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REPORT.

To the General Assembly of the State of Iowa: 141

Your committee appointed to visit the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, located at Council Bluffs, in Pottawattamie county, have discharged that duty, and beg leave to submit the following report :

We visited the Institution and spent considerable time in the investigation of its affairs. In the school rooms—eight in number—we found a very general attendance, few absent, and *none from sickness*, and a cheerful application to study; and what seemed to us a good degree of progress being made. The teachers seemed to be well qualified for the labors attendant upon their respective positions; and we desire to express our approbation of the manner and methods employed to educate the unfortunate under their charge.

We also took occasion to visit the dining room and kitchen, and were pleased to find every thing in connection therewith in perfect order. While it seems to be the object of the management to furnish the inmates with a sufficiency of food, our observation led us to the conclusion that great care was exercised to guard against useless waste. The quality of the food was good and wholesome, and well prepared before being served to the inmates. The dormitories were clean and in good order, as also the beds and bedding. Each bed seemed to have ample covering, but on entering the sleeping rooms we found them to be uncomfortably cold, from the fact that there is no means of heating them.

Inasmuch as these poor unfortunates have become State charges, it is the opinion of your Committee that the State ought to do all in its power to render them as comfortable as possible in their afflicted condition, and to this end would recommend that the appropriation asked for by the Trustees for heating purposes be made so as to include the means for heating the sleeping apartments; and whereas, the pump now used for forcing water to the reservoir has not sufficient power, your committee would recommend that in the same appropriation a new pump be included.

We visited the laundry and wash-room, and your committee, from an examination of the same, are forced to the conclusion that the rooms are entirely too small to meet the needs of the institution, and would recommend that the present General Assembly make such appropriation, as in its judgment, may be deemed sufficient to enlarge the same. The trustees in their report ask for an appropriation of \$2,000.00 by this General Assembly for the purpose of purchasing tools and materials for the work shops, but in view of the fact that the class of persons for whose benefit the institution was wisely founded, will increase in proportion as the population of the State increases, your committee are of the opinion that it would be much better policy for the State were \$4,000.00 appropriated by this General Assembly for this purpose, as by such an appropriation workshops and materials could be built and furnished that, in all probability, would meet the demands of the institution for sometime to come.

The examination of the books was hardly as satisfactory as your committee could have desired, owing to the imperfect system adopted. While there is no doubt in the minds of your committee as to the correctness of the same, as far as the examination was conducted, the impression was made that every item had been properly entered, yet it is the unanimous opinion of your committee that a more thorough and practical system of book-keeping should be adopted, and to this end your committee desire to recommend to the board of trustees the purchase of a new set of books, and the appointment of an expert to transfer to the same the transactions of the institution since its organization, and that hereafter a closer attention be paid to this important and necessary branch of the government of the institution.

During the forenoon the inmates are required to attend school, and the afternoon is devoted to work, the males working at cabinet-making, carpenter work, and shoemaking, and the females in the laundry and other domestic work. By the completion of the work-shops and furnishing the same with tools and materials, other branches of industry could be introduced which would be profitable to the state and useful to the inmates, by preparing them to enter upon avocations that would redound greatly to their benefit in future. The trustees ask for an appropriation of \$65,000 to erect a west wing to the building, which appropriation your committee also recommend, believing that the needs of the institution imperatively demand greater capacity for the accommodation of the rapidly increasing number of applicants seeking admission. Another and important argument in favor of the early erection of the ad-

ditional wing is presented in the unsafe and defective condition of a part of the east wing of the building, an examination of which proves that the repairs made as suggested by a former committee have not remedied the defect or averted the danger. Your committee would also recommend that an appropriation of \$8,000 be made for the purpose of putting into the institution a heating apparatus, which, in the opinion of your committee, is greatly needed, and would add very much to the comforts of the inmates.

We found the appropriation made by the Fifteenth General Assembly for repairs and the erection of work-shops and teachers' cottage, to have been judiciously and economically expended, and the want felt in that direction thereby properly removed.

In conclusion, we desire to express, as the unanimous opinion of your committee, that the institution under its present government, properly subserves the purposes for which it has been founded, and that the general management thereof receives our earnest and sincere approbation.

SAMUEL REES,
S. H. GILLILAND,
Committee of the House.

HENRY W. ROTHERT,
Committee of the Senate.