

REPORT

OF THE

JOINT COMMITTEE

OF THE

THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

1870
APPOINTED TO VISIT

THE INSANE ASYLUM, LOCATED AT INDEPENDENCE.

DES MOINES:
F. M. MILLS, STATE PRINTER.
1870.

REPORT.

To the Thirteenth General Assembly:

Your Committee appointed to visit the Asylum for the Insane, located and in course of erection at Independence, Buchanan county, have performed that duty, and submit the following report:

The site selected for the institution is a pleasant one, and the land donated by the citizens of Independence, being 320 acres, is undulating rich prairie, and conveniently near the town. Your Committee examined, as best they could, that portion of the building under contract, with the walls of one story completed above the basement. The foundation is built of a kind of rock known in that country as prairie granite, which seems to be as firm and durable as the genuine granite. It presents a rough exterior, but your Committee are of opinion, if there is no defect in laying up the wall, it will last for all time. The rock used in the first story above the basement is taken from the quarries at Farley and Anamosa, present a beautiful appearance, and so far as your Committee are able to judge, will make a substantial and durable wall. The work, so far as it has progressed, seems to be done in an honest, substantial manner.

Your Committee examined with care all contracts and bonds, books, papers and accounts in the hands of the Commissioners, and found them quite satisfactory. The appropriation made by the last General Assembly has so far been judiciously expended.

The completion alone of that portion of the building now under contract, consisting of three sections of the left wing—one longitudinal and two transverse—could be of but little advantage to the State. It would render necessary the erection of temporary engine house, heating apparatus, &c., which would eventually be only money thrown away, and when completed, it would not accommodate to exceed seventy-five patients.

Your Committee are of the opinion that it would be economy for the State to make this session as large an appropriation as the

finances of the State will permit, after dealing justly with the other institutions of the State. This institution cannot in all probability be completed any sooner than the wants of the State will demand, and if completed now, doubtless would be well filled in a short time.

Your committee would suggest, that a sufficient appropriation at least, be made to complete two additional sections of the left wing—permanent engine house, heating apparatus, water works, &c.,—and put that portion of the building in a condition to be occupied at the earliest day possible. By completing two additional sections, one longitudinal and one transverse—the transverse section being a large four-story building—economizing room and using the basement under the four-story section temporarily for kitchen purposes—there will be room for the accommodation of about one hundred and twenty patients, and the engine-house and all the out-buildings can be made permanent, and that portion of the institution complete in all its arrangements. With the aid of the superintendent, Mr. George Josslyn, we have made the following estimates for such appropriations as your committee deem absolutely necessary to be made, in order to place the institution and a portion of the former in a condition to be occupied and cultivated :

Contract price for three sections.....	\$88,114.00
“ “ “ additional work.....	2,658.00
Incidental expenses as shown by Commissioners Report,	9,524.00
Estimated cost for two additional sections.....	88,114.00
“ “ of Engine House.....	30,000.00
“ “ of Chimney.....	10,000.00
“ “ of Ducts.....	5,000.00
“ “ of Engine-Pipes, heating apparatus, &c.,..	35,000.00
“ “ of Barn.....	2,000.00
“ “ of Fencing.....	2,000.00
“ “ of Repairing grounds.....	1,000.00
“ “ of Furniture.....	6,590.00
“ “ of Wells, water works, &c.,.....	5,000.00
“ “ of Railroad in building and air chambers,	2,500.00
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	\$287,500.00

By amount of last appropriation.....	\$125,000.00
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	\$162,500.00
For incidental expenses.....	2,500.00
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	\$165,000.00

Your committee would recommend an appropriation of the above sums, for the purposes specified, as the very least the Legislature ought to do for this institution, and if in the judgment of this General Assembly, a greater sum can be spared, it would be desirable to have the whole of the left wing and the centre building completed before the meeting of the next General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

G. G. BENNETT,
(Senate).

CUMMINGS SANBORN,
T. B. CARPENTER,
(House).