

most of all, of the assiduous and incessant ministry of cheer and helpfulness unobtrusively carried forward by Mrs. Crosley. The power of the blended influence of christian love and womanly tenderness, expressing themselves through considerate acts and thoughtful, earnest words, fitly spoken, cannot be estimated. In a way as quiet as the vitalizing influences of nature, the men were made to feel that there is one thinking and caring for them, who has toward each of them the heart of a mother.

Of the general conditions of reformatory work, I need speak but a word. The colossal blunder made by the legislature of New York in prematurely and abruptly suspending prison industries before any other than the contract system was ready to take its place, and thus unnecessarily precipitating upon sixteen hundred convicts a condition of enforced idleness, carries its own lesson of caution against undue haste in legislating with reference to convict labor.

The problem is too difficult to admit of hasty solution. But the fact that contractors employ foremen solely from a business standpoint, and almost or altogether ignore the interests of reformatory work, robs that work of the essential element of unity, and is so serious a defect in the contract system, as now operated, that an intelligent philanthropy must demand that either the abuse be corrected or the system be abolished.

I heartily thank you and your efficient Deputy Warden, and gentlemanly and obliging guards for whatever of coöperation and courtesy has been extended to me in the prosecution of my work. And permit me to say, in closing, that to have been associated with a superior officer possessed so largely of the courage of his convictions, and to have been identified with an administration so thoroughly high-minded, conscientious and honorable, has been the source of a satisfaction that it will be a life-long pleasure to me to remember.

With devout gratitude to the Author of all good work that it has been my privilege to bring to the despairing a message of hope, and, in the name of Christ, to say to those who have sunken lowest in sin, "There is lifting up."

I am very respectfully yours,

C. F. WILLIAMS,  
*Chaplain and Teacher.*

## REPORT

OF THE

# JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

## PENITENTIARY

LOCATED AT

FT. MADISON.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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DES MOINES:

G. H. RAGSDALE, STATE PRINTER,  
1890

## REPORT.

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

The undersigned, your committee appointed to visit the Penitentiary at Ft. 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 10th day of March. 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 recommendations 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.

We spent two days investigating the several apartments and departments of the prison. We gave strict scrutiny to the management of the convicts, also the labor system in vogue, and all conditions of importance to the prisoners and to the State. We interviewed many of the prisoners separately and 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-second General Assembly, together with the amounts expended and the sums still in the hands of the Warden:

## REPAIR AND CONTINGENT FUND.

Amount on hand July 1, 1887.....	\$ 3,576.67
Amount of appropriations received.....	7,506.00
Total.....	\$11,076.67
Amount expended June 30th.....	\$6,707.00
Amount expended to December 31, 1889.....	2,506.63
Balance in Warden's hands December 31, 1889.....	\$ 1,773.64

## SOLITARY FUND.

Amount on hand July 1, 1887.....	\$ 97.79
Amount expended.....	\$ 66.17
Balance on hand December 31, 1889.....	\$ 31.62

## TRANSPORTATION DISCHARGED CONVICTS.

Amount on hand July 1, 1887.....	\$ 1,072.06
Amount of appropriation.....	2,000.00
Total.....	\$ 3,072.06
Amount expended.....	\$3,522.63
Balance in hands of Warden December 31, 1889.....	\$ 549.43

## WARDEN'S HOUSE FUND.

Amount on hand July 1, 1887.....	\$ 15.63
Amount of appropriation.....	200.00
Total.....	\$ 215.63
Amount expended.....	\$ 215.43
Balance in Warden's hands December 31, 1889.....	\$ .20

## IRON BEDSTEAD FUND.

Amount on hand July 1, 1887.....	\$ 101.25
Amount expended.....	\$ 79.50
Balance in hands of Warden December 31, 1889.....	\$ 21.75

We believe the appropriations made by the Twenty-second General Assembly have been wisely and economically expended by the Warden.

We find that no indebtedness in excess of appropriations has been incurred and that the money has been used for the specific purpose for which it was appropriated.

We find the sanitary condition of the prison as good, and even better, than we expected. Dr. Hoffmeister is a veteran prison physician and treats with skill, fidelity and kindness all prisoners who need his professional services.

