

# Biennial Report

OF THE

**Minnesota State Board of Visitors  
for Public Institutions**



1921

Old State Capitol, St. Paul, Minn., February 15, 1921.

Hon. J. A. O. Pries, Governor, The Capitol, St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir: We herewith submit for your consideration and that of the legislature, the biennial report of the State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions.

Very respectfully yours,

W. A. NOLAN, Grand Meadow, President,  
SWAN J. TURNBLAD, Minneapolis, Vice President,  
REV. L. R. S. FERGUSON, St. Paul, Secretary,  
J. R. SWANN, Madison,  
REV. E. J. NYSTROM, Buffalo,  
A. W. MITTON, Browns Valley.

James C. Matchitt, Minneapolis,

Executive Secretary.

\*John Q. Jueneemann, of St. Paul, was appointed February 4, 1921, to succeed A. W. Milton, for the usual six year term.

## Biennial Report State Board of Visitors

### COMPENSATION INSURANCE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES.

Minnesota is operating under a state compensation insurance law which is supposed to give coverage and protection to all employes throughout the state. All employers are not compelled to carry compensation insurance, but where they do not, such employers are automatically compelled to become self-insurers so far as their employes are concerned. In such instances where a workman is injured in the course of his employment, the individual, firm, or corporation which is the employer, becomes liable for payment of the compensation called for under the state compensation law. With self-insurers some just complaint has come to light in a few cases where the employer was not financially responsible and as a result injured workmen failed to collect compensation. This should be adjusted by a curative act that will only permit self-insurance where employers can first demonstrate their financial responsibility or give a satisfactory bond.

The Board of Visitors wishes to call attention to the fact that state employes are entirely without protection under the state compensation law, which we believe to be an oversight but at the same time a most unfair discrimination. The employe of the state is just as deserving of the benefits that apply generally elsewhere, as any other wage-earner in the state; possibly more so, as in many lines of employment state remuneration is considerably less than that paid by other employers in similar lines of endeavor.

We believe that the granting of compensation insurance protection to state employes is such a fair and just request that it will appeal to the legislature for early enactment without opposition so far as the principle is involved. The only problem that arises is the supplying of needed funds for the liability that is assumed. At present, when a state employe is injured or killed, the case is generally taken to the legislature at its next meeting with a request for a fitting and proper special appropriation for the injured party or for relief of dependent heirs if death has resulted. Although in such cases the legislature is usually fair and generous, a degree of uncertainty is involved and at least a lengthy period of waiting—possibly two years if the accident has resulted just after a legislative adjournment.

The cost of these awards would hardly be more to the state—perhaps less—if they were made under the state compensation law schedule in all cases.

It would therefore seem more satisfactory in every way if at each session of the legislature an appropriation were made for payment of compensation insurance awards to state employees, such appropriation based on a scientific estimate by a competent actuary, with an arrangement for consideration and adjustment of claims of state employees by the state compensation commission which it seems certain will be created by the legislature of 1921. If it should happen this commission were not created, legislation should be provided for adjustment of state employee claims by the state compensation bureau of the state department of labor.

If it should happen that some unusual catastrophe should take place that would create claims in excess of the existing amount in the state employees' compensation fund, a wait might be necessary in final payments until the following legislative session; but some alleviation in such an unexpected event would be found in the fact that each legislature meets six months previous to the expiration of the state's fiscal year for which the previous legislature had provided compensation insurance appropriation.

#### PENSIONING STATE EMPLOYEES.

These are days when employees, especially of great corporations, are given consideration as to their special needs and the proverbial "square deal" in greater proportion than ever before. Bonuses are granted when special earnings permit, group life insurance is purchased by the employer covering help in all lines and departments, and in many instances faithful men are rewarded in their old age by retirement on pensions. This is all most commendable. But for employees of the great state of Minnesota, none of these special favors are available. This is severely felt by some of the state's employees who believe that the state should grant recognition of long and satisfactory service, at wages which are none too large, by establishing a retirement or pension fund. A bill to this effect was introduced at the legislative session of 1919 but was not enacted.

This matter was called to the attention of the Board of Visitors by employees at the Fergus Falls State Hospital for the Insane but they without doubt share the desires of those who haven't spoken at other institutions.

The request is that employees who have been employed in state service for a period of twenty-five years may then retire on a pension of one-half the salary received during the last year of state employment, provided the age of sixty-five has been reached. This is in line with the bill which was introduced at the legislative session of 1919.

It would seem that if this is right and proper for employees of state institutions, it is also but fair for employees of all state departments.

#### INSPECTION OF STATE INSTITUTION POWER PLANTS.

Every state institution has its own heating, lighting, and power plant. Necessarily, the chief engineer in charge is largely monarch of all he surveys so far as the technical operation of the plant, its condition, and particularly its safety, is concerned. A visit to, and an inspection of, such a plant by any other than experts is more or less of a formality without effective results.

During the past year we made an inspection of the State Soldiers' Home at Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis, during which the condition of one of the boilers in the power plant became a most important factor. The boiler in question had been patched and the question was raised as to its safety under the pressure carried. The boiler was insured and the inspectors of the insuring company claimed it was safe for operation. We secured permission of the commandant of the Home and the President of the Soldiers' Home Board of Trustees (following the securing of an opinion from the attorney general) to have an inspection and test of the boiler in question made by Mr. V. E. Patnaude, chief state boiler inspector, on the theory that he was the proper authority for a state board to consult under existing conditions. Mr. Patnaude in his report to the Board of Visitors, differed materially in his opinion from that of the insurance inspector, and recommended a great many changes which he held essential for safety. His report was immediately forwarded to the commandant of the Home for such action as was necessary.

Upon being summoned before the Board of Visitors, in his testimony he made some rather startling statements relative to state institution power plants in general, although his statements were rather reluctantly given along these lines in response to questions, because as he explained, he did not desire to put himself in the attitude of interfering in matters outside of his jurisdiction; and stated further that he believed some other state institution plants were not what they should be and even questioned the efficiency of some of the engineers employed at these institutions. Mr. Patnaude issues licenses for engineers, examines those applying for their first licenses as to their knowledge, but under the existing law must renew upon request and without examination. Licenses of engineers which have been issued in the past and come up for renewal. Many of these, he says, were originally granted when the examination and licensing of engineers was not much more than a mere formality and thereby permitted many inefficient men to become engaged in this line of work.

Boilers at state institutions under the State Board of Control, are all insured which fact automatically exempts them from inspection by state boiler inspectors. The question arises, however, wouldn't it be a good thing to "make assurance doubly sure" by having regular state inspections by the state boiler inspectors (who are licensed engineers) who would not merely inspect boilers, but all machinery at state institution plants? Such an inspection, for instance, might have prevented the explosion of a defective steam mangle at the laundry of the State School for Feeble Minded, Faribault, where one employee was killed and several others injured. Mr.

Prineau informs the State Board of Visitors that the fees in his department are now running from \$5,000.00 to \$10,000.00 in excess of the expenses of the department, and that part of this money could be used for employment of a competent inspector to put in his whole time making rounds of state institutions. Thus this work would not create any increase in general taxation cost nor additional legislative appropriations.

### JUVENILE INCORRIGIBILITY.

Juvenile incorrigibility has become a subject of serious study and consideration because of its inherent great increase. Juvenile courts and probation officers are busier than ever before. Truancy schools are full to overflowing. The State Training School at Red Wing has a record enrollment and because of the large number of newcomers, is compelled to discharge boys after a ten months' stay who should be kept 12 to 15 months. And still burglaries, holdups, and other serious crimes, continue at the hands of those who in many cases are still in their teens. Merely lamenting this condition is of no help. Remedial steps must be taken. To do this the causes must be considered. It is not sufficient to charge it all up to "war aftermath." Investigations by probation officers, social workers, and others interested, seem to show there are definite reasons, largely things carried to extremes which otherwise would not be so injurious.

**Pool Rooms.**—There may be and doubtless are, pool rooms which are all right, but it is also certain there are many pool rooms which are all wrong. The state law prohibits admittance of boys under 18 years of age. This is successfully dodged by both youth and proprietor; the former when 15, 16, or 17, asserting he is 18, and the proprietor on his part accepting the story as satisfactory. If he is questioned about it, the ready explanation is that "the boy was big enough and claimed he was 18; how could I tell he wasn't?" Thus the young lad gets into bad companionship, bears and absorbs that which he should not, keeps late hours, and gets a taste for gambling. For this reason, and to eliminate the excuse of the pool hall proprietor (as cited above) we recommend that the age limit of permitted patrons of pool halls be raised from 18 to 21 years. We also recommend a state law which will prohibit pool halls to be operated within 600 feet (an average of two blocks) from any public school building.

**Dance Halls.**—In a previous report this Board considered the subject of dance halls. We made a number of recommendations which were embodied in a law at the ensuing session. Reports, however, are to the effect this law is not well enforced. That in the large cities so-called "moonlight" dances are permitted, i. e., dances during which only a few dark lights are burned for a few minutes, with occasionally all lights extinguished. Sensuous dances are not only permitted, but in many public dance halls seem the most popular. Such conditions existing nightly cannot but have a most demoralizing effect, for, as police women have stated to members of this Board, "we can regulate to a certain degree behavior in the public dance

halls, but not after the couples leave." We therefore strongly urge a more strict enforcement of the state law regulating public dance halls, and an amendment which shall prohibit all forms of sensuous dancing.

