

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE
TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,
LOCATED AT
MITCHELLVILLE.

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REPORT.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Iowa:

Your Joint Committee to visit the Girls' Department of the State Industrial School at Mitchellville have performed their duty and beg leave to submit the following report:

Connected with the institution is a farm of 160 acres of high rolling prairie that seems to be well managed, proof of which may be seen in barns well filled with hay and cribs with corn, the potato crop alone being about 1,600 bushels. A large garden is planted each year with vegetables, which contribute to the healthfulness of the inmates in a large degree. A dairy of some twenty cows supply the girls with sweet, fresh milk, not, however, to so great an extent as could be desired. Two teams do the work of the farm and the greater part of the hauling of coal, etc., while a pony team does the carriage work. This, together with a quantity of hogs and chickens, complete the stock of the farm, and all are in splendid condition.

The sanitary condition is all that could be desired, the girls being generally healthful and cheerful and happy.

The hospital is in charge of a female physician, who seems to be fully competent.

A walk through all the departments shows order and neatness that cannot be excelled.

The girls are changed in work every four months, so that when they grade out, if possessed of reasonable intelligence, they are capable of doing any kind of house work, and many of them make efficient help. A trip to the cellar shows the excess of fruit, in cans and jars, the product of the farm, which contributes to comfort and healthfulness. The green house, the product of the last appropriation, is now affording a quantity of lettuce and fresh cucumbers, which will soon give up "their bed" to the propagating of early garden vegetables, while roses and pinks fill a niche in the wall, adding fragrance and cheer.

Too much cannot be said of the advantages of this school in reaching a class of girls, many of them depraved by birth and unfortunate in life and on the broad highway to ruin. We believe it a matter of economy to the state to gather and care for and educate these girls, redeeming them and turning them into honest and industrious womanhood, fully 75 per cent. of the number received, thereby saving to the state untold thousands of dollars in court expenses and materially raising the standard of morality and intelligence among the lower classes.

The school now has 144 inmates, more than the usual number, having graded out within the last few weeks, the average increase running about parallel with the increase in population of the state.

The superintendent and matron of the institution seem to be the right people in the right place, they having a thorough supervision of every department, administering with firmness and yet with a kindness that is truly commendable. They have wisely selected a corps of officers and teachers, each of which promptly and cheerfully take up the duties assigned her or him, and render faithful and efficient service to the state.

The buildings are in good condition, commodious in all their apartments and complete in their furnishings. There is, however, an earnest demand for a new building.

The room now used as a school room and chapel is badly needed as an additional family room. The room is inadequate for the necessary requirements, there being room for but 75 single seats, into which are crowded 140 girls. This room is also now used as a family room for the primary grade, and young girls have no seating advantages except the ordinary school seat or desk at any time of day, the younger and smaller girls not being able to let their feet rest upon the floor.

We would, therefore, make the following recommendation: That an appropriation be made by the Twenty-sixth General Assembly sufficient to put up a new building, making two convenient school rooms on lower floor and chapel above.

Estimated cost of which is.....	\$12,000
For seating same.....	600
For heating and lighting same.....	1,300
For contingent and repair fund.....	2,500
For winter wraps.....	300
For chaplain fund.....	300
For library and school books.....	100
For furnishing and furniture.....	200

Total.....\$17,300

First.—We find that the appropriation made by the Twenty-fifth General Assembly has been wisely and economically expended for the objects for which it was appropriated; and

Second.—Also, no indebtedness has been contracted in excess of such appropriation.

Third.—We further find, according to the best of our knowledge and belief, that there has been no diversion of funds; and,

Fourth.—The law relating to the drawing of money from the State Treasury has been strictly complied with.

Fifth.—List of employees:

PAY ROLL.	
C. C. Cory and wife, superintendent and matron.....	\$125.00
Levina Satterthwaite, family manager.....	25.00
Rose Mintier, family manager.....	25.00
Harriet Fields, family manager.....	25.00
Louisa A. Morgan, kitchen manager.....	22.50
Blauche Hodges, kitchen manager.....	22.50
Roxie B. Plummer, kitchen manager.....	22.50
Mary Woodward, kitchen manager.....	22.50
Ella Williams, sewing room manager.....	22.50
Margaret Stitt, laundry manager.....	22.50
Amy Frye, school room manager.....	22.50
Mae Loonan, school room manager.....	22.50
Ella Craig, bake room manager.....	22.50
Mary M. Mars, physician.....	32.50
H. J. Morgan, gardener.....	40.00
Arch Williams, engineer.....	35.00
Daniel Elledge, farmer.....	35.00
Total.....	\$532.50

All of the above receive in addition to salary named, board, lodging, fuel and lights, except the last, who boards himself.

Your committee would recommend that some productive industry might be established whereby girls be made proficient in some trade, which would be of vast importance to them when they go out.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. M. SARGENT,
Committee on part of Senate.
S. W. HINMAN,
J. B. HAZEN,
Committee on part of the House.