

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

Industrial Home for the Blind.

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TO THE GOVERNOR.

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DES MOINES:  
G. H. RAGSDALE, STATE PRINTER.  
1891.

## REPORT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

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KNOXVILLE, IOWA, August 15, 1891.

*To his Excellency, HORACE BOIES, Governor of Iowa.*

In compliance with the letter of the law, requiring the Board of Trustees of all State institutions to make a report to the Governor on or before August 15th in each odd numbered year, (Chapter 175, Laws of 1882), we beg leave to submit the following as a partial and preliminary report, as, for reason hereinafter given, it is impossible to make a full report at the present time, but now ask leave to file one supplementary hereto before the meeting of the Legislature, which will contain a complete statement of the condition of affairs.

Our commission was created by chapter 53 of the laws of the Twenty-third General Assembly, which provides that the Governor shall appoint a commission of five persons, whose duty, among other things, are to locate and erect suitable buildings for an industrial home for the adult blind.

Agreeably to our appointment we met at Des Moines, Iowa, May 20, 1890, and proceeded to organize by the election of J. M. Stocker as president, and A. R. Ladd as secretary of the commission.

A number of cities and towns in the State were applicants for the institution and, in order to familiarize ourselves with the different places, and thus be enabled to select the one which, in our judgment, should be the most suitable, we, in the month of June, 1890, visited each of them, some fifteen in number, and, after a careful review of the situation, and taking into consideration the requirements of the General Assembly, decided to locate the home at Knoxville, the county seat of Marion county, and at once appointed William Foster, of Des Moines, Iowa, as our architect and proceeded to advertise for bids to erect the building in accordance with the plans by him prepared, at the same time calling for bids for furnishing the necessary apparatus and fixtures for heating the same by steam. On August 21, 1890, we met and opened the various proposals, and as a result awarded the

contract for the erection of the building to F. S. Whiting, of Des Moines, Iowa, for \$26,763; and for steam heating, to Wallace & Co., also of Des Moines, Iowa, for \$2,077.

At the date of this report neither of the contractors have finished their work, but are now rapidly nearing completion, and present indications warrant our belief that they will be entirely through by about October 1st next.

We have paid thus far, to F. S. Whiting, \$14,382.57; for putting in sewerage, \$486.82; for steam heating, \$900; William Foster, architect, \$1,004.09.

The citizens of Knoxville have donated the site for the home, consisting of fifty acres of fine land within a mile of the court house, a good road running thereto, and sidewalks built all of the way.

Proper conveyances of the title have been made to the State, and having been duly recorded are now on file with the Auditor of State.

The council of the city of Knoxville entered into an agreement with us, by the terms of which there has been laid the necessary mains and pipes to connect the buildings with the waterworks of said city. A plentiful supply of water is now furnished, and by the future terms of the agreement the city is to continue to furnish water, free of all charge, for five years.

We now believe that we will have the building completed, furnished and ready for occupancy by November 1st next, at which time we will be better prepared to make a full report.

Again begging leave to make a supplementary report as above suggested, the foregoing is respectfully submitted.

J. W. STOCKER,  
A. R. LADD,  
J. B. ELLIOTT,  
J. P. PATRICK,  
LORANA MATTICE.

## REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS.

KNOXVILLE, IOWA, December 19, 1891.

To his Excellency, HORACE BOIES, Governor of Iowa:

The undersigned, a Board of Commissioners, appointed to locate and build an Industrial Home for the Adult Blind, respectfully report that Section 7 of Chapter 53, of the acts of the Twenty-third General Assembly, provides that as soon as the buildings shall be completed and furnished, that said Board shall notify your Excellency thereof, and declare the Home ready for occupancy.

The buildings are completed, a superintendent, matron and foreman appointed, and the Home is now ready for occupancy.

Respectfully,

J. W. STOCKER,  
A. R. LADD,  
J. P. PATRICK,  
J. B. ELLIOTT,  
MISS L. MATTICE,  
*Commissioners.*

KNOXVILLE, IOWA, December 19, 1891.

To His Excellency, HORACE BOIES, Governor of Iowa:

Your commission appointed to locate, build and operate an Industrial Home for the Adult Blind for the State of Iowa respectfully submit the following report:

Chapter 53 of the Acts of the Twenty-third General Assembly of the State of Iowa provided for the appointment of a commission to locate and build such an institution and made an appropriation for the same in the sum of \$40,000.

Your Excellency appointed as such commissioners:

J. W. STOCKER, of Logan county.  
A. R. LADD, of Wright county.  
J. P. PATRICK, of Clayton county.  
J. B. ELLIOTT, of Marion county.  
Miss L. MATTICE, of Benton county.

