

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
Institution for Feeble-Minded Children

LOCATED AT
GLENWOOD.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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REPORT.

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

The committee by you commissioned to visit the Institution for the Feeble-Minded Children, at Glenwood, with a view to ascertaining the conditions prevailing and the wants of that institution, submit the following:

We visited every school room and every ward; made careful inquiry and patient investigation as to the character, progress, treatment and needs of the inmates; inspected State property and examined accounts and business methods, in so far as we could in the period allotted for the performance of our duties.

It is our opinion that in general character, purpose and accomplishment, this is one of the State's most creditable institutions. As late as the beginning of the present century neither government nor society recognized any duty incumbent as to the care of these unfortunate wards. It is now taken for granted, that from a practical as well as a humanitarian standpoint, society and the State should give to them special training and protection as the weaker members of society. For the higher grades of the feeble-minded far better it is that they be removed from a world in which they have not an equal chance with their fellows. By special training, religious, moral, intellectual and physical, they are developed to their highest capacity. They are protected from the wiles of the unscrupulous who are so devoid of honor and so shameless as to impose upon those who are not fortified to resist them. Those still lower in the scale of mental development may be benefited by the experience of the trained teacher of the enfeebled intellect and the advantages afforded in an institution designed especially for their care. Those who live in intellectual darkness, almost absolute, here find an asylum that yields creature comforts that can be afforded nowhere else. While they are infinitely better situated in

the institution than at home, if any they might be given, a perpetual blight and hopeless burden is removed from that home which is comforted by the knowledge that the unfortunate is better served by the State than he could be by members of his own family. These views in behalf of the unfortunates will hardly be questioned in any quarter, and there is still another important phase of the matter. In ameliorating the condition of these persons the State protects itself. Left to roam at will they are a constant menace. In the very nature of the case many, perhaps most of them, would drift into crime, and entail upon communities a great deal of trouble. Unrestrained, their progeny, legitimate and otherwise, would perpetuate and increase conditions of misery, and visit upon the public great misfortune. So expediency, as well as justice and mercy, are served by the enlightened methods of the present century relative to the care, protection and education of this class of unfortunates. Permit us to record these general thoughts, inspired by our visit.

At the date of our visit 433 were registered as inmates, classed as follows:

In school	226
At work	62
Sick	17
In asylum department	137
At home temporarily	1
Total	433

Owing to the necessities of the case the work among the lower school grades is very unsystematic and fragmentary. Many of the pupils will not or cannot talk. Some are deaf mutes. A large proportion are physically deformed in various ways and degrees. It is sometimes the work of months to induce the subject to make a few intelligible sounds, to draw a straight mark, to distinguish simple forms and colors, or to observe some simple rule in calisthenics. In the higher grades infinite patience, perseverance and tact seems to the pupil a fair degree of knowledge in the common school branches. Music, drawing, sewing and various forms of art are taught such as are capable of applying instruction.

We cannot pass without bearing testimony as to the character, capacity and exceeding kindness of the lady teachers. In the pursuance of their peculiarly monotonous daily routine they manifest not simply forbearance but Christian charity. They so kindly, patiently and earnestly devote themselves as to win the love of the pupil and the admiration of all who witness their indefatigable la-

bors. The peculiar infirmity of each subject is carefully considered, and there seems to be no limit to the zeal and large-heartedness with which they seek to serve the pitiable situation. We know they labor for something besides money, for it is easily apparent that every member of the gifted corps could, in other fields, win a financial reward above the moderate salaries received from the State.

Those classed "at work" are engaged in the shoe shop, the carpenter shop, the boiler house, about the farm in domestic service, etc. Assistance of considerable value is rendered by this class. In some cases the subject becomes expert in special lines.

In the Hospital department the sick are cared for in the most kindly manner, receiving professional treatment and nursing of the best character.

Perhaps in no other department is the humane and practical policy of the management made more apparent than in the Asylum wards. Here we find the lowest order of humanity, crude semblances of the face and form divine. In the children's wards the care usually given to babes is necessary, and it is apparently given ungrudgingly. In the adult quarters vigilance is hardly the chief requisite. Numbers there are of mature years, who have not a single glimmer of thought as to their simplest needs. Idiocy, in its various repugnant forms, must be dealt with by the faithful attendant. Violence must be met and controlled. Helplessness must be supplemented with strength. Filth must be constantly and patiently contended with. Our most searching scrutiny, however, failed to discover a single evidence of unkindness or neglect.

It is proper to speak here and now of the evidences abounding as to the humane policy of Superintendent Powell, and the matron, Mrs. Powell. In every ward they are recognized by the unfortunates as friends. They are approached by inmates in a manner that leaves no question as to the relations existing. It is apparent that no cruelty is exercised or permitted, for among such subjects it could not be concealed. Questioned apart it was the uniform testimony of all that there is nothing to complain of, that all are considerately cared for and kindly used. Instinctively every subordinate seems inclined to forbearance and gentleness, and anything out of harmony therewith will not be acceptable service to the superintendent.

