

BIENNIAL REPORT

of the

Minnesota  
State Board of Visitors  
for Public Institutions



FOR THE YEARS  
1923—1924



Issued January, 1925

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Old State Capitol,

St. Paul, Minn., January 1, 1925.

Hon. Theodore Christjanson, Governor,

The State Capitol,

St. Paul, Minn.

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

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) REV. E. J. NYSTROM, President, Buffalo.

FRANK A. DAY, Vice President, Fairmont.

J. Q. JUENEMANN, Secretary, St. Paul.

J. R. SWANN, Madison.

B. K. SAYRE, Glenwood.

REV. L. R. S. FERGUSON, St. Paul.

J. C. MATCHITT, Executive Secretary.

Old Capitol, St. Paul.

## BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF VISITORS

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### Work and Methods of the State Board of Visitors

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The State Board of Visitors was established by act of the legislature in 1907. This law authorizes the members of the Board to visit and inspect all public institutions. It also provides that the Board is to make special investigation of all complaints, with particular regard to those filed with the Governor, and where necessary, to subpoena witnesses, place them under oath and take their sworn testimony.

The Board of Visitors operates independently. Its reports of each and every visit and inspection are required by law to be filed with the Governor, but in addition, copies of each report are filed with the Board or authority for general supervision of the institution inspected, and a copy is also sent to the superintendent of each such institution.

We believe one of the most important features of our work is the fact that each visit is made without previous notification in any way of the institution visited; we do not even telephone from the depot of the town where the institution is located, for an institution auto, and the first that the management of the institution knows of our coming, is on our entrance to the building. This is a rule which has been observed for many years, and we believe with most efficient results. It is our desire to inspect an institution as it is to be found in every day life, and not as especially prepared for an official visit.

Every room and apartment from cellar to garret in each building of the institution is carefully inspected, with complete notes taken of everything as found. These notes are later compiled in a detailed report, headed with statistics of the institution and filed as above explained.

The Board of Visitors has no legal authority for enforcing its recommendations made in reports of inspections, or of its findings resulting from special investigations of complaints, beyond the filing of our reports with the authorities in charge; but we wish to herewith acknowledge with full appreciation, the splendid cooperation received on the part of the Board of Control, the respective superintendents of the institutions visited, and the endorsement of the Governor of this state. We have worked in the greatest of harmony with institution authorities to secure the desired humanitarian ends, which are the special aim of the members of the Board of Visitors.

The name "visitors" is perhaps inadequate in explaining the scope of the work of our Board. It consists of considerably more than "visiting." All food supplies are carefully examined and tested, and special note made as to the sufficiency in the amount of food served, as well as relative to its proper preparation.

Patients, inmates, officers and employees are questioned as to methods followed, and the care of inmates. Special note is made relative to sufficiency of clothing, ventilation, diet, care and general service. Cleanliness and sanitation are always looked into. Beds in various dormitories are not infrequently taken apart to determine the sufficiency and cleanliness of bedding and mattresses, and to ascertain if vermin exists.

Investigation of dairy barns, herds and methods of handling milk, meat and perishable supplies are an important part of our inspection work.

What may be termed the "institutional atmosphere" is given due consideration, as we believe that proper care and attention of patients is largely reflected in the general condition and attitude of the inmates, as a whole. This feature is always given consideration in our reports.

We wish to herewith acknowledge the very much appreciated co-operation extended to us in our work, by the respective superintendents and officials of the various institutions visited.

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## Industrial Work

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The Board of Visitors is of the opinion that industrial training is very important for practically all of our state institutions.

Among our state hospitals for the insane, doubtless the industrial work conducted at the Rochester Hospital under the very efficient direction of Dr. A. E. Kilbourne as superintendent, is the most extensive. The work at Rochester was given special incentive through the fact that about 100 former service men were placed there by the Federal Government, which supplied a corps of efficient industrial instructors, in addition to those supplied to the institution by the state of Minnesota.

We are informed by the superintendents of all institutions for the insane, that industrial work adds materially to the quiet and contentment of all mentally afflicted patients, who are susceptible to industrial training.

We strongly urge that if the legislature can see its way clear to appropriate additional funds for the enlargement of the industrial departments in our various institutions, that this will be money well invested.

To the uninitiated, some of the work turned out by patients in our institutions for the insane, and especially at our State School for Feeble-Minded at Faribault, is little short of remarkable. For the insane and feeble-minded, the important feature of industrial therapy is not, however, the amount or quality of the output of the industrial departments, but more particularly the mental gain resulting from occupying their time and minds with some form of work which they can accomplish.

The visitor to our State Hospitals for the Insane cannot but be impressed with the terrible monotony of life for those who, although mentally afflicted, are able to realize what is going on about them, their unfortunate condition and the fact that they have little or nothing to do all day long, especially during the winter periods. During the cold and stormy weather these patients are taken out doors as frequently as possible, but naturally they cannot enjoy the freedom and outdoor life that is possible during the pleasant warm weather of late spring, summer and early fall.

Relative to industrial departments at other institutions, with special regard to the State Reformatory at St. Cloud, the State Training School at Red Wing and the School for Deaf at Faribault, we wish to call attention to the fact that doubtless considerable money could be saved for the state, if the output of the various shops could be disposed of, and if more of the shop work could be turned into channels for which the state is now obliged to pay considerable money to outside sources.

At the Red Wing Training School, at the Prison and at the State Reformatory, there are well equipped printing plants, which could do a large portion of printing for our various state departments. This would result in a material financial saving to the state, and would permit of the enlargement of the departments, so that a larger number of institution inmates could receive the benefit of a more practical trade training.

We understand that objection to further production and increased output by state institution industrial departments is made by organized labor, which does not consider it fair that state custodial labor should be placed in competition with outside employment. We believe that organized labor fails to consider two important features in this connection: in the first place the great importance of the training and the betterment of inmates of state institutions, and in the second place, that the output of institutional industrial departments is comparatively small; that it would have very little effect on the market of the things produced, and thus have little or no result, so far as regards any necessity in cutting down the amount of outside free non-institutional labor.

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## Compensation Coverage For State Employees

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The Board of Visitors takes the liberty of calling to legislative attention, the fact that although state employees are apparently covered by the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1921, that as a whole they are not in a position to receive financial return under the Compensation Act Schedules, for such injuries as are received during the course of their respective occupations. This is because no special fund has been provided by the state for such payments, with the exception of employees of the State Highway Department, whose industrial injury claims were given due consideration and an appropriation at the legislative session of 1923.



We understand it has been the policy of the Board of Control which has charge of Minnesota state institutions, to have an injured employee of an institution cared for at the institution, and to have his salary continued temporarily, which is a generous consideration, and doubtless fully appreciated by the few institution employees who suffer industrial injury. This to a large degree overcomes the fact that no special funds are available for payment of claims of institution employees, according to the letter of the compensation act.

We understand that at the session of 1923, some individual claims of state employees for injury, in addition to provision made for the State Highway Department, were given due legislative attention, but that a number of other claims of state employees submitted by the State Industrial Commission, were not acted upon. These claims are still pending, and to them are added a number of similar claims, which have accumulated during the biennial period just past. We understand that this list of the old and new claims will be submitted to the 1925 legislature.

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## Fireproofing of State Institution Buildings

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The Board of Visitors respectfully calls attention to the fact that although the great majority of state institution buildings are fireproof, some still remain which are not, and as a result, fire is much more apt to take place in the combustible portions, with possibly serious results in loss of life and limb, as well as property damages.

At the State School for Feeble-Minded, the old main building which has been built for many years, is of rapid burning wood interior construction. Superintendent Hanna for this reason has abandoned the use of the upper floor as dormitories for inmates. This main building is very large, with a number of rather narrow halls, passages and wood staircases, and in the event of a fire, it might be difficult to remove the many feeble-minded children it houses to a place of safety.

The School for the Blind at Faribault is of non-fireproof construction, this statement covering the condition both of the main center building and the industrial buildings.

At the School for Deaf, the present industrial building is very old and of wood interior. The one staircase in the building is of wood and narrow.

At Hastings Asylum for the Insane, the center portion of the old main building, which has stood for many years, is of wood interior construction.

The old center portion of the main building at the Anoka Asylum has been rebuilt with fireproof construction during the past year.

Portions of the three State Hospitals for Insane at St. Peter, Fergus Falls and Rochester are still in part what may be termed "slow burning." The need in these hospitals is not so great as elsewhere and above mentioned.

We recommend that if available funds will permit, fireproofing of old state institutional buildings which are not now of fireproof construction, specially in those where the hazard is most severe and the class of inmates such as to make their speedy removal difficult.

## Consolidation of Visiting Boards

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The State Board of Visitors for Public Institutions wishes to renew the recommendation made in the report to the 1923 legislature, for the consolidation of this Board and the Women's Board of Visitors.

At the time the law was enacted creating the Women's Board, with authorization to visit institutions solely for women, no change was made in the law under which the State Board of Visitors for public institutions functions. At that time, however, this Board of its own initiative submitted a query to the attorney general, asking if, with the enactment of the law creating the Women's Board, that section of the act for our Board relating to our authority to visit women's institutions, was not automatically repealed. The attorney general responded with an opinion sustaining our contention, holding that the legislature would not create two departments of state for the same purpose; and that the last enacted law, the one creating the Women's Board, was the act which was effective.

In view of this fact, we would suggest that perhaps the easiest way to consolidate the two visiting boards would be to repeal the law creating the Women's Board, and for the Governor to then fill appointments on our Board through the naming of as many women members as he deems best, at the expiration of existing terms.

The method of consolidating the two boards is merely suggested on one part as perhaps the easiest way to bring about the desired unity.

The State Board of Visitors is composed of six members, each appointed for a six-year term, with periods of service of two members expiring every two years.

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## Old Age Insurance For State Institution Employees

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For some years past there has been a growing sentiment among employees of state institutions that an old age system of state pensions should be created for their benefit. To establish a state fund for this purpose would create an additional burden on the taxpayers of the state. At this time the public demand is for decrease, instead of increase of state expenses. We believe that perhaps an equitable adjustment of the requests of state employees can be made by permitting them to enter into a group insurance contract, for which protection payment could be made at their volition out of their salaries. Under group insurance, medical examination would be dispensed with, and as many employees who desired to take advantage of a group contract, could be permitted to do so.

We would suggest that an estimate of the amount of insurance needed and the number of employees desiring to enter such a contract be secured by the Board of Control, which Board in turn could have the respective institutions' superintendents make inquiry as to the desire of institution

employees. Bids for the estimated needed coverage could then be secured from the various insurance companies writing this form of protection, and the insurance then placed through the usual methods followed by the companies in such contracts.

## Guardianship For Insane Patients

In our visits to the various hospitals and asylums for insane, we have not infrequently had patients call to our attention the fact that they are having trouble relative to the care of their respective properties. It is true that a large percentage of those patients have no property, and it is also true that many who have, are not mentally competent to express to us their desires, but many patients have informed us of trouble in connection with their farms or other property being cared for by relatives, and have made complaint that those having the property in charge, were using same for their own personal benefit.

In all instances where the Probate Court has its attention called to the fact that the patient at time of commitment has property, a guardian has been appointed, but this is not always true; and surprising as it may seem, the most trouble seems to result where a relative of the patient has been named as such guardian.

We would respectfully recommend to the consideration of the legislature, the enactment of a law to create a state guardian in each county, who shall automatically take under guardianship, the property of each insane patient committed through the probate court in each respective county, and that such guardian shall be placed under sufficient bonds to guarantee the care and safety of the property involved. The enactment of such a law was the special desire of the late State Senator W. A. Nolan, of Grand Meadow, who for a number of years was the efficient president of the State Board of Visitors.

In this connection we wish to call attention to the recommendation made by Dr. Geo. O. Welch, superintendent of the Fergus Falls State Hospital, in his last biennial report. We heartily endorse what he has to say. Dr. Welch's report says:

"I again wish to recommend that legislation be enacted to safeguard the property interests of patients committed to the hospitals for the insane. As I have said before, the state should certainly provide some means of protecting the interests of patients while they remain wards of the state. It seems to me best to have a state, rather than a county, guardian; possibly the action of the constitution covering the powers of the probate court, might make it unconstitutional for the Board of Control to appoint a state guardian, but, should this be so, I see no reason why said Board could not select such guardians, and the probate judges would undoubtedly appoint the persons selected."

