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SIXTH BIENNIAL REPORT

—OF THE—

SUPERINTENDENT

OF

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

STATE OF MINNESOTA,

—FOR THE—

SCHOOL YEARS ENDING JULY 31, 1889 AND 1890.

TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT IN THE SERIES.

TRANSMITTED TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE SIXTH BIENNIAL

SESSION, 1891.

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MINNEAPOLIS:
HARRISON & SMITH, STATE PRINTERS.
1890.

PILLSBURY HALL—STATE UNIVERSITY.

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REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

MINNESOTA SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED

AT FARIBAULT.

Hon. D. L. Kiehle, Superintendent of Public Instruction:

DEAR SIR—The two years just passed and the means provided by the last legislature have afforded the School for Feeble Minded an opportunity of improving very much its methods of training. The classification of the population of the institution has also been much improved. The Custodia (by which we mean the department for unimprovables), has its own organization in the south wing of the main building. A teacher is provided for this department who selects and works with such persons of the department as manifest possibilities for improvements.

At the farm a small colony of boys (14 at present) are permanently domiciled. There is no systematic school work at the farm, as the population necessarily consists of adults which may or may not have been under training at the school department.

The farm matron gives occasional instruction to such boys as particularly require it.

At the main building the organized school work is the main feature. There school-room and manual training methods are coordinated, both for boys and girls. Our manual training, after the Kindergarten period, is secured in the shop and sewing room. As a prominent English leader in technical school work once remarked: "The training of the shop is, and always must be, superior to that of any technical or manual school. It is carried on under a sense of responsibility, * * and, above all, it is real and earnest."

Of our entire population of 300 in June, 1890, all but 86 were receiving some special attention in the way of training. Forty-seven of these never had received special training, and 39 had received such but been dropped from the list of improvable. Of the others, the following scheme will give some idea of the methods and advancement. There were about 100 and 142 pupils, respectively, in the training department proper during the last two fiscal years, but the scheme represents the whole population of the institution. The figures represent the number of persons engaged in the exercises or studies specified or whose status would be properly indicated by the same:

KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY EXERCISES.

a. Simple manual exercises to overcome imperfections of movement, etc.....	58
b. Exercises intended to develop the perceptive faculties.....	198
c. Exercises to overcome imperfections of speech	215
d. Regular kindergarten training and similar exercises.....	69

REGULAR SCHOOL WORK.

a. Reading	119
b. Writing	96
c. Grammar.....	51
d. Geography	18
e. Arithmetic.....	92
f. History.....	29
g. Vocal music	54
h. Instrumental music.....	20
i. Presentation.....	32

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

A. HOUSE WORK, ETC.—

a. Sewing	69
b. Knitting	32
c. Baking	6
d. Chamber work.....	17
e. House cleaning.....	21
f. Nursing	2

B. HANDCRAFTS—

a. Farming and gardening (by details)	20
b. Farming and gardening (regularly—farm colony).....	14
c. Carpentry.....	1
d. Brush making	58
e. Scroll sawing	8
f. Metal hammering.....	16

As the school grows older and its work becomes better known, more applications are received continually for that large class of pupils that attend the public schools for awhile, but finally drop out because of mental weakness or peculiarity. The almost universal approval which the patrons of the school have manifested toward it, has been very gratifying to those connected with it. Respectfully submitted,

A. C. ROGERS,
Superintendent.