

REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE
TWENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
Institution for Feeble-Minded Children,
LOCATED AT
GLENWOOD.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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1896.

REPORT.

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

The committee by you commissioned to visit the Institution for Feeble Minded Children, beg leave to report that:

On the 23d day of January, 1896, we visited the institution, and made a thorough inspection of its condition. We examined the buildings, power house, industrial department, farm cottage, and, in short, the property of the state devoted to the purposes of the asylum. We found the property in excellent condition and well cared for and well suited to the uses for which it is intended. We also inspected the accounts and business methods, so far as we could in the short time allotted, and found the same to be well kept and in satisfactory condition. It is the opinion of your committee that the character, purpose and work of this institution is of great importance to the welfare of the state, and one which must commend itself to every citizen who takes pains to familiarize himself with the work done. The class of patients taken care of by the state is one which especially commends itself to the sympathy and charity of every humanitarian. As a rule, they come from the families of those in straightened, or at least very modest circumstances, where these stricken ones are necessarily a perpetual burden. No greater charity could be maintained by the state than to furnish a home and the intelligent and kindly care such as is here given to those who are unable to care for themselves. The inmates are, without exception, of the class known as mental and physical degenerates, who should be cared for as a matter of charity to themselves, and their restraint and maintenance in such an institution benefits the public immensurably, by shutting off that stream of mental and physical degeneracy, which, unrestrained, would tend to weaken

and destroy the mental and physical strength of the race if allowed to mingle with society at large. At the date of our visit there were registered as inmates 602, classified as follows:

In school.....	296
At work.....	93
Sick.....	9
In asylum department.....	147
With attendants.....	65
At home temporarily.....	2

Of those in school we made careful inspection and we must speak in the most complimentary terms of both management and teachers. The task to one not experienced in such work would seem appalling, for the pupils are of every grade of intelligence, many of them unable to make intelligible, articulate sound; many unable to draw a straight mark or to distinguish simple forms and colors; requiring months of patient training to enable them to distinguish the simplest forms or appreciate the value of numbers, and yet the progress made by these patient, untiring teachers is wonderful. The display in some of the rooms in physical culture, calisthenics, and orderly drill, is highly creditable. Some of the pupils have developed considerable musical talent, and we were treated to music from a band made up of the pupils, which was both pleasant and entertaining. We feel assured that the utmost kindness prevails, because of the fact that these little unfortunates greet the superintendent, matron, attendants, and teachers with a display of the greatest affection. We were much pleased with the perfect method and order which pervades the whole institution, and the manners of the pupils would do credit to many of our public schools and institutions of learning; all this proves beyond a doubt that the work is of the highest efficiency and faithfully and conscientiously carried out. Of those classed at work we found several divisions. Something over forty of the most able-bodied of the boys have been transferred to cottages on the farm, where their labor has been made profitable to the institution. We found them cheerful and in good health and apparently enjoying themselves and contented with their lot; in this connection we would recommend that the management be allowed to extend the cottage system, as it is cheaper and can be made profitable to the institution, and is, we believe, beneficial to those who are able to be transferred to this department and mode of life. The management have instituted an industrial department, where many of the boys

find work according to the special talent that may be found easiest of development; and some of the pupils have become quite expert in wood turning, carving, and such lines of work. Our belief is that this work is beneficial both in the development of the pupil, fitting him for the enjoyment of life, and by working off the superfluous energy making them more amenable to discipline. Some of them have made such progress that they are able, under the direction of attendants, to assist in caring for the other inmates. A considerable part of the work in the well-appointed laundry and in the kitchen is done by inmates of the better class. Our visit to the hospital satisfied us that the hospital facilities are entirely inadequate to the wants of the institution, and yet it was a matter of surprise to us to find that out of a total of 600, only nine were in a condition to be called sick, that is, were ailing in any manner other than their natural deficiencies. The money appropriated by the last General Assembly has been used, as we believe, faithfully and economically in erecting an asylum for the epileptic inmates and non-improvable, termed lone grades. In this department we found 147, many of whom are afflicted in various degrees with that terrible disease, epilepsy. Of these, not half a score have any capacity for caring for themselves; very few of them have articulate speech, and the nature of their disease is such that they require constant watching, being liable at any time to become violent and ungovernable, yet the control of them as they are now situated appears to be as perfect as could possibly be acquired. These unfortunates should in some manner be separated from those who are simply feeble-minded, and we believe that the management has taken a step in the right direction in providing for a separate asylum for them.