## Organizations Among State Institution Employees

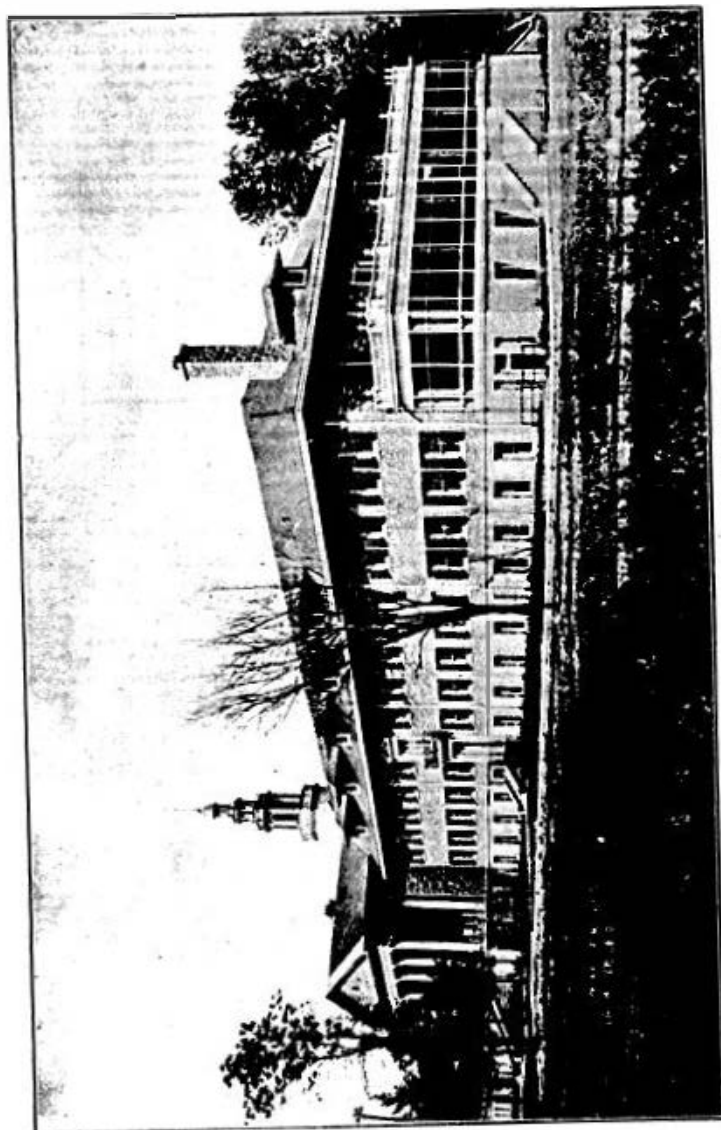
Employees of our state institutions receive instructions from the respective superintendents as to their work and the manner they desire it to be accomplished. We believe, however, there would be more contentment, greater co-operation and better results if in each institution there was organized an institution club for employees. This could meet in sections weekly or monthly, as the superintendent decides best, and at such meetings subjects taken up which would be of special interest to the employees and their work as a whole. Such meetings could be regularly addressed by the superintendent, or some one representing him, as to his desires relating to institution work, and at the same time suggestions and views of employees might also be received, which would afford a means of greater helpfulness and harmony.

## The State School For Deaf at Faribault

The State School for the Deaf at Faribault furnishes educational facilities and industrial training for the deaf of the state. They are housed and boarded, and receive their instruction without any charge. We have visited this institution a number of times, and believe that its school is one of the finest educational institutions in Minnesota. A large proportion of the children received at this institution are totally deaf, many of them having been so afflicted since birth. As a result, when these children are received at the school, they are unable to understand words or to speak. At the end of the first year, they can read, write and speak from 400 to 600 words. Methods used in the school rooms are somewhat different from those of the public schools, but the remarkable results demonstrate their excellence. We have every reason to believe that in the securing of Mr. Elwood A. Stevenson as superintendent, to succeed the late Dr. J. N. Tate, the state of Minnesota has been very fortunate. Mr. Stevenson is a comparatively young man, and the excellence of the institution in every way demonstrates both his enthusiasm and ability in his chosen work.

During the school year 1922-1923, 262 pupils were admitted; 26 of these for the first time. During the year 1923-1924, 291 pupils were admitted, 55 being first admissions. Nine students were graduated in 1923 and seven in 1924.

We wish to call particular attention to the fact that although there are two field agents for the State School for Blind, which has little more than one-third the population of the School for Deaf, that the School for Deaf has no field agent whatsoever. What little field work throughout the state is accomplished for the School for Deaf is done in combination with the State Labor Department, under the Industrial Commissioner. We agree with Mr. Stevenson that it is but fair to the deaf, to grant this institution at least one field agent. To quote Mr. Stevenson, the duty of such an agent would



Tuto Hall at State School for the Deaf, Faribault.

be "To go through the counties at certain times, investigating all cases, educating the parents concerning the needs of the child and informing them of the purpose of the School for Deaf. This person would be in close touch with the county welfare boards, county nurses, ear specialists, physicians and schools, securing data and information concerning deaf children. He would report, investigate and file all cases and arrange for the admission of the children. It would be well to suggest that the field agent assume the responsibility and duties of the Chief of the Labor Bureau for the Deaf."

It is estimated that from 100 to 200 deaf children of school age throughout the state, are not now enjoying the benefits of an education afforded at the state school. It would seem to be a duty to the deaf to assure them the very necessary privilege of proper education combined with industrial training. It is probably true that in mistaken kindness, parents of deaf children who are not now being educated, hesitate to send these children at tender ages to a state institution. We believe if these parents could but see the excellent facilities afforded by the state school, the kindly treatment the children receive, and the happy atmosphere of the whole institution, there would be no hesitancy in letting the children go to Faribault. The only expense entailed, is the carfare of these children, and such clothing as they need.

Mott Hall, the old main building, the interior of which has been in a dilapidated condition and unusable for many years, should be wrecked. Mr. Stevenson reports to us that the doors of this building are kept locked, and the windows are nailed down, but at the same time he considers it a danger and moral menace to the institution. We were informed by the State Board of Control, that architects who have examined the building, state that to rebuild the interior would be more expensive than to construct a new one. It is probably true that the wrecking of this large structure could be accomplished with little or no expense, as the cut stone in the walls is doubtless worth the cost of the labor in tearing down and removing the structure.

Barron Hall, the old building used for dormitory quarters for the deaf boys, has been materially improved during the past year, with the installation of new metal ceilings throughout, and new rubberstone floors in most of the halls and some of the rooms. We recommend the completion of the new flooring in this building, as a very material need. Miss Bright, who has been mistress of Barron Hall for a number of years, is unusually efficient, and the boys under her charge have most excellent care and supervision.

The girls are housed in up-to-date quarters in the new Tale Hall.

On our last visit to the State School for Deaf, December 10, 1924, we asked Mr. Stevenson if all his students have proper clothing. He stated that in some instances, he wished that he could be given authority to purchase clothing actually needed, and send the bill to the parents, and if the parents could not pay, that he be authorized to bill the county authorities. He also desired authority be given the institution management for having necessary dental, ear and eye work cared for among the students. We hope this request may be granted.

Although Tate Hall, the new main building, is a very fine structure, unfortunately the basement which houses a number of employees, is very damp and insanitary. At the rear of Tate Hall is an old swamp, and under present conditions it is impossible to keep the water from coming up through the basement floor. We believe that this should be carefully investigated, either by the state architect, or some expert engineer, to see if it is not possible to lay lining and drains around the foundation to carry off the swamp water and thus permit the basement of Tate Hall to be kept dry and in healthful condition.

Mr. Stevenson is strongly in favor of constructing an additional floor on the new service building, to supply rooms for employees and give them the sanitary housing which is their right. The new service building is ideal in practically every respect, but there has been no money available to place a much needed elevator in the elevator shaft. As a result it is necessary to carry all coal used in the kitchen up from the ground floor to a bunker on the kitchen floor. We respectfully urge the legislature to grant an appropriation for a much needed elevator.

In addition to excellent housing and unexcelled school facilities, we have found the children are very well fed. The diet is varied, wholesome and the food well cooked. Fifty gallons of pasteurized milk are used daily, and all children who desire it, have milk to drink three times a day.

To make the children in the School for Deaf eventually independent and self-supporting, the teaching of trades, as well as instruction along general educational lines, is most important. In so doing, the state makes a paying investment. Without such industrial trade instructions, these children at maturity might be more or less dependent and an expense to the state. Mr. Stevenson therefore believes the trade instruction at the school should be materially increased. It is suggested that in addition to the present industrial work, instruction be extended to include show card writing, sign painting, commercial art, shoe making and repairing, and battery work, all of which are lines in which the deaf may succeed in spite of their affliction.

Mr. Stevenson is very anxious to have the school supplied with a baby grand piano, which he says is very much needed for instruction in rhythm. He explains the deaf have a hard time in mastering rhythm, which he contends is very important in their learning to speak naturally. In teaching rhythm, the pupils place their hands upon the piano and learn rhythm through feeling the vibration.

Although the pupils of the school have been very free from the diseases which so frequently afflict childhood, their increased weights showing steady gain in physical condition, the institution is unequipped to properly fight any epidemic that might take place. We hope that provision may be made for the remodeling of the present hospital cottage into a contagious hospital.

As a result of the salaries of instructors at this school being an average of \$300.00 a year less than paid by other similar institutions throughout the country, the institution has suffered and instruction interfered with, through the leaving of a number of teachers at various times to take positions in

other schools for deaf at a higher remuneration. For this reason we believe that Mr. Stevenson's request for \$5,000.00 increase in appropriation for teachers' salaries, is equitable.

Chapel services are conducted daily at the school, and on Sundays the students attend church services as much as possible, receiving instruction along religious lines similar to those they had received at their homes.



## State School For Feeble-Minded at Faribault



The largest of our state institutions is the State School for Feeble-Minded and Colony for Epileptics at Faribault. The completion of two new cottages during the past year, one for girls and one for boys, has increased the capacity of the institution by 100 patients. This brings the present total capacity to 2,000 inmates, not counting employees. We agree with Mr. G. C. Hanna, the very efficient superintendent, that the institution has now reached the maximum that should be allowed as regards the number of patients cared for at any one place.

It is freely admitted that the number of feeble-minded now under custodial care, is but a small part of those in the state. The institution already has over 400 on the waiting list. The first cottage for the new institution for epileptics at Cambridge is rapidly nearing completion, and will care for about 75 patients at the start. We understand the Board of Control is requesting an appropriation of about \$250,000.00 for an administration building at Cambridge. The central portion of this proposed building would house the officers and supply superintendent's quarters, and wings, one on each side, would house 150 additional patients, 75 women and 75 men. The opening of the Cambridge institution will but in very small part relieve the situation. Even with the proposed new building furnished, the removal to Cambridge of epileptics from Faribault, will not take care of 50 per cent of the present waiting list. This is a serious situation which we believe deserves full and generous consideration at the hands of the legislature. Lack of capacity on the part of the state to house the feeble-minded committed to state custodial care, is a serious defect in the state's duty, and is likely to lead to undesirable multiplication of feeble-minded, with all its well known attendant dangers.

Although every available foot of space is being used in the building at the State School for Feeble-Minded, with all quarters more or less overcrowded, we believe that Superintendent Hanna is making an enviable record in his management of the institution, especially under existing conditions, and that the state is exceedingly fortunate in being able to retain his services. It is very evident that the patients receive every attention, and the best of care, good and substantial food, with the utmost cleanliness prevailing in every building. Apparently the 2,000 inmates are as well cared for as a lot of unfortunates as is to be found in the country.

We wish to call particular attention to the fact that the central portion of the old main building is of non-fireproof construction, and that in the event of a fire, serious consequences might result. Mr. Hanna fully realizes this and has abandoned the use of the fourth floor of the building for dormitory purposes for inmates. In addition he has established fire drills among the children, which take place on an average of once a month. Thus the building can be emptied in the shortest possible time, in the event of a fire. We would suggest to the legislature the advisability of fireproofing this structure as a much needed step for greater protection of custodial feeble-minded children. We understand that the financial needs for this improvement are being presented to the legislature by the State Board of Control.

