

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

LOCATED AT

COUNCIL BLUFFS.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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REPORT.

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

We, your committee appointed to investigate and report upon the condition of the Iowa School for the Deaf, at Council Bluffs, beg leave to submit the following:

On the 18th of January last we visited the institution in question and remained there until the afternoon of the next day. We were kindly received by Hon. Henry W. Rothert, the superintendent, and shown throughout the building and their surroundings. By this means we acquired knowledge of the arrangement and plan of the institution. We were greatly pleased to find the superintendent of the educational department and the corps of teachers so well qualified, earnest and interested in the work before them; and that the pupils were manifesting so much interest in their studies and making such fair progress therein. We found the condition of the industrial to be fully up to the standard of the school department, and those engaged in it were interested and earnest in trying to succeed in what they had undertaken. Indeed, we consider Mr. Rothert a very worthy man for the place he fills, and well qualified and thoroughly equipped for the discharge of the responsible duties of his position. Too much cannot well be said in praise of Mrs. Rothert, the matron. She is held in high esteem by all, which she so justly merits. She is peculiarly fitted for the duties of her station. All seemed to be interested in one another, cheerful and in good humor. On every hand all things seemed to be in order and working well.

In response to the questions submitted for our consideration, we answer:

First.—That the appropriations made by the Twenty-fourth General Assembly have been wisely and economically expended for the objects for which they were appropriated, so far as we were able to discover from the limited opportunity we had of informing ourselves.

Second.—No indebtedness has been contracted in excess of appropriations.

Third.—There has not been a diversion of any money from the specific purpose for which it was appropriated.

Fourth.—No money has been drawn from the State treasury except upon the authority of the board of trustees.

Fifth.—The following is a complete list of the employes of said institution, showing their compensation:

Henry M. Rothert, Superintendent.....	\$ 2,350.00
No assistant or steward.....	
G. L. Wycoff, Principal, non-resident.....	1,700.00
Edwin Southwick, Teacher, non-resident.....	1,050.00
Conrad Larsbaugh, Teacher, non-resident.....	1.05
Frank C. Holloway, Teacher non-resident.....	1,200.00
Hirman Phillips, Teacher, resident.....	1,200.00

C. Sprunt, Teacher, non-resident.....	\$ 1,300.00
W. S. Marshall, Teacher, non-resident.....	1,300.00
S. C. Bright, Teacher, non-resident.....	1,300.00
J. W. Barrett, Teacher, resident.....	685.00
Florence Wilcoxon, Teacher, resident.....	600.00
Florence Clement, Teacher, resident.....	600.00
Fannie Glenn, Teacher, resident.....	500.00
Margaret Hamilton, Teacher, resident.....	500.00
Margaret Watkins, Teacher, resident.....	600.00
Mrs. A. Hardie, Teacher, resident.....	450.00
Olive Bruning, Teacher, resident.....	600.00
Francis N. Eddy, Teacher, resident.....	400.00
Olive Tracey, Teacher, resident.....	350.00
Gussie Kruse, Teacher, resident.....	250.00
Mrs. Henry M. Rotherb, Matron, resident.....	750.00
No assistant or housekeeper.....	
	Per month.
Alexander Hardie, Bookkeeper, resident.....	\$ 70.00
J. J. Kies, Boys' Supervisor, resident.....	50.00
Martha Dinsdale, Girls' Supervisor, resident.....	40.00
Mrs. Mamie Poole, small boys' supervisor, resident.....	25.00
Annie Cabelka, Nurse, resident.....	18.00
F. W. Balluff, Engineer, non-resident.....	85.00
Elmira Mickle, Foreman sewing department, resident.....	35.00
Jane Walber, Foreman of ironing room, resident.....	18.00
L. W. Pound, Foreman of shoe shop, resident.....	50.00
Z. B. Thompson, Foreman of printing, resident.....	50.00
G. C. Taylor, Foreman of carpentry, non-resident.....	70.00

Sixth.—As to the necessity of any new buildings, repairs, changes or improvements asked by the board of trustees, we have to say that on page 9 of the report of the trustees, an itemized statement is given of repairs, changes and improvements, with appropriations desired. As to the item, "additional land, \$9,000.00," we do not consider that the appropriation is necessary to be made at this time. And we have come to the same conclusion in regard to the item, "dining room furniture, \$600.00." We conclude ~~as to~~ to all the other items that they are not without merit and would be of utility and value to the institution, if the funds at the command of the General Assembly were sufficient to warrant their recommendation. We are not prepared to say whether the various appropriations asked are unreasonable for the purposes intended, as we did not have sufficient time or opportunity to enable us to determine with certainty what the probable cost would be in each case; but we do not suppose the several amounts named are very far from correct either way.

To our minds, the first and most important work requiring immediate attention is the condition of the boiler-room. There are five boilers located in one of the extreme ends of the south wing. But the floor over these boilers is in such close proximity to them, with so little space intervening as to render the situation extremely dangerous on account of fire. We find no particular objection to the place where the boilers are located, being now a reasonable distance from the main structure. Nor do we see any necessity at present for a new boiler-house, as proposed, still more remote from the building. This would necessarily be expensive, and involve new steam fitting and connections to be made, in the absence of any urgent necessity to break up the steam connections already existing. We would therefore recommend that the present floor over the boilers be either elevated so as to remove the danger suggested, or entirely removed from above, and not disturb the boilers and steam system as it is at present. The room on the floor above the

boilers is now used for laundry purposes. This could be provided for in the new building asked for, called "cooking school and gymnasium."

The bakery and bake-oven, we think should be removed from its present location under the main building. It might be united with the proposed building for cooking school and gymnasium. Its present location endangers the safety of the main building from fire.

The item for iron shutters and doors is an improvement desired for the purpose of preventing the spread of the flames in times of fire. We consider this improvement among the first in importance, but we are not sufficiently advised as to what the cost would be.

Next in importance, in our judgment, is increased electric light facilities.

We do not consider the necessity for the ice pond as commanding as some of the other appropriations asked.

Seventh.—In making purchases of supplies, the principle of competitive bids seems to have been observed in such manner as to subserve the best interest of the State, the same being done with the approval of the board of trustees.

T. B. PERRY,
For the Senate.
SAMUEL BURNQUIST,
CHARLES L. EARLY,
For the House.