In pursuance of our instructions we submit the following:

The appropriations made by the last General Assembly have, in our opinion, been wisely and economically expended.

They have, so far as we can ascertain, been expended for the objects for which appropriated.

No indebtedness in excess of the appropriations has been created.

It is our belief that there has been no diversion of the funds appropriated.

Fire escapes have been provided for the inmates of the several buildings.

The sanitary conditions are in the main favorable, though better ventilation should be provided in the old buildings, for which an appropriation is asked. We indorse the request.

For new boilers, steam pumps, steam fittings, pipe coverings and coal shed, \$9,900 is asked. The present heating capacity is insufficient and under the present arrangement it is occasionally necessary to cut off the supply altogether, thereby causing suffering among the inmates. By covering the steam pipes between the boiler house and the buildings a marked saving in fuel will be made. On the whole we feel that this should be granted.

An electric lighting system is asked, and in our opinion, is much needed. Some four hundred kerosene lamps are now in nightly use, at imminent risk to life and property. Not long since a lamp was snatched from a bracket by an inmate who was fatally burned and the building was saved only through the presence of mind of an attendant.

An addition to laundry, shops and machinery seems to be a conspicuous want. The laundry work is now performed at serious disadvantage and it is difficult to meet the requirements of the institution in this particular with the present capacity and quarters.

A brick addition to the old building to take the place of a rickety frame structure ought to be provided for. The rooms cannot be spared, and the present quarters are at once uncomfortable and unsafe.

For bakery and kitchen furniture an appropriation is needed. Baking is now done elsewhere. An important saving could be made by establishing a bakery at the institution. Considerable expenditure in kitchen furniture is apparently necessary.

Additional beds and bedding are required to increase the dormitory capacity and to insure the comfort of the inmates.

A cold storage room and ice-house are needed. An appropriation for this purpose is in the line of economy.

For the purchase of one hundred acres of land adjoining the State grounds, and the erection of additional barns, \$6,000 is asked. In our opinion the farm limits should be considerably extended. A

larger number of the inmates than can now be employed would be all the better conditioned for work they might do in the field, and their services might be made of considerable value to the State. Dr. Powell seems to be very practical in his farming operations, and it occurs to us that the institution should have more land.

For the improvement and repair of grounds we recommend a small appropriation. Even if plans only were provided for, considerable could be done toward improvement by the boys of the institution.

If funds commensurate with the needs of the State institutions are provided, or if such sums can be granted with a just consideration of all claims upon the treasury, we recommend appropriations as follows:

For new boilers, steam pumps, steam fittings, pipe coverings and coal shed.....	\$ 9,900
For electric lighting system.....	7,000
For addition to laundry, shops and machinery.....	5,500
For ventilation in old buildings.....	1,500
For brick addition to old buildings.....	4,400
For bakery and kitchen furniture.....	2,000
For beds and bedding.....	2,500
For cold storage room and ice-house.....	2,000
For orchard, small fruits and fencing.....	300
For land and barns.....	6,000
For contingent and repair fund.....	4,000
For improvement and plan of grounds.....	500
For cottage for boys.....	1,500
Total.....	\$ 47,100

We would deal generously by this institution, for we believe it to be accomplishing a most excellent purpose. If consistent with pressing demands elsewhere upon the State treasury we would take pleasure in indorsing all the requests of the superintendent and trustees, for none of them are really extravagant or frivolous.

We believe the support fund of this institution is not commensurate with its urgent needs. Dr. Powell asks that the support be placed upon a per capita basis solely; that instead of ten dollars a month per capita, and eleven thousand dollars annually for salaries, the support be apportioned at fifteen dollars per month for each inmate. Without expressly saying what the per capita sum should be, we deem this the better basis for calculation, and would recommend an amendment in the statute accordingly.

Following is a complete list of persons employed by the institution:

MONTHLY PAY-ROLL—CONTINUED.