H. C. Hoffmeister, hospital steward, is a faithful and competent public officer.

J. G. Berstler, the prison clerk, has kept the accounts of the prison in a very satisfactory manner. He has, in our judgment, at once, the most simple and comprehensive system of book-keeping that could be used in such an institution. All vouchers and receipts called for by your committee were forthcoming and show that the accounts of the prison are kept in a methodical manner.

We found the Chaplain, C. F. Williams, deeply interested in his work. He is doing a noble work. His duties are very important and laborious. He is at once teacher, librarian and friend. His night school entails arduous labor and is accomplishing much good.

Warden Crosley has shown wonderful executive ability. Everything is like clock work and eternal vigilance seems to be the watchword all over the prison. He shows good judgment in the purchase of supplies and all avenues are closed to extravagance and waste. He has a most excellent assistant in the person of Deputy J. Townsend. The duties of discipline are in his hands, and while he is firm in his grasp of affairs he is genial and kind to all. The selection of guards by the Warden is excellent. All seem to perform their duties faithfully and in a business-like and gentlemanly manner.

Your committee believe, with the Warden, that there should be created the office of Assistant Deputy Warden, and that he receive the same compensation as the Assistant Deputy Warden at Anamosa.

We find in this prison about thirty convicts unable to do contract work on account of physical disability. We would recommend the exchange of these men for a like number of able-bodied men from the Anamosa Penitentiary.

The Warden, in his report to the Governor, submits the following estimates for appropriations necessary for 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 artesian well .....	2,000.00
Furniture and carpets .....	300.00
Total .....	\$ 11,500.00

We are satisfied from personal investigation that the appropriations asked for are not more than is necessary for the requirements of the institution for the ensuing biennial period.

We would especially recommend the appropriation for the artesian well, believing that a well could be secured within the limits of the appropriation that would furnish an unlimited supply of pure water for the institution.

J. D. McVAY,  
*On the part of the Senate.*

W. H. CHAMBERLIN,  
W. W. MORROW,  
*On the part of the House.*

## ALL EMPLOYES OF STATE PENITENTIARY AT FORT MADISON.

NAME OF PERSONS PAID.	POSITION.	Amount.
Crosby, G. W. ....	Warden .....	\$ 105.07
Townsend, J. ....	Deputy warden .....	100.00
Berstler, J. G. ....	Clerk .....	70.00
Williams, C. F. ....	Chaplain .....	70.00
Hoffmeister, A. W. ....	Physician .....	50.00
Hoffmeister, H. C. ....	Hospital steward .....	50.00
Scherfe, A. ....	Turnkey .....	50.00
Raveuscroft, A. B. ....	Engineer electric light plant .....	50.00
Purviance, B. F. ....	Engineer electric light plant .....	50.00
Finch, Hiram .....	Engineer pump house .....	40.00
White, Geo. L. ....	Superintendent of repairs .....	30.00
Stann, P. S. ....	Teamster .....	40.00
Roll, Charles .....	Teamster .....	40.00
Thomas, Charles .....	Janitor and messenger .....	25.00
Whitney, A. E. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Townsend, H. C. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Young, Andy .....	Guard .....	50.00
Jamieson, C. H. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Noor, Joseph .....	Guard .....	50.00
Jones, L. B. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Carter, R. F. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Ray, W. L. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Rent, D. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Garned, V. H. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Smith, W. C. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Holland, E. V. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Patterson, A. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Simmons, L. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Ferris, I. L. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Snyder, I. B. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Evans, K. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Powell, A. J. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Everest, James .....	Guard .....	50.00
Williams, J. B. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Bullock, S. A. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Holmes, E. C. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Parker, J. M. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Sherwood, F. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Edwards, A. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Lanc, M. L. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Masters, W. D. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Berstler, S. C. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Ewlin, George .....	Guard .....	50.00
Phinney, J. H. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Alden, George C. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Gillette, A. H. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Gaston, C. W. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Allen, Ethan .....	Guard .....	50.00
Hollowell, T. F. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Tatman, Bert .....	Guard .....	50.00
Nidver, G. M. ....	Guard .....	50.00
Clute, John .....	Guard .....	50.00
McKalg, J. F. ....	Guard .....	50.00