**The Movies.**—Within comparatively recent years the movies—the photoplay dramas—have become the great source of amusement for the public, old and young, rich and poor. As a whole, they may be classed as helpful, entertaining and amusing. On the other hand, there are certain classes of picture plays which are detrimental; those which are sensual, vulgar in portrayal of sex problems, and plays which heroize crime and criminals. Both are particularly harmful to juveniles. The former sows the seed of immorality and improper ideas in undeveloped minds, while the latter leads boys to imitate portrayals of holdup heroes and into improper use of fire arms. We would therefore recommend the establishment of a state board of censorship for motion pictures, with authority to prohibit the presentation in Minnesota of all such pictures which are immoral in aspect, or which heroize crime and the improper use of fire arms; that no picture may be presented in the state which is not first approved by said state board; that the governor be empowered to appoint such a state board of censorship in such numbers as will prove necessary; such members to serve without remuneration. We believe the women's clubs would gladly assume such work, and that by the appointment of a large board, a sufficient number could doubtless be secured as necessary for the work of picture reviewing. At least three should be necessary to pass upon each picture. The censorship work, we understand, would largely be confined to Minneapolis as in that city practically all the film exchanges are located. Nor would the work be as tedious as might be imagined, as one review of a film would pass upon it for indefinite use in the state any number of times. We would prohibit children under 12 being permitted alone at movies at any time.

**Sale of Cigarettes.**—Cigarettes are a problem relative to the older boys in practically every high school in Minnesota. The state law permits the sale of cigarettes by tobacco dealers to boys 18 years of age or over. As in the case of pool halls, doubtless a number of boys of less than 18, pass themselves off acceptably as such. The older boys who smoke cigarettes with legal permission—although without that of parents and teachers—become most undesirable examples for the younger boys in the same schools many of whom silently pledge, "Just as soon as I get to be 18 I'm going to smoke cigarettes, too." That this is all wrong seems too axiomatic for further discussion or argument. We accordingly recommend that the minimum age limit for those to whom cigarettes may be sold without penalty, be raised from 18 to 20 years. As there are few if any boys of 20 years in high schools, we believe this change in the law will take the cigarette out of the school problem to a large degree.

**A Curfew Law.**—We urge the enactment of a state curfew law, which shall require that all children of 16 years or under shall be in their homes by 9:30 P. M. every night except when accompanied by parent or guardian. The great source of juvenile misbehavior results from their being away from home and on the streets at night. The boy or girl who is home during the evening, is not the one who goes into bad company, into temptation, into improper and even criminal conduct. We believe an enforced state-wide curfew law would have a very beneficial effect.

**Parental Negligence.**—Parental failure is in no small part a cause of existing juvenile delinquency. In some cases, the parents are over-indulgent and do not require obedience to those rules which are best for the young people. Willfulness is a natural result. There are other numerous instances of parents who do not seem to care what their children do or where they go. And again there are all the extremes that appear in the individual juveniles, from the wilfully vicious to the excusable subnormal mentally. We are inclined to the belief that in many instances where the parents are at fault, too often the erring boy or girl alone is the one punished. We believe a stricter enforcement of the negligent parent law is advisable, and although it is a very serious thing to take a child from his or her parents, that it is both best for the child and society as a whole to bring proper court action to take such child from parental care into state guardianship where the parents are utterly failing to do their duty and thus permitting the boy or girl to become delinquent and incorrigible.

**Keeping the Juvenile Occupied.**—By elimination of those things which lead to delinquency, we do not wish to be understood to expect the boy and girl can be kept away from healthful amusements and pleasures. On the contrary, we believe keeping them healthfully and helpfully occupied is the greatest single factor in the solution of the juvenile problem. All kinds of athletic games are to be advocated. Such movements as the Boy and Girls Scouts deserve general aid and public support. Social gatherings at proper places and properly supervised are to be commended. Community gatherings should be arranged for the juveniles as well as for their elders.

We submit the above recommendations and suggestions believing the juvenile situation is at present acute, that the public should realize something must be done, and awaken to a sense of responsibility. The subject deserves helpful action by one and all when it is realized that our channels of juvenile wrongdoing are more than filled with a greatly increased percentage of the rising generation, and that during the past three years the percentage of illegitimacy among children committed to the State Public School at Owntonnn—the state's home-finding institution—has increased from 9 to 19 per cent of all children admitted.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS RENEWED.

The State Board of Visitors in previous reports has made a number of recommendations which it believes are still timely, and as yet have not been given legislative consideration.

**Transportation Nurses for the Insane.**—We recommend the establishment of a corps of transportation nurses of both sexes, in number as found necessary, distributed among the three state hospitals for the insane—at St. Peter, Rochester, and Fergus Falls—who are trained and experienced in the handling of the insane; that their duty shall be the transportation of insane patients from the place of commitment to the respective state hospitals. At present, patients are taken from the place of commitment by the sheriff or deputies. The sheriff is an official whose duty is the handling

of criminals and not those who are mentally afflicted. The transportation of insane patients could be much better accomplished by experienced nurses connected with the state hospitals, and much more to the satisfaction of relatives and friends of patients as well as such patients themselves as are able to realize in whose charge they are placed.

**Medical Certificates a Requirement for Marriage.**—Marriage of the physically and mentally unfit has done much toward bringing crime and suffering into the world as well as the filling of state institutions. Prevention of, is far better than provision for, defectives of all sorts. We remain blind to their multiplication while we annually spend thousands for their care and maintenance. Eugenics is not a fad of the fanatic, but a reasonable and essential science that would apply reasonable regulations for the betterment of the human race. Why use less reason in considering the needs of society than we do in the breeding of livestock? We recommend a law requiring a medical certificate of physical and mental fitness on the part of both contracting parties as the essential for the issuance of a marriage license.

**County Trustee for the Insane.**—We are aware there is a law providing for appointment of a guardian for the individual who is declared insane, but there is not infrequently considerable loss of valuable time between the date of the making of the patient into custody and the formal assumption of charge of the patient's property by the guardian. In some instances entire farm crops have been lost as a result. In others, scheming relatives have interfered to secure certain property for themselves. We therefore recommend a law providing for a county trustee for the property of those declared insane in each county, such trustee to be under sufficient bond to protect all property in his custody; that where an insane patient has property, that automatically it shall come under the care of the county trustee until such time as a guardian is duly appointed.

**Recognition of State Hospital Nurse Graduates.**—Graduates of State Hospital for the Insane nurses training courses are refused registration by the State Board of Examiners for Nurses, except in cases where individual examinations are taken; and a year extra training in some general hospital is required. We are of the same opinion as we were two years ago when we brought this matter to public attention in our report at that time, and the situation seems to be unchanged. Our State Hospitals are apparently the only large hospitals where the diplomas of nurse graduates are not recognized as sufficient evidence of qualifications to secure registration, which means so much to a professional nurse. We suggest it is most important that the state hospital superintendents, the Board of Control, and the Board of Examiners for Nurses have a conference and agree on fair requirements in state hospital courses whereby state graduates may at once secure the coveted state registration. After the establishment of proper, uniform courses for nurses at state hospitals we believe legislation should be enacted if necessary, to give the state graduates right automatically, without an additional year's work elsewhere, to demand registration. Although state hospital nurses do not get as extensive experience in general disease cases and surgery cases as young women in training in general hospitals, they receive in the opinion of our hospital superintendents and doctors, sufficient



experience in the sick wards and operating rooms to become thoroughly efficient; and in addition, they are expert in the handling of mental cases, a line of training which nurses in general hospitals know little or nothing about. Existing conditions do not look like a square deal to the graduating nurses of our state institutions. It does not seem right that state graduate nurses should be the only graduate nurses who are refused white recognition.

#### ST. PETER STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

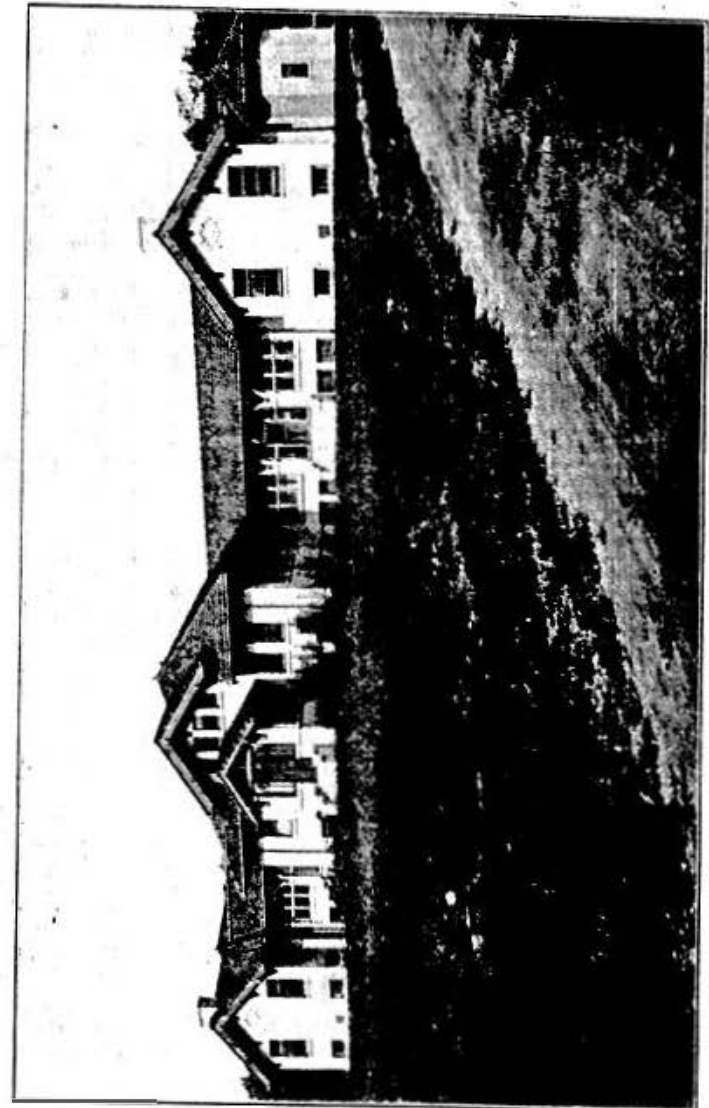
On our last visit to St. Peter State Hospital (December 1, 1920) it had a population of 1,324 patients—747 male, 577 female—and 216 employees—149 male, 66 female. Because of a shortage of women nurses, advantage had to be taken of the emergency clause in the state eight-hour law, and 45 nurses were working overtime doing the work that is equivalent to 60 on an eight-hour schedule. The 60 men attendants for the insane were a sufficient quota so that overtime work was not necessary.

