

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

TWENTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA,

APPOINTED TO VISIT THE

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE,

LOCATED AT

MT. PLEASANT.

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REPORT.

To the Twenty-fifth General Assembly of Iowa:

Your joint committee appointed to visit the Hospital for the Insane at Mt. Pleasant, for the purposes of inquiring as to its management and to investigate all the conditions existing in the same, would most respectfully report that they have performed the duty imposed upon them, and beg leave to submit the following report, as the results of their examination.

Your committee met at the hospital buildings January 18th at 9 A. M., and organized by selecting A. B. Conaway, of the Senate, as President, and M. J. Davis, of the House of Representatives, as Secretary, and immediately began the investigation as required by your concurrent resolution.

First, by going through the different wards of the hospital, noting carefully the manner of ventilation, as well as the general sanitary condition of the same, together with the general appearance and condition of the inmates of each ward; the character, condition and kind of clothing, and as to the disinfection and cleanliness of the same; the conditions of the wash rooms, bath rooms, sinks and water closets; the kind, character and quantity of food furnished to the inmates; the condition and comforts of their dining rooms, as well as the quality of drinking water furnished in each ward.

Your committee also took due notice of the means of escape from the different wards in the case of fire, and find that it consists of stairways leading from the ends of each section of each wing, also a system of stairways leading to the rotunda of the central building. On investigation we found the appliances for extinguishing fire to be steam pumps with pipe and hose attachments in each ward and on each floor of the central building, as well as a plentiful supply of hand grenades on each floor of the rotunda and in the stairways and hallways leading to the different wards. We also found other safeguards such as iron doors between the different sections of the hospital. Also

fire walls, electric fire alarms and telephone communication from the office to the different wards, all in good working condition. It is a pleasure to your committee to be able to report that their visit to the hospital was made without previous warning to the officers in charge of same, under these circumstances we found the institution as it is found each day in the year, well equipped and in excellent condition. The sanitary condition is all that could be desired; pure air, pure water, wholesome and nourishing food supply with an abundant supply of sun-light through the entire building. The inmates seem well nourished, being tidy and clean in person. The inmates were quiet and with but few exceptions, seemed contented and where discontent appeared investigation always revealed the fact to your committee that the cause was found in the mental condition of the patient and not in their surroundings or treatment. Your committee also desires to report that the quantity of food is amply sufficient, is of the very best nourishing character and well cooked; in fact, we found the entire management and administration eminently satisfactory. The superintendent with his able corps of assistants are an industrious and faithful body of medical gentlemen well qualified to discharge the responsible duties devolving upon them. We also found the steward, matron, clerk, attendants and employes a most respectful, industrious, intelligent and earnest class of ladies and gentlemen.

Your committee further found: First, that the appropriations of the Twenty-fourth General Assembly had been wisely and economically expended. Second, that they have been expended for the objects for which they were appropriated. Third, that chapter sixty-seven of the acts of the Seventeenth General Assembly, and chapter thirty-one of the Twenty-third General Assembly, have been complied with in not contracting indebtedness in excess of the appropriations, and that we have been unable to discover any diversion in any way or manner of any of the moneys from the special purpose for which it was appropriated. Fourth, the names and number of the persons employed in this institution, their salaries, etc., will be found appended to this report, marked "Exhibit A."

In the opinion of your committee it is impossible to accomplish the improvements that seem to them absolutely necessary to be made unless the several items are appropriated for the purposes named therein, for the following reasons: It surely needs no argument to convince any one of the absolute necessity for perfect protection from the danger of fire; and in view of the direful results of fire in an institution of this character, we feel that we would be most terribly derelict of duty, and chargeable almost with criminal negligence, if we did

not, after having examined the present stairway fire escapes, persistently urge upon the lawful constituted authorities of the State the great necessity for a full and perfect protection from fire of these helpless and most unfortunate people. And with equal zeal would we urge the necessity for an inexhaustible water supply for the men's industrial building and the infirmary buildings, as recommended by the board of trustees and superintendent. The amounts asked for repairs, painting, repairing walls, horse and carriage barns, and furniture, we might properly designate as a general repair fund, amounting in the aggregate to twenty-nine thousand one hundred dollars; and your committee has no hesitancy in assuring each individual member of the General Assembly that had they the privilege of a personal inspection, as has been given to your committee, the different amounts as asked for would be immediately appropriated. Your committee has carefully examined and closely scrutinized each item for the several appropriations as recommended by the trustees and superintendent for the Hospital for the Insane at Mt. Pleasant, and we feel confident that nothing has been requested that is not absolutely necessary for the economical administration of the institution.