Because of inability on the part of the state to give housing and proper care of all of the feeble-minded, the State Board of Control is inaugurating a system of having those who are on the waiting list cared for in private homes.

Unfortunately at the present time there is only one field agent to cover the entire state, visit these individuals, and ascertain facts relative to their proper care and surroundings.

In connection with this outside care of unfortunates, it is worthy of note that the state authorities have the cooperation of the Women's Welfare League of Minneapolis, in the furnishing of a home in that city for 8 girls. These girls were paroled to the agent of the Hennepin County Child Welfare Board in charge of the feeble-minded. The girls are under the care of a matron who assists them in every way, including shopping and solving their individual problems. These girls are practically self-supporting. We are informed by a member of the Board of Control, that it is the policy of the Board to extend this type of work among the feeble-minded, as rapidly as conditions will permit.

A new departure at the State School for Feeble-Minded, is the comparatively recent occupancy of the new girls' Annex No. 3. This building is for the special segregation of moron delinquent girls. The building is modern and up-to-date in every respect, and unusually well furnished. Without a portion of the yard is surrounded with a high wire fence with inturning bars at the top. These girls are of a class formerly cared for at the Sauk Center Home for Girls. Superintendent Hanna realizes that they are practically prisoners, and is following the principle that they should be supplied with every possible comfort within their special building, and be permitted to enjoy life as much as is possible for those who are under continued custodial care.

On our visits, we have found these girls playing the piano and singing, enjoying the music of a large phonograph, and doing the work around the building. They seem happy, and there have been no escapes. The building has its own kitchen in which all the necessary cooking is done, and also contains its own laundry. The building has been occupied since July 1, 1924. The girls do not sleep in dormitories, but have separate rooms, two girls to each room, and each apartment containing unusually nice bedroom furniture. The population is 51 girls, and the capacity of the building is 60 girls.

During the past calendar year Mr. Hanna has installed a watchman clock system throughout the entire institution, which requires watchmen to use a punch clock in every dormitory at stated hours during the night. This ensures efficient supervision of all the dormitories during the quiet hours.

We call attention to the fact that the gymnasium, located in the old main building, is entirely inadequate for the present population, both in size of the gymnasium, and its equipment; and we hope that the legislature will see that the need in this regard is eliminated.

We find that Mr. Hanna is taking care of a number of minor items in the institution management, which tend to materially increase the content of the feeble-minded children. Every Christmas they have a real celebration. Last Christmas there were 35 different Christmas trees throughout the institution, with a Santa Claus at each tree, and \$800.00 was spent in Christmas presents, each child being duly remembered.

The institution maintains a 100-bed hospital and a Nurses' Training School affiliated with the Minneapolis General Hospital. Two years of nurses' training is given in the institution, and the remaining year at Minneapolis. Completion of the three-year course makes the graduate eligible for registration. Three physicians are on the medical staff; the services of a specialist in eye, ear, nose and throat troubles is also furnished, this including all necessary surgery within his field.

During the past biennial period we have found the school and industrial work carried on in an efficient manner. In the school 25 teachers instruct about 400 teachable children under the age of 16 years. The school only instructs up to the sixth grade, as children who can do higher work are not classed as feeble-minded. In addition to the excellent school work of the institution, there are various departments of industrial training, in which wonderful work is done in such lines as basketry, weaving, sewing, cooking, lace and net making, manual training and brush making.

Frequent entertainments are given in the chapel of the main building, including dances, which the children very much enjoy.

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## State School For Blind at Faribault

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The State School for Blind, located at Faribault, is in charge of Mr. Joseph E. Vonce, as superintendent.

During the year 1923 there were enrolled 52 boys and 38 girls; during 1924, 59 boys and 40 girls. The blind children throughout the state are received here free of tuition, and without charge for room and board.

The buildings of this institution are very old, and we strongly recommend that if funds will permit, the structures be made fireproof throughout.

Not only are the students here taken through industrial and high school courses, but the state makes provision for further education within certain



limits, the maximum number in any one year not to exceed five, and the maximum amount for additional education of each such student, being \$200.00. As a result of this state aid, blind students are enrolled in the State University, Luther Theological Seminary, Carleton and Macalester Colleges.

Relative to the work in the school rooms, we find that the Braille system is being adopted as extensively as possible, and the New York point system is being dropped, except among the older students who received New York point instruction in the lower grades.

As a whole, our visits to this institution have demonstrated to us that its furniture and equipment throughout is very old, largely worn out, and should be replaced. The pianos in the music department and in the piano repair department have been in service for a great many years, and most of them have passed their day of real usefulness.

As the main building is old, the steward's department, wherein the food supplies are kept, is not properly equipped for the best care of foods. We have suggested that metal containers be supplied for all breakfast foods and dark flours, as these seem to be continually attacked by mice.

The girls are housed in dormitories located in the main building, and the boys are housed in separate cottages. The need in these dormitories, apparent in both boys' and girls' quarters, of new furniture, is evident to the visitor, although of course, it cannot be observed by the blind. Bureaus are dilapidated, and iron cots are rickety, with casters occasionally missing. In such instances, the floors are badly scratched by the students in moving the beds to make them up; for this, however, they cannot be blamed as they are unable to see. We understand Superintendent Vance is asking for money for new furniture, and we sincerely hope that the request may be granted by the present legislature.

An important feature of instruction for blind children is industrial work, in that these children at maturity may be largely self-supporting, and the state thus in part at least, saved further expense in their future care. At the time of our last visit, December 9, 1924, there were 45 pupils receiving instruction in sewing, including all of the younger boys of the school, and 12 pupils in the typewriting room. Pupils who learn typewriting by the touch system are of course unable to take shorthand notes, but are taught to transcribe with satisfactory accuracy, from dictaphones. In the weaving department, 12 looms are in operation; the instructor tells us graduates of this department can average an income of \$3.00 per day, if they are able to sell their product. Twenty-two students are being taught to operate the looms. In basketry, 29 students are under instruction. There are 3 pupils in the cooking department. Eighteen students are learning piano tuning and repairing. Graduates of this department are able to earn a comfortable living. Seventeen students are learning chair caning, and this trade will ultimately yield them an income from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per day.

We respectfully call attention that the so-called industrial building is an old, wooden structure and more or less of a fire trap. It contains but one narrow wood staircase to the second floor. We believe it unsafe to ask

the blind pupils to use this building any longer than necessary, and hope it may be replaced with a fireproof structure. In the report of our last visit to this institution, we recommended that fire drills be established among the children, so that in the event of need, they may be trained to leave a burning structure in the shortest possible time.

We wish to commend the operation of a summer school at this institution for the adult blind of the state. The adult blind necessarily cannot be instructed in the class rooms of small children, during the regular school year, and many of these people who attend during the summer term are able to get a start at some trade, which they may ultimately master and thus become self-supporting. During the 1923 school year, the summer school had an enrollment of 31 men and 22 women, and during the 1924 school year, an enrollment of 24 men and 15 women.

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## The State Hospital For the Insane at Rochester

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On the last visit of the Board of Visitors previous to the preparation of this report, December 8, 1924, the Rochester State Hospital for Insane had a population of 1,374 inmates, and 230 employees. Dr. Arthur F. Kilbourne, the esteemed superintendent of this hospital, states the daily average population exceeds by 66 the number for the previous biennium.

There is probably no state hospital for the insane in the United States which is better located than the Rochester Hospital for securing the most expert medical and surgical attention for institution inmates. This is because of the close proximity in the city of Rochester, of the famous Mayo Clinic and Hospitals. The members of the Mayo staff may be called to the state institution at any time by Dr. Kilbourne, and render any service desired by patients free of all cost to the state.

It is interesting in this connection to note that during the past biennium about 10 cases of general paralysis have been treated at the State Hospital by Dr. Wilhelm of the Mayo Clinic, with an amelioration of paralytic condition in 10 per cent of the cases.

In B-2 east ward for men, Dr. Kilbourne has comparatively recently established a radio recreating outfit. Entertainment furnished from this apparatus seems to be fully appreciated by the insane patients, and Dr. Kilbourne is in hopes of eventually extending the wiring so that entertaining programs may be furnished via radio in various wards throughout the institution.

In various portions of the large main building old wood floors and non-fireproof conditions continue. We hope that Dr. Kilbourne's request for floor replacements and fireproofing may be granted. Three new spiral fire escapes have been placed at opportune places on the main building, available for patients in wards not yet fireproofed, which we consider a very wise procedure.



View of Grounds at State Hospital for Insane, Rochester (Main Building in Background)

Industrial training among the insane has reached probably a higher degree of efficiency at the Rochester State Hospital than in any of our other institutions for the insane. This department is housed in the so-called industrial pavilion, a one-story detached frame structure.

Recently some 90 former service men patients were transferred from Rochester to a Federal institution at St. Cloud, and this leaves room for a considerable addition to the number of general patients at the institution, who may now be instructed in the industrial department. Here excellent work is being done on looms and hand weaving, in the making of rugs, in basketry, and even in decorative art work. Patients who are thus able to receive instruction are reported as a rule, to be materially improved in mental condition. In addition to the work done in the industrial building, Dr. Kilbourne has several instructors who broceed through the wards of the main building, and give special industrial aid to patients therein. About 275 patients are now receiving industrial training, some 50 patients being instructed at one time in the pavilion work rooms. Of the total number, 70 have been sent home, and have not been returned to the institution. During the biennium the industrial department has turned out 800 rugs, valued at from \$2.00 to \$15.00 each for wool rugs, and \$35.00 each for silk rugs. The reed and raffia section has produced 1,400 vases, baskets, trays, etc., valued from 75 cents to \$8.00 each. The raffia porch pillows made at the Rochester asylum have become so well known that orders are frequently received from various parts of the United States.

An addition to the women's wards has been erected during the past year with an appropriation of \$30,000.00 granted by the 1923 legislature. This building will be ready for occupancy early this year, 1925. The new building is two stories high, with a large basement, and will give accommodation for 115 women. A pavilion 40x80 feet has also been recently completed, and is occupied by 35 tubercular women. The new building somewhat relieves the crowded conditions at this institution, but the granting of an appropriation of \$75,000.00 for a new receiving hospital, will also be a material aid in making room for excess population.

In our various visits to the State Hospital for Insane at Rochester, the members of the Board of Visitors have always been especially impressed, not merely by the sanitary cleanliness throughout, but by the homelike appearance given to wards and halls through additional furnishing and decorations which include rugs, easy chairs, potted plants and cut flowers, and interesting pictures on the walls. We have only commendation for conditions as we have ever found them at this institution, under the able and appreciated management of Dr. Arthur F. Kilbourne, superintendent.

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## State Asylum For Insane at Anoka

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The State Asylum for Insane at Anoka, like the other two asylums in the state, receives its patients, not by direct commitment, but through transfer from state hospitals.

During the last year the most important occurrence at this institution was the completion of the old central building. The new structure is modern in every respect, including fireproof construction. It contains a new dining room and cullinary department with capacity for 400. The staff of the institution has received the addition of Dr. Charles Coleman, as dentist. The services of a staff dentist have long been needed.

On the date of our last visit before preparation of this report, December 3, 1924, we found the asylum had recently received 20 feeble-minded patients from the Fairbank School for Feeble-Minded, and Dr. Arthur C. Caine, superintendent, informed us that 40 more like patients were yet to be received. These transfers are deemed necessary because of the overcrowded condition of the Fairbank School for Feeble-Minded. This calls again to attention the state's lack of facilities for properly caring for the feeble-minded, and we hope this matter will be given due consideration by the 1925 legislature. Dr. Caine is of the opinion the housing of the feeble-minded at the asylum at Anoka spoils the morale of the institution: he says the feeble-minded do not mix well with the insane patients, and are unteachable at the asylum.

We regret very much that the industrial work carried on in the basement of the Amusement Hall Building has had to be very materially decreased. This is because union labor objected to a contract the institution had with a local furniture factory. The factory supplied the asylum with frames for wicker furniture, and a large number of patients were engaged in winding this furniture with fibre. The discontinuing of this work has caused enforced idleness among patients who should be allowed some form of occupation. We believe that if union labor understood the detriment to these unfortunate patients resulting from their enforced inactivity, and further appreciated the fact that the work of the patients turns out but a small proportional production for the general market, that their objections would be withdrawn. We earnestly hope that this matter may be put up to the officers of the unions and so explained to them that they will withdraw their objections and that this industrial work which is so beneficial to the patients may be reestablished.