The patient population on December 1st. was 64 less than at the end of the 1919 fiscal year (June 30), and 68 less than at the close of the fiscal year 1918. Dr. R. M. Phelps is superintendent. We have found the institution in excellent condition on several visits and believe the patients have every attention, care and consideration.

It is interesting to note that during the past biennial period, seven different doctors were employed and withdrew from the institution, some resigning to enter military service, others to accept more attractive positions. A number of new benches are needed and some of the old portions of the institution should be modernized by fireproofing.

#### DAINGEROUS INSANE.

The State Asylum for Dangerous Insane is located on the St. Peter State Hospital grounds. On December 1st last, its population had increased to 91. The new wing which was not occupied for some time after completion through delay in furnishing, makes the capacity now 150—double what it formerly was. Because of the small population compared with capacity, only part of the building first constructed is now used. We recommend the removal of all dangerous insane to this institution. Some patients who originally came from the state prison are at other state hospitals, notably some 15 at Fergus Falls. Many of the dangerous insane are capable of doing industrial work, but because of the danger of supplying them with knives and tools, most of them remain unoccupied. We suggest that possibly looms might be placed in the institution, and also a basement paint shop established where painting, varnishing, and refashioning of furniture, etc., might be carried on. Quite a number of these men would then find helpful employment.



TUBERCULOSIS BUILDING, STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, ST. PETER

### STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

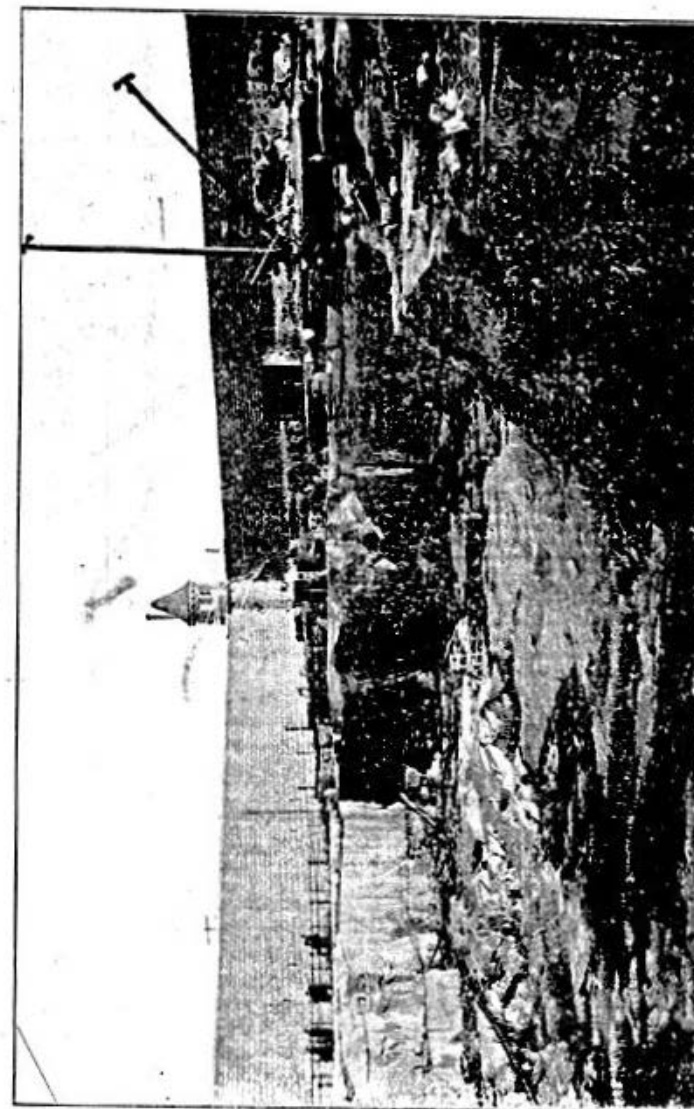
Dr. James J. Dow, for so many years the esteemed superintendent of the State School for the Blind at Fairbault, resigned June 30, 1920. We understand Dr. Dow is now making his home at Northfield, enjoying a well earned rest, and that literary pursuits are occupying his attention. Dr. Dow has a host of friends who wish him every blessing deserved by one who has done so much to bring sunshine into the hearts of the blind and who has taught senses to have new hope and become independent in spite of their affliction. He is succeeded as superintendent by Miss Julia F. Dow, his sister, and for so many years his able aid at the school. On our last visit (December 8th) we found the institution in excellent condition and believe the selection of Miss Dow a most happy one. Various vocations are taught as well as the ordinary school subjects. New vocational department equipment is needed and requested through the Board of Control's report to the legislature; which requests we hope will be granted. We have found the blind children well cared for and ably instructed. Their happy faces indicate the kind treatment they receive, and Miss Dow is making the school as much a real "home" as possible.

### THE STATE REFORMATORY.

Our last visit to the State Reformatory at St. Cloud, previous to preparation of this report, was December 16th last. Mr. H. K. W. Scott resigned as superintendent April 24, 1920. Mr. J. J. Casey was acting superintendent until July 1st last, when Mr. Charles E. Vasily, formerly member of the State Board of Control, took charge of the institution. In our report to the governor of our December 16th visit, this Board states:

"When Mr. Charles E. Vasily withdrew from membership on the State Board of Control to become superintendent of the State Reformatory at St. Cloud, the State Board of Visitors took pleasure in adopting resolutions expressing appreciation of his services, and stating that although he was leaving the Board of Control the state was still fortunate in retaining him as head of the St. Cloud institution where his capabilities assured his further success. A thorough inspection of the Reformatory made December 10, 1920, conclusively demonstrated the truth of our prediction. He has already introduced commendable betterments, apparently won the regard and esteem of the inmates (this we ascertained through conversation with a number of the prisoners) and at the same time retains the necessary strict discipline and unquestioning obedience of those who are really fortunate to be under his care."

By rearrangement of the feed car trackage, Mr. Vasily plans to materially increase the output of the institution's rock crusher. Up to the time of his going to the Reformatory, the crushed rock was sold for \$1.35 a ton. After a conference with the state highway commission, he has succeeded in



GRANITE QUARRY, INSIDE THE WALL (in Background), AT THE STATE REFORMATORY, ST. CLOUD



having them agree to pay the prevailing market price of \$2.15 to \$2.40 a ton, thus changing the industry from one that was losing 50 to 60 cents a ton for the stone, into a profitable business.

In the new Block E building, the wood working industry is located which now makes sash, doors, and blinds for all state institutions. Mr. Vasily plans to add the manufacture of plain furniture such as is needed at St. Cloud and other institutions.

The reformatory has 1,400 acres of land, but it is largely only good for pasture. But 420 acres are tillable. Mr. Vasily advocates the purchase of additional agricultural land, both as profitable for the institution and supplying excellent healthful work for inmates. An additional vocational department he has in view is the establishment of an automobile repair shop. A large number of men are still engaged in stone working, some in the quarry where the amount of stone in sight still seems unlimited; some in the round-house engaged in trimming and shaping blocks. The blacksmith shop sharpens some 2,000 tools a day used in the stone industry. The tailorshop has been commendably developed and here not only suits are made for inmates, but children's suits, rompers, shirts, and all overalls used at state institutions. The output of the shop is worth \$60,000 a year.

The institution school is located in basement rooms which are of fair size, but poorly lighted. The work includes graded subjects, classes in mechanical drawing and electrical engineering. During the past biennial period 103 were graduated. One young man was to be released in January to permit him to attend the engineering college of the state university. In the opinion of the superintendent, the school has one drawback. The only teachers are those young men of previous education selected from among the prisoners. He believes the work of education important enough to be worthy of employment of teachers who are trained and particularly fitted for the subjects they teach. We are of the opinion he is right, and this is done at reformatories of other states. Inmates are, as they desire, permitted to take special correspondence courses. A chautauqua circle is accomplishing helpful results. Religious services and Bible classes are conducted weekly with large attendance, although not compulsory.

Mr. Vasily gives the inmates frequent helpful talks and each inmate is free at any time to request a personal conference. In the month previous to our last visit, the superintendent conducted 200 such private conferences, a most helpful work in reformation of the individual and setting his mind at ease.

In the laundry a man is kept busy at a sewing machine taking old socks which have been worn out, and making mittens out of the upper portions. As in the handling of stone many mittens are used, this item is quite a little saving and "pick-up."

Among inventions the new superintendent has introduced, is permitting the prisoners to talk at meal hours. He first explained to them that if the privilege were granted, it must not be abused. The result is accordingly satisfactory. He has also instituted a "community sing" each Sunday evening which the inmates greatly enjoy.

We find the discipline in the institution excellent, the prisoners well fed, well cured for and kindly treated. They understand they are there for punishment as well as reformation, but from talks with many of them we gather they are satisfied they are getting a "square deal."

