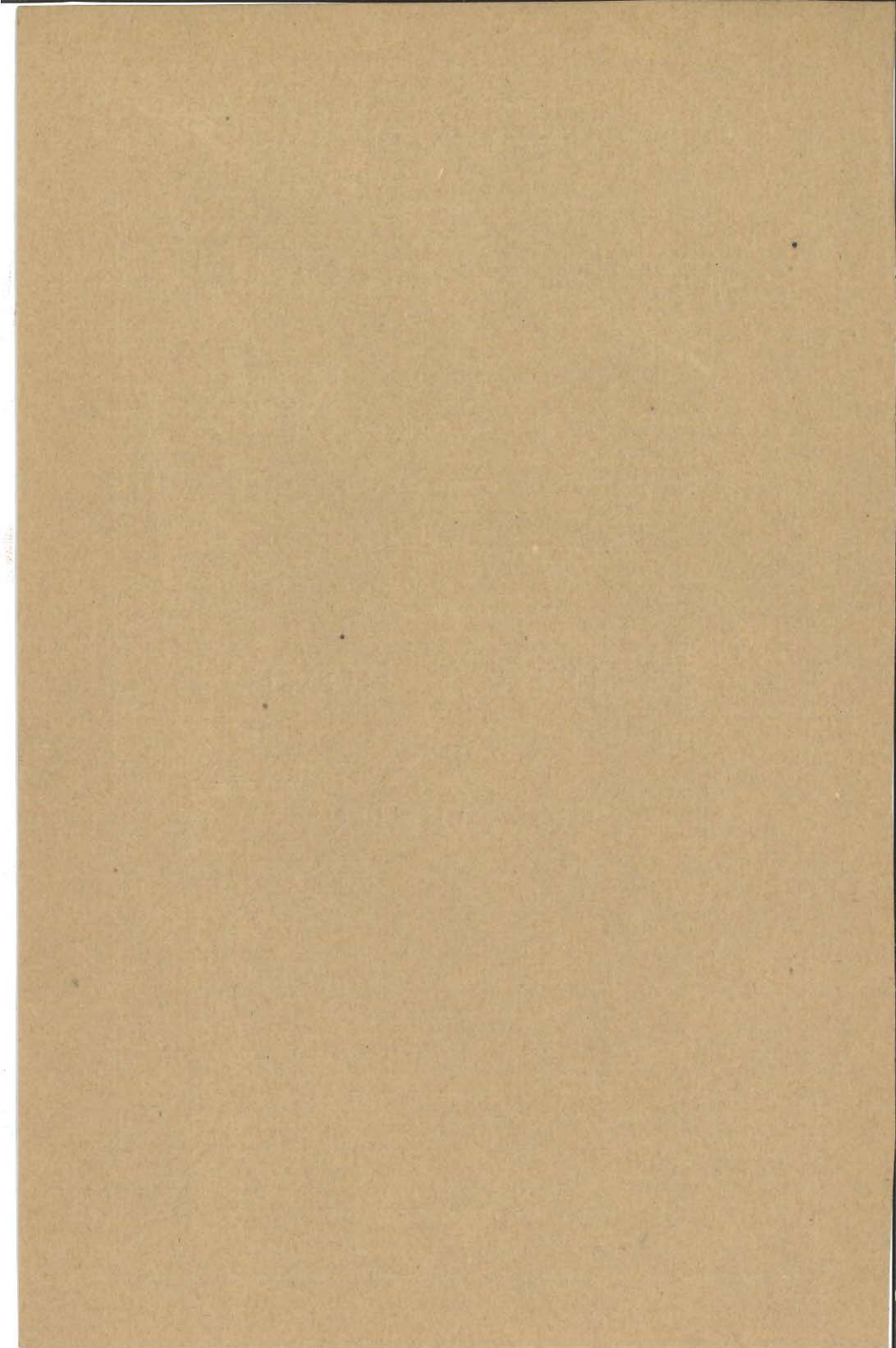


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REPORT
OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE
OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
STATE OF IOWA,
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE
BENEDICT HOME,
LOCATED AT
DES MOINES.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

