and high-rolling broken prairie, also timber, pure living water and the various kinds of building material, your committee are of the opinion that the location of the farm will eventually prove very satisfactory to the people of the State.

There is upon the farm about one hundred and fifty acres of valuable timber, embracing nearly every variety growing within the State.

Near the center of the farm and about eighty rods east of the farm buildings are several fine springs which may not only prove valuable in supplying water for the stock, but may be made to furnish an abundant supply for the College and farm buildings. By

some economical method, water from these springs might be carried to any desired point in and about the buildings, and we believe that in a sanitary point of view, as well as upon principles of economy, it will be found that this is the best method, by which a never-failing supply of pure water can be had to supply the College.

About one hundred and fifty acres of the farm are now under cultivation, with what results your committee have no means of ascertaining, other than the report of the Superintendent.

There is a young orchard of about 400 trees. Many of these trees do not appear to be in a thrifty or healthy condition, though large enough to produce considerable fruit. Upon the east side of the orchard is a fine row of white willow trees, which demonstrate that if they do not make a hedge or fence to turn stock, they make a good wind-break.

The farm-house is a good substantial brick building, well adapted to the purpose for which it was designed. The barn is of good height, 42 by 60 feet, with a good stone basement under the whole, which affords room enough to stable all the cattle upon the farm. A portion of the room is now occupied by the horses, to the exclusion of other stock. The erection of a horse-stable will obviate this difficulty. There have been erected temporary sheds for sheep and hogs, which are in no way adequate to the wants of these animals.

THE STOCK.

The stock looks well and appears to be carefully attended to by the persons having it in charge. Some of the animals are very fine indeed, while there are others that are not what are wanted upon a model and experimental farm.

PEAT.

Superintendent Thomson, called the attention of the committee to a peat-bed a number of acres in extent, which he had tested and found to be an excellent article. At a point where a channel

had been washed, the peat showed itself to the depth of four feet. In an economical, as well as experimental point of view, this peat-bed may prove a valuable acquisition to the farm and College.

REQUEST OF CITIZENS.

Your committee were waited upon by a delegation of the citizens of Ames station and vicinity, who had also presented a petition therefor to the House of Representatives, to request that a law be passed by the Legislature, prohibiting the sale of wine and beer within two miles of the College. It was made clear to us that the passage of such a law would be highly satisfactory to all the moral people in the vicinity, as well as productive of good effects to the institution itself. We therefore most cordially recommend that their request may be complied with.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Your committee would respectfully suggest that the Board of Trustees of the Agricultural College, as at present constituted is entirely too large. A few of the members must necessarily do all the work, and we notice that even the important matter of selecting a President of the College, has been left to a committee consisting of three members of the Board. We therefore recommend that the law be so changed, that upon the expiration of the term of the present Board of Trustees, the Board shall consist of one member from each congressional district, and that the members to be elected under the present law, at this session, shall hold office only for the term of two years.

In conclusion we would say that it is our opinion, based upon our examinations that the present Board of Trustees have moved slowly and cautiously in the work assigned to them by the State, and have performed their duties faithfully, and cautiously, with an earnest desire to make this institution an object of pride to our people, and the means of elevating the great interests which it has been founded to promote. They have had many difficulties to encounter, and many have yet to be overcome. To select the officers to take charge of the College, and secure men who will make it a

success, and an object of pride to the State, is a task which requires patient labor and inquiry, and the exercise of the soundest judgment. It is to be hoped in this, they will receive the aid of their fellow citizens, and that in no case will they allow the Iowa State Agricultural College to become a last resort for men who have failed in other walks of life, and are now anxious that the State should provide them with comfortable places for the rest of their natural lives.

Respectfully submitted.

S. S. FARWELL,
JOHN A. KASSON,
L. W. STUART,

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY


OF THE

IOWA STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

TO THE

TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1868.

DES MOINES: 

F. W. PALMER, STATE PRINTER,
1868.