

REPORT  
OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
STATE OF IOWA,  
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE  
PENITENTIARY OF THE STATE  
LOCATED AT  
FORT MADISON.

---

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:*

The undersigned, your committee appointed to visit the penitentiary at Fort Madison, respectfully submit the following statement of their action as such committee under the concurrent resolution defining their duties as follows:

### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION.

*Resolved by the Senate, the House concurring,* That there be appointed committees to visit the several State institutions, each of said committees to be composed of three members, one from the Senate and two from the House. Said committees to report to the General Assembly on or before the 5th day of February. They shall examine and include in their report:

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

*Second.* Whether they have been expended for the object appropriated.

*Third.* Whether chapter 67 of the acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly has been complied with in not contracting indebtedness in excess of the appropriations.

*Fourth.* Whether there has been any diversion of any money from the specific purpose for which it was appropriated.

*Fifth.* Said committee shall also report the names and number of persons employed by the several institutions; for what purpose employed, and at what salaries. Also whether any persons so employed receive or have received anything in addition to their salary in any way of board, room, lights, fuel or clothing, or in anything else at the expense of the State.

*Sixth.* Said committee shall also report the manner of escape from fire, and make recommendation in regard thereto.

*Seventh.* Said committee shall also report the sanitary condition of such institutions and make recommendations in regard thereto.

*Eighth.* Said committee should also report what new structures, or changes of, or additions to old ones, if any, are necessary, and the reason why the same are necessary, and that the committee may and are hereby directed to examine any person under oath if they deem it necessary to gain the information called for.

*Resolved, further,* that when this General Assembly adjourn on Wednesday, the 18th inst., that said adjournment shall be until Tuesday the 24th inst., at 9 o'clock A. M.

For two days we diligently pursued our investigations. The several apartments and departments of the prison were carefully inspected. We gave strict scrutiny to the workings of the prison, the management of the convicts, the labor system in vogue, and all conditions of importance to the prisoners, to society and to the State, having frequent interviews with inmates apart from any member of the management, relative to their treatment; etc.

We carefully examined the accounts of the Warden, comparing the books of account with the vouchers on file and monthly and biennial reports to the Governor.

Following is a statement showing appropriations made by the Twenty-first General Assembly, together with the amounts expended and the sums still in the hands of the Warden:

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT.

Amount expended for electric light plant ..... \$ 7,804.63

#### SOLITARY FUND.

Amount of appropriation.....	\$ 1,000.00
Amount expended.....	968.38
Balance in Warden's hands December 31, 1887.....	\$ 31.62

#### REPAIR AND CONTINGENT FUND.

Amount on hand July 1, 1885.....	\$ 2,995.62
Amount of appropriation.....	7,500.00
Total .....	\$ 10,495.62
Amount expended.....	\$ 8,608.27
Amount undrawn.....	1,500.00— 10,108.27
Amount in Warden's hands December 31, 1887.....	\$ 392.35

#### TRANSPORTATION OF DISCHARGED CONVICTS AND WARDEN'S HOUSE FUND.

Amount on hand July 1, 1885.....	\$ 979.89
Amount of appropriation .....	2,200.00
Total .....	\$ 3,179.89
Amount expended.....	2,528.48
Amount in Warden's hands December 31, 1887.....	\$ 651.41

#### STEAM HEATING FUND.

Amount on hand July 1, 1885.....	\$ 458.82
Amount expended.....	458.82

#### PRISON AID ASSOCIATION.

Amount on hand July 1, 1885.....	\$ 414.50
Amount of appropriation .....	750.00
Total .....	\$ 1,164.50
Amount expended.....	1,164.50

#### IRON BEDSTEAD FUND.

Amount on hand July 1, 1885.....	\$ 107.25
Amount expended.....	4.00
Amount in hands of Warden December 31, 1887.....	\$ 103.25

#### PORCELAIN BUCKET FUND.

Amount on hand July 1, 1885.....	\$ 75.00
Amount expended.....	—
Amount in hands of Warden December 31, 1887.....	\$ 75.00

We believe Warden Crosley has wisely and economically expended the appropriations made by the Twenty-first General Assembly.

It was evident, also, that the amount he was authorized to expend from the general support fund for an electric light plant has been invested to the advantage of the State and to all concerned. The fire risk has been materially lessened, the expense of maintenance is smaller and in various ways the superiority of the electric over the old system of illumination is manifested.

We find that "no indebtedness in excess of appropriations has been incurred," and that "there has been no diversion of money from the specific purpose for which it was appropriated."

We have no recommendation to make relative to sanitary conditions, believing the situation to be decidedly favorable to health.

The hospital seems to be poorly patronized, though a very creditable feature of the Institution. Dr. Hoffmeister, the prison physician treats with skill, fidelity and kindness all prisoners who need his professional services, and Wm. Moore, the hospital steward, is one of the most faithful of public servants. The cells are clean and well ventilated, and the arrangement of the shops is conducive to health, with the possible exception of the polishing department of the Farming Tool Company, where it would seem that the work must be a drain upon vitality. The food of the convicts is wholesome and nourishing. If we were to suggest an improvement in this connection we would say that men at hard labor should have butter, and that the suppers supplied should be more substantial than bread and coffee only.

The buildings are old, but with small expenditure for repairs they will last for an indefinite period.

The management of the prison in all respects is above reproach.

In Warden G. W. Crosley is found the remarkable combination of strong executive capacity and good judgment in the control of all the forces at his command. Bills and vouchers on file demonstrate the shrewdness and care with which purchases are made, while all avenues are closed against extravagance or waste. The Warden is thoroughly master of the situation in all matters general and special relative to the prison management.