On our various visits to this institution we have found practically ideal conditions prevailing, so far as the management of the institution, the care and provision for inmates and general cleanliness is concerned. We believe the state is fortunate in having secured the services of Dr. Caine, who succeeded the able superintendency of Mr. John Coleman, now a member of the State Board of Control.

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## State Training School For Boys at Red Wing

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On the date of our last visit to the State Training School for Boys at Red Wing, December 5, 1924, there was a population of 273 boys and 70 employees. It is of interest to note that while the population of the State Reformatory seems to be materially on the increase, that of the State Training School is below the average. This is due, in the opinion of Superintendent

John T. Fulton, to the fact that more thorough work is being done throughout the state in the interest of incorrigible juveniles as a result of which, the school at Red Wing is only receiving boys who are committed as a last resort, and who cannot be managed elsewhere. This naturally makes more of a problem in the handling and care of the boys at the institution.

On the day of our last visit there were 356 boys out on parole under field force supervision, in addition to the inmate population as above mentioned.

It is perhaps interesting to note that while heretofore boys have been able to earn sufficient honor marks in a year to entitle them to parole consideration, that the time of stay has been extended from a former minimum of twelve months, to a present minimum of fifteen months. Mr. Fulton, after consultation with the Board of Control, decided on this extension of time as not only better for the boys in giving them additional discipline, but in that it affords more of an opportunity to instruct the boys in various trades afforded by the institution shops. In this connection it is of further interest that Dr. C. A. Prosser, director of the Dunwoody Institute at Minneapolis, assisted by Mr. C. R. Allen, industrial engineer of Dunwoody, made an industrial survey at the Training School, as a result of which better systematized work is being accomplished in the shops at the state institution. The reorganization groups the inmates of the school into three definite classes: boys 16 and over, to receive vocational training; boys between 14 and 16, who have pre-vocational instruction, and boys under 14, who have elementary training. The boys, in addition to the usual school work, now receive instruction in plumbing, pipe setting, printing, carpentry, cabinet making, blacksmithing, lathe operation, garage work, cooking and baking, laundering, weaving and basketry and band music. We favor extension of industrial training to include bricklaying, cement work, paper hanging, and other trades.

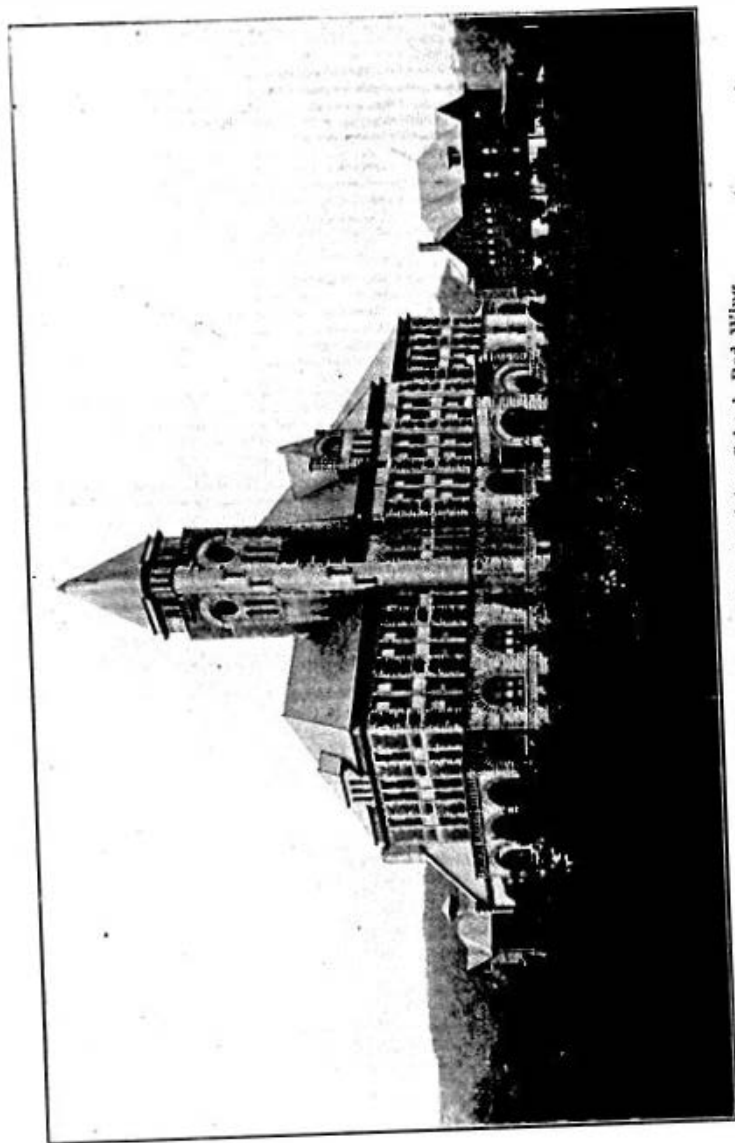
The print shop seemed especially well equipped, containing four linotype machines, two of which have been loaned the institution. Graduates from this machine instruction, who have been discharged, are receiving \$20.00 to \$40.00 a week in salary.

Mr. Fulton hopes, and we recommend, that in connection with the farm work, a course in farm instruction be added, to include animal husbandry, poultry raising, and instruction relative to soils, soil treatment and soil productivity.

The industrial shop building is an old structure, with walls of heavy masonry, but the interior is entirely frame, and more or less of a fire trap. The day seems near at hand when the industrial shop should have larger and better equipped quarters, and we hope when state funds will permit, that these may be supplied, and the rebuilding be of fireproof construction.

The boys of the Training School are not neglected so far as their amusements are concerned. They have their football, basketball and baseball organizations for each respective company, and much interesting rivalry exists at the inter-company games. Movies are given in the Amusement





Main Building, Boys' State Training School, Red Wing

Hell twice a week. In this connection we wish to call attention that during the past month of December, 1924, the Training School management received word from one of the Red Wing movie houses, that the manager could no longer supply the institution with films which came to his theatre. By duplicating the use of films the institution was able to secure them for use at the Training School at a very low figure. It seems they now insist that the films for the Training School must be secured through some member of the Minneapolis Film Board, 310 Film Exchange Building, Minneapolis. In our last report, copy of which as usual was filed with the Board of Control, we recommended that Mr. A. L. Watson, secretary of the Minneapolis Film Board of Trade, be consulted to see if arrangement cannot be made to secure desirable films for exhibition at the Training School, and at a figure which the amusement fund of the State Training School can afford to pay. It seems unfortunate that any decrease in the number of movies for the boys should become necessary.

On some of our visits to the Red Wing Training School we have received complaints from boys as to their food, but careful investigation seems to demonstrate that such complaints are unfounded, and that the charges were very probably merely the result of a desire on the part of the boys to make mischief. The boys appear to have plenty of substantial food, and little or no cause for complaint in this direction.

The boys are divided into nine companies or family groups, each in separate dormitories. They retire daily at 9:00 P. M. and apparently have plenty of time during each day for recreation. New boys are taken to the so-called "Receiving Cottage," which is an especially attractive building and contains its own separate dining room and kitchen, where each boy is kept on an average of 30 days, to determine proper company assignment for the balance of his stay at school.

We have found the dormitories uniformly neat and clean, and the cots and bedding all that could be asked. Each company has a phonograph in its headquarters. On Sundays there are religious services for the boys, with a priest conducting church for the Catholic boys, a Protestant minister holding service for the Protestant lads, and a Lutheran pastor caring for the needs of the Lutherans. Salvation Army officers from Red Wing visit the institution once a month and conduct services.

The companies now average 25 to 45 boys for each company, which is a decided improvement over conditions of some two years ago, when there were fewer companies and the average was close to 60 boys. The present arrangement permits the officers in charge of each company to get in closer personal touch with the needs of each lad, a work much needed.

At the present time, each boy received at the institution is given a mental test, the result of which is made a matter of record.

We understand from Superintendent Fallon that corporal punishment is not permitted by company officers, and that all extreme cases are brought to him for his personal ruling.

Boys who are on parole from the school are occasionally visited by three state agents, and the work of outside supervision is also aided through co-operation of the Child Welfare Boards and Juvenile Courts of the various counties of the state.

In view of the fact that the boys now received at the State Training School at Red Wing, are what might be termed the worst class of incorrigibles, as a result of their only being sent to the institution when local boards and authorities are unable to manage them, a strict institution discipline is necessary. In this regard we believe also it is very important that the highest class of employees possible should be obtained as company managers. It is perhaps difficult to obtain this high class of help at the salaries paid, and this fact possibly hampers the institution in attaining its ideals. It is our belief that every financial and co-operative aid should be extended to Superintendent Fulton, in obtaining the highest type of company officers to be had, and that any undue roughness on the part of employees in handling the boys under their supervision should always be promptly met with immediate discharge. It is undoubtedly true that Mr. Fulton has one of the great problems of the state in the proper management of the boys who are under his care.

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## State Hospital For Crippled Children at Phalen Park, St. Paul

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It is always a pleasure to visit the State Hospital for Crippled Children at Phalen Park, St. Paul, where a wonderful work is being accomplished through the treatment given by a staff of nearly 60 physicians and surgeons, specialists in their respective lines, all of whom donate their services free to these unfortunate and needy children. No child whose parents are financially able to pay for private treatment, is received at this hospital; hence those benefited are children who would otherwise go through life with their various afflictions and deformities, and be largely dependent. Thus the state, in affording them relief, is really making a financial saving by bringing a large majority of cases treated back to comparatively normal physical condition, so that in future years they may be independent and self-supporting.

On the date of our last visit, December 17th, there were 222 child patients, and 115 employees. The patients included 110 boys and 112 girls. Miss Elizabeth McGregor, the efficient superintendent, told us there is a waiting list of fully 300 crippled children, who cannot be accommodated for want of room. This is more than enough to fill another like institution. We sincerely hope the legislature will recognize the wonderful work that is being accomplished at this institution and will consent to an appropriation to materially enlarge the present patient capacity.

It is of importance to note in connection with the State Hospital for Crippled Children, that during the past calendar year it has been inspected by representatives of the American College of Surgeons, and classified as a

"Class A" hospital. Under date of August 26, 1924, Miss McGregor, superintendent, received a letter from M. T. MacEachern, M. D., Director of Hospital Activities of the American College of Surgeons, in which he says:

"Dear Miss McGregor:

"I have read with interest the report of the Minnesota State Hospital for Indigent and Crippled Children recently submitted by our visitor, Dr. Williamson.

"Our visitor gives you a splendid report, and I want to commend you for the high grade service you have developed in your hospital. Dr. Williamson commended particularly on your facilities, organization and procedure, which I am sure are being used to the greatest advantage for every patient that passes through your institution.

"Your case record department, its organization and supervision, were said to be excellent. The case records also were complete, neatly written, and very systematically arranged. This is indeed a commendable report.

"Your laboratory service and supervision were said to be quite satisfactory. One outstanding feature I wish to especially mention is your high percentage of autopsies.

