

REPORT  
OF THE  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
STATE OF IOWA,  
APPOINTED TO VISIT THE  
INSTITUTION FOR FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN  
LOCATED AT  
GLENWOOD.

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## REPORT.

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

Consequent upon the appointment made by the provisions of a concurrent resolution by the Senate and House of Representatives, the undersigned committee visited the Institution for Feeble-Minded Children, at Glenwood, Iowa, and herewith respectfully present the following report:

*First.* In answer to the first interrogatory of the resolution, your committee would say that in their opinion the funds appropriated by the last General Assembly have been carefully, judicially, and economically expended.

*Second.* They have been expended for the various objects for which they were appropriated.

*Third.* We deem the expenditures made within the scope of the act authorizing the same.

*Fourth.* That the funds drawn from the State Treasury have been properly used, and there has been no misappropriation of the money so drawn.

*Fifth.* We append herewith a schedule showing the names and number of persons employed, and the salaries each receive.

## MONTHLY PAY-ROLL, IOWA INSTITUTE FOR FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

NAME.	KIND OF SERVICE.	Amount.	REMARKS.
F. M. Powell	Superintendent	\$150.00	
L. M. Powell	Matron	41.66	
Emma Brown	Assistant Matron	40.00	
A. S. Burt	Assistant Physician	33.33	Nothing in addition.
T. Q. Records	Clerk	75.00	
Mary E. Slack	Nurse	25.00	
Chas. Minner	Attendant	25.00	
Chas. Hubbell	Attendant	25.00	
John Burke	Attendant	25.00	
Jennie Black	Attendant	22.00	
G. W. Mallatt	Attendant	24.00	
Thos. Boone	Attendant	24.00	
Emma Hinkley	Attendant	20.00	
Cora Vaughn	Attendant	18.00	
Mary Hobson	Attendant	16.00	
Maggie Locke	Attendant	16.00	
Mrs. Proost	Attendant	19.00	
Mary Locke	Attendant	20.00	
Anna Pringle	Attendant	16.00	
Lucy Edwards	Asst. to Supervisoress.	17.00	
Rilla Drew	Asst. to Supervisor	20.00	
Rebecca Chamberlain	Seamstress	16.00	
Lillie Robinson	Supervisoress	30.00	
Pete Hart	Watchman	25.00	One meal daily.
Belle Coats	Watchwoman	20.00	
Sue Anderson	House-keeper	25.00	
Sarah Trundle	Cook	22.00	
Anna Van Druff	Cook	18.00	
Fannie Briley	Cook	17.00	
Lizzie Barbour	In dining room	16.00	
Clara Surber	In dining room	15.00	
Lela Lone	In dining room	15.00	
Lydia Edwards	In dining room	15.00	
Frankie Price	Kitchen girl	10.00	
Ruby Lawson	Laundress	18.00	
Lillie Lawson	Laundress	18.00	
Minnie Surber	Ironer	16.00	
Etta Newville	Ironer	16.00	
Cora Park	Ironer	16.00	
Della Overton	Seamstress	17.00	
Belle Buchanan	Seamstress	18.00	
Fannie Lounsbury	Seamstress	20.00	
Libbie Van Druff	Seamstress	16.00	
Emma McCadden	Seamstress	16.00	
Lena Harmon	Seamstress	16.00	
Mrs. D. B. Edwards	Seamstress	14.00	
Mattie Helton	Hall girl	14.00	
Etta McCormick	Hall girl	12.00	
Anna Hall	Hall girl	14.00	

## MONTHLY PAY-ROLL—CONTINUED.

NAME.	KIND OF SERVICE.	Amount.	REMARKS.
D. K. Donnelly	Engineer	80.00	
Thos. Clune	Fireman	40.00	Nothing in addition.
Wm. Wortz	Fireman	25.00	
John Straub	Fireman	28.00	One meal daily.
J. W. Miller	Farmer	35.00	One meal daily.
Ed. Dever	Farm hand	18.00	
H. McCadden	Farm hand	24.00	
John L. Hart	Hostler	20.00	
Wm. J. Howlette	Carpenter	35.00	Two meals daily.
Wm. Tillman	Shoemaker	50.00	Two meals daily.
Ella Frazen	Teacher	40.00	
Nellie Ibach	Teacher and Secretary	45.00	
Mattie McLean	Teacher	35.00	
May Powell	Teacher	35.00	
Mattie Clift	Teacher	40.00	
Hattie Landes	Teacher	35.00	
Etta Inscore	Teacher	25.00	
Joe Corlette	Teacher	25.00	
Total		1791.99	

Total number of employes and officers, 67. With the exception of those noted, all have board, washing, light and heat, in addition to stated monthly wages.

There is no one not in the employ of the Institution receiving anything, excepting those for whose benefit the Institution is maintained.

