

SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
STATE BOARD
OF
CORRECTIONS AND CHARITIES
TO THE
LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA.

FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 1886.



ST. PAUL, MINN.
THE PIONEER PRESS COMPANY.
1887.

the north wing has been reconstructed. A good laundry has been built. A new shop building has been erected adjoining the boiler house: in the basement is a well-equipped gymnasium and a system of water closets for the boys; on the first floor are the shoe shop and tailor shop; on the second floor is a large sewing room, together with rooms for certain employes and a hospital for contagious diseases. A good deal of labor has been expended upon the grounds.

With the opening of the fall term of 1886 an important change occurs. Heretofore, the forenoon has been devoted to school work, and the afternoon to industrial training. Hereafter the school and the shops will be open both forenoon and afternoon, and the pupils will work in relays. It is expected that this plan will improve the work of both departments.

The school has suffered a serious loss in the departure of Mr. Geo. F. Wing, to accept a position in the Illinois institution for the deaf.

The school for the deaf is now well housed and thoroughly equipped. The pupils are under excellent discipline, and its work is thoroughly satisfactory.

The School for the Blind.

This institution labors under the disadvantage of having but small numbers, the average for the year 1885-6 being only thirty-three. The building would readily accommodate twice this number, and the expense of heating, superintending, teaching, etc., is little less than for the larger number. On the other hand, the smallness of the school renders the grading very imperfect, and increases the labor of instruction. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the school does good work and is a credit to the State.

The Training School for Idiots and Imbeciles.

Dr. Geo. H. Knight resigned as superintendent in the fall of 1885. At the same time the State lost the valued services of Miss Powers, an unexcelled teacher of imbeciles. Dr. A. C. Rogers, the new superintendent, has done good work. An epidemic of diphtheria in the spring of 1886 caused three or four deaths, and a pupil was accidentally drowned a little later. The school is full at the present time, containing ninety-six inmates. The new centre building will be completed early in 1887. It will contain a large dining room, kitchen, store rooms, laundry, and boiler

house, a large assembly room and rooms for administrative purposes and employes. It will be separated from the north wing by fire walls and fire doors. The part of the building now occupied will be so far relieved as to increase the capacity of the building probably to one hundred and sixty or one hundred and seventy-five. The additional space will be promptly occupied, and more will be needed at once.

The need of custodial care for adult idiots, especially young women, is increasing. The majority of these women, if unprotected, bring forth children like themselves, who become in turn a charge upon the State. From an economical point of view, if either class must be neglected, it would be wise to let the imbecile children go, and provide for those who are capable of becoming mothers. We therefore recommend an appropriation for a detached ward for custodial cases. These persons are quite similar, in their condition and in the care which they require, to the insane, and can be accommodated in buildings similar to those now being built at St. Peter and Rochester, at a cost of two hundred to two hundred and fifty dollars per bed. The new buildings recently built for custodials of this class at Elwyn, Pa., offer many points of suggestion.

THE STATE PRISON.

There were 356 convicts in the Minnesota state prison July 31, 1884, 395 July 31, 1885, and 387 July 31, 1886, or eight less than a year ago, an increase of only eight and two-thirds per cent in two years. The following is the number of prisoners at the end of each biennial period for the past ten years: 1876, 166; 1878, 218; 1880, 254; 1882, 279; 1884, 356; 1886, 387. The increase has been as follows: 1878, 31 per cent; 1880, 17 per cent; 1882, 10 per cent; 1884, 29 per cent; 1886, 9 per cent; average, 19 per cent. Should the population of the prison continue to increase at the same rate (nineteen per cent each two years) there will be 460 prisoners July 31, 1888, and 550 prisoners July 31, 1890. The present capacity is six hundred.

Several important improvements have been made in the prison during the past two years. The new cell rooms are model buildings. The cells are of brick, faced with stone. The situation of the old building compelled the arrangement of cross galleries which shut off several cells on each tier from the sunlight, which is to be regretted. The bathing facilities have been greatly in-