The population which went down during the war, is again climbing, a result of the general wave of crime which has swept over the country. At the close of the last fiscal year (June 30, 1920) the population of prisoners was 413. On December 16th it was 461. The capacity of the institution is 554.

#### FERGUS FALLS STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

The Fergus Falls State Hospital for the Insane has decidedly the most disturbed class of patients of any hospital in the state. Thus their care presents an unusually hard problem which, however, is in excellent hands under the supervision of Dr. George C. Welch.

Shortage of help has compelled this hospital to work its attendants nine hours a day, taking advantage of the emergency clause in the eight-hour law. The employees are of course given proportionate increase in pay and there is no complaint whatsoever on their part.

In the treatment of epileptics, a comparatively new medicine is being used with great success. For this Superintendent Welch gives the credit to Dr. W. L. Patterson, assistant superintendent. Lumnal is given in grain and a half doses with surprising results. In practically every case it materially reduces the number of epileptic seizures, and in some instances seems to do away with them altogether. Before the war, lumnal was only to be had from Germany, but is now made in the United States. We understand word of the success of lumnal has been sent to the State Colony for Epileptics, Faribault, that it may be tried there. Lumnal is not looked upon as a cure for epilepsy but as an aid in reducing the number and severity of seizures.

On our last visit to Fergus Falls (December 15, 1920) in third northeast men's ward we found twelve patients who at one time were prisoners at Stillwater Penitentiary, and were told there were several others in different wards. A special eye had to be kept on these men for fear they might "start something." We recommend they be transferred to the Asylum for Dangerous Insane at St. Peter where there is plenty of room for them, and that all insane patients in state hospitals who came originally from Stillwater, be also sent to the St. Peter institution which was especially established for their housing.

Through Mr. Andrews, steward, the institution recently undertook a contract to clear a 20-acre wooded tract near the institution in return for which the institution was to have the cord wood without charge. About 200 cords of wood is thus secured through inmate labor, worth about \$2,000 a cord.

A successful exhibition in marching patients was a preliminary to getting them to take up industrial work has been conducted recently at this hospital by Miss Bradley, industrial teacher. She first tried getting some of the worst patients in the women's wards to march for forty-five minutes each day. At the beginning but a very few would follow her suggestions. Then she took other patients and led them around until many of them fell in marching line of their own accord. This daily exercise seemed to materially awaken latent vitality and it wasn't long before Miss Bradley had patients at sewing and other industrial work who had previously been considered hopeless along these lines. Miss Bradley is setting an example at Fergus Falls certainly worthy of exemplification in other institutions for the insane.

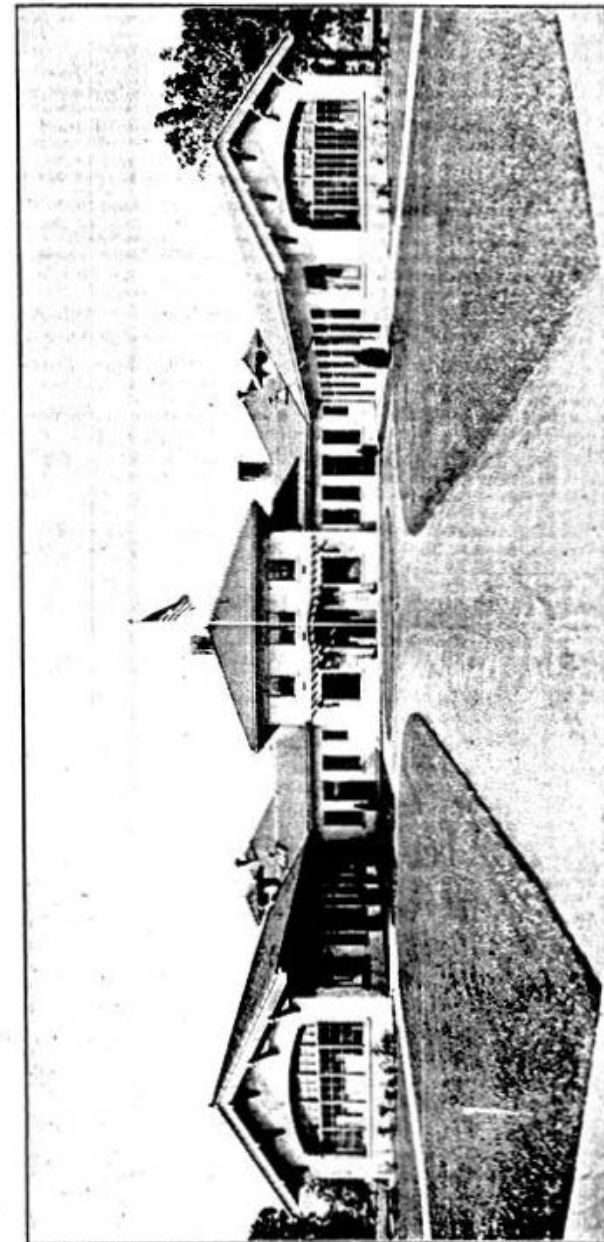
It is of interest that the patient population here (and well as it being the case in other institutions for the insane) is considerably below the maximum of former years. On December 15, 1920, there were 738 men compared with a past maximum of 960; and 735 women compared with a previous maximum of 760. Just why the men patients have decreased so much more than the number of women patients, is something of a problem. General opinion of those interested seems to be that the closing of saloons and shutting off of the sale of liquor has considerable to do with it.

The men's tuberculosis ward had 45 patients the day of our last visit. These patients are apparently well cared for and have proper attention, but as noted in our report to the legislature two years ago the large "T. B." ward is connected with another ward of well patients by means of a hall, off which is the wash and toilet room used in common. An appropriation of \$45,000.00 was granted in 1919 for a new "T. B." building, a wing to connect with the present ward. But when bids were called for, it was found the lowest bid was nearly twice the amount of the appropriation. Dr. Welch, superintendent, now asks the legislature for \$20,000.00 for the desired new "T. B." building, such sum to be in addition to the \$45,000.00 granted two years ago. We believe for the proper protection of well patients, the new building is a real need.

We have always found the Fergus Falls hospital in cleanly, good condition and believe that under Dr. Welch patients are kindly treated, well fed, and given every consideration possible. After detailed inspection of this big institution, we have only commendation for its management in all departments.

#### STATE HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN.

Through the dark clouds of children's tribulations, the sun ever shines in the smiling faces of the little patients at the State Hospital for Crippled Children, Phalen Park, St. Paul. On the day of our last visit previous to preparation of this report (November 13, 1920) there were 146 little patients, 70 boys, 76 girls; with 65 employees, 6 men, 59 women. The new wing of the institution has recently been opened and was immediately filled with about



STATE HOSPITAL FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN, PHALEN PARK, ST. PAUL

100 patients who had been on the waiting list. We have ever found this hospital, (Miss Elizabeth McGregor, superintendent), spotlessly clean and attractive, the children excellently cared for, well fed, and happy. A staff of thirty-eight specialists in various lines, with Dr. Gillette chief-of-staff, is in charge of the work—and wonderful things are accomplished. Formerly, photos were taken of each case before and after treatment. Now plaster casts are used instead, and are much more valuable for clinic purposes. A state university clinic is held every Thursday. The staff doctors one and all donate their services to the institution and too much cannot be said in their behalf. Money could not buy better care or more skilled treatment than these little words of the state receive without a cent of charge.

Two teachers are employed, one for bed patients, the other for those able to go to the little school room. Instruction includes industrial work. There are six trained nurses, and a class of 21 young ladies in the care-takers training class, a two-year course.

#### WALKER STATE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES.

The State Sanatorium for Consumptives is located near Walker, on high ground overlooking an arm of Torch Lake. Dr. P. M. Hall is the superintendent and assuredly has the esteem and regard of all patients under his charge as well as the employees. At the close of the 1920 fiscal year the patient population numbered 213.

A word of warning seems essential relative to the sending of patients in advanced stages of tuberculosis to Walker. The institution was established for the indigent and hopeful cases. But frequently patients arrive for whom little can be done. These advanced cases arrive exhausted from the long trip to this most northerly of our state institutions, and for this reason are generally allowed to remain as the return trip would probably be followed by very serious consequences.

It is to be expected that with patients who are compelled to remain quiet with nothing to do for a number of months, far from their own homes, that more or less restlessness will result. Accordingly we have had some complaints which we have in each instance carefully investigated, but none of these during the past biennium have cast any just reflection against the institution management. We believe that Dr. Hall is doing everything possible to ease the condition and arrest the disease of his patients, and to bring as much sunshine as possible into their lives. They are well fed, have good attention by nurses, and proper medical attention. Friends and relatives of patients make a mistake in trying to get patients home after a short stay in the institution. For an arrest of tuberculosis a long stay of many months is very essential.

Extension of the underground heating system to all but two cottages has been accomplished and the previous danger eliminated of fire from the wood stoves which were formerly used. We recommend the extension of the steam pipes to the remaining two cottages as soon as possible.



MAIN BUILDING, STATE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES,  
WALKER

Occupational therapy has been introduced by Miss Beatrice Lindberg of the staff of the State Advisory Commission, and continued under direction of an ex-patient. We would recommend the extension of this industrial work as much as possible as it materially aids to eliminate the loneliness and homesickness which patients find it so hard to fight. Basket work is the most popular and many of the patients have become very skillful.