The general condition of these wards of the state has been fully described and graphically told in reports of prior visiting committees. It has never been over stated, and no language of ours could depict to the members of this General Assembly the natural condition of these children, for whom this charity is erected and maintained by the state. We fully endorse all that has been said in prior reports as to the patience, Christian charity, self-denial and faithful work of the officers, assistants and corps of teachers employed in the institution. We call attention to the report of the trustees and of the superintendent as made and distributed to this General Assembly, and would

respectfully say that we can find nothing asked for by this institution which is not actually needed. The report shows that the superintendent is overwhelmed with applications from like unfortunates for admission, which cannot be accommodated at present; we believe that an extension to the asylum building is necessary if the state expects to continue this necessary charity. The amount asked for furnishing is in our judgment reasonable. The water supply is very deficient and something must be done in this matter in order to supply the institution with this necessity. A large part of the supply has heretofore been drawn from a neighboring stream called Keg creek, but the building of a sewerage system in the town of Glenwood has polluted this supply so that it is unfit for use. An arrangement was made by the state with the town of Glenwood so that the supply could be drawn from above the point of pollution, but the extension of the sewerage system of the town threatens again to pollute the stream above the present source of supply. The water of this little creek has never been of even a fairly good quality, and under the conditions prevailing for the last few years is insufficient in quantity aside from the evil of pollution. The town of Glenwood, lying on the opposite side of Keg creek, has bored a well from which it draws its supply, but the diameter of the well having been reduced in the boring to less than five inches, its capacity is insufficient for the wants of the institution and the town both, so that we are informed that it is impossible to make arrangements at any price to obtain water from the town water works. Observations from actual borings made at Glenwood and other points in the valley, justify the belief that an abundance of water supply can be reached by a boring made at the institution to a depth of from 1,000 to 1,200 feet, and we believe the only proper thing to do is for the state to provide itself with its own water supply by a deep boring of this kind. The management feel sure that they can accomplish this, including reservoirs, with the amount asked.

A visit to the institution would readily convince any one that water is here an absolute necessity. The amount asked for hospital buildings and furnishing the same is in our judgment reasonable, and we desire to call attention to the fact that the institution is practically without hospital conveniences. The report of the trustees asks an appropriation of \$5,405 for the purchase of additional lands. These lands are now a necessity which will appear more urgent as the time goes by, and as the

better class of the pupils are put at work. The management have in view eligible tracts of land that can be purchased at a reasonable price at this time, and the price of which will surely advance in the future, and can certainly never be bought cheaper than they are now offered. The tract particularly in contemplation is now surrounded on three sides by the lands owned by the state, and if the same should pass into the hands of some one desiring to speculate on it, would eventually cause the state a much larger sum. The management have aimed as far as possible, to supply the wants of the kitchen from the farm, or at least to make the farm contribute as far as possible to the food supply. The cattle and other stock kept for that purpose are of excellent quality, but the barns and farm buildings are very inferior in quality, and a disgrace to the state property. The sum asked for the extension of the farm cottage colony is in our judgment very moderate and would certainly be a very economical expenditure. The remaining sums asked for for the biennial period, surprisingly small when we realize the numbers and the wants of the inmates of the institution. The sum especially asked for painting seems to us to be absolutely necessary, and we believe it would be a false economy on the part of the state to allow these valuable buildings to depreciate for want of painting and proper care. In our opinion the appropriations made by the last General Assembly have been wisely and economically used. The General Assembly has been disposed to regard all recommendations made by the boards of trustees for appropriations as in excess of the needs of the institution, and has been disposed, we believe, to cut them down as a matter of custom. In the case of this institution while we desire to recommend economy, we are forced to say that we cannot but regard every item asked for as absolutely essential and we are unable to point out anything that we think could be fairly dispensed with or cut down. We submit herewith a copy of the monthly pay roll as follows:

NAMES, KIND OF SERVICE AND COMPENSATION.		Per month.
		\$ 175.00
F. M. Powell, superintendent.....		50.00
L. M. Powell, matron		83 33
George Moyridge, assistant physician.....		75.00
H. W. Wright, clerk (without board).....		35.00
Isabell Irwin, stenographer.....		35.00
Rilla Drew, visitor's attendant.....		40.00
Lillie Moyridge, matron asylum department.....		45.00
Nettie Baker, principal of schools.....		35.00
Nettie Wahl, teacher		35.00
Gene Sartelle, teacher.....		35.00
Ella Frazee, teacher.....		

