

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
PENITENTIARY

LOCATED AT
ANAMOSA.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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REPORT.

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

The undersigned, your Committee appointed to visit the Penitentiary at Anamosa, herewith submit the following report of their acts in such capacity, their authority for so doing being a concurrent resolution as follows:

Resolved, By the House, the Senate 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 first day of March, 1890. They shall examine and include in their report,

1. Whether the appropriations made by the last General Assembly have been usefully and economically expended.
2. Whether they have been expended for the object appropriated.
3. Whether Chapter 67, Acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly, has been complied with, in not contracting indebtedness in excess of appropriations.
4. Whether there has been any diversion of any money from the specific purpose for which it was appropriated.
5. Said committees shall also report the names and number of persons employed by their several institutions, for what purpose employed and at what salaries. Also, whether any person so employed receives or has received anything in addition to their salary in any way of board, rooms, lights, fuel or clothing, or anything else at the expense of the State.
6. Said committees shall also report the means of escape from fire, and make recommendations in regard thereto.
7. Said committees shall also report the sanitary condition of such institution and make recommendations in regard thereto.
8. Said committees shall 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 visited the Penitentiary at Anamosa on February 24, 25 and 26, 1890, and during that time we gave the various departments,

including the cell-house, engine room, kitchen, store room, work shops, cellar, bath rooms, female department, insane department, hospital, chapel, and all the various buildings and grounds belonging to the institution, including the stone quarry, a thorough investigation.

There were two hundred and nineteen convicts confined in the prison; of this number seven, only, were females.

The health of the prisoners is good as a rule; we found only eight (8) in the hospital (males). The convicts appear to be well fed and well clothed. We had numerous interviews with them privately, and there was very little complaint; they all seemed to think, however, that they should be allowed more diminution of sentence under the law, for good behavior.

The property of the State under the Warden's control has been well cared for.

The new building for the criminal insane has been completed and is now occupied; it is a model of its kind, and too much praise can not be awarded the management of this most important department of the Penitentiary. One wing on the first floor is occupied by the female prisoners; there are now only seven of them, and is under the immediate supervision of the Matron, Mrs. A. C. Merrill; they have a very large and commodious room where they spend the greater part of their time during the day; the cells are on the side and open into this room; the cells are well ventilated and of fair size; they are provided with lamps, so they can read in their cells at night or do other things as they desire; there are ample bathing facilities connected with this ward, and the prisoners are allowed to take a walk in the large yard adjacent, which is surrounded by a high wall and shut off from all sight of the other occupants of the prison, except those confined in the insane department.

There is little complaint on the part of the female prisoners except that some of them think they are obliged to spend too much of their time in their cells, and in this regard your committee would recommend that they be given all the latitude compatible with proper prison discipline; we were very highly pleased with the general outlook and conduct of the female department of the institution.

There are twenty-eight (28) criminal insane occupants of the insane department; their quarters are well ventilated and commodious, their cells neat and clean, and facilities for exercise good; they walk in the yard two or three hours per day and enjoy it; there are

bath tubs and water-closets in this ward amply sufficient and kept clean and neat. The patients are provided with games, papers, and other sources of amusement and occupation, and their general appearance is indicative of the best of care and attention.

One ward in this department is used for a hospital for the sick of the general prison; this department is a model of neatness and comfort, and the occupants have the best of care and attention, and are under the immediate supervision of Dr. L. J. Adair, Physician, and D. G. McKay, Hospital Steward.

In the main cell-house, as well as in the insane department, the fire escapes are ample; in fact these buildings are as nearly fire-proof as they can be made, and in our opinion there is nothing to be feared in this direction. Bathing facilities are ample; sixteen bath tubs with hot and cold water.

The sanitary condition of the prison is excellent. The water supply is ample.

The Warden's dwelling is plainly and comfortably furnished; there are some articles of furniture, however, which are absolutely needed, and we recommend that an appropriation of \$150 be made for that purpose.

