

REPORT

OF THE

Boys

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

APPOINTED TO VISIT

THE STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

DES MOINES:

F. M. MILLS, STATE PRINTER.

1870.

REPORT.

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Your joint committee, appointed to visit the State Reform School, proceeded, during recess, to discharge that duty, and are now able to report:

That they made personal examination of the premises, and found the buildings in good condition and kept in order. Your committee believe that the money appropriated at the last session for the purpose of completing the main building and erecting out-buildings, has been legitimately expended. They found the youth in charge apparently well cared for, comfortably clothed, cleanly in appearance, and under the influence of wholesome restraint and proper education.

Your committee were unanimous in the opinion that the institution is no longer an experiment; that its adoption, as one of the permanent institutions of the State, is not only wise but an absolute necessity for the public good; judging not merely from the limited experience of our own school, but also from the success that has attended other States in their efforts in this direction.

Your committee therefore recommend that such legislation be had as will secure to the school all the facilities necessary to render it in the highest degree successful.

Inasmuch as the present location is near to one corner of the State, and on rented ground, your committee deem it advisable not to appropriate any more money for buildings or improvements on the

premises, but would recommend that a suitable site be selected, centrally located, and devoted to the State, for the permanent location of the school, and appropriations made, such as will secure the requisite buildings and other needful facilities at the earliest practicable day.

It might be proper for your committee to state, that they believe the school has been managed as successfully, up to the present time, as could have reasonably been expected with the limited means and facilities afforded; and recommend that an appropriation be made immediately to relieve the institution from debt; and a further appropriation adequate to meet the current necessities without placing the trustees in the dilemma of either borrowing money without authority, or discontinuing the school.

For a detailed account of the present condition of the institution, we refer you to the biennial report of trustees and superintendent of said school.

Submitted by

JAMES CHAPIN,
(On part of Senate.)

T. O. NORRIS,
A. H. STUTSMAN,
(On part of House.)