Laura Beashore, teacher.....	\$ 35.00
Alice Smith, teacher.....	35.00
Etta Inscore, teacher.....	35.00
Margaret Maywood, teacher.....	35.00
Anna Deane, teacher.....	35.00
Margaret Taylor, teacher.....	35.00
Mary Dill, teacher.....	25.00
Lillie Wehrend, teacher.....	25.00
Alice Steppan, teacher.....	20.00
Clara Davis, supervisoress.....	30.00
Sarah Clark, supervisoress.....	35.00
Etta Greendahl, supervisoress.....	24.00
Mrs. E. A. Zimmerman, hospital matron.....	35.00
Emma Dwyer, hospital nurse.....	18.00
Belle Wood, hospital nurse.....	18.00
David Evans, attendant.....	28.00
Frank Sidener, attendant.....	28.00
August Greendahl, attendant.....	27.00
Sam Thomas, attendant.....	28.00
Grant Lewis, attendant.....	27.00
W. B. Williams, attendant.....	28.00
A. T. Allen, attendant.....	24.00
O. Van Sandt, attendant.....	28.00
N. J. Nelson, attendant.....	28.00
Sadie Neville, attendant.....	20.00
M. Armstrong, attendant.....	20.00
Minnie Boyer, attendant.....	20.00
D. Ames, attendant.....	20.00
Eva Rinkers, attendant.....	20.00
Sadie Lauson, attendant.....	20.00
Mary Seagrave, attendant.....	16.00
Mary Reynolds, attendant.....	18.00
Eva Head, attendant.....	30.00
Minnie Surber, attendant.....	18.00
Belle Snowden, attendant.....	18.00
Mary Dunn, attendant.....	22.00
Mattie Helton, attendant.....	18.00
E. H. Gorton, attendant.....	28.00
Nettie Combs, assistant matron.....	35.00
Flora McKee, assistant supervisoress.....	18.00
Stella Butler, assistant supervisoress.....	18.00
B'ondell Benedict, seamstress.....	14.00
Mrs. E. A. Cathcart, seamstress.....	14.00
Clara Fisher, seamstress.....	16.00
Beulah Mudd, seamstress.....	16.00
Ilva Anderson, seamstress.....	18.00
Tille Greene, seamstress.....	14.00
Grace Dalton, seamstress.....	14.00
Grace Kepford, seamstress.....	16.00
Clara Lord, seamstress.....	14.00
Mary Wood, seamstress.....	14.00
Nettie Mitchell, seamstress.....	14.00
Essa Parker, hall girl.....	18.00
Laura Creek, hall girl.....	18.00
Tonia Poeffel, hall girl.....	14.00
Mabel Lawson, hall girl.....	14.00
Persia Hinds, hall girl.....	13.00
Dora Poole, hall girl.....	13.00
Mrs. A. M. Eaton, night watch.....	24.00
Mrs. Clara White, night nurse.....	20.00
James Cadenhead, night watch, asylum.....	28.00
Rebecca Dietz, night watch, asylum.....	22.00
L. Mendenhall, night watch (one meal daily).....	33.00
Mary Quigg, cook.....	25.00

Hannah Tillson, cook.....	\$ 20.00
Bettie Williams, cook.....	18.00
Helen Hynes, cook.....	18.00
Lillie Davis, cook, farm colony.....	16.00
Laura Meneely, cook, asylum.....	25.00
Eunice Oaks, kitchen girl.....	16.00
Jane Burson, kitchen girl.....	16.00
Frieda Lundstrom, waitress.....	16.00
Emma Black, waitress.....	16.00
Florence Bonham, waitress.....	16.00
Amber Burson, waitress.....	16.00
Dotie Lawson, waitress.....	16.00
A. M. Jessup, laundry man (without board).....	35.00
Fannie Hall, laundress.....	16.00
Maud Purcell, laundress.....	16.00
Rhoda Rumford, laundress.....	12.00
May Walker, laundress.....	14.00
A. Davis, shoemaker (one meal daily).....	50.00
Frank Bicknell, industrial teacher.....	50.00
L. Styppan, industrial teacher.....	30.00
John Rether, baker (one meal daily).....	50.00
D. K. Donnelly, engineer (without board).....	85.00
Thos. Clune, assistant engineer (without board).....	50.00
W. H. Storey, engineer's helper (without board).....	35.00
G. W. Shaul, electrician (without board).....	60.00
Smith Anthony, day fireman, asylum (one meal daily).....	40.00
H. H. Jelley, night fireman, asylum (one meal daily).....	35.00
T. C. Hall, day fireman, asylum (without board).....	35.00
I. E. Newman, night fireman (without board).....	35.00
C. W. Smith, coachman.....	30.00
J. W. Miller, foreman farm (board and house rent).....	50.00
J. P. Jackson, horticulturalist (house rent).....	45.00
W. D. Himes, carpenter (without board).....	50.00
M. Peterson, dairyman.....	25.00
Carl Nygren, laborer.....	25.00
H. J. Eddy, laborer (without board).....	30.00
Rollin Bailey, laborer.....	25.00
E. W. Durk, laborer (without board).....	30.00
O. J. Wright, laborer.....	20.00
Thomas Edgar, laborer (without board).....	30.00
Everett Taylor, laborer.....	26.00
Robert Morris, laborer (two meals daily).....	35.00
Total.....	\$3,252.33

With the exceptions as noted, all have board, washing and lodging at the expense of the state.

We find nothing in the business methods of the institution to criticise. The accounts are in good condition, and all the officials were perfectly willing to give us all the aid possible. We find the contracts for supplies to be made carefully and economically and on a business basis, and the whole management favorable to the institution and to the state.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. O. MITCHELL,
Committee on part of Senate.

CLAUDE R. PORTER,
M. L. TEMPLE,
Committee on part of House