

REPORT  
OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
STATE OF IOWA,  
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE  
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL  
LOCATED AT  
ELDORA.

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## REPORT.

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

Your Committee appointed to visit the Industrial School for boys at Eldora, Iowa, met as a committee at Eldora, on the 22d day of February, and we respectfully submit the following report:

We found the Institution well managed. The Superintendent takes great interest and care in having everything in as good shape as is possible to keep it, and he is very fortunate in his assistants and co-laborers. We should say that they were well selected and that they are peculiarly qualified for the work that is demanded from them. They seem all to work in perfect harmony.

We found the appropriations made by the Twenty-second General Assembly economically and judiciously expended, and they have in all cases been expended for the purpose for which they have been appropriated, and no appropriation has been exceeded in any case, and no appropriation has been expended for any purpose other than that for which it was made. There is a small balance on hand in two of the appropriations; the others were expended entirely, and no indebtedness has been incurred, and chapter 67 of the acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly has been complied with.

There are no fire escapes upon the buildings, and we would recommend that fire escapes be attached to the third story of the two buildings that have iron bars to the windows, and that the bars be so attached that they can be locked from the outside, by which means the windows can be opened, on the event of fire, by the watchman from the outside, and the inmates permitted to escape thereby. The managers have provided as well as possible, except as herein suggested, against any danger from fire, by providing ladders at the end of the buildings away from the stairways, and the night watchman has instructions to place said ladders in position if a fire should occur in said building or buildings.

The sanitary condition of the Institution demands that an appropriation be made for bathing apparatus and heating for the same; otherwise we would say that the sanitary condition of the building is in a very good condition.

The chapel in connection with the Institution is entirely too small, and is on the second floor of an old frame building. We would recommend that an appropriation be made for the building of a new chapel, as we consider it an absolute necessity. We would further state that there are in said Institution sixty-five boys under the age of ten years, and a number of whom are as young as five, and many of which are sent for no other reason than the fact that they have been abandoned by their parents. It does not seem right to us that children of such tender years should be placed in such an Institution where, as they grow older, they must, of necessity, mix with those who have, by reason of their superior years and training in crime, become adepts in criminal practice.

While it is true, at the present time, those children are in a building by themselves, and are kept apart from those who are older, for which great credit must be given to the Superintendent, yet as they grow in years they will have to be graded out of, and placed in families that will bring them in direct contact with those who have come fresh from the field of crime. We would recommend that some steps be taken by the legislature to furnish a home for children under the age of ten years, that they be provided with an asylum in which they will be cared for, and to which the name of criminal cannot be applied. And where, as they grow older, they will be separated farther from, rather than as now brought in direct contact with, the criminal classes. We would suggest that a family building be erected at Davenport, in connection with the Orphans' Home, to which all children under ten years of age shall be sent, and where they can and will be kept separate from the orphans until such time as in the judgment of the Superintendent they can be with safety graded into the classes of said home. We do not recommend this as we see the difficulty of associating the orphans with the class that would be sent there if this suggestion should be adopted; but, in our judgment, it would be far better than the course now pursued of sending children, of the age here referred to, to the Industrial School.

The following is a list of the employes and salaries paid them for the year ending on the 22d day of February, 1890:

B. J. Miles and wife, superintendent and matron.....	\$1,650
D. M. Crouse, assistant superintendent.....	600
C. J. North, family manager.....	600
Mrs. C. J. North, teacher and housework.....	240
C. H. Wartman, family manager.....	240
Mrs. C. H. Wartman, charge of music.....	300
G. L. Stahl, family manager.....	480
Mrs. G. L. Stahl, teacher and housework.....	240
A. H. Leonard, family manager.....	480
Mrs. A. H. Leonard, teacher and housework.....	240
C. S. Page, family manager.....	480
Mrs. C. S. Page, teacher and housework.....	240
L. B. Kain, family manager.....	240
Charles Cleland, farmer.....	420
Mrs. C. Cleland, teacher and housework.....	240
P. J. Jones, engineer.....	600
Mrs. P. J. Jones, sewing room.....	120
H. S. Poisel, shoemaker.....	420
Mrs. H. S. Poisel, boys' dining hall.....	180
J. M. Bush, night watchman.....	420
R. E. Christy, care of live stock.....	300
Miss Libbie Cook, assistant matron.....	300
Miss S. J. Wright, laundress.....	240
Miss E. Roundbush, tailoress.....	240
Miss F. E. Bradshaw, baker.....	240
Miss Kate Leary, boys' kitchen.....	240
Mrs. J. Schoonover, officers' kitchen.....	240
Mrs. W. E. Whitney, teacher and housework.....	240
Miss Ella Welch, hospital work.....	240
Miss Alice Powell, officers' dining hall.....	180
Miss Ella Stuart, boys' dining hall.....	180
Miss Carrie Jarvis, general work.....	120

That each receive in addition to their salaries, as herein set forth, board, rooms, light and heat at the expense of the State. We would recommend that the Institution be granted the following amount as appropriations for the purpose herein set out:

Contingent.....	\$5,000
Laundry, boiler and machinery.....	1,500
Bath apparatus and heater.....	1,000
Sunday suits for boys.....	1,000
Chapel building and furnishing.....	5,000
Electric light and boilers.....	4,000
Chaplain fund.....	500

In view of the fact that we have scaled down the appropriations asked for by the Institution, we would state that, in our opinion, what we have herein recommended are absolutely necessary in order to supply the wants of this Institution. All of which is

Respectfully submitted,

P. B. WOLFE,  
*Committee for the Senate.*

GEO. W. BALL,  
WM. GLATLY,  
*Committee for the House.*