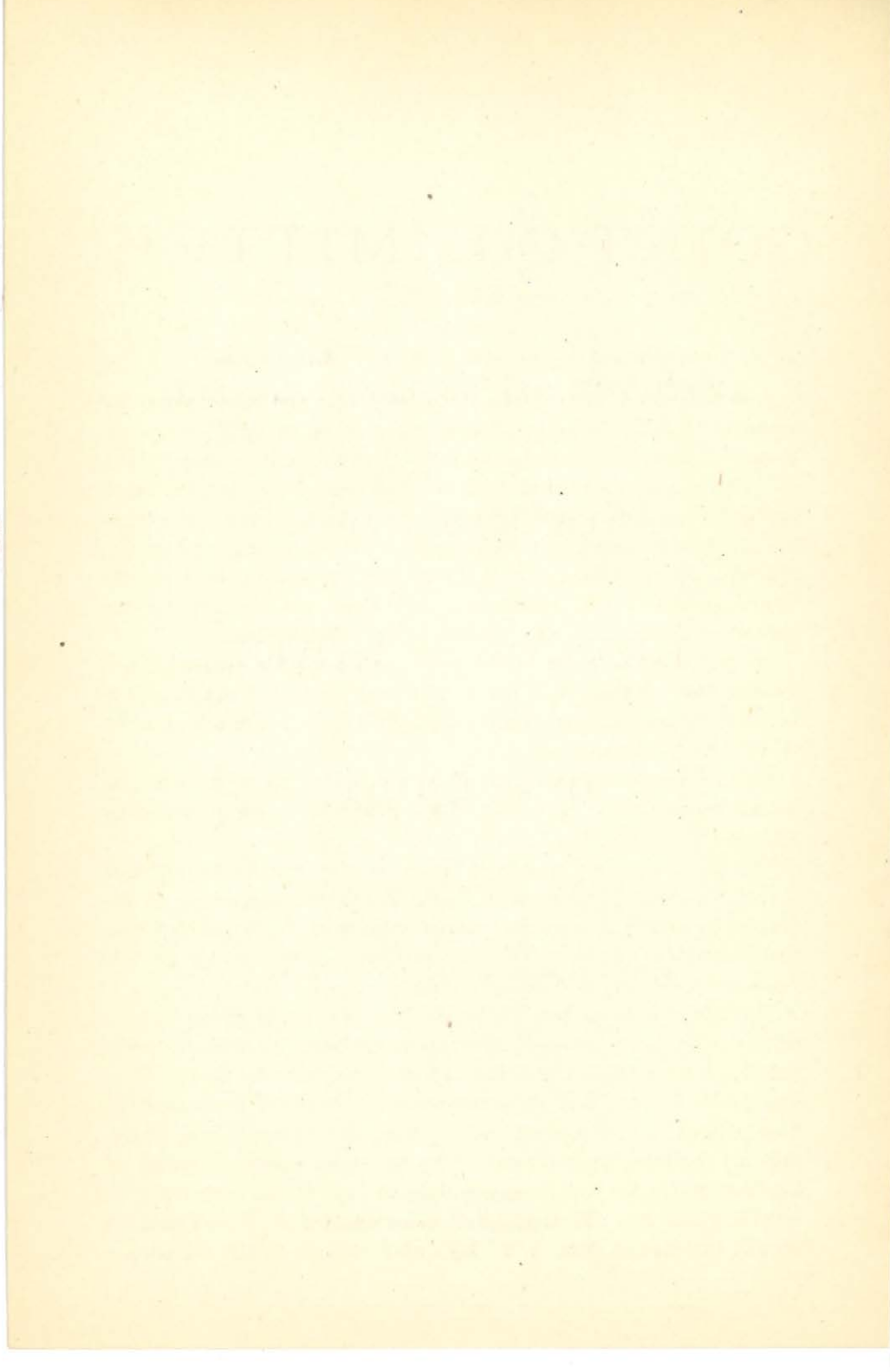
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REPORT.