NAME.	KIND OF SERVICE.	Amount.	REMARKS.
Eva Ballor.....	Kitchen girl.....	10.00	
Minnie Garvin.....	Waitress.....	14.00	
Tillie Sonnenberg.....	Waitress.....	18.00	
Katite Haskins.....	Waitress.....	5.00	
Ora Haskins.....	Waitress.....	12.00	
Emma Garvin.....	Waitress.....	16.00	
Allie Brown.....	Seamstress.....	20.00	
Jennie Stewart.....	Seamstress.....	12.00	
Lattie Rhode.....	Seamstress.....	10.00	
Annie Miller.....	Seamstress.....	13.00	
Monie Hall.....	Seamstress.....	12.00	
Kate Baldozier.....	Seamstress.....	12.00	
Nettie Stiltz.....	Seamstress.....	12.00	
Emma McCadden.....	Seamstress.....	16.00	
Lucy Edwards.....	Seamstress.....	18.00	
Dora Sartelle.....	Seamstress.....	16.00	
Lottie Sartelle.....	Seamstress.....	6.00	
Lillie Lawson.....	In laundry.....	20.00	
Lizzie Barbour.....	In laundry.....	14.00	
Lucy Ballor.....	In laundry.....	10.00	
Milan Taylor.....	In laundry.....	14.00	
Mattie Hilton.....	Ironer.....	16.00	
Minnie Surber.....	Ironer.....	16.00	
G. S. Hulbe.....	Driver.....	25.00	
W. J. Stout.....	Laborer.....	28.00	
Sam Haskins.....	Laborer.....	6.00	
J. P. Jackson.....	Laborer.....	25.00	Two meals daily.
W. H. Storey.....	Laborer.....	25.00	Two meals daily and house.
Hally Miller.....	Laborer.....	20.00	Two meals daily.
F. Smawley.....	Laborer.....	20.00	
E. Dwyer.....	Laborer.....	18.00	
Total.....		\$ 2,093.00	

With the exception as noted, all have board, washing and lodging at the expense of the State.

The business methods of the institution meet with our approval. The accounts are in excellent form. After a pretty thorough examination of bills and vouchers we believe contracts for the supplies are made on terms very favorable to the institution and the State.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. B. FUNK,

On the part of the Senate.

F. F. ROY,

F. M. KYRE,

On the part of the House.

MONTHLY PAY-ROLL

Of the Iowa Institution for Feeble-Minded Children.

NAME.	KIND OF SERVICE.	Amount.	REMARKS.
F. M. Powell.....	Superintendent.....	\$ 150.00	
L. M. Powell.....	Matron.....	41.56	
T. Q. Records.....	Steward.....	83.33	
Emma Brown.....	Assistant matron.....	40.00	
M. E. Cliff.....	Teacher.....	40.00	
L. N. Cushman.....	Teacher.....	35.00	
Nettie Wood.....	Teacher.....	35.00	
Nattie McLouie.....	Teacher.....	35.00	
Etta Inscore.....	Teacher.....	35.00	
Hattie Landes.....	Teacher.....	35.00	
Laura Waylock.....	Teacher.....	35.00	
Kate Amos.....	Teacher.....	35.00	
A. L. McGrew.....	Teacher.....	35.00	
Emma Frew.....	Teacher.....	30.00	
F. M. Lounsburg.....	Teacher.....	25.00	
Gene Sartelle.....	Teacher.....	20.00	
May Powell.....	Teacher and secretary.....	35.00	
J. W. Corlett.....	Engineer.....	20.00	
Rilla Drew.....	Visitor's attendant.....	25.00	
M. E. Black.....	Nurse.....	25.00	
Anna Pringle.....	Assistant Nurse.....	17.00	
Emma Dwyer.....	Assistant Nurse.....	14.00	
Edillian Robinson.....	Supervisor.....	30.00	
Sarah Clark.....	Supervisor.....	22.00	
D. K. Donnelly.....	Engineer.....	80.00	
Thos. Clune.....	Fireman.....	40.00	Two meals daily.
Robt. Morris.....	Fireman.....	50.00	
J. W. Miller.....	Fireman.....	40.00	One meal daily and house.
H. McCadden.....	Fireman.....	35.00	
W. J. Howlette.....	Carpenter.....	28.00	One meal daily.
A. Davis.....	Shoemaker.....	50.00	One meal daily.
J. H. Delaney.....	Iron-maker.....	25.00	
Sam Thomas.....	Attendant.....	25.00	
George Fortney.....	Attendant.....	25.00	
George McGrider.....	Attendant.....	25.00	
J. W. Anderson.....	Attendant.....	27.00	
Carl Topel.....	Attendant.....	28.00	
Jennie Black.....	Attendant.....	22.00	
Allen Tryon.....	Attendant.....	20.00	
Louisa Friers.....	Attendant.....	20.00	
Nannie Radcliffe.....	Attendant.....	17.00	
Mary Holson.....	Attendant.....	20.00	
Mary Loeke.....	Attendant.....	22.00	
Clara Burgoon.....	Attendant.....	20.00	
Fannie Thurn.....	Attendant.....	18.00	
Etta Nowville.....	Attendant.....	16.00	
H. A. Mills.....	Watchman.....	25.00	Two meals daily.
Etta Brantner.....	Watchman.....	20.00	
Margaret Painter.....	Hall girl.....	18.00	
Lena Ludwig.....	Hall girl.....	16.00	
Alma Munn.....	Cook.....	18.00	
Sue Prizell.....	Cook.....	18.00	
Laura Menesly.....	Cook.....	18.00	
Jennie Rivey.....	Kitchen girl.....	18.00	