

FIFTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE BOARD

OF

CORRECTIONS AND CHARITIES

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA.

FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 1892.



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has been built for the state agent. This plan, has some great advantages, and it is probable that all of the superintendents of state institutions could be more comfortably and cheaply housed, without any loss of efficiency on this plan. To those who have families, residence in an institution has serious disadvantages.

The work of the school for the blind is efficient and satisfactory. The annual expenditure is very moderate, considering the small number cared for.

THE SCHOOL FOR THE FEEBLE MINDED.

The administration of the school for feeble minded is a thoroughly satisfactory. The pressure for admission does not diminish. The superintendent has now 150 applications for admission on hand, while the school is entirely full. There is a steady increase of the inmates of the custodial class, partly from the pupils who grow up in the school and partly from commitments of this class.

We wish to emphasize what we have said in former reports—that it is the highest economy for the state to make provision for the females of this class, at least during the child-bearing age, and it is neither economical nor humane to allow such persons to become inmates of county poor houses.

The legislature of 1891 made appropriations to begin the erection of a separate building for custodial inmates. We recommend that funds be provided for the completion of that building as soon as possible.

The farm colony is a valuable adjunct to the school, and we hope that its advantages may be extended to a larger proportion of the inmates. The board of directors is wisely planning to make a further increase in the amount of farming land.

THE STATE SCHOOL FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.

Experience has confirmed the wisdom of those who established this institution. The state of California, with a smaller population than Minnesota, maintains from 3,000 to 4,000 dependent children at state expense, at an annual cost of about \$250,000. The state of Minnesota cared last year for 336 children in the State Public School at a cost of about \$23,000. The state maintains supervision over 343 additional children under state guardianship in homes, at a cost of about \$2,500. The state of New York cares for 20,000 dependent children at public expense, and the state of Ohio about 3,000; while in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin, which have the same system as ours, the ratio of dependent children is very small,