FIRST BI-ENNIAL MESSAGE
OF
Gov. J. S. Pillsbury,
to the
LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA
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for the next fifty years. Without hesitation I recommend that an appropriation be made benially as will be sufficient to cover the insurance on all public buildings. Before leaving this subject, I deem it an act of simple justice to make public acknowledgment of the courage and zeal displayed by the officers of the hospital and citizens of St. Peter in their efforts to rescue the unfortunate inmates and save the institution from destruction.

Attention is directed to the ample report of the directors and officers of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, which shows that during the two years 140 pupils have been connected with the deaf department and 35 with the blind department, making 175 inmates cared for by the institution since the date of the last report. The care and judgment heretofore exercised in the conduct of this institution continue to mark its management.

By act of the last legislature, the trustees of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind asylum were authorized to provide accommodations for the care of such feeble minded and idiotic children as the medical commission should select from the patients at the several asylums. Such commission, consisting of Drs. G. Weston, W. H. Leonard and C. H. Boardman, after having made the examinations, selected twenty-two patients from the Insane asylum at St. Peter and Rochester, as proper subjects for training under the law. The trustees having provided accommodations in the way of buildings, this number was transferred to the custody of the trustees, on the 24th of July last the school for their training and instruction was opened under the efficient Superintendent, Prof. H. H. Knight.

It is estimated that there are as many in number of feeble minded children in our State as of insane persons. After having witnessed the progress and improvement which these unfortunate children have made in the short time that the school has been in operation, I am of the opinion that it is almost a crime to send these children to a asylum for the insane, where there is no hope whatever for improvement in their condition, and where they must certainly remain life an expense to the State. It has been clearly demonstrated in other States that a large portion of these children, if taken in early youth can, by training and instruction, be made self-supporting. The trustees recommend that this school be perpetual for the training and instruction of feeble-minded children, which recommendation I most cordially endorse.