He has a most excellent assistant in the person of Deputy J. Townsend. The details of discipline are in his hands, and while he is firm in his grasp of affairs in his field, he is genial and kind to all.

The prison clerk, J. G. Berstler, is a model accountant. He has, in our judgment, at once the most simple and comprehensive system of book-keeping that could be used in such an institution. He is methodical in the extreme and it was a comparatively easy task to inspect the books, bills, vouchers, etc., which were so readily forthcoming at our request.

Chaplain C. F. Williams, is doing noble work for the State, for society, for Christianity, and for all individuals in his field. His title gives the public a very imperfect idea as to his labors. He is at once preacher, teacher, librarian, guide, counselor and friend. He gives his time wholly to these duties and is in love with his work. His preaching and spiritual and temporal counsel are very healthful. His night school entail arduous labor, and to good purpose. The splendid library of nearly six thousand volumes is under systematic efforts,

an agency of value. He is a man of liberal education and fine ability and receives at the hands of the State the meager salary of \$840 a year. The fact is a disgrace to a noble calling. He ought to have not less than \$1,200. When the prison school was established in 1874, the chaplain's salary was fixed at \$1,200. A few years later in the interest of economy, the legislature reduced the salary but did not cut off the school. In other states, for performing the duties of chaplain alone, almost twice as much is paid as Mr. Williams receives for his diversified and arduous labors.

We also recommend an increase in the pay of the guards. These faithful sentinels work twelve hours a day, and seven days in the week, for \$600 a year. Men of character and strength are required and they should be fairly paid in proportion to the house in service and the responsibilities.

While not strictly within the range of their instructions, the committee cannot close this personal mention without bestowing just praise upon Mrs. Crosley, wife of the Warden, for inestimable deeds performed since her husband assumed the management of the penitentiary. She seems to understand the character of every inmate by intuition. Her presence is to all better than sunshine. Her thoughtful attention to the minds as well as the bodies of the afflicted, her kind words and genial smiles scattered daily about the prison, her labors in the Sunday school, and her helpful kindness upon all special occasions, together with a spirit of modesty that never seeks praise, are at once beautiful and impressive.

Speaking of these labors of love reminds us that teachers in the prison Sunday school, ladies of the best families in Fort Madison, walk a mile or more, or hire at their own expense transportation to their Sunday afternoon appointments. What is known as the visitors' fund, embracing sums paid by visitors for an opportunity to go through the prison, is in such condition that a hundred dollars a year might be spared for the purpose of supplying conveyance to these ladies, and we cordially recommend such an appropriation.

In his report to the Governor the Warden submitted estimates following for appropriations necessary to the support of the institution for the coming biennial period:

For transportation of discharged convicts.....	\$ 2,000.00
For contingent fund and repairs.....	7,500.00
For new range, steam kettles and fixtures.....	800.00
For furniture and carpets.....	200.00
Total.....	\$10,500.00

From personal investigation into requirements of the several departments, we believe the amounts asked for are barely sufficient to meet the requirements of the institution for the ensuing biennial period, and feel justified in recommending appropriation in accordance with the estimates submitted.

A. B. FUNK,

*On part of the Senate.*

J. R. BURGESS,

E. L. HOBBS,

*On part of the House.*

1888.]

# ALL EMPLOYES OF STATE PENITENTIARY AT FT. MADISON.

## OFFICERS.

G. W. Crosley, Warden .....	\$166.87
J. Townsend, Deputy Warden.....	100.00
J. G. Berstler, Clerk.....	70.00
C. F. Williams, Chaplain.....	70.00
A. W. Hoffmeister, Physician.....	50.00
William Moore, Hospital Steward.....	50.00
A. Scherfe, Turnkey.....	50.00

## GUARDS.

A. Ellis.....	50.00
H. C. Townsend.....	50.00
C. A. Jamison.....	50.00
Andy Young.....	50.00
Joseph Moore.....	50.00
B. C. Holmes.....	50.00
A. R. Parish.....	50.00
James Everst.....	50.00
W. D. Masters.....	50.00
T. P. Hallowell.....	50.00
Geo. L. White.....	50.00
W. C. Smith.....	50.00
L. R. Jones.....	50.00
J. H. Phinney.....	50.00
A. R. Thayer.....	50.00
B. F. Carter.....	50.00
W. L. Ray.....	50.00
D. Kent.....	50.00
W. H. Garner.....	50.00
J. H. Pleasants.....	50.00
D. V. Holland.....	50.00
A. Patterson.....	50.00
L. Simmons.....	50.00
H. H. Wheeler.....	50.00
S. C. Brestler.....	50.00
J. L. Ferrell.....	50.00
I. B. Snyder.....	50.00

R. Evans .....	50.00
A. Edwards.....	50.00
A. J. Powell.....	50.00
J. M. Parker.....	50.00
J. G. M. Smith.....	50.00
H. D. Straight.....	50.00
P. J. Collins.....	50.00
J. B. Williams.....	50.00

## PAID FROM GENERAL SUPPORT.

P. S. Stone, Teamster.....	40.00
Chas. Bull, Teamster.....	40.00
Hiram Finch, Pump House .....	40.00
E. M. Hedge, Janitor and Messenger.....	25.00

## PAID FROM REPAIR AND CONTINGENT FUND.

Chas. Bowen, Engineer .....	50.00
B. F. Purviance, Engineer.....	50.00
R. I. Rathbun, Superintendent of Repairs.....	50.00