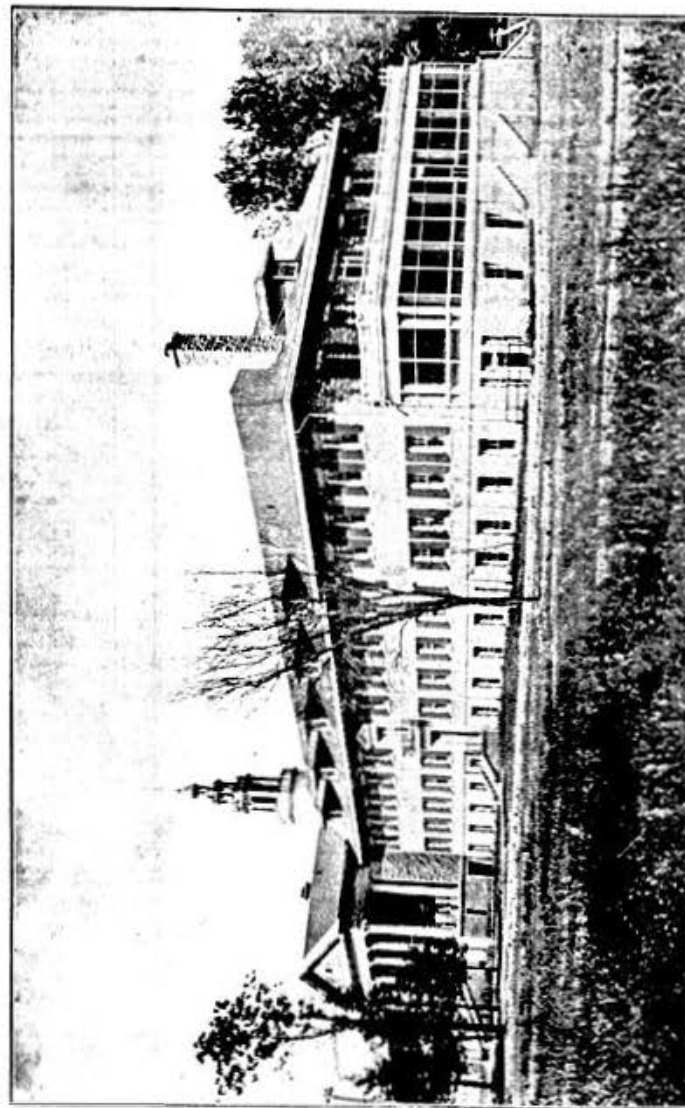
A nurses' home is needed and requested by Dr. Hall. Their quarters at present are inadequate and as the institution is in a lonely spot, it is hard to keep good help unless they have more home-like accommodations.

#### STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

The State School for the Deaf is located at Fridbnhl, where it has accomplished a great work for many years under direction of Supt. J. N. Tate. During our last visit (December 8, 1920) the student enrollment was 261—of whom 143 were boys and 117 girls. There were 85 employes and teachers, 29 men, 56 women.

Two-thirds of the time of the students is devoted to regular courses of study taught in the public schools; one-third of their time to vocational training. Repeated visits to the school rooms established the belief that the school is very efficient in its work and methods used seem to secure more rapid results than those of the public schools for normal children. This is a remarkable showing. In addition to the usual school work, the children are taught to speak and lip-reading. We have only commendation for the institution under Dr. Tate's management. The boys are housed in Farron Hall, a rather old-fashioned building, but with large airy dormitories, comfortable cots, and a very efficient matron in charge. The girls have their rooms on the second floor of Tate Hall, the fine new main building and could not be more nicely situated.

Disposition of Mott Hall, the old main building, remains a problem. It may be fittingly described as a stately old ruin. The walls are of heavy cut stone and still in good condition. But the interior has fallen into a decay beyond repair. The only portions of the building in use are the old main dining hall on the first floor, and the kitchen and adjoining store-rooms in the basement. The building is overrun with rats which do much damage to the supplies. An efficient matron who came 500 miles last year to accept the position, took one look at the dark, uninviting kitchen and its surroundings, and left. A second matron in charge of the kitchen also left before the school year was over. In addition to new kitchen, store rooms, and dining hall, there is need of an emergency hospital, additional study rooms, and a drill hall. There is no drill hall at all at present. Dr. Tate, after consulting with the Board of Control, suggests Mott Hall be wrecked, but the stone of the walls be used in the construction of a new building to accommodate the needed new departments—kitchen, supply rooms, dining hall, emergency hospital (there is no place at present for contagious disease cases), additional study rooms, and drill hall. The financial estimates for the desired changes are made in the legislative report of the State Board of Control.



TATE HALL AT STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

The industrial building, containing departments of wood working, printing, millinery, etc., is a firetrap. It has brick walls, but is of old frame interior construction with narrow wood stairs. When legislative chances will permit, it should be replaced with a new and more adequate building.

#### OWATONNA STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The State Public School at Owatonna is primarily a home-finding institution for dependent children. In its operation under Supt. Glen A. Merrill. It has proved most efficient these many years, much more so we believe than the several semi-public organizations located elsewhere that do a similar work, as it is so very much larger, much better equipped, and has a most efficient field force covering the entire state.

We have ever found this institution in excellent condition, the children well fed and clothed, and "mothered" in family groups in the various cottages with a matron in charge of each. Activity of the children's welfare bureau has resulted in a material increase in population, which has averaged 338 the past fiscal year. The indications are for a still more extensive growth and the school is already more than filled (capacity, 282). A new hospital building is requested of the legislature. If this is granted, the present hospital cottage can be used for additional children. An appropriation of \$45,000 was allowed for a new hospital two years ago, but was not constructed as the lowest bid was nearly twice the appropriation.

Superintendent Merrill says an additional field agent is needed, a woman. As there are between 1,200 and 1,300 children to be visited in homes scattered throughout the state, this work is very essential.

It is regrettable to find that during the past three years, the percentage of illegitimate children received has increased from 9 to 19 per cent. This is in part accounted for by increased activities of juvenile courts, the state children's bureau and the county boards. But it probably also reflects the wave of misdoings which seems to have swept throughout the country. Mr. Merrill reports no heretofore increase in incorrigibility of children committed to the care of his institution.

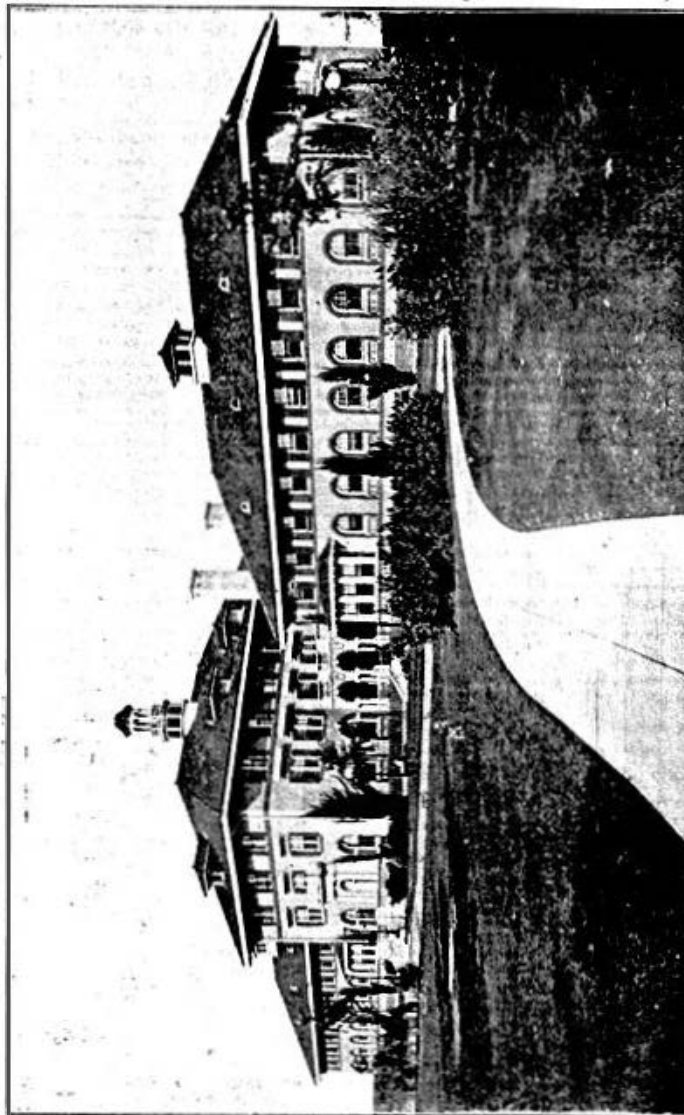
#### WILLMAR STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE.

The State Asylum at Willmar is the newest state institution for the insane. Dr. George H. Freeman is the capable superintendent in charge. The institution was opened originally in 1913 as a hospital for inebriates, but in 1917 was changed into an asylum with an inebriate ward remaining. Lack of patients makes this ward unnecessary for such use, and the institution has become as a matter of fact entirely an institution for the insane. Two new cottages for the insane were completed early in the past biennial



STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL, OWATONNA





MAIN BUILDING, STATE HOSPITAL FOR INEBRIATES, WILLMAR

period, and cottages 2 and 3, to house the insane women patients, are practically ready for occupancy at this time. The new buildings have permitted the population to be increased from 172 at the close of the 1919 fiscal year, to 268 at the end of 1920 (June 30th). The increase in capacity makes more pressing the need of fully completing the new service building, for which we understand an additional appropriation of \$17,000 is asked. This building includes an assembly hall.

On our last visit we found the institution in fine condition, and have every confidence that Dr. Froeman is taking excellent care of the ever-increasing number of patients under his care.

