

REPORT

OF THE

# JOINT COMMITTEE

TO VISIT THE

INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION

OF THE

DEAF AND DUMB,

TO THE

FIFTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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DES MOINES:  
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Ms. A. 1. 1

STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

JANUARY 18, 1884

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

## REPORT.

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*To the Fifteenth General Assembly:*

Your Committee appointed to visit the Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, at Council Bluffs, have performed that duty, and submit the following report:

The appropriation made by the previous General Assembly, was expended as contemplated. The Commissioners have erected a substantial barn 40 x 40 feet, with stone and brick basement, with a wood superstructure.

A reservoir has been constructed on the bluff in the rear of the building, holding two thousand barrels, with supply pipe to furnish water to all parts of the building. The Institution has no hose to protect against fire, and we recommend an appropriation to purchase sufficient to protect the building.

The windmill heretofore used to supply the building with water, is broken and altogether unfit for use, and if repaired would not be sufficient to force water into the reservoir on the bluff. Water is now supplied by a steam pump, which we are informed by the Trustees, will be removed unless money is appropriated by this General Assembly for the purchase of the same.

As to the additional wing that is required to complete the original design, and furnish room for others of that unfortunate class who very much need the benefits of such an institution, your committee make no recommendation, but would respectfully suggest that by economizing room, and by erecting a cottage of sufficient size to accommodate two families, there would be room for quite an increase in the number of pupils, without any very serious inconvenience.

In the opinion of your committee the institution very much needs, and it is the duty of the State to furnish, an industrial department. It is quite as essential that a mute be taught a good trade, as it is that he have a literary education; both are necessary to make useful citizens from this class, that may otherwise become vagrants. We recommend that an appropriation be made for the purpose of building a shop, and establishing such department.

The Mutes have been employed a part of the time in the spring and fall on the farm and in the garden. Vacation occurs in the summer, at which time they are at home with their friends. In the winter season the officers are unable to furnish sufficient employment.

We visited the several schools, and so far as we could judge they are making very fair progress in their course of study, and we believe they are under very good moral influence and training. They have chapel exercises every morning, and also in the afternoon on the Sabbath.

We recommend that \$15,000 be appropriated for the following purposes: \$8,500 to provide an industrial department; \$3,000 to build a cottage for teachers; \$3,000 for steam pump and pipe; \$500 for hose to protect against fire.

J. C. CHAMBERS,

*On the part of the Senate.*

DAVID SECOR,

JOHN HINDMAN,

*On the part of the House.*