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

Your committee to visit the Benedict Home and report as to the expenditure of the appropriation therefor made by the Twenty-first General Assembly, would respectfully report that they have visited the same and are satisfied that the two thousand dollars appropriated by the Twenty-first General Assembly has been wisely and economically expended, and in accordance with the act making such appropriation. It was a condition of the act that the appropriation should "be expended in the judgment of the Executive Council, for the support of Benedict Home, situated at Des Moines, Iowa."

We find that the entire amount was expended for groceries, provisions, fuel, clothing and other necessary items of "support," for which itemized statements under affidavit are on file in the office of the Auditor of State.

We find that this Institution, while not belonging to the State as a State institution, is yet doing a State charitable work in providing a home for erring girls.

The Institution is in charge of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the State appropriation being merely supplementary to the support furnished through the instrumentality of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The total support of the Home for the two years being nearly six thousand dollars.

We understand that the Institution has not contracted any indebtedness, but that it has been embarrassed for want of funds, notwithstanding the two thousand dollar appropriation made by the last General Assembly, and that in consequence the board of managers has been obliged to refuse admittance to many worthy applicants, receiving only the most urgent cases. They have been obliged to refuse all applications for the past three months, except to fill the places of girls leaving the Home. The immediate supervision of the Home is in the care of the Matron, Mrs. I. B. Day, who receives thirty dollars per

month for her services, and is the only person in connection with the Home who receives a salary. Dr. Beatrice Pearce, a graduate of the Woman's Medical College of Chicago, lives at the Home and is physician for the same, serving without salary, as the funds of the Institution do not at present permit of any. The doctor, however, is permitted to practice outside of the Home. Girls entering the Home are required to obligate themselves to remain for a definite period of time, unless they be allowed to go sooner by the board of managers. The total number of women in the Home during the biennial period ending September 1, 1887, was one hundred and twenty-eight, the average number being forty-six. The total capacity of the Home is sixty. The total number of children in the Home during the same period was ninety-two, and the average number thirty-nine. There were twelve deaths, of which five were women and seven children. There has been during this time nineteen children adopted into good homes. The average length of time that inmates remain in the Home is about one year. Efforts are made to keep trace of girls leaving the Home, which show that about three-fourths of them give evidence of reformation. None are received a second time. There are sufficient means of escape in case of fire, and the Home is well ventilated, neat and cleanly, and careful provision against fire has been made about the furnace which heats the building. The Twentieth General Assembly appropriated five thousand dollars for support and for additional buildings in connection with the Home, and your committee would recommend that a suitable sum be appropriated for support and repairs by this General Assembly, that the Home may not be closed. The managers of the Home ask for an appropriation of three thousand dollars for support, and one thousand dollars for completion of cottage for hospital use, for repairs on cisterns and for water supply, which we consider a reasonable amount for these purposes.

During the drouth for the past two years it has been a matter of heavy expense to haul water for the use of the Home. Connection should be made with the city water works if practicable. There has been an effort to make the Home in part self supporting, but with the necessary work in the care of the babies, the large amount of sickness, any largely remunerative industry is impossible. A little has been earned each year by laundry work, sewing and cultivating the ground belonging to the Home. We cannot close this report

without emphasizing the good this institution is doing for the State, not only in a charitable way providing a shelter and care for the unfortunate, but in the reformatory work which saves the State from much larger expense in the prosecution and care of its criminals.

WARREN S. DUNGAN, Senator, 4th Dist.,

S. W. LEWIS, Rep., 5th Dist.,

A. B. CUMMINS, Rep., 37th Dist.,

Visiting Committee.