#### HASTINGS STATE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

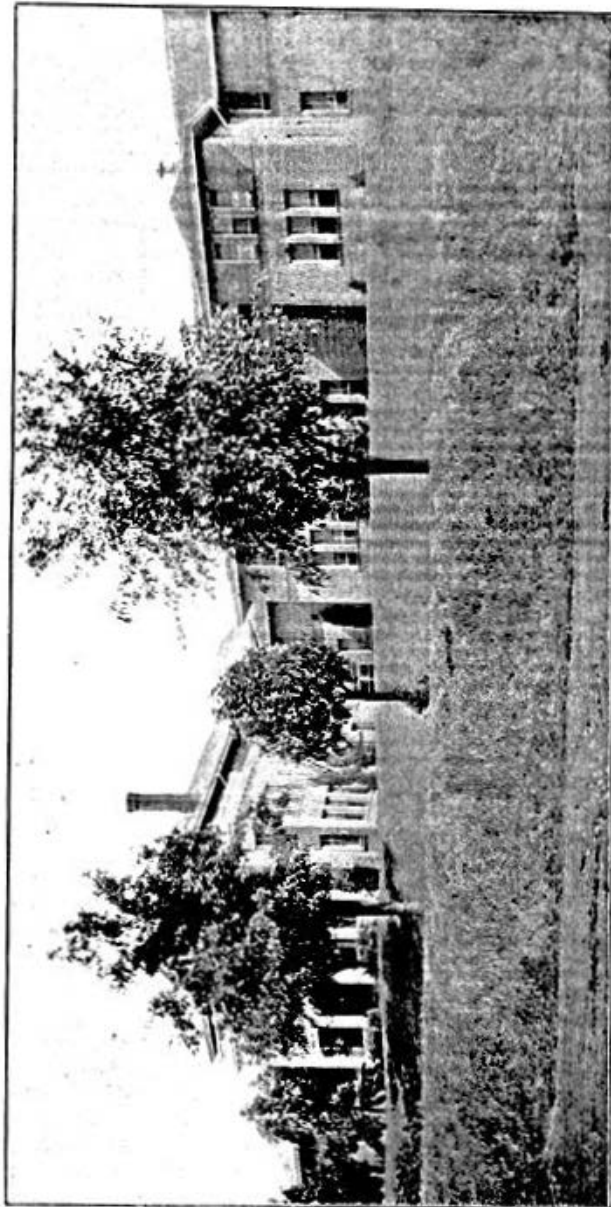
Our latest visit to the Hastings State Asylum for Insane was November 16, 1920. It was with pleasure in our report of that inspection that we congratulated Supt. Wm. J. Yanz on the fine condition of the institution in every building and department. With a population of 875 the day of our visit, the institution was well filled but its accommodations are not overcrowded. We have to report everything clean, neat, and orderly. In the various cottages, each building is now in charge of a man and wife. The arrangement is very satisfactory and changes in help are much less frequent than formerly. Food supplies have been carefully inspected on each visit and found excellent. The cooking is good, and patients given plenty of wholesome food. Mr. Yanz is asking for a chapel and assembly hall building which the institution now lacks.

#### ANOKA STATE ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

Mr. John Coleman, the esteemed and able superintendent of the Anoka State Asylum for the Insane, has for many years been noted for his economical business management of his institution which he accomplishes without stinting patients or infringing on their care or needs. He was able to finish the last fiscal year with a substantial sum left over. This he accomplishes largely by personal direction of various lines of work by the men patients. Included in this the past year was much accomplished in the way of grading the grounds.

The south wing of the main building has been built over and fire-proofed, but the north wing is still in need of similar improvement. Rebuilding the south wing cost \$75,000.00. When bids were called for, for similar work on the north wing, the lowest figure was \$112,000.00. The new assembly hall fits a long-felt want and provides needed entertainment for patients. The new administration building has been recently occupied, and in addition to office space, has store room space and more adequate living quarters for the superintendent and family. The population November 15th last, was 550; 287 men, 263 women.





MAIN BUILDING, STATE ASYLUM FOR INSANE, AT HASTINGS

## FARIBAULT SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE MINDED.

The State School for Feeble Minded at Faribault is the state's largest institution, and is in charge of Supr. Guy C. Hanna, who has proved a most able executive whose ability is fully appreciated by all those who have had anything to do with supervision of the school. During the past biennial period we have had several special investigations but in each case the findings have in no way reflected any discredit on the management.

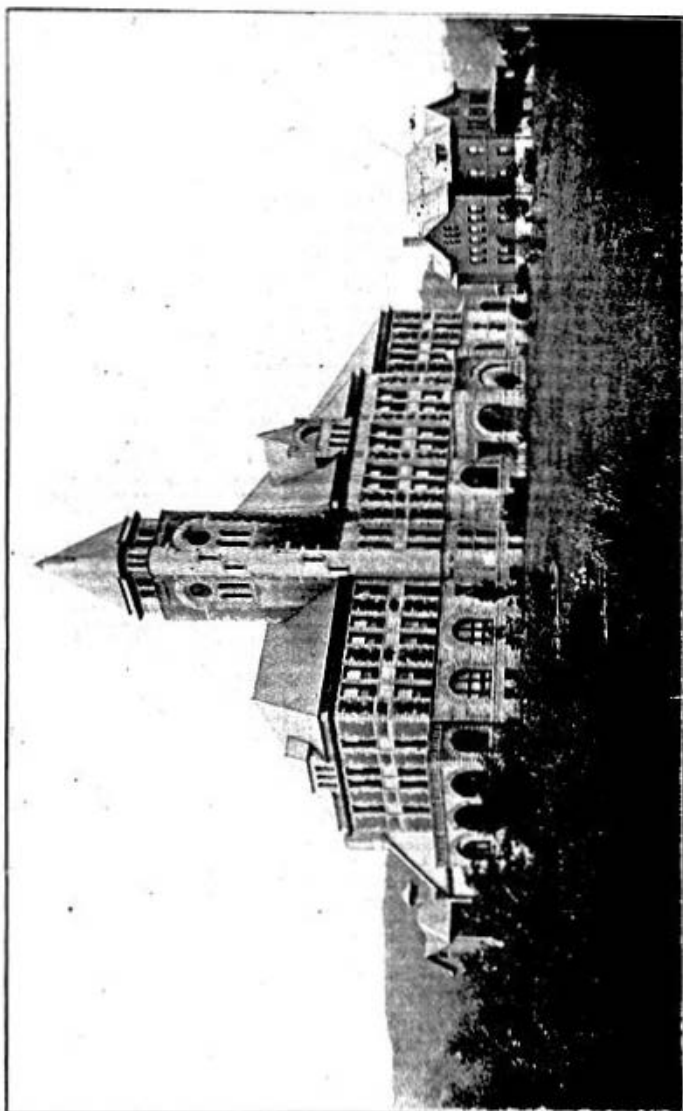
At the beginning of the biennium there was a waiting list for admissions of nearly 500. This was a startling situation. Mr. Hanna has transferred non-residents and sent a number of cases to hospitals for the insane, and has permanently released a large number of inmates who seemed to have demonstrated their ability to care for themselves. A new building was also opened. Now all applicants are admitted.

It is important to note that the character of population has greatly changed. No males are being received with intelligence to do the simplest kind of labor. Most of them rank less than six years of age mentally. On the other hand, females received (15 to 25 years of age) test as high as 8 to 10 years mentally.

In connection with our recommendation elsewhere in this report for a eugenics law and a requirement of a guarantee of physical and mental fitness for marriage, this statement by Mr. Hanna has peculiar application: "Practically all of these girls are the mothers of illegitimate children and have caused considerable trouble in their communities. Many of them have venereal disease."

The population of the institution at the close of the 1920 school year was 1,742. We have only commendation for all we have found on various inspections. The inmates are well fed, well housed and treated. Such children as are able to go to school are taught by a patient and efficient corps of teachers. The grounds of the institution cover 1,145 acres. With buildings, their valuation is over a million and a half dollars; and the current expense is close to half a million a year—a per capita cost of \$256.17. This is the bill to the state largely caused through years of refusal to consider in a practical way the laws of eugenics and failure to segregate at an early age all this class of unfortunates. And there seems little relief in sight under present conditions in view of Mr. Hanna's startling statement that for practically every girl received, there has been a child previously born which in all probability will develop feeble minded traits.

In reports of visits to this institution, we have from time to time called attention to some pressing needs. The exterior of the main building is of old frame construction, more or less of a fire trap, and should be fireproofed. The present assembly hall is in this building and is so arranged that it has no exits leading directly outdoors except through other halls and passage ways. No such hall would receive a license for public gatherings in any of our cities. There is also need of an ample gymnasium. These and other financial needs are presented in detail through the report of the State Board of Control.



MAIN BUILDING, BOYS' STATE TRAINING SCHOOL, RED WING

## RED WING STATE TRAINING SCHOOL.

The Board of Vision, admits a special interest in the State Training School for Boys at Red Wing. The history of the boy on the road to incorrigibility is that he is first brought up in juvenile court, probably placed on probation; then (in the larger cities) if he persists in going wrong, he is sent to a local training school; and finally, when he shows no inclination for the better, he is sent to the Training School at Red Wing. Thus the class of boys there are pretty thoroughly incorrigible. This makes the work of reformation a hard problem, but because of the great importance of turning them out good citizens and an aid instead of detriment to society, is an issue that should be squarely met with every facility granted for its accomplishment in the highest degree possible.