Your committee is of the opinion that the Warden, Marquis Barr, is a very competent and efficient officer, and is to be commended for the creditable manner with which he has conducted the various duties connected with his office.

The Deputy Warden, C. Q. Barr, and Assistant Deputy, T. W. Passwater, appear to be capable and trustworthy officials, and have a thorough understanding of the conduct of prison affairs.

The clerk, D. H. LeSuer, understands his business, and so far as your committee could ascertain, keeps the books in a proper and correct manner, and gives them very careful attention.

L. J. Adair, physician of the prison, is certainly deserving of great credit for the very efficient and able manner in which he has conducted his work; he has had the exclusive medical treatment of the insane, and the improvement made by them under his treatment is worth of note. He is ably assisted by D. G. McKay, Hospital Steward, who is well fitted for the position he occupies.

The Chaplain, W. C. Gunn, is a faithful worker and undoubtedly has the good of the prisoners at heart. He has accomplished much for the benefit of his unfortunate parishioners, and we are of the opinion that if it could be so arranged, that he could be allowed the privilege of a night school for the prisoners, it would be of great benefit to those who have not had the advantage of an early

education, and we recommend that such facilities be furnished the Chaplain in this direction, by the Warden, as soon as it can be consistently brought about. Your committee is also of the opinion, that the salary of this official is inadequate; that he should be paid at least one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per annum, and recommend that it be increased to that amount.

The Matron, Mrs. A. C. Merrill, is thoroughly competent, and the department, under her supervision, shows excellent management.

In looking over the support fund, we find that there has been left in the hands of the State Treasurer over \$12,000 of said fund, which shows very careful and economical management on the part of the Warden.

Chapter 67, acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly, have been complied with so far as we can ascertain.

The appropriations made by the last General Assembly have been, in our opinion, wisely and economically expended and for the objects specified, and there has been no diversion of any money from the purpose for which it was appropriated, so far as we can ascertain.

We believe that the time earned by convicts for good behavior should be increased for prisoners serving long term sentences, and our reasons for this are, that it is one of the greatest inducements for good behavior and has a tendency to make the prisoner better in every way, and the same law obtains in many of our States; and further, that no injury can be done, for only those whose department is of the best, can be benefited by it; and we therefore recommend that a law be passed at this session increasing time earned by convicts for good behavior, and that the same be in substance like the one passed by the Twenty-second General Assembly.

We recommend that the electric lights in cell house be changed from outside to inside the cells, and that \$200 be appropriated therefor.

We also recommend that the amount paid to prisoners on their discharge be raised, and that the amount so paid shall be not less than \$5 nor more than \$10, and that the amount be left to the discretion of the Warden.

There has been no work done on the building for female prisoners since the visit of the Committee in 1888, and we find it as reported to the last General Assembly. We are of the opinion that the building should be completed without further delay, as in our estimation it has been delayed too long already. The State

needs a separate and distinct building for its female convicts, where they will be under female supervision exclusively and away from the male department of the prison; this will all be accomplished upon the completion of this building. We looked the foundation over carefully and believe that the cells should be ventilated from the inside, and that the air flues should be placed in the upper side of the cell; this change we think should be made without fail. As the plans are now, there is no provision made for ventilating the cells from within; \$40,000 is the estimated cost of finishing the female department, and we recommend that that amount be appropriated for its completion.

Your Committee are also of the opinion that the main center building ought to be built as soon as possible; it is not only needed by the State for the proper care and disposition of the prisoners, but its erection will furnish work for the convicts, and the enforced idleness which now prevails will be done away. Many of the occupants of cells are now obliged to remain in them for days, owing to the fact that there is not work for them to do. The further fact that the prison at Anamosa, when completed, will be adequate for the wants of the entire State, and will doubtless soon be the only one, leads us to believe that the entire work ought to be completed without needless delay. We therefore recommend that the sum of \$20,000 be appropriated to begin the work on the center building.