We therefore recommend that the several appropriations as asked for be made. They are as follows and with the enumeration we will state as briefly as possible our reasons for such recommendations as discovered by us upon the occasion of our visit. For fire protection, \$10,000; for water supplies, \$13,000; for repairs, \$1,200; for painting, \$4,000; for improvement of grounds, \$2,000; for the industrial building for men, \$5,000; for infirmary buildings, \$25,000; for horse and carriage barn, \$5,000; for repairing walls of old buildings, \$5,000; for land ($14\frac{1}{2}$ acres), \$1,500; for furniture, \$2,500.

FOR FIRE PROTECTION.

The fire protection contemplated in this appropriation consists of ten iron stairways or fire escapes, steam pumps for the engine room, an elevator for the central building, and hose and hose attachments for the different wards, and the necessity for this appropriation is apparent when the helpless and excitable condition of the patients is taken into consideration. We recommend that the amount of ten thousand dollars be appropriated for the above purposes.

FOR WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply for the institution is one of the most important of its considerations, as the health of the patient greatly depends upon an abundant supply of pure water, and in case of fire an inexhaustible supply of water is necessary to the preservation of the lives of

patients and the State's valuable property. Your committee are satisfied from our observations and inspection of the large reservoir now in use at the Hospital that it is a detriment to the State on account of leakage; its walls are cracked and the rocks of which it is composed are shelling out, leaving cracks and crevices through which thousands of gallons of water escape annually. Examination reveals the walls in a very poor condition and it is our opinion that the only way to repair the damage is to remove the walls in their entirety to properly puddle the banks, relay the wall in cement, and cover the entire inner surface of the reservoir with a heavy coating of Portland cement. We would recommend that the (\$13,000) thirteen thousand dollars for the water supply be appropriated for that purpose.

FOR REPAIRS.

Your committee has carefully looked over the State property including farm fences and buildings, including repairs to reservoir, and in our opinion, the twelve thousand dollars asked for repairs by the superintendent and trustees is no more than will be required as a general repair fund to put this vast property in good condition and keep it so during the next biennial period. Your committee would, therefore, recommend that the twelve thousand dollars be appropriated for the specific purpose of repairs.

FOR PAINTING.

Your committee have exercised much care in noting the difference in various wards in regard to painting and decorations and we found the patients in the newly painted and decorated wards in a much more cheerful and contented state of mind than those confined in the ordinary or common painted wards. We also find that the exterior of some of the buildings and the roofing of all the buildings will require repainting. It is, therefore, the opinion of your committee that the four thousand dollars asked for is not an exorbitant amount to meet the various requirements in paintings and decorations. We, therefore, most cheerfully recommend that the amount of four thousand dollars be appropriated for that specific purpose.

FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF GROUNDS.

Your committee have been careful in noting the appearances of the grounds and particularly that immediately surrounding the buildings, and are of the opinion that many valuable improvements could be made thereto, particularly in the wing courts for the different wards and the grounds in front of the hospital. We are therefore of the opinion that the two thousand dollars asked for is a reasonable

amount to properly improve and beautify these grounds as they ought to be. We therefore cheerfully recommend the appropriation asked for.

FOR INDUSTRIAL BUILDING FOR MEN.

In the opinion of your committee the industrial building suggested is a necessity and ought to be built. Many persons confined in this hospital are first-class mechanics from every branch of trade. This industrial building would be the workshop of this vast institution in the repairs of its furniture, in the making of its mattresses, brooms, etc., as well as the profitable employment of men who would otherwise be idle. We therefore recommend the appropriation for industrial building for men (five thousand dollars).

FOR INFIRMARY BUILDINGS.

Your committee are of the opinion that the two infirmary buildings asked for by the superintendent would be a very necessary improvement to the hospital service, in that it would give additional room to the already over-crowded buildings, and in case of an epidemic such as cholera or smallpox would give opportunity for the isolation of patients thus affected, and which is so very necessary to a great hospital system like the one at Mt. Pleasant. We would therefore recommend the appropriation of twelve thousand five hundred dollars annually during the eighteenth biennial period for the construction and furnishing of the two infirmary buildings.

HORSE AND CARRIAGE BARN.

Your committee have very carefully investigated the barns, sheds and stock lots on the State's grounds at Mt. Pleasant, and while we are of the opinion that a horse and carriage barn would be a great improvement to the State's property and one that ought to be made for the purpose of stabling the horses, farm implements, wagons and carriages separately from the stock barn and in the locality as suggested by the superintendent, yet we are unable to determine the necessity for such a large appropriation for that purpose. It is therefore the opinion of your committee that the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars is amply sufficient for the construction of the said horse and carriage barn, and your committee cheerfully recommends the appropriation of two thousand five hundred dollars for a horse and carriage barn in lieu of the five thousand dollars asked for.