This is not the case at Red Wing at present. The trouble is not with Supt. J. T. Fulton, who is doing the best he can with the facilities at hand, but is because of lack of proper equipment. The population reflects the existing wave of juvenile crime by a steady increase. At the close of the fiscal year 1918, it was 246; at the close of the fiscal year 1919, 255; June 30th last it was 285; and on the day of our last visit previous to preparing this report (November 17, 1920) the population had jumped to 309. To take care of newcomers, the average stay of boys has had to be shortened to ten months. It was formerly 12 months. Superintendent Fulton thinks it should be 15 months. Family groups or companies, are composed of from 50 to 65 boys in each. Half this number is almost too many for the group officers to be enabled to have that personal touch with each boy which means so much in changing his train of thought, remodeling his character, and establishing the individual nucleus of good citizenship. But there are not enough cottages for the making of additional companies, nor is there maintenance money to employ the additional officers. The state does but a fractional part of its duty when it makes these boys little more than custodial wards. And if a desired percentage of boys does not make good, under existing conditions the school management should not receive the blame, but the lack of character-remoulding facilities.

In the Training School's financial budget submitted through the State Board of Control, four new cottages are requested. Although we recognize this is a period when every financial retrenchment is desired by the legislature, it would seem the investment necessary is one that should give good returns—not only in the reformation of the boy but in the elimination of the actual cost created to both county and state by the unreformed criminal. There is also the matter of moral duty and responsibility on the part of the state in considering the welfare of those it has of necessity deprived of their liberty.

Superintendent Fulton has established a man and wife in charge of each company, and reports the experiment very satisfactory. We believe he is making the best of conditions as they are and hope with him that the legislature in its wisdom will better provide for the needs of the institution.

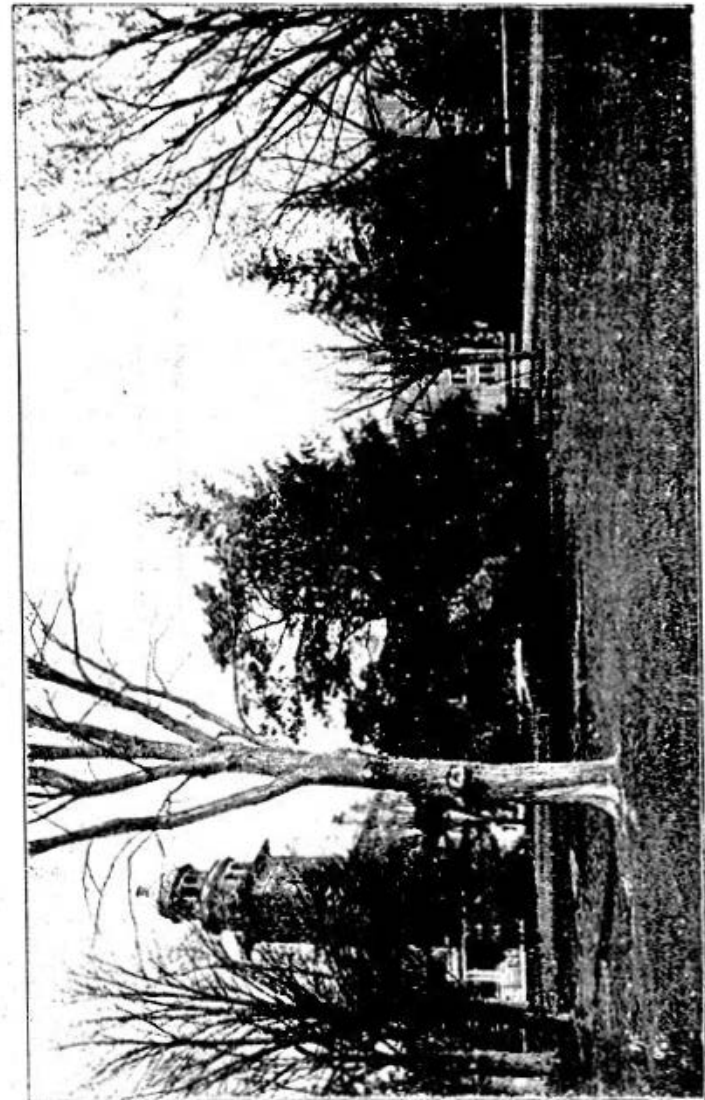
On December 21st we were called to the Red Wing Training School to investigate the death of Edwin Holt, 15, of Duluth, boy inmate, who had been fatally stabbed the previous morning by Isadore Rosenfeldt, 13, of St. Paul, another boy inmate. These two, with a third boy, were working in the so-called potato room adjoining the kitchen. After some words, the Rosenfeldt boy stabbed Holt in the chest, below the left shoulder and over the heart, the wound proving fatal a few minutes later. In a confession secured from Rosenfeldt by Senator W. A. Nolan, president of the Board of Visitors, the boy claimed Holt was threatening him with a cleaver. John McLeod, 17, in the potato room at the time of the stabbing, testified at the coroner's inquest that Holt had laid down the cleaver when Rosenfeldt stabbed Holt. On December 30th last, at the preliminary hearing in the juvenile (probate) court at Red Wing, the case was continued for three weeks with the understanding that the Board of Control would arrange for an examination of Rosenfeldt as to his mental responsibility. The boy was later found to be mentally unbalanced and committed to the State Hospital for Dangerous Inmate at St. Peter. The father's history is said to indicate two spells of insanity, one 20 years ago and one two years ago; also, the officer of the school company to which Rosenfeldt belonged reports the boy to have had two seizures. These he termed "fits" and were possibly epileptic attacks.

In view of the fact that a large number of the boys sent to Red Wing are subnormal and mentally deficient, and that many of the boys are guilty of as serious crimes as are found charged against prisoners of the penitentiary, we would recommend that every boy admitted to the State Training School be given a mental as well as a physical examination on his reception at the institution; and that for this purpose, a psychopathic department be established in one of the new cottages which we hope will be granted for the School, and further, that this cottage be used as a receiving cottage wherein all new arrivals shall be placed and held until it may be definitely determined what is their mental, moral, and physical makeup that they may then be properly assigned to where they belong.

#### ROCHESTER STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

Rochester State Hospital for the Insane always presents a most attractive appearance. It has beautiful grounds, and the wards and halls within the institution are always brightened with potted plants and flowers. We have found the inmates well fed and housed, and kindly treated. Here, as in the other state hospitals, there is found a slight decrease in population. At the end of the 1919 fiscal year there were 1,425 patients; at the end of 1920, 1,276.

Dr. A. E. Kilbourne, the esteemed superintendent, during the past year entered into a contract for the institution with the Kahler Corporation (behind which are the Dr. Mayo) which is worthy of special note. The corporation subletted \$35,000.00 for the establishment of a rock crushing plant at a quarry on institution land. The corporation purchases crushed



VIEW OF GROUNDS AT STATE HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, ROCHESTER (MAIN BUILDING IN BACKGROUND)

rock, which is supplied, abides on the original indebtedness. Since September when the crusher began to operate, it has turned out over \$1,000.00 worth of product. At this rate, it will soon pay for itself and begin to be a good source of income to the institution. Only two paid foremen are needed, and are aided by the work of forty patients.

In his annual report, Dr. Kilbourn calls attention that the present law provides for turning patients for a period of but six months. As in many cases it is desirable to extend this parole, he suggests an amendment be enacted to extend the parole period to one year when desired.

### MINNESOTA STATE PRISON.

Minnesotans are justly proud of the State Prison at Stillwater, which is unequalled throughout the country in many respects. There is also reason for congratulation that its population of prisoners has gradually but steadily decreased from a maximum of 1,131 at the close of the fiscal year 1914, to but 755 on December 11, 1920. Its equipment is all that could be asked and that money can supply. The discipline is excellent. That it is a financial success is well known, and demonstrated by the following comparative figures:

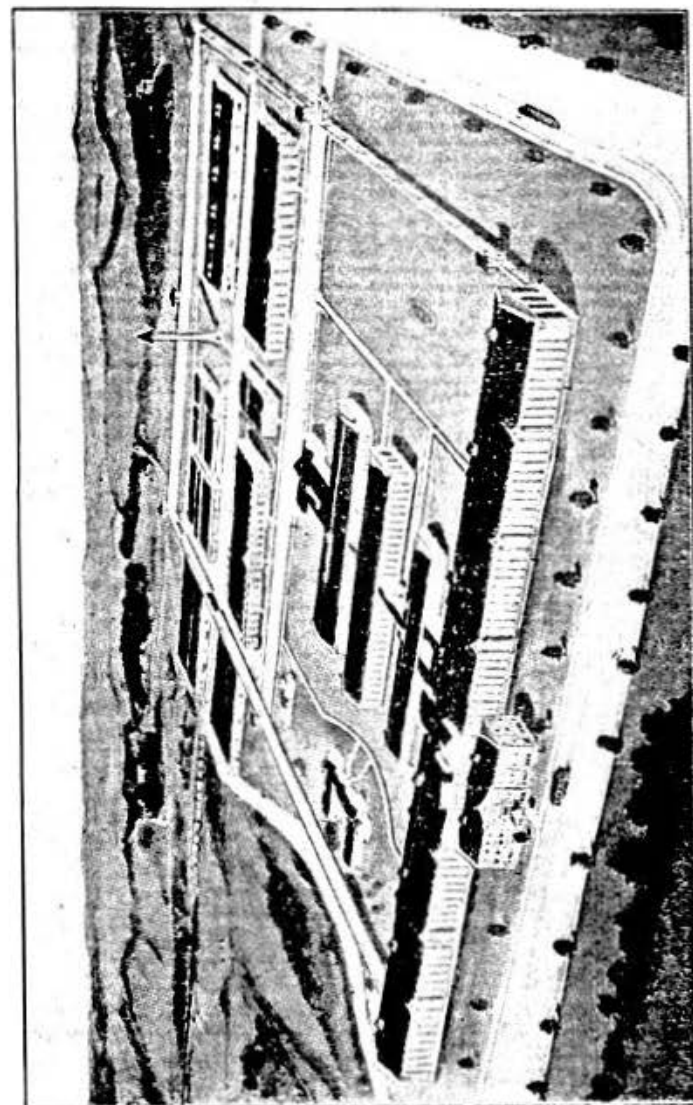
Year.	Expense Per Capita.	Excess Earnings Over Expenses.	Earnings Per Capita.
1917.....	\$396.39	\$326.06	\$622.45
1918.....	320.46	566.14	836.60
1919.....	368.10	523.26	806.66

Of the 755 prisoners in the institution December 11th last, 271 were employed in the twine factory, 234 in the various departments of the farm machinery industry; 28 in the laundry; 10 in the tailor shop; 6 in the print shop; 7 on the farm (not more being needed this late in the year on farm work); and the remainder are employed in the kitchens, cell houses, and various other kinds of work.