"With best wishes for your continued progress, and thanking you for the kindness and courtesy extended to our representative, Dr. Williamson, I am,

"Yours very truly,

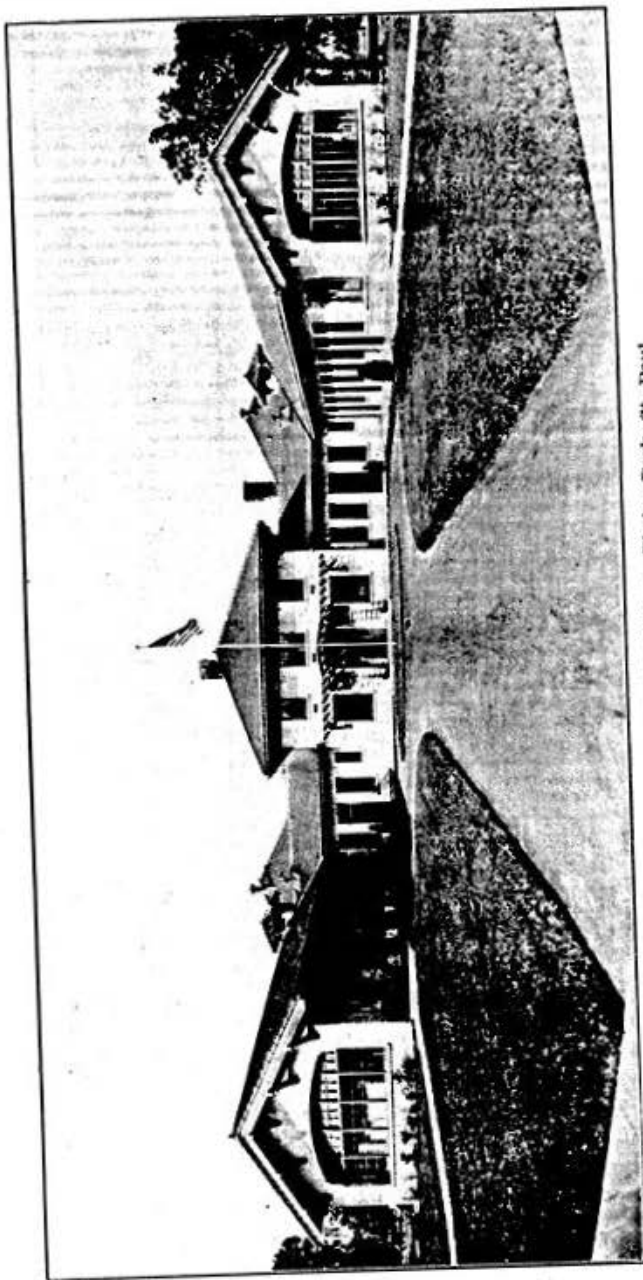
(Signed) M. T. MacEachern, M. D.,

"Director of Hospital Activities."

Relative to autopsies, we are informed by the superintendent, that they are only held where special permission is given by the family of the deceased, but such permission is seldom withheld when it is explained to the relatives that autopsies are materially in securing additional valuable knowledge for more helpful treatment of other like cases.

Housing facilities for employees have been inadequate for a long time at this institution. It has been necessary to rent rooms in the neighborhood, because of shortage of rooms for help at the institution. A nurses' home is much desired to accommodate 50 nurses. There is also need of an employees' home to house 50 employees. Miss McGregor, superintendent, believes there is urgent need of a new convalescent cottage for boys, and another for girls, each to accommodate 50 patients. These enlargements would help considerably to relieve the present waiting list.

The cost of caring for children at the State Hospital for Crippled Children is necessarily higher than for most of our other state institutions. It is only fair, however, to compare this cost (close to \$2.00 a day per patient), with that of other like hospitals; and in this light, it is found to be very well managed financially. It is also probably true that no taxpayer who ever visited this institution and saw the wonderful work that is being accom-



State Hospital for Crippled Children, Phalen Park, St. Paul

plished, would hesitate to commend its continuance and extension, and probably without regard to increase in expense, to make provision for the little sufferers who are asking for admission.

A school is conducted daily at the hospital for those who are able to attend, and other little patients receive individual instruction at their beds; but lessons are not made burdensome. The hospital has five regular teachers and a number of able volunteers. The school work is supervised by the Department of Public Instruction which cooperates in every way.

At the east end of the hospital building, the new Dowling Memorial School is rapidly reaching completion, and will be opened early in the spring. For this building the legislature appropriated \$50,000.00, and bankers and publishers of the state contributed in like amount. This building will fill a long felt want at the institution, and be a material aid in the educational work.

Before a new patient is admitted to this hospital, a sworn affidavit is required from some physician acquainted with the case, that the home relatives are unable to pay for needed treatment or operation. On arrival at the hospital, if the patient is a boy, examination is made by Dr. C. C. Chatterton, chief of staff, or if it is a girl, by Dr. Wallace Cole, to determine whether the case is one for this hospital. Photos and plaster casts showing the deformity in each case are made on admission and on ultimate departure, photos and casts are again made. Thus what has been accomplished in each case is correctly and interestingly demonstrated. This information is also of value at the State University Clinic, and the classes conducted for the student nurses.

The average stay of patients at this institution is 3 1/4 months; the maximum stay so far, is 8 years. The student nurses receive instruction for a period of from 2 to 6 months. At present there are 22 such nurses, who come from various accredited hospitals for instruction and training in orthopedics and pediatrics.

A visit to the Hospital for Crippled Children cannot fail to fill the visitor with pleasure at the apparent happiness of all the children in spite of their afflictions. This speaks wonders for the individual attention and care they receive. Everything is done to make them contented. Movies are frequently given in the wards, pictures being projected on the white walls. Parties take place in each ward at least twice a month. Last fall, children who were able, were taken in busses free of expense, to see the sights of the state fair. Several Shetland ponies are kept on the grounds and children who are able are allowed to ride them under supervision. In addition there are several pets which the children greatly enjoy; these include rabbits, a much petted black sheep, and a very talkative parrot, which climbs from bed to bed at various times, much to the delight of the children. Last Christmas a Santa Claus visited the children Christmas eve and again on Christmas day, and the day following Christmas a special entertainment for the benefit of those who could be transported by auto took place at the new State Capitol, at the expense of Capitol employees. Christmas morning, every child found a well filled stocking at his or her bed.

## The State Prison at Stillwater

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The population of the State Prison at Stillwater, like that of the State Reformatory at St. Cloud, seems to be decidedly on the increase. The population July 1, 1922, was 912 prisoners, and June 30, 1924, 1,053 prisoners, an increase of 141 men. This increase seems to reflect the fact that crime has been more prevalent throughout the state.

The discipline at the State Prison is very exacting and is said to be the most strict of any in the country. Warden John J. Sullivan has expressed himself to our Board that this seems essential for the best interests of the institution. The prisoners are very well fed with wholesome, well-cooked food, and the entire institution we have always found to be cleanly and in excellent condition. The financial report submitted through the Board of Control, speaks for itself as to the success of the extensive prison industries.

During the past two years 46,337,120 pounds of twine were sold, which is the largest biennial output in the history of the prison. The gross sales of twine and machinery amounted to \$5,633,779.00 with a profit of \$135,366.00. Inmates were paid earnings of \$141,349.88. There was paid to the support fund for the maintenance of the institution, \$742,839.00, which is charged to the cost of production.

It is worthy of note that the prison pays a small amount in wages to prisoners, and in addition, needy families of prisoners are pensioned in such amount as investigators ascertain is essential for maintenance of their respective homes, this amount totaling \$42,092.06 the past biennial period. Minnesota can thus make the boast that no child of an inmate in the State Prison is forced to remain away from school and that no home is broken up because the bread winner is incarcerated. Not only do prisoners receive trade instruction through working in the various industries, but a school is maintained, with an average attendance the past two years of 250, while the average voluntary attendance was 130. It is of further interest to note that during the first year only 3 who attended the school were reported for lack of interest, and the second year none. Attendance at school is required of men unable to read and write, and for all those who have not previously advanced beyond the fourth grade. Special correspondence courses are permitted for prisoners who desire to take up courses of higher education for special trainings.

There are certain lines of employment at the prison, which we recognize are not of a character to train a man for self-support in some line of industry when he receives his parole or discharge. In our reports of visits and inspections, we have recommended that prisoners be so allotted to the various industries that they may each have special training in some line a sufficient length of time to equip them for honest self-support when released.

The twine factory, which is the main industry of the institution, is admittedly one wherein the men are mere machine attendants do not learn

a trade which is of any value to them on their discharge. We are strongly in favor of and recommend extension of industrial training at the prison.

There are a number of prisoners who are insane and for this reason are confined in a separate wing of the building in individual cells. It is unfortunate that they are not so situated that they can have periods of freedom in the prison yard.

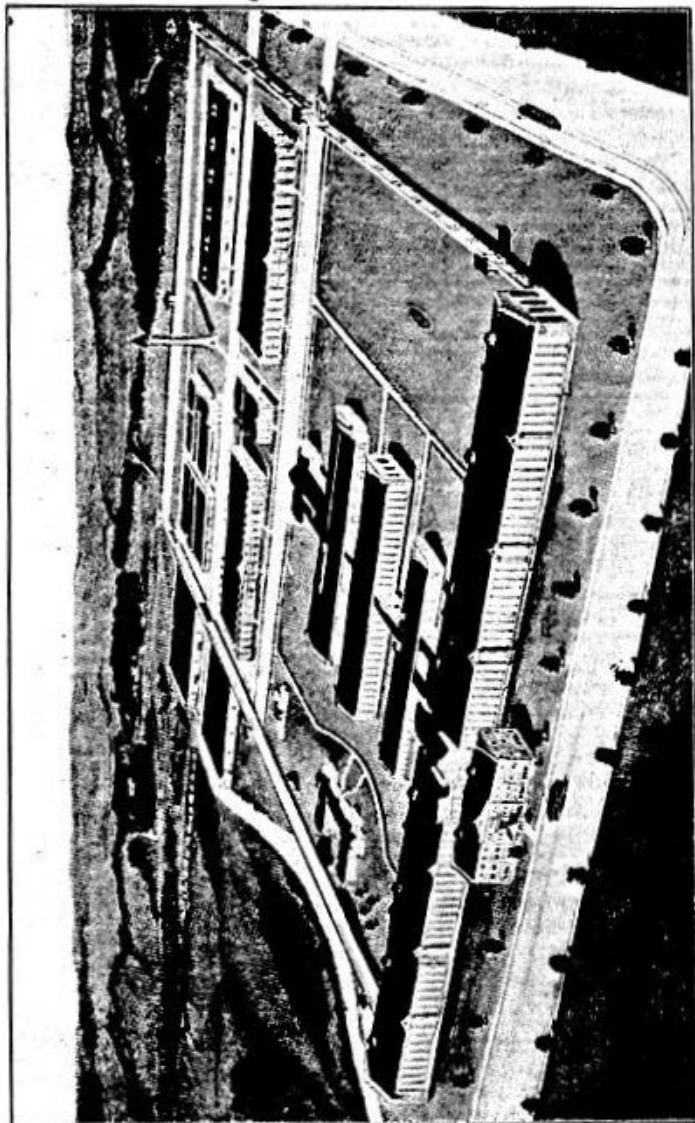
We recommend, and in so doing understand we endorse the sentiments of the prison warden and the members of the State Board of Control, that the State Asylum for Dangerous Insane at St. Peter, be transferred to the State Prison at South Stillwater, and that a building be erected to house the inmates of this institution now located at St. Peter. Conference with members of the State Board of Control brings forth the information that they favor building this new institution outside the present prison walls, and enclosing the new building with a wall, said wall in turn outlining an area of about five acres, including the ground for the new building. There would be an entrance properly protected and guarded through the main prison wall into the prison yard. It is thought that the proposed new building could not be put inside the present prison yard without to a considerable degree destroying the usefulness of the prison grounds.

We recognize that this is an era when economy is demanded in all state expenditures, especially those entailing investments for new buildings. We would respectfully, therefore, suggest that as the State Prison each year clears a considerable profit over its cost of operation, that bonds or certificates of indebtedness could be issued for the cost of the proposed new structure for dangerous insane, and the interest on these bonds and the bonds themselves be eventually paid out of prison earnings. Thus the new building would be no burden on the taxpayers of the state. It is understood that the state architect is preparing plans for the suggested new structure, and that these with an estimate of its cost will be submitted to the 1925 legislature by the State Board of Control.

The class of inmates housed in the Asylum for Dangerous Insane at St. Peter, are of such a dangerous character that all those who have its official supervision seem united in believing that the institution should be transferred to South Stillwater. The building now occupied by the dangerous insane at St. Peter could very easily be used for housing of the insane, and the extra room is in fact much needed for this purpose. The transfer of this institution to become a part of the prison, would permit of the removal of the insane prisoners now at the prison, from close confinement in cells to the proposed new building where one and all prisoners could have opportunity for sufficient outdoor fresh air and exercise in their own prison yard.

Inmates of the State Prison have a weekly picture show in their own auditorium, and on Sunday afternoons during good weather there is always a baseball game. There are special programs on holidays. Only prisoners in good standing are allowed to attend.

Religious services are held each Sunday morning at 9:00 o'clock, a Catholic and Protestant chaplain alternating in conducting services. Chris-



GENERAL PLAN OF STATE PRISON AT STILLWATER

than Secular services are held prior to the regular Sunday services. Prisoners are not compelled to attend religious services, but the attendance has been uniformly large.

The prison has a large library which is well patronized by practically all of the institution inmates, and the amount of educational reading aside from fiction is remarkably large.