The inmates are classified under two general heads: the educational including industrial classes and the asylum or custodial department. This is in accordance with the acts of the Nineteenth General Assembly, governing the institutions which provides for the care and custody of children who cannot be benefited by educational training. We first visited the improvable, as they assembled for school at nine o'clock, in a hall 60x30 and remained standing while they joined in singing a number of songs by note, followed by the Lord's Prayer, chanted in concert, after which they filed out to their respective recitation rooms, to return to the hall at intervals during the day, for calisthenic drill. These exercises constitute a special factor in training these unfortunates. We were informed that gymnastic drills were not valued so much for the physical benefit derived, as an educational factor. It gives valuable training lessons for the special senses, and cultivates attention. The variety of exercises of this nature exhibited, and the precision and thoroughness displayed, exceeded the committee's anticipations.

We were impressed with the energy and patience shown on the part of the officers and teachers, in the work of developing and stimulating the various types of mental deficiencies congregated in the Institution. In this department are seen classes, in charge of female teachers, with an average of 28 children in a room. Independent of these are special classes formed from the lower grades of intellect, only capable of being taught simple exercises. It was apparent to your committee that while little could be done for these lower forms, in the way of intellectual education, they were benefited to the extent of growing more attentive and capable of self help. In the classes composed of the brighter children, the exercises and lessons approach methods taught in common schools. Here not a little special talent was displayed. Their writing and reading compared favorably with more fortunate children. We were convinced that while the schooling received, would as a rule, fail to qualify but few for an independent life, they as a class, are better and happier by the training here received, and that while our State provides liberally for the education of bright and active minds, supported by vigorous and healthy bodies, it is equally incumbent to foster and encourage the care and training of those, who through no fault of their own, bear the marks of mental and physical defects.

Following this were the industrial classes; instruction in needle and machine work, is given by teachers daily, with encouraging results. A class in hammered brass and copper, exhibited commendable skill, while the shoe shops gave evidence of practical results in the way of making all the shoes and boots worn by inmates. The farm is considered the most reliable avenue for teaching boys remunerative labor. From ten to twelve boys spend most of their time in farming and gardening, and assist in dairy and barn work. Throughout the buildings we found inmates detailed to assist in the general work. We are especially disposed to encourage this feature, and favor assistance in providing increased avenues for labor training. In the asylum or custodial wards are collected the lowest forms of humanity, many of whom are dependent upon others to supply their most simple wants. They are indeed objects of pity, appealing to the deepest sympathies of humanity. Perhaps no class of individuals require more patience and attention than the types of defectives, here represented. It is not alone for the benefit of these dependent members of society that public care should be bestowed, but for the relief of an exhausting burden to families and communities. They should have ample facilities for their care and comfort. In this division are classed 100, leaving of the 363 now in the building, 263 numbered with the improvable. In the way of hospital accommodations, we find two rooms, one 16x18, and the other 14x16, with a capacity for caring for not over twelve at one time. For the reasons that a large per cent of the inmates are physically defective, when they come to the Institution needing constant hospital care, and that epidemics of contagious diseases are liable to occur, we deem it of utmost importance that accommodations in this respect be increased at the earliest possible date. We attended the regular Friday evening entertainment, where we were greeted by a cornet band, composed of 18 boys, inmates of the Institution. We are disposed to congratulate the management on the success of the band. A number of airs were played with much credit. These exercises afforded the committee an opportunity of witnessing one of the pleasing features of the Institution.

The noticeable zeal and pleasure on the part of the children as they participated in the dances, singing, march, drills, etc., were proofs that all was being done to make their lives as happy as possible. Our attention was called to the fact that there are frequent applications for receiving persons beyond the age or limit for admission now pre-

scribed by law. Investigation in this respect convinced the committee that claims from these sources were urgent and worthy of thoughtful consideration. The Superintendent informs us that the strongest letters of appeal are from parents or guardians of adult imbeciles for their admission to the Institution, particularly from those who have advanced to that period in life when thoughts for the future welfare of their blighted progeny crowd heavily upon them. The possibilities of such a life left without suitable protection is painful, not alone to parents but to all thoughtful citizens. More especially is this applicable to the unguarded idiotic female. At such time as the public affairs are in a condition to increase facilities for the care of this class, we believe it should be the policy of the State to change the law and admit adult persons, coming under the head of the custodial division. Until that time we doubt the propriety of extending the privileges already prescribed. All the available space is now utilized, with applications on file sufficient to more than occupy the probable additional room that will be provided by the present session of the assembly.

The kitchen department is situated in the basement and rear extension of the main building. It is commodious and well arranged, with a dining hall on the east and west, one for the males and the other for the females. These halls are well lighted, warmed and ventilated. The tables were well supplied with food. We were favorably impressed with the attention shown the inmates in serving their meals. The good order prevailing, gave evidence of kind and constant discipline. Our visit through all the day rooms and dormitories of the building, left us with the same impression in regard to the welfare of the inmates. Notwithstanding the wards are crowded, we found the buildings and premises in good sanitary condition, except the system of ventilation in the cottages. For improvement in this direction, your committee recommend an appropriation. In the way of fire escapes, hose attachments are on every floor, we believe ample for use in the event of fire. The boys' cottages have outside stairways sufficient for escape in case of necessity. The central building should have an outside stairway from the third floor on the east wing of the building and on the west a stairway can be built that will serve for the east end of the old building as well as for the new building. There being a space of only fifteen feet between these two buildings.

