

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE
TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
COLLEGE FOR THE BLIND

LOCATED AT
VINTON.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:
G. H. RAGSDALE, STATE PRINTER.
1894.

REPORT.

To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Your committee appointed by the Twenty-fifth General Assembly to visit the College for the Blind, at Vinton, Benton county, Iowa, beg leave to submit the following report:

We visited the college Thursday, January 18, 1894. The appropriations made and expended during the last biennial period have been as follows:

| PURPOSE APPROPRIATED. | Amount appropriated | Expended | Balance on hand. |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Contingent fund..... | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ 2,500.00 | \$ |
| Bedding and furniture..... | 2,000.00 | 609.80 | 1,390.20 |
| Painting..... | 500.00 | 320.80 | 179.20 |
| Pianos and musical instruments..... | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | |

We consider that the appropriations, as far as drawn, have been used wisely and well for the objects for which they have been appropriated.

No indebtedness has been contracted in excess of the appropriations; nor has there been any diversion of any fund from the specific purpose for which it was appropriated.

The law governing the drawing of money from the State treasury has been complied with.

The following is a complete list of the officers of the college, with the salary and compensation of each:

| NAME. | EMPLOYMENT. | TIME EMPLOYED. | SALARY. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Thomas F. McCune..... | Principal..... | One year..... | \$ 1,200.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| James A. Brown..... | Secretary..... | One year..... | 1,200.00 | Meals. |
| C. C. Griffin..... | Physician..... | One year..... | 450.00 | Nothing else. |
| Miss Alice Yates..... | Housekeeper..... | One year..... | 480.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss M. L. Smith..... | Assistant..... | Ten months..... | 450.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss L. Mattice..... | 5th & 6th grades..... | Ten months..... | 325.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss Mattie Watson..... | 3d and 4th grades..... | Ten months..... | 325.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss Dora Donald..... | 1st and 2d grades..... | Ten months..... | 325.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| G. W. Tannehill..... | Mathematics..... | Ten months..... | 700.00 | Dinner |
| Geo. Moody..... | Music Teacher..... | Ten months..... | 400.00 | Dinner |
| J. M. Miller..... | Music Teacher..... | Ten months..... | 750.00 | Dinner |
| Miss Ella Phillips..... | Music Teacher..... | Ten months..... | 400.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss Jennie Evans..... | Music Teacher..... | Ten months..... | 400.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss Jennie Berry..... | Sewing Teacher..... | One year..... | 240.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| John Cobean..... | Gen' Work Tchr..... | Ten months..... | 300.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| William Gose..... | Tuning teacher..... | Ten months..... | 400.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss Mary Loy..... | Matron..... | Ten months..... | 250.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss Ida Speak..... | Matron..... | Ten months..... | 250.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss Mary Lindermath..... | Matron..... | Ten months..... | 250.00 | Lives in bid'g. |
| Miss Sadie Wyman..... | Laundry..... | One year..... | 240.00 | Lives in bid'g. |

| NAME. | EMPLOYMENT. | TIME EMPLOYED. | SALARY. | REMARKS. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| Miss Carrie Benfer | Laundry | Ten months | 150.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Mary Waterstradt | Laundry | Ten months | 150.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Mate Deekerau | Laundry | Ten months | 150.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Maggie Durer | Kitchen | One year | 240.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Bertha Hunt | Kitchen | Ten months | 200.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Ida Pemberton | Kitchen | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| John Stuckert | Kitchen | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Louise Miller | Dining room | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Minnie Ridge | Dining room | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Emma Carlson | Dining room | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Dora Henderson | Dining room | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Althen Taylor | Dining room | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Belle Linderman | Chambermaid | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Kate Linderman | Chambermaid | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Ollie Noer | Chambermaid | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Jessie Dietrich | Chambermaid | One year | 144.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Ora Tustison | General help | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Miss Mattie Whipple | Visitor's attend't | Ten months | 120.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| James Sawyer | Ass't at Steward | One year | 540.00 | Meals. |
| Henry Verharen | Engineer | One year | 840.00 | Meals. |
| John Kennedy | Porter | One year | 300.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Ira Verharen | Fireman | One year | 300.00 | Lives in bld'g |
| Bert Ralston | Night fireman | Four months | 100.00 | Nothing else. |
| L. Bixby | Night watch | One year | 480.00 | Nothing else. |

In making purchases for the college, the principle of competitive bids has been adopted in all cases where it would best conserve the interests of the State and college to do so.

The college buildings are pleasantly located on a forty acre tract of land adjoining Vinton, on the south. The grounds present the appearance of taste and care. The college building is a stone structure, three stories high and well adapted for the purposes for which it was intended. Your committee examined every room in the building from cellar to garret, and found them models of cleanliness and neatness. The building is heated by steam, the steam plant being situated a few rods from the building; it is lighted by electricity, the light furnished by the plant in Vinton. The building has four self-supporting iron stairways, so situated that in case of fire the building could be emptied of its inmates in from two to four minutes.

The pupils are trained to respond to the fire alarm.

The means for ventilation in the new part of the building (about one-half on the north end) is satisfactory to the trustees and faculty, but is not entirely so to your committee, for the reason that the only means of escape of foul air and noxious gases is at the windows, doors and registers situated two feet above the floors, communicating with air shafts. Registers communicating with air shafts should be situated as low as the floor.

The building is supplied with water for the use of the students from an artesian well 1,500 feet deep, and is pumped into two tanks on the third floor, each holding 300 barrels.

There are also hydrants near the building which are supplied with water from mains connected with the city water works.

An ample supply of hose is provided for tanks and hydrants to reach all parts of the building inside and out in case of fire. The discipline of the college is excellent; kindness and firmness seem to be combined in such proportions as to produce the best results. The educational advantages are not inferior to other colleges except that the languages are not taught.

The number of students now in the college are 155. The whole number that have received instruction during the last twenty-two years is 855; of that number seventy-one have taken the whole course and have graduated from the institution.

All the graduates are known to be self-supporting and are able to compete with their more fortunate brothers and sisters in the struggle for existence.

It is not known that any one of the 855 having received instruction in the college have ever been guilty of any misdemeanor or crime for which they have been punished by the law. We believe that the principal of the college, Prof. Thos. F. McCune, is the right man in the right place. The books kept by James A. Brown, the business manager and secretary, were carefully examined and found to be easily understood and perfectly satisfactory. Any expenditure of any day of any year during Mr. Brown's connection with the institution was turned to in a moment and verified by vouchers and contracts on file. The trustees ask for the following appropriations:

| | |
|--|------------|
| For gymnasium of physical culture | \$8,000.00 |
| For brick cold storage building | 2,500.00 |
| For contingent and repairs | 2,500.00 |
| For bedding and furniture | 1,000.00 |
| For inside and outside painting | 1,000.00 |
| For cement floors for basement and walks | 600.00 |
| For library and school apparatus | 500.00 |

We recommend the appropriations asked for by the trustees, except for the gymnasium of physical culture. We advise the appropriation for the cold storage building for the reason that the present means of preserving perishable articles of diet are inadequate to the needs of the institution.

The request for an appropriation of \$8,000.00 for a gymnasium would better equip the institution for the performance of its duties and we only decline to recommend the appropriation upon economic grounds.

All of which your committee respectfully recommends and reports.

J. R. GORRELL,

From the Senate.

C. N. DOANE,

T. HORTON,

From the House.

Committee.