Warden Chas. S. Reed resigned June 30, 1920, and was succeeded by John J. Sullivan who for so many years had been the efficient chief deputy. In response to inquiry from the Board of Visitors, a letter from Warden Sullivan states:

"Prisoners are placed at work for which they are best fitted and are changed about more or less as they develop in efficiency or as other occasion demands, and only very rarely do they remain at the same work throughout their stay here. In some instances inmates do work in the twine department practically throughout their whole terms, but never at the same job. They are changed about. The same thing is true of our farm machinery department. All prisoners are required to work eight hours a day."

We want to keep the Minnesota prison a model institution, always in the lead, always progressive. The purpose of a modern penitentiary is not



SHOWING GENERAL PLAN OF STATE PRISON AT STILLWATER

merely punishment along with good custodial care, but reformation of the prisoner as far as possible that he may be returned to society a good citizen; and with this intent, while he is a prisoner he should be engaged in some trade or line of endeavor in which he may become skilled and thus equipped to earn a good living on his eventual release without having to resort to former criminal acts. The twine plant is a good financial proposition for the state; it is a good thing for the Minnesota farmers who secure excellent twine below so-called trust prices; but the work in the prison plant teaches the prisoner no trade which will aid him when discharged. And after all, shouldn't the prison aim at the betterment and remaking of the men in its custody rather than for financial profit of the institution or those who use its manufactured product?

With the above in view, we would respectfully recommend that men with short terms be placed in other departments where they may learn trades which will help them later to earn honest livings, and that as much as possible long-time inmates be placed in the twine factory, but changed into other lines in time to permit them to become efficient tradesmen before their respective discharges. The farm machinery plant, tailor shop, printing plant, even the laundry and the farm, give more opportunities for the prisoner to learn how to better help himself when he leaves the institution behind.

Prisoners earn wages for themselves which, in all departments, average .4016 cents per day. In the farm machinery plant the average wage is .47; in the twine factor, .376 cents; and in other departments, such as the support department, .363 cents. Total wages to prisoners the past biennial period was \$188,077.33.

It is the proud claim of the state of Minnesota, that no family is in want and no child out of school because the family bread winner is in prison. This is accomplished through payment of a pension by the state to each family as the special need demands. These pensions run from \$5.00 to \$35.00 per month per family. For the month of November, 1920, these pensions totaled \$1,194.59.

As to recreation for prisoners, inmates are permitted to talk three hours each week in the dining room, and have three to five hours to themselves each evening during which time they are permitted to smoke, read, etc., in their cells. Every Saturday afternoon, weather permitting, the prisoners are given the freedom of the yard and have the privilege of talking, playing baseball, and indulging in other sports and exercise. On all holidays, the same privilege is granted, weather permitting, but in case it is stormy, prisoners are given permission to talk in the cell house and some slight entertainment is provided. Motion picture shows are given once each week and on holidays when other entertainment is not arranged.

Thus there is considerable let-up to the monotony and strain of prison life. Yet, there seems to be a steady increase in the number and percentage of men each year who become insane in the institution. Just why, is a problem deserving of study and investigation. The following statistics taken from a series of biennial reports of the Prison, are of interest as bearing on this matter:

Population.	Number of Insane.
690 Year ending July 31, 1916.....	26
665 Year ending July 31, 1918.....	20
706 Year ending July 31, 1919.....	17
761 Year ending July 31, 1920.....	31
1,100 Year ending July 31, 1921.....	31
1,063 Year ending July 31, 1922.....	49
900 Year ending July 31, 1923.....	70
860 Year ending July 31, 1924.....	53

The above figures are not very definite in their meaning in the prison reports. For the first three sets of figures quoted, the heading is "Insane Under Treatment"; for the remainder of the reports the heading is, "Insane received for treatment." During the past fiscal year, 21 prisoners have been transferred to the Asylum for Dangerous Insane at St. Peter and thus doubtless are not included in the above figures. Taking everything into consideration, however, it seems apparent that the matter of insanity deserves attention with whatever action is deemed best for a decrease in future insanity among prisoners.

This matter is not called to attention in this report with any intent to insinuate prisoners are suffering from abuse. From our various visits and our knowledge of those in charge, we feel sure the contrary is the fact; that the men have every consideration under existing rules and conditions.

It is well known that mental unbalance and crime are frequently correlated; and this true, a certain percentage of convicted men may be considered "on the rugged edge" mentally when received at the institution. This true, is it not important to have not merely the usual physical, but an expert and thorough examination as to mentality in every case when the man arrives? Border-line cases could then be given consideration as such in the assignment of their prison duties so placed that the nervous tension of combined hard work and strict discipline would not reach an undue severity in such instances and cause such individuals to become definitely and lamentably insane.

As to just what those things are which most affect border-line cases, is a problem that needs solution. Does the fact that the twine machinery is keyed up to the highest speed of any twine plant in the country create an undue mental strain? Would the more frequent changing of occupations of prisoners be a material aid along this line? The problem deserves solution to keep up the reputation of our Minnesota prison as "the best in the world."

As to food, there are probably no institution inmates in the land better fed. The supplies on investigation we have ever found excellent; the cooking is beyond criticism, the menu wholesome, abundant, and varied. But one rule is enforced relative to eating. Each man must eat what he takes at each meal, but does not have to take anything he does not want. This prevents a great deal of waste, and at the same time assures each prisoner of plenty of nourishing food.



## FINANCIAL REPORT.

The financial accounts of the State Board of Visitors are checked annually by the examiners of the department of the State Public Examiner. Detailed expense accounts are filed for each and every expenditure, and an effort has always been made to have the board function as economically as possible. The members of the Board receive no remuneration for their time and services, rendering accounts only for actual travelling expenses; nor is any further remuneration requested. The Board members are glad to be of service to the state and to donate their time and activities for this purpose.

For the past biennial period the accounts of the Board are found to balance properly with the records in the departments of the state auditor and state treasurer.

For the eleven months ending June 30, 1919 (changing of the fiscal year made this period 11 instead of the usual 12 months) the financial showing of the Board of Visitors is as follows:

## Maintenance Fund.

## RECEIPTS.

Balance August 1, 1918.....	\$1,605.50	
Appropriation section 35, chapter 48, 1917...	5,000.00	
Refund .....	85.00	
	<u>\$6,640.50</u>	
Deduction for July .....	416.66	
		<u>\$6,223.84</u>

## DISBURSEMENTS

<b>Services</b>		
Secretary's salary .....	\$1,650.00	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Travelling expenses .....	\$562.62	
Telephone and telegraph .....	86.92	
Postage .....	10.00	
	<u>659.54</u>	
<b>Supplies</b>		
Office supplies .....	\$34.51	
Printing (biennial report) .....	96.63	
	<u>181.14</u>	
Total operation and maintenance ..		\$2,520.68
<b>Equipment</b>		
Office furniture (new typewriter) .....	\$53.50	
<b>Fixed Charges and Contributions</b>		
Dues (National Prison Congress) .....	5.00	
		<u>58.50</u>
Total departmental disbursements...		<u>\$2,579.18</u>
Balance June 30, 1919 .....	\$2,039.16	
Balance June 30, 1919—canceled .....	1,605.50	
	<u>3,644.66</u>	
		<u>\$6,223.84</u>

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, the financial report is as follows:

## RECEIPTS.

Balance July 1, 1919 .....	\$2,018.80
Appropriations, chapter 462, Laws 1919 .....	5,000.00

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Salaries .....	\$2,183.25
Travelling expenses .....	1,408.86
Supplies and printing .....	63.76
Postage .....	20.00
Miscellaneous .....	314.73
Balance June 30, 1920 .....	2,908.17

The executive secretary of the Board is its only employe and the only one drawing a salary. He receives \$2,100.00 a year and has held the position ever since the Board was organized, being originally employed at \$1,500.00 a year, which salary stood for eight years. On October 1, 1919, it was increased to \$2,200.00 a year; and June 1, 1920, made an even \$2,400.00 a year. Some years ago the Board employed a stenographer who received \$750.00 a year. This work is now done by the executive secretary, so the actual salary expenditures by the Board are now actually less than they were six years ago, which we believe to be an economical showing. The secretary devotes his entire time to the service of the Board of Visitors, and keeps daily office hours at the Old State Capitol from 9:00 A. M. till 12:00 M., and 1:00 P. M. to 5:00 P. M., except when absent on institutional work or investigations.

It will be noted from the above financial report, this Board has a balance of \$2,908.17, June 30, 1920. This is the greatest saving in appropriation the Board has ever made. It is due to the fact we carried over a balance of \$2,018.80 from the previous year. We actually expended \$1,170.63. It is thus evident we need our usual appropriation of \$5,000.00 a year during the new biennial period, \$10,000.00 in all. At the end of the present fiscal year, such balance as we will have over, will revert to the general revenue fund. We ask for the usual \$10,000.00 appropriation for the biennium believing we should not be penalized for the saving we have been able to make.



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