FOR REPAIRING WALLS OF OLD BUILDINGS.

Your committee have with great care inspected the external walls of the Hospital buildings at Mt. Pleasant and we find the outside

walls of the third section of the old wing on the east side and near the corner settled and very badly cracked. In the opinion of your committee it is in a dangerous condition and should be repaired at once. While we have not been furnished the estimates for such repairs, neither have we made any, yet it is our opinion that five thousand dollars will be amply sufficient to make the necessary repairs. We would therefore recommend the appropriation of five thousand dollars for repairing walls of old buildings in lieu of the \$5,600 asked for.

FOR LAND (FOURTEEN ACRES).

Your committee in surveying the State farm at Mt. Pleasant discovers that a patch of ground containing fourteen acres lying directly in front of the hospital building and which, if the State owned, would widen the outlet to the public highway and which would make a much better arrangement of the grounds in front of the buildings. Therefore it is the opinion of your committee that it will greatly enhance the value of the State property to purchase the fourteen acres. Your committee, therefore, recommends the appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars for the purchasing of the said fourteen acres of land.

FURNITURE.

Your committee, in passing through the different wards of the hospital, were of the opinion that there was an insufficient number of comfortable chairs, such as rockers, etc., for the ease and comfort of patients of this character; and most of the furniture contained therein is scuffed and well worn, and should be speedily replaced by new. We, therefore, cheerfully recommend that the appropriation of twenty-five hundred dollars be made for the purchasing of new and the renewal of furniture.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. CONAWAY, *Chairman.*

M. J. DAVIS, *Secretary.*

WIREMAN MILLER.

PAY-ROLL.

Number.	TO WHOM PAID,	ON WHAT ACCOUNT.	Amount.
1	H. A. Gilman	Superintendent	\$ 291.67
2	Max E. White	First assistant physician	125.00
3	E. M. Singleton	Second assistant physician	83.33
4	F. F. Stevens	Fourth assistant physician, 20 days	44.44
5	Geo. G. Wells	Steward	100.00
6	F. V. Cole	Matron	62.50
7	Minnie Bartlett	Clerk	40.00
8	Cornelia Miller	Stenographer	50.00
9	E. H. House	Apothecary	40.00
10	S. H. Anderson	Supervisor	50.00
11	Milton Weaver	Assistant supervisor	35.00
12	D. O. Woodson	Watchman	30.00
13	H. S. Wilder	Watchman	52.27
14	C. M. Wilson	Attendant	21.60
15	F. H. Givan	Attendant	28.00
16	James Hounhan	Attendant	24.27
17	Ed. Anderson	Attendant	28.00
18	E. C. Lewis	Attendant	17.33
19	C. W. Moore	Attendant	25.00
20	C. W. Gardner	Attendant	24.00
21	A. A. Brown	Attendant	25.00
22	A. J. Smith	Attendant	26.00
23	W. A. Van Pelt	Attendant	26.00
24	S. C. Stanley	Attendant	25.00
25	A. P. Munyon	Attendant	25.00
26	W. E. Brown	Attendant	24.00
27	J. C. Amsberry	Attendant	25.00
28	D. L. Sage	Attendant	24.00
29	J. C. Daugherty	Attendant	24.00
30	E. R. Johnson	Attendant	25.00
31	G. E. Williams	Attendant	24.00
32	B. B. Seamans	Attendant	24.00
33	V. D. Morris	Attendant	24.00
34	T. G. Powers	Attendant	25.00
35	T. D. Grogan	Attendant	24.00
36	F. R. Donner	Attendant	24.00
37	C. C. Fowler	Attendant	25.00
38	F. C. Gunshaw	Attendant	24.00
39	H. Johnson	Attendant	24.00
40	E. L. Gregory	Attendant	24.00
41	J. L. Dimmit	Attendant	24.00
42	J. B. Buck	Attendant, 26 days	20.80
43	J. H. Hamlin	Attendant, 10½ days	9.45
44	L. C. Bowers	Attendant, 10½ days	8.40
45	C. U. Johnson	Attendant, 9 days	7.20
46	B. A. Whelan	Supervisores	35.00
47	Maggie Kiger	Assistant supervisores	25.00
48	Carrie Bogert	Watchwoman	30.00
49	Phebe Stanley	Attendant, 9 days	5.10
50	Stella Anderson	Attendant	17.00
51	Kate Fischer	Attendant	25.00
52	Ada Clarke	Attendant	16.00
53	B. Donahue	Attendant	20.00
54	Susie Black	Attendant	15.00
55	Minnie Crawford	Attendant	15.00
56	Ella Culligan	Attendant	25.00
57	Ada DeVoe	Attendant	18.00
58	Laura Anderson	Attendant	19.00
59	Mary Monroe	Attendant	17.00
60	Jennie Karsting	Attendant	19.00
61	Frank Anderson	Attendant	24.00
62	Bertha Olson	Attendant	23.00
63	Georgia Reed	Attendant	18.00
64	Nettie Whitchele	Attendant	23.00
65	Carrie Hall	Attendant	18.00
66	Fannie Woodburn	Attendant	18.00