During our visits we have always been extended every facility for efficient inspection work by Warden J. J. Sullivan, including talks with various prisoners.

The prison has a very good hospital in which the sick are given every attention that they would receive in a first class hospital outside the prison walls.

The prisoners are divided into three grades. The new arrival enters the second grade. By good conduct, work and mental advancement, he may earn nine credit marks each month. Promotion from second to first grade requires the earning of fifty out of a possible 54 credits, within six consecutive months. The loss of more than two marks in any one month reduces the prisoner to the next lower grade. There are very few third grade men. Third graders lose all their privileges.

Every prisoner must bathe at least once a week or oftener if considered necessary. On entering the institution a prisoner receives three tickets entitling him, as long as he obeys prison rules, to one ration of tobacco each week, permission to write under grade rules, and permission to see friends once in four weeks.

The prisoner is allowed to receive such weekly papers or magazines as the warden approves; daily papers or sensational publications are not permitted. Letters and papers of every description sent to prisoners are examined at the prison office before being delivered. The sending of candies, fruit or pastry by mail is prohibited. Carrying food from the dining hall is not permitted except on Sundays and holidays. On such occasions each prisoner carries enough food for a lunch at the supper hour. At that time hot tea is also served to the men in their cells. This regulation with special reference to Sundays, means that the men have to be confined in their cells from Sunday noon until the following Monday morning, which seems a rather long period of isolation that could possibly be broken by some form of relief or entertainment.

A prisoner who passes the entire period of his term with a good conduct record, upon his discharge from prison may be restored to the rights and privileges of citizenship, on recommendation of the warden. The form followed is for the warden to furnish the discharged man with a certificate of good conduct, which he in turn shall present to the Governor's office for his certificate of restoration to citizenship. During the past biennial period there have been 55 violations of parole among released prisoners, as against 22 for the 2 years previous. Mr. Frank A. Whittier, the prison's able and long experienced parole agent, states that the disturbed industrial conditions, resulting in lack of employment or reduced wages, explain in part



the apparent increase in parole violations. He also asserts the manufacture, sale and distribution of "moonshine liquor" accounts for some violations, and that the use and abuse of the automobile is responsible for a number of other failures. His report shows that about 40 per cent of the men received at the prison are single and have no dependents, about 23 per cent are married with dependent families, and the balance represent homes broken by death or divorce.

We wish to endorse the recommendation of Mr. Whittier for the establishment of a Central Bureau for Criminal Statistics, with an efficient department of information and identification, to be managed by experts. Such bureaus are operated with considerable advantage in a number of other states, and we believe could be established in Minnesota with headquarters at the State Prison. Much of the work of the bureau could be done by clerks in the prison office and with very little, if any, additional expense to the state. At the present time there is no way of compiling accurate statistics relative to crime throughout Minnesota, and the compilation of such information, as well as the comparative functioning of a bureau of statistics and identification co-operating with authorities throughout the state, would be very valuable in both preparatory work in crime prevention, as well as in speeding the apprehension of fugitives from justice.

Although statistics relative to crime throughout the state of Minnesota are not available, it is appalling to note the figures compiled by the secretary of the Minnesota Bankers Association, which statistics indicate the great need of further protection against crimes of this description. The Bankers' Association Reports show that for the year ending June 1, 1922, among their Association members, there were 18 bank burglaries in Minnesota, with a loss of \$147,10.00; 11 robberies with a loss of \$48,732.00. For 1923 the Association reports 21 burglaries with loss of \$55,479.00; 5 robberies with loss of \$31,446.00. For 1924, 14 burglaries with loss of \$19,713.00; 3 robberies with loss of \$11,322.00—a total loss for the three years through these crimes alone of \$181,533.00.

During this period 3 criminals were killed, one bank officer killed and two police officers seriously wounded and one police officer killed. In a large number of these cases the robbers made safe "get-away."

A few years ago the legislature enacted a law, which we understand was introduced by the late Senator W. A. Nolan, former president of the Board of Visitors for a number of years, which law made the daylight holdup of any bank punishable by life imprisonment.

In connection with this it should be borne in mind that the penalty for first degree murder is also life imprisonment; hence, the bank robber who enters a bank with drawn gun is subject to no additional penalty, in the event that he kills someone. This doubtless has a tendency to endanger life during bank holdups.

## The State Reformatory at St. Cloud

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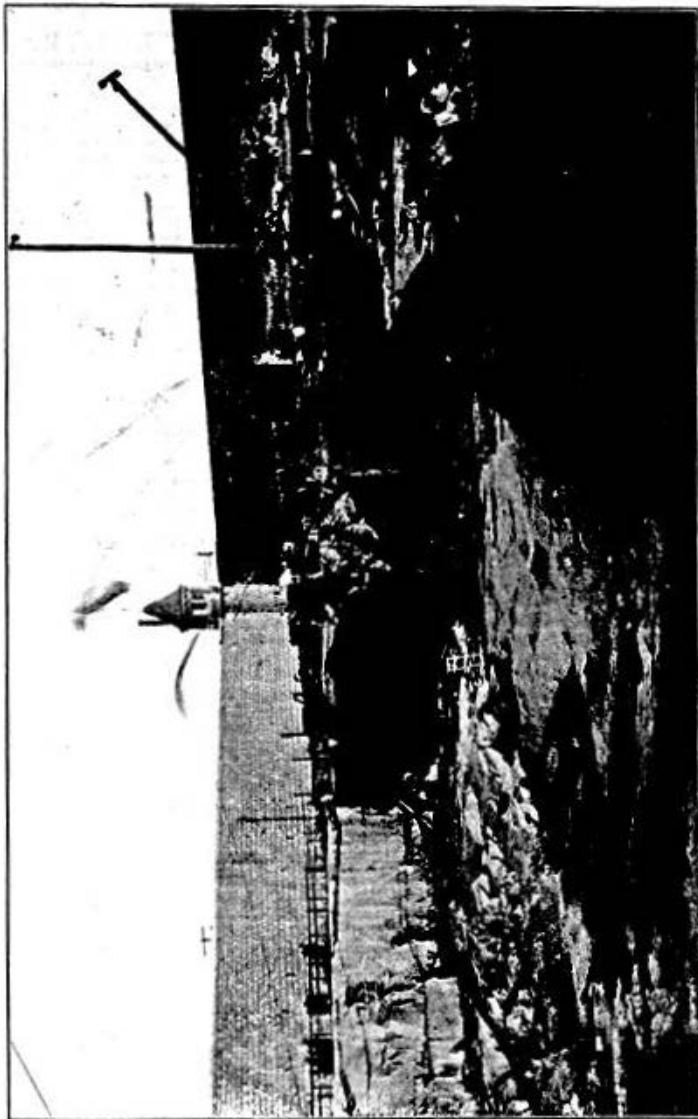
There seems to be a steady increase in the population of the State Reformatory at St. Cloud. There were received during the year ending June 30, 1923, 310; and for the year ending June 30, 1924, 222, a total of 532. The population June 30, 1923, was 624, and on June 30, 1924, was 650. On the day of our latest visit to the Reformatory, November 18, 1924, the population had increased to 668, which was the largest number of inmates in the history of the Reformatory. The average population for the past biennial period is 597, as against 503 for the previous two years. Superintendent Chas. E. Vasey believes the larger number of commitments has been due to idleness among young men, which was reflected in increased crime.

Relative to the causes of commitments, the greatest increase seems to be for sex offenses which, however, is not looked on as a real increase in this form of crime, but rather because of stricter enforcement of social welfare laws.

The Reformatory has a well attended school with attendance varying according to the needs of the institution inmates, from an hour a day to all day sessions. The teachers are inmates and seem to succeed very well in spite of not being trained instructors. There are a number of prisoners who are taking advanced courses. The Knights of Columbus offer free correspondence courses for inmates who are former service men; formerly are taking advantage of this offer. Twenty others are taking courses from the International Correspondence School, for which they pay a charge of \$2.00 out of their monthly earnings. The Reformatory library is also an educational feature of importance and contains 6,000 volumes. For the month previous to our last visit, there were 5,220 books circulated, of which 1,678 were non-fiction, and 4,442 fiction works. Each inmate is allowed two fiction and two non-fiction books a week, or if graduates of the eighth grade, more books are permitted to be withdrawn.

We believe an important need at the State Reformatory is a new hospital. The present hospital is located in a wing of the Reformatory building with cramped quarters and comparatively small windows. The present operating room is largely a makeshift and poorly equipped, yet here some serious operations have to be performed. In the tubercular ward on November 18, 1924, there were 12 patients, 3 confined to their beds. This ward is poorly lighted, and the patients we believe should have better provision to make a fight for life. As this ward is directly beneath the roof, we strongly recommend that until a new hospital can be provided, that a pavilion for tubercular patients be constructed on the roof with stairs leading from the floor below. This can be done with comparatively small financial outlay, and is an important and much needed betterment.

During our recent visit, previous to preparation of this report, we recommended that patients suffering from tuberculosis, who are able to go to the main dining hall for inmates, be instead permitted to receive the menu and service that is maintained for the employees and officers' dining room.



Granite Quarry, Inside the Wall (in Background), at the State Reformatory, St. Cloud

Inmates of the Reformatory receive wages of 6 to 22 cents a day. This is a considerably lower scale than is paid for labor at the State Prison, and we suggest consideration of increasing the amount of pay to a scale more on a par with the remuneration at the Stillwater Institution.

The inmates have considerable recreation and amusement. There is a community sing Sunday evenings during fall and winter. Moving pictures and other entertainments take place from time to time. Baseball is enjoyed on Saturday afternoons during the ball season. A board of sports has been appointed, consisting of four inmates and an officer named by the Superintendent, which is in charge of athletics at the institution. We understand the athletic work among inmates is to be considerably extended.

The Superintendent has found much trouble in disposing of the output of the rock crushing plant. At the time of preparing this report the plant had been compelled to shut down because of lack of market for its produce. The institution is restricted in its sales to roads designated by the State Highway Department and is unable to go into the open market. We believe that the increasing demand for better roads and at the lowest possible cost, should be recognized in granting the Reformatory permission to sell its product wherever road construction is desired throughout the state.

The various trades throughout the institution are functioning adequately and are all of such a character as to train the inmates for self-support on leaving the Reformatory.

The 1933 legislature made an appropriation to complete quarters "E," a dormitory building. This will soon be ready for use and it is hoped will supply housing facilities for increased population for some time to come.

On our visits to the Reformatory, we have on each occasion talked with inmates, making it our business to pass among them during the noon meal hour. Although they have been rather free to make minor complaints, there have been no complaints of any serious nature and whatever little individual difficulties have arisen we have reported to the Superintendent for adjustment.

Mr. Charles E. Vasaty, Superintendent, has for many years been a student of crime and its causes, and we believe is not only well posted, but has the interests at heart of every inmate of his institution.

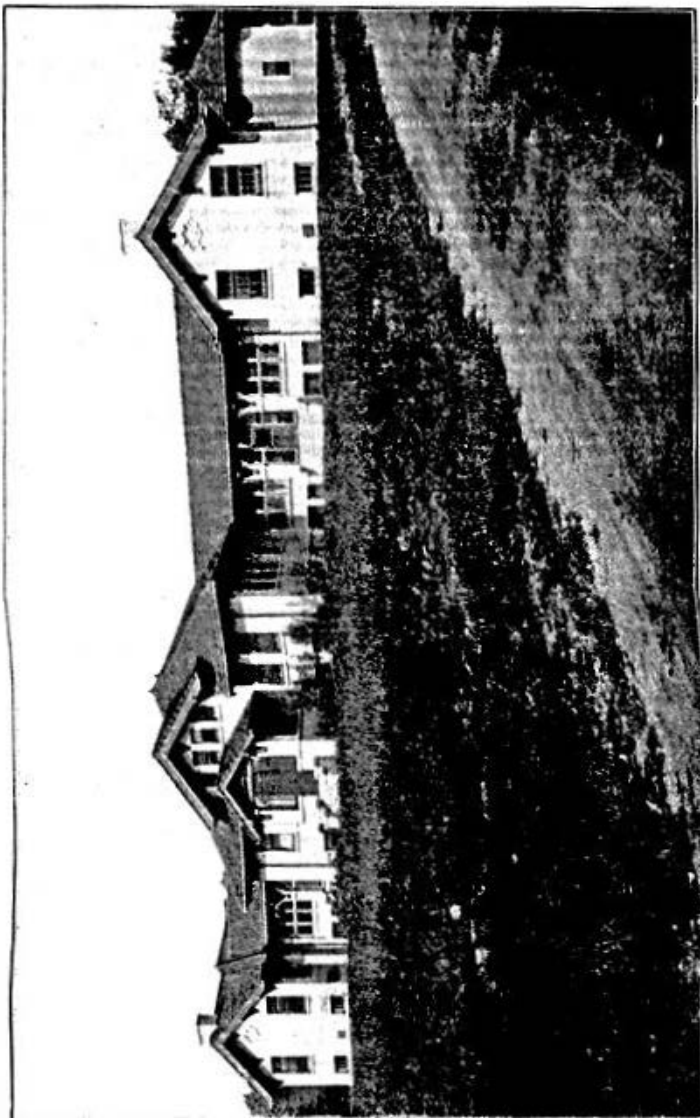
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## St. Peter State Hospital For the Insane

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The population at the St. Peter State Hospital for Insane, like our other institutions for the insane seems to be steadily increasing, the number of patients in the institution June 30, 1931, the close of the fiscal year, being 1,476, an increase of 40 during the biennial period, in spite of transfers made during the two years.