Your commission organized on May 20, 1890, and after receiving propositions from various localities, among them being Boone, Boone county; Carroll, Carroll county; Missouri Valley and Logau, Harrison county; Mus-

catine, Muscatine county; Oskaloosa, Mahaska county; Humbolt, Humbolt county; Clarion, Wright county; Mason City, Cerro Gordo county; Charles City, Floyd county; Waverly, Bremer county; Newton, Jasper county; Adel, Dallas county; Des Moines, Polk county, and Knoxville, Marion county.

All of them were visited by the Board, and after carefully investigating water supply, sewerage, railroad facilities, etc., selected that from Knoxville, Marion county, as being the most advantageous offer.

They donated fifty acres of fine land within three-quarters of a mile of the business center of the town. A cash donation of twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) and water service free for five years.

The water supply is good and ample in every way. Sewerage is also excellent, a fall of forty feet being obtained in a total length of twelve hundred.

The State is also indemnified by the city of Knoxville against any claim for damages from abutting property owners. The well-known firm of Foster & Liebbe were selected as architects, and after visiting various institutions in company with members of the Board, they prepared plans and specifications for the buildings.

Bids were advertised for and contracts let as follows:

F. L. Whiting—main building, barn, workshops, storehouses, etc.	\$ 29,218.37
Wallace & McNamara—steam heating	\$ 2,077.00
John Burnside—sewerage	486.82

At our meeting on December 17th, we accepted the building from the hands of the contractors, everything being completed as per plans and specifications.

We herewith submit our financial report:

Appropriation	\$ 40,000.00
Cash donations	1,200.00
Total	\$ 41,200.00

## EXPENDITURES.

F. F. Whiting, contract	\$ 29,218.37
Wallace & McNamara, contract	2,077.00
Jno. Burnside, contract	486.82
J. B. Elliott, incidentals	34.80
Foster & Liebbe, architects	1,587.59
Chicago Carpet Co., carpets	368.01
Marshall Field & Co., dry goods	440.28
Bramhall, Dean & Co., ranges	223.04
Pitkin & Brooks, crockery	297.13
Mattoon Manufacturing Company, furniture	206.84
James B. Clow & Son, hose, etc.	71.75
T. J. Barnes, furniture	143.50
Shultz & Hirsh, mattresses	320.60
Capital City Woolen Mills, blankets	232.55
Bub & Kip, furniture	60.05
Getchell & Martin, furniture	33.75

Hubbard Spring Co., springs	61.60
Woodruff Bros., wagon	61.25
W. A. Gamble, coal	35.50
Hart & Moore, drayage	6.75
F. L. Whiting, wardrobes	77.85
W. L. Collins, two horses	235.00
G. L. Burdick, harness	35.00
Add to this machinery and furniture purchased but not yet received	2,000.00
Total	\$ 38,315.07
Balance on hand	\$ 2,884.93

We have appointed, as Superintendent and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Whiting, of Des Moines, at a joint salary of \$1,500 per annum, and Mr. A. C. Ferrably, of Vinton, as foreman of the work shops, at a salary of \$500 per annum.

Taking the small balance on hand into consideration, it can be readily seen that some provision must be made at an early date for operating the institution.

We understand, from the law creating it, that it is intended as a work shop in addition to a "Home," and that any articles may be manufactured that can be done by the blind, and the proceeds from the sale thereof shall be applied towards the maintenance of the Home.

We have no funds with which to purchase stock or material outside of the small balance named above.

In order that the requirements of the act under which we are working may be fully carried out, we recommend and ask for the following appropriations:

For salaries of officers and employes and subsistence, \$15,000; per annum	\$ 30,000.00
For purchase of materials used in manufacturing brooms, brushes, etc.	10,000.00
For additional furniture	3,000.00
For grading and laying out grounds, fences, walks, etc.	4,000.00
For contingent fund, repairs, etc.	2,000.00
For ice house and cold storage	1,000.00
For orchard, small fruits, etc.	500.00
For electric light plant	6,000.00
Total	\$ 56,500.00

We earnestly urge an immediate provision for an electric light plant. There are neither gas nor light plants available, and no provision having been made for an independent light plant, we are compelled to use lamps, which are dangerous around such an institution, to say the least.

In organizing and building this Home we understand its object is to gather together deserving people, whose support is at present a tax upon the community, to teach them useful trades, furnish them material and employment, and pay each what they earn.

If they can do work enough to support themselves the community is relieved of the burden. If not, it costs less to aid those who are doing all they can, than to maintain them in idleness, to say nothing of the moral effect.

It will doubtless prove an inestimable blessing to many homeless and helpless blind, and inspires them with hope that it will, at least, bring to them the means of partial independence.

It should be cherished by the State of Iowa as one of the most beneficent of its institutions.

Respectfully,

J. W. STOCKER,  
A. R. LADD,  
J. P. PATRICK,  
J. B. ELLIOT,  
Miss L. MATTICE,  
*Commissioners.*