The laundry and school-building each need additional stairway;

also, the old building should have provision for escape on the west. This, with additional hydrants provided with hose attachments, is required to secure proper means of protection from fire.

The main or central building is a brick structure, in the form of a cross, with three main floors and an attic story. The extreme length north and south is 169x48; east and west, 155x36. The original estimate for completing the building is \$75,000. The appropriation of \$25,000, made by the Twenty-first General Assembly for finishing and furnishing the two lower floors, makes \$60,000 expended on this building. This leaves two floors to be finished and furnished, for which \$19,650 is asked by the trustees. Your committee are of the opinion that careful estimates have been made, and that the above sum will be required for the object named. This will make an expenditure of \$79,650, which brings the completion, independent of furnishing, within the first estimate.

The building is well put up, and finished with hard Southern pine throughout, making a plain, neat and substantial building, well adapted for the uses designed.

The remaining floors are needed for immediate use, and should be completed at the earliest practicable period.

Your committee carefully inspected the engine, boiler and laundry buildings, and find that the needs in this direction, set forth by the Trustees and Superintendent, are well founded. The present laundry facilities are inadequate for the large amount of work required in this department. The care of clothing for over 360 inmates, many of whom, from necessity, require frequent changes, is a task of considerable magnitude.

The present boiler space is too small. The brick stack has only capacity for two boilers, necessitating two iron stacks for the other boilers. These are unsafe. By constructing a new stack and boiler-house, 150 feet west of the present plant, the distance for hauling coal will be materially lessened and the steep approach avoided. This would save much time and hard labor. The efficiency of this department demands changing. While we believe the estimates procured for this purpose are correct, we favor including in this estimate the laundry machinery needed, and rooms for shop work, engine and dynamo for electric light.

The Institution is now lighted by ordinary coal oil lamps, which in our opinion make the dangers likely to arise from fire imminent. Should the appropriation for a dynamo be made, we believe that the

expense of putting in electric lights could in a short time be fully repaid by saving the expense of oil and breakage of chimneys and lamps, while the dangers from fire would be reduced to the minimum. Adjoining the State property on the north is nineteen acres of land, on which are buildings needed by the Institution. This can be purchased for \$2,000. In view of the fact that shelter for cattle is very much needed, and the land would be of use to the State, we believe it good policy to purchase this tract. The following are the dimensions of the buildings on this land: slaughter house, 32x24, 16 ft. high; sheds for stock, 16x172, and 10 ft. high; corn crib, 11x85, 9 ft. high, with roof and floor; one crib, 7x47, 6 ft. high, no roof; hay rack 6x30, 9 ft. high, no roof; one dwelling house, 20½x28½, 10 ft. posts; one frame barn, 16x29; wind mill, with watering troughs connected, and one pair of stock scales. The land principally enclosed by eight wire fence.

Your committee recommend the following appropriations:

1. For completing and furnishing central building, nineteen thousand, six hundred and fifty dollars (\$19,650).
2. For new engine and boiler house, smoke stack, two new boilers, increased facilities for laundry work, repairing and resetting old boilers, and connecting steam heating with central building, work shop, engine and dynamo, nineteen thousand, eight hundred and sixty dollars (\$19,860).
3. For purchasing nineteen acres of ground now owned by H. Hinxson, including building for stock, a frame barn and slaughter house, and frame house, two thousand dollars (\$2,000).
4. For orchard and small fruits, six hundred dollars (\$600).
5. For repair and contingent fund annually, two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500).
6. For fire escapes and hydrants, fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500).
7. For furniture and bedding, twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200).
8. For ventilation in cottages, six hundred dollars (\$600).
9. For vegetable cellar, eight hundred dollars (\$800).
10. For increased hospital facilities, four thousand dollars (\$4,000).

While the committee recognize the need of the amounts asked by the trustees and superintendent, it will be observed that the sum total recommended by us is more than \$25,000 less than the sum requested by the management. This is done upon the theory that the financial condition of the State will not justify appropriations beyond what is necessary to meet the present pressing demands. The

amounts herein set forth for the purposes designated are in our judgment imperatively needed to meet the present obligations of the Institution. We hope the present legislature will be as generous to the Institution as possible in its appropriations to the Institution, and the poor children who are cared for there.

The books of the Institution show no outstanding indebtedness, and we were assured there were no unpaid claims.

In concluding this report we take great pleasure in testifying that the present superintendent, Dr. F. M. Powell, deserves great credit for the present admirable management. He and his able corps of assistants are in our opinion doing a grand work for the State.

Also, we desire to make grateful mention of the kindness and courtesy shown us during our investigations while there.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. McVAY,

*On the part of the Senate.*

G. D. DARNALL,

W. H. ROBB,

*On the part of the House.*