Dr. R. N. Phelps, superintendent, states that the percentage of readmissions at this institution seems to be increasing. He believes this due to the more liberal policy of letting patients go home who are not fully recovered.



Tuberculosis Building, State Hospital for Insane, St. Peter

Percentage of re-admissions for a series of years past are as follows: For 1915-1916, 8.8 per cent; for 1917-1918, 7.1 per cent; for 1919-1920, 10.6 per cent; for 1921-1922, 13 per cent; for 1923-1924, 13.5 per cent.

It is interesting to note that under the voluntary commitment law, by which a person in an exceedingly nervous condition, such person believing hospital treatment is necessary, may be received at the institution on individual application, and without commitment by any court. In these cases the patient must be released at his or her own request. For the past five biennial periods voluntary admissions have been respectively, 44, 49, 43, 59 and 40.

The large percentage of male admissions are single men, whereas the great majority of women admitted are married, widowed, or divorced. During the past two years there were 813 admissions and 556 patients were released on parole. At the same time there were 159 paroled patients returned, and 327 patients who were paroled and not returned, which is about 48.5 per cent of the number admitted. Dr. Phelps reports this is about the average during former biennial periods.

During the past year in our last visit to this institution, we reiterated our recommendation that the service department of the institution needs renovation and remodeling. The kitchen and adjoining work rooms are located in the basement, are old, dark and undesirable. The superintendent is of the opinion, however, that remodeling of these quarters is preferable to the construction of a new service building which could not be so conveniently placed as the present kitchen. In a letter to our Board on this subject, Dr. Phelps writes:

"I might make the suggestion that if anything is to be done, it be to improve the building as it now stands. A tile floor and a brick sidewalk are easily washed and contribute a good deal to the appearance of the building. However, I have not made any recommendation regarding this, and do not see my way clear to do so, as there are many other things which need attention."

A remodeling of the service quarters would permit them to be kept in a sanitary condition, which we consider important, and which is very hard to accomplish at the present time.

The room used for bread storage, because of its basement location, seems hard to keep in a sanitary condition and we have found oven lice existing here which the baker says are very hard to eliminate. On our last visit we ascertained that no shortening was being used in the making of the bread, and we recommended that shortening be added to improve its quality. The institution bakery produced something over a thousand 5-pound loaves a day.

In the various dormitories the cots and mattresses are old and we have recommended special attention by the attendants to see that the cots are both sanitary and comfortable.

This institution has a separate building for tubercular patients. On our last visit there were 19 women patients, with accommodations for 26, and



on the men's side, 23 patients with capacity for 26. This building is excellent and up-to-date, being comparatively new.

In the spring of 1924 the dairy herd was tested for tuberculosis and 10 out of 70 cows reacted as suffering from the disease. These animals were promptly killed but Dr. Phelps informed us that official inspectors passed the meat as usable for the institution.

During our visits to St. Peter Hospital we have made it a point, as is the case in all of our visits to all institutions, to talk with patients who are able to converse understandingly, and we believe that the inmates are given good care and the best being made of rather obsolete equipment, in some parts of the institution.

We understand Dr. Phelps is asking for an appropriation of \$6,000.00 for electric freight elevators, which we believe are an essential need. The old elevators are not only sometimes unserviceable but practically all the time unsafe for those who handle them.

The refrigeration plant is old and inadequate, and a request is being made for \$20,000.00 for replacement. The plumbing of the institution is also ancient, and in places almost beyond repair, and Dr. Phelps' request for \$10,000.00 for new plumbing is a sanitary need.

At the St. Peter Hospital is located the Asylum for Dangerous Insane. Elsewhere in this report, under the heading of "State Prison" we have recommended the dangerous insane be removed to a new building at South Stillwater. On this subject we received a letter from Superintendent Phelps, which we incorporated in a report to the Governor, and which reads in part as follows:

"The moving of the criminal building to the prison is a most important item. All parties involved have expressed willingness to co-operate, even to Warden Sullivan. It is cumbersome, expensive and a difficult thing to try to make a little prison here. Although four-fifths of the dangerous insane do not make trouble of a serious nature, the other fifth consist of schemers who get down here probably for the purpose sometimes, cause the whole institution to be tightly closed.

"The expense of keeping them here is exceedingly great, as compared with keeping them at the prison. My idea would be to have the building just outside the prison wall, with an opening through that wall to the enclosure, where they could have all the prison advantages at little expense. They might, indeed, have a special prison physician, although I would not think it necessary; they are no more sick than are the other prisoners there."

Past events indicate that some of the prisoners transferred merely "played" insane in order to get an opportunity to escape from the State Hospital, and with the full knowledge that when classified as "insane," they would not be subject to severe penalty for breaking away. One of the men in the Asylum for Dangerous Insane, who is perhaps typical of others, has made the open boast that if he killed anybody, the asylum management could not do any more to him than was now being done. The fact is gen-

erally known that at one time two revolvers with ammunition were passed through one of the building windows to certain intelligent patients, and an attempt to break away was made the following morning, which necessitated calling out the local company of the National Guard before the insurrection was overcome. This emphasizes the fact that prison equipment is needed for this class of patients.

## State Asylum For Insane at Hastings

Our visits to the State Asylum for Insane at Hastings during the past two years indicate, in our opinion, that the institution is better maintained than ever before, so far as cleanliness, sanitation and care of patients is concerned. The institution has about 1,000 patients, which is somewhat under its capacity.

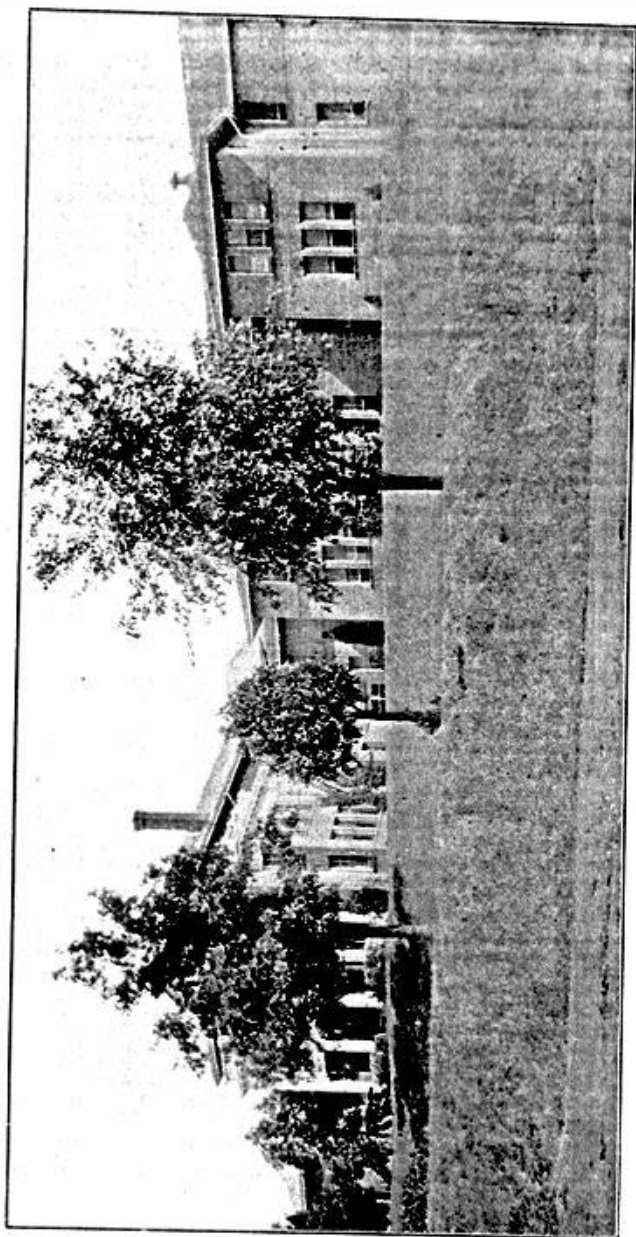
We wish to call attention that the center of the main building, including the assembly and dining halls, is very old and of rapid burning wood construction. The present dining room is crowded, the wood floor in bad condition, and the plaster on the walls cracked and falling off. The same is true of the adjoining serving and dishwashing rooms. The 1923 legislature was requested to rebuild and fireproof this section, but the appropriation was not made, in order to keep down state expenses.

The recommendation for rebuilding is being made to the 1925 session, and because of the condition of the old structure, seems to be a reasonable, although expensive request. We understand the reconstruction will cost about \$150,000.00. We hope that if the rebuilding takes place, the main dining hall, which now seats 300 patients, will be enlarged, and that a suitable new chapel and amusement hall will be provided.

At the present time good use is being made of the chapel and amusement hall, which is limited in its capacity to 300 seats. Every Friday there is a moving picture show, which is repeated three times, so that every patient able to attend, may enjoy it. Each Wednesday evening there is a social gathering here for employees. The hall has recently been redecorated by a patient who has proved himself very skillful. During the good weather, patients are taken out for fresh air every day. In the summer time, there is generally a baseball game every Saturday afternoon on the grounds, played by a nine composed of institution employees, against some outside team.

On our visits we have paid special attention to Cottage No. 3, which is used as a hospital for the institution. Here the patients are largely those who are senile, and afflicted with the physical infirmities of old age. We have made it a point to visit with a number of these patients who talk rationally, and they all had commendation for the care and attention they were receiving.

There is a decided lack of industrial instruction at Hastings asylum among the patients. Those upon whom the shadow of affliction has fallen to a



Main Building, State Asylum for Insane, at Hastings

considerable degree, realize the surroundings and monotony of their daily routine life, and to these, industrial therapy is a boon, a means of materially brightening their lives, and adding to their happiness. We certainly hope that an industrial training department may be established at Hastings, and that such funds as are needed for this department may be supplied by the 1925 legislature.

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## State Hospital For Insane at Fergus Falls

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The State Hospital for Insane at Fergus Falls is the largest institution of its kind in the state, so far as population is concerned. At the close of the 1924 fiscal year, June 30th, the institution had 1,615 patients, and at the close of the 1921 fiscal year, 1,637 patients. During the past biennial period, 555 cases were admitted to the hospital, 579 males and 376 females.

Dr. G. O. Welch, superintendent, is one of the veteran officials of Minnesota state institutions, and we have ever found him a kindly, as well as efficient manager. The institution has always proved to be in very cleanly and sanitary condition, in spite of being much overcrowded and rooms occupied by patients which were never originally intended for such purpose. The fourth floor dormitories which are used for sleeping quarters at night, have sloping ceilings and an insufficient number of windows. This fourth floor is hardly better than a built-over attic, yet the best is being made of the existing circumstances to take care of the present population.

During the past biennial period, we have found that some former inmates of the State Prison at Stillwater, were patients of this institution. As a result of the planning of one of those patients during 1923, there was an escape made by seven patients, five of whom, however, were recaptured within three days. One, James Kinsky, a former Stillwater prisoner, was the ringleader, and the escape resulted from his securing, in some manner, a skeleton key. We recommended, at that time, that all former inmates of the institution be transferred to the State Asylum at St. Peter for the Dangerous Insane, and that no more former Stillwater prisoners be sent to any institution for the insane except that at St. Peter built for the occupation of such trouble makers.