We believe there ought to be a reasonable appropriation made for contingent and repair fund; a new smoke stack is needed, also a range and steam kettles and many other things too numerous to mention, and we recommend that the sum of \$7,000 be appropriated for this fund.

We also recommend that the sum of \$1,200 be appropriated for transportation of discharged prisoners.

Your committee also recommend that the sum of \$500 be appropriated for furniture for the hospital.

From personal observation and investigation we are of the opinion that the amounts asked for by the Warden in his Ninth Biennial Report to the Governor, June 30, 1889, are not in excess of the amounts actually needed for the ensuing period, and that inasmuch as they agree with our estimates, we feel justified in recommending the appropriations asked for in that report.

The following is a list of the names of employes and the amount paid them and the nature of their employment. We found that none of the employes had received anything in addition to their

salaries in the way of board, rooms, light, food or clothing, or any thing else at the expense of the State, except the Warden gets his rent, fuel and lights as provided by law and the Deputy Warden gets \$10 per month extra, for house rent, in addition to their salaries.

Your committee was very courteously treated by the Warden and other officials of the prison and every opportunity afforded us to examine privately or otherwise all the workings of the institution. We also desire in this connection to extend our thanks to Mrs. Barr, wife of the Warden, for the very hospitable treatment extended to us while visiting the prison.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

L. S. HANCHETT,
On the part of the Senate.

H. B. WYMAN,
N. B. NEMMERS,
On the part of the House.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND GUARDS AT ANAMOSA PENITENTIARY FEB. 25, 1890.

NAME OF PERSON PAID.	POSITION.	Amount.
Marquis Barr.....	Warden.....	\$ 196.67
C. C. Barr.....	Deputy Warden.....	110.00
T. W. Passwater.....	Assistant deputy.....	85.31
D. H. LeSueur.....	Clerk.....	70.00
L. J. Adair.....	Physician.....	100.00
W. C. Gunn.....	Chaplain and teacher.....	75.00
A. C. Merrill.....	Matron.....	75.00
D. G. McKay.....	Hospital steward.....	50.00
Elley Jessup.....	Turnkey.....	50.00
Anderson, L. V.....	Guard.....	50.00
Andrews, A. E.....	Guard.....	50.00
Boswell, A. N.....	Guard.....	50.00
Brems, J. M.....	Guard.....	50.00
Byvans, L. A.....	Guard.....	50.00
Buckner, C. H.....	Guard.....	50.00
Covell, Eugene.....	Guard.....	50.00
Cowan, E. M.....	Guard.....	50.00
Danoan, A. L.....	Guard.....	50.00
Ewing, Robert.....	Guard.....	50.00
Gill, E. J.....	Guard.....	50.00
Gibson, J. C.....	Guard.....	50.00
Griffin, H. L.....	Guard.....	50.00
Kenyon, M.....	Guard.....	50.00
Larimer, S. R.....	Guard.....	50.00
LeSueur, E. H.....	Guard.....	50.00
McCarthy, M.....	Guard.....	50.00
McCarthy, J. C.....	Guard.....	50.00
Miligan, W. M.....	Guard.....	50.00
Miller, J. M.....	Guard.....	50.00
O'Rourke, F.....	Guard.....	50.00
Ortland, J. S.....	Guard.....	50.00
Poll, Mark.....	Guard.....	50.00
Robertson, J. T.....	Guard.....	50.00
Ray, J. W.....	Guard.....	50.00
Ross, Daniel.....	Guard.....	50.00
Symons, W. H.....	Guard.....	50.00
Sides, Samuel.....	Guard.....	50.00
Barnes, J. T.....	Master mechanic and engineer.....	60.00
Lister, James.....	Foreman of stone cutters.....	85.00
Mollett, T. C.....	Manager of derrick s.....	75.00
Number of convicts—Males.....		212
Females.....		7
Total.....		219
Of the number of male convicts, twenty-eight are insane.		