PAY-ROLL—CONTINUED.

Number.	TO WHOM PAID.	ON WHAT ACCOUNT.	Amount.
67	Eva Wiswell	Attendant.	\$ 15.00
68	Lizzie Waters	Attendant.	20.00
69	Julia Smith	Attendant.	25.00
70	Ada Howell	Attendant.	24.00
71	Ella Fitzgerald	Attendant.	22.00
72	Selma Lindburg	Attendant.	15.00
73	Sadie Kearns	Attendant.	20.00
74	Mary Culligan	Attendant.	18.00
75	Clara Slater	Attendant, 24½ days.	12.25
76	Maggie Horsey	Attendant, 14 days.	8.70
77	Abbie Chamberlain	Attendant, 14 days.	8.40
78	Belle Milleson	Attendant, 2½ days.	1.25
79	Mrs. H. L. Snyder	Attendant, 15½ days.	7.75
80	Nellie Sexton	Cook	30.00
81	Janet Hogg	Assistant cook	15.00
82	Mary O'Connor	Cook	15.00
83	Lizzie Moran	Kitchen girl	11.00
84	Nora O'Connor	Kitchen girl	11.00
85	Mary Fagan	Kitchen girl	13.80
86	Maggie Salmon	Kitchen girl	10.64
87	Rose Donahue	Kitchen girl	.55
88	S. G. Grinstead	Cartman.	30.00
89	Lillian Graham	Waiter girl	15.00
90	Louise Hume	Waiter girl	15.00
91	Julius P. Fischer	Baker	45.00
92	Josie McCullum	Assistant baker	16.00
93	Otto Nest	Washerman	25.00
94	Elizabeth Snyder	Washerwoman	18.00
95	Mary Rogers	Washerwoman	15.00
96	Hannah Howard	Washerwoman	15.00
97	Mary Ready	Cook	18.00
98	Mary Warbel	Chambermaid	15.00
99	Myrtle F. Cune	Chambermaid	12.00
100	Nellie Fagan	Chambermaid	12.00
101	Madeline Folkland	Chambermaid	15.00
102	Kate E. Raymond	Ironer	15.00
103	Nettie Risser	Ironer	12.00
104	Nettie Hoffsteader	Ironer	22.00
105	Mary Oleson	Ironer, 21 days	7.00
106	Kate Schroeder	Ironer, 18 days	6.00
107	Gertie Provin	Assorter	15.00
108	Susie Jessup	Ironer, 2 days	.67
109	Mary Morony	Seamstress, 26 days	17.33
110	Kate Morony	Seamstress, 26 days	13.87
111	Ollie Hemy	Seamstress	16.00
112	Ethel Munyon	Seamstress	11.00
113	Edward Gray	Porter	18.00
114	R. H. Stearns	Farmer	40.00
115	J. W. Thomas	Florist	60.00
116	H. R. Rouse	Butcher	50.00
117	C. Short	Laborer	20.00
118	Mrs. C. Short	Kitchen girl	15.00
119	T. D. O'Connor	Driver	22.00
120	Wm. Baldwin	Teamster	20.00
121	Robert Ihue	Teamster	20.00
122	J. S. Glashine	Teamster	20.00
123	Chas. Scott	Teamster	18.00
124	A. Herzog	Teamster	25.00
124	A. Herzog	Milk boy	21.00
125	E. Kellerhall	Milk boy	22.50
226	J. McLaughlin	Laborer	33.00
127	M. Donahue	Laborer	36.75
128	S. Coghim	Laborer	33.00
129	L. Fenton	Laborer	18.66
130	W. A. Thompson	Laborer	90.00
131	John Hart	Engineer	80.00
132	A. E. Hoppin	Assistant engineer	30.00
133	W. Connell	Fireman	30.00
134	B. Keegan	Fireman	24.00
135	Thos. Milligan	Fireman	66.25
136	N. Schriver	Carpenter	64.35
137	Ed. Wilson	Carpenter	
	Total		\$ 3,742.08