Occupational therapy is progressing very materially in this hospital, and a better physical and mental condition of the patients who are taking this work, is reported. In five wards, 471 women are given daily marching exercise; 203 women have daily ward classes; 421 have learned to work alone under teachers' supervision. Instruction given includes sewing, embroidering, crocheting, tatting, knitting, rug making, weaving, bead work, drawing and painting. During the past biennial period, 2,701 articles were made for hospital use, 1,167 articles were offered for sale; a total production of 14,168 articles. Dr. Welch reports an average of 220 women have been taking a daily walk of not less than a mile, throughout the biennial period. Eighty-seven women who are in the industrial department have gone home recovered and have not been returned.

Among the men patients, 162 were engaged in carpentry, making furniture, capping chairs, painting and drawing. Of this number, 43 went home apparently recovered, and have not been returned.

The summer season naturally gives opportunity for more work among the patients, and an average of 300 women during the summer are out of doors on the hospital grounds, under department supervision.

The new occupational building at this institution, erected in memory of the late Mrs. Phoebe Lyon Welch, wife of the superintendent, has been occupied during the past year, and gives fine facilities for industrial work.

Because of the crowded condition of the hospital, Dr. Welch is recommending an appropriation of \$95,000.00 for an addition to the receiving hospital. Extra quarters for patients at this institution seem essential.

Our visits to the Fergus Falls hospital indicate that the patients are receiving the very best of care, including good wholesome food and proper clothing. It is interesting to note that at this institution epileptic patients are being regularly treated with insulin. The superintendents and physicians at other state institutions in Minnesota somewhat question the value of this treatment, but at Fergus Falls the report is to the effect that the doses of insulin do not have to be increased with the respective patients, and that this medicine seems to extend the periods between epileptic attacks, and the seizures seem to be less severe.



## State Public School at Owatonna



The last inspection of the State Public School at Owatonna by the Board of Visitors, previous to the preparation of this report, was on December 10, 1924. This is the state's home finding institution for indigent and unfortunate children. At the close of the 1923 fiscal year, June 30th, the population of this school numbered 354 children, and at the close of the 1924 fiscal year the population was 358 children. On the day of our visit, December 10th, the population was but 335. Superintendent Oalen A. Merrill estimates the proper capacity, without crowding, at 315 children.

On December 10th last, there were 1,317 children who were placed in various homes throughout the state, and still under state supervision. This number included 667 boys and 550 girls. The number of children passing out of supervision are about equal to the number of those coming into the institution. The school has five field agents to cover the work of state visitation. On the day of our visit, there was one vacancy, which was about to be filled.

Various visits to this school indicate to us that Mr. Merrill is seeing that the children have every attention, are properly supervised, have good food and clothing and cleanly and inviting quarters.

The children are divided into eleven family groups, each group in charge of a capable matron, with two assistants. The family groups average about 30 children, except one, which includes the younger girls and numbers

fifty to sixty. The older girls are in a cottage of their own, where they have a special kitchen, do their own cooking and receive special instruction in culinary work. In addition to the usual wholesome food, the little children have milk to drink three times a day, and the older ones, once a day. This milk is secured from a herd of 40 Holsteins. Butter is served the children twice a day, and meat is served once a day.

A woman dentist is now employed at the school. She divides her work between the Owatonna School and the Home School for Girls at Sank Center; all dental work is done at state expense.

In the school building proper, we find the children are given training up to the seventh grade by a corps of efficient teachers. This work is necessarily considerably interrupted by the fact that children are continually coming and going. The nursery building, or baby cottage is clean in every respect, including its equipment. On the day of our recent visit, 21 babies were being cared for; the cottage has capacity for 30 infants. Mr. Merrill states there are on file 200 requests from homes desiring to adopt babies, the greater demand being for baby girls.

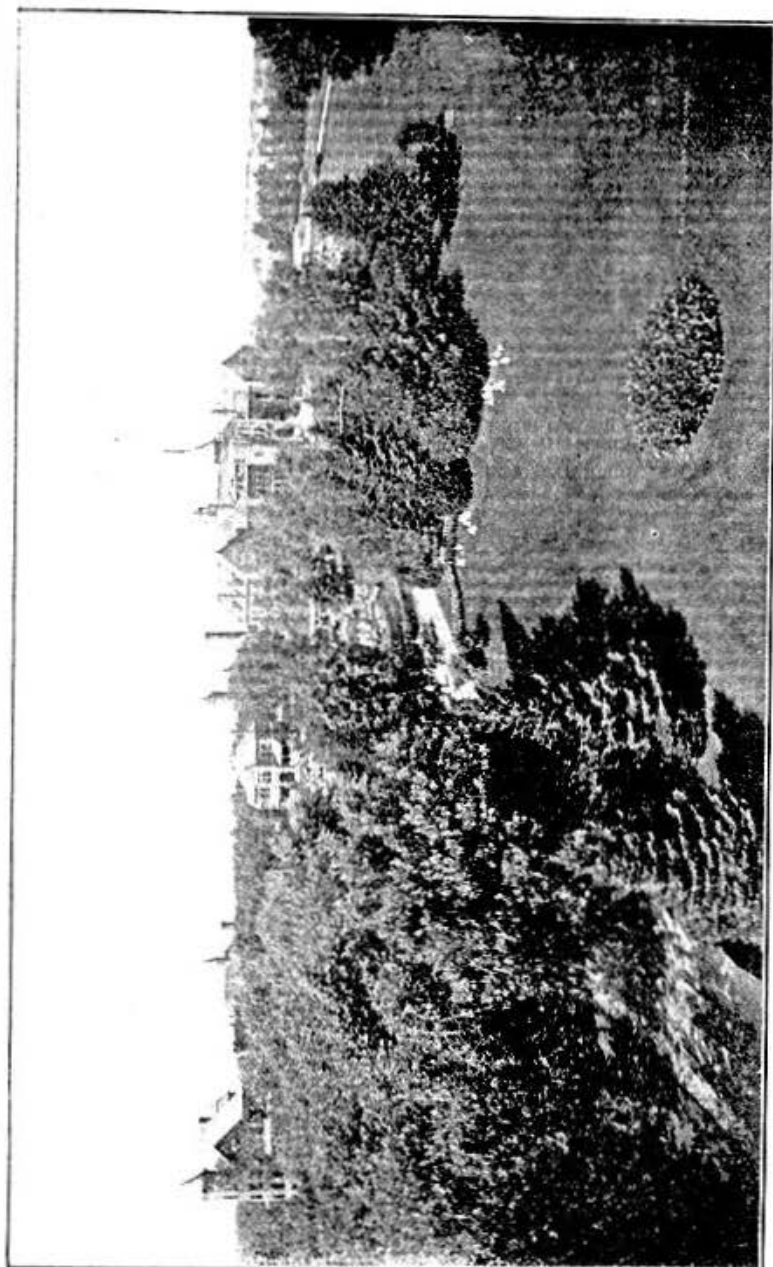
There is a hospital cottage with 50 patients, but on our last visit there were but 19 patients, none seriously ill. We find these patients have every attention. There is an X-ray room in the hospital, but as yet the institution has no X-ray machine.

Superintendent Merrill reports that under an evident misinterpretation of the law of 1917, authorizing commitment of defectives to the State Board of Control, children who were obviously improver subjects for the Owatonna school have been sent there direct, without the knowledge of the Board of Control. The recourse in such instances is to discharge and return these children to the counties from whence they came. Under this provision, 32 were discharged during the biennial period, 26 being mentally defective, four delinquent and two diseased.

During the past two years, many applications have been received for admission of children who are to be held for an indefinite period to give their respective parents a chance to re-establish their homes. Mr. Merrill says, "As the accumulation of such cases interferes with the placing out policy of the institution and excludes many other children, efforts were made to have them provided for elsewhere. The county child welfare boards co-operated to the end that children who were to be returned to their parents might be cared for in approved private institutions or boarded in families, and those found to be permanently dependent admitted to this school to be cared for under the continuing guardianship of the state." If it were not for this policy, the population of the school would be considerably greater than at present, and the institution overcrowded.

Of 413 outside children who were discharged from supervision during the past biennial period, 231 are now self-supporting, 101 legally adopted and 72 restored to parents.

The supervision of children placed in homes by state authorities is, in our opinion, a very important part of child welfare work. The children



State Public School, Owatonna

who have been placed in homes from the State Public School are visited by the field agents of the school. We understand in some counties the child welfare bureaus which place children in homes, are not well organized, and funds at their disposal are limited. This creates uncertainty where children are so placed as to whether such supervision is in proper degree efficient. The executive secretary of this Board was instructed to consult with members of the State Board of Control on this subject, and we were informed that where the field agents of the State Public School do not call, and where the County Welfare Board does not properly function, a field representative of the State Children's Bureau makes the necessary visits. We agree with what is the opinion of Mr. Merrill, superintendent of the Owatonna school, that this after care of placing children in a grave and continuous responsibility, which it is most important for the state to carry out. The special interest of the Board of Visitors, however, must be centered in the activities of the Owatonna school, which as a public institution, we are authorized to visit, and we do not pretend to intrude on the State Children's Bureau with which we have no authorized connection.

That children demand recreation, entertainment and religious instruction is fully recognized at the Owatonna school. For half an hour every morning, the children have chapel exercises in the assembly hall. There is also a well equipped gymnasium building, where the children have properly directed physical exercise. The building also contains bathing pools. A manual training teacher gives instruction in bench work. There is also training in domestic economy and sewing. The older children frequently work out practical business problems. As an example, one boy was supplied with 500 day old white Leghorn chickens. These were charged to his account, as well as all costs, including feed, water and light. The value of the produce was allowed the market price at the time of delivery. The result was a net profit of \$314.03 for the year. The institution was supplied with 1,215 fresh eggs, 602 pounds of dressed poultry, and had the hens on hand at the end of the year. This boy will enter the School of Agriculture next fall. Older children on Sundays attend various church services in Owatonna, and all old enough, attend Sunday school at the institution. Special music at the school on such occasions is provided by a children's choir. The campus affords plenty of recreation, including baseball, tennis, coasting and skating in the winter, and during the summer, amusement with various playground equipment, with which the institution is well provided.

As the result of the activities of social workers some time ago among the Indians of northern Minnesota, a number of Indian children have been sent to the State Public School; there was some question as to whether such children were wards of the state, or of the federal government. We understand the attorney general has ruled that where the children are those of citizens of the state, that they have a right to demand admittance at the State Public School. It is, of course, very hard to place such children in

foster homes. We believe it would be a wiser course to place them in Indian schools, supported by the Federal Government, where such placement is possible.

Superintendent Merrill advises the problem of the unplaceable child is one of importance at this institution. He says that the condition and ancestral history of such children indicates mental defects, requiring special training and safeguards, and in some cases physical deficiency and disease require hospital and sanatorium care. He calls attention to that the legislature has made no appropriation for the special care of such juveniles. In his biennial report, Mr. Merrill says: "There is urgent need for some institutional provision to afford remedial and where imperative, custodial care for these children. This might be undertaken in connection with the psychiatric work authorized by the legislature of 1923 to be carried on at the University Hospital. There should, in addition, be an appropriation available for the use of the Board of Control to enable it to carry out the provision of the law authorizing the commitment of defectives to its guardianship. While such cases are under state control, local communities need not be relieved of all responsibility for them. A certain measure of responsibility devolves upon each community, and the county might well bear half the expense."

On the admission of each child a careful physical examination is given, and this is followed by periodical weighing and mensuring to ascertain the child's development. Newly admitted children are now received at the new hospital cottage and are there kept in quarantine for three weeks, given toxin-antitoxin treatment and vaccinated for smallpox.

We wish to endorse the need of this institution for a new service building. The kitchen quarters are old and have been in use for the past 36 years. The institution has naturally outgrown the kitchen equipment. Mr. Merrill, among other appropriations, is asking for \$20,000.00 for repairs. In this connection we call to attention that much of the construction at the State School at Owatonna is very old, and accordingly more repairs are necessary than among our more modern institution buildings.

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## The Minnesota Soldiers' Home at Minneapolis

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The Minnesota State Soldiers' Home is a beautifully located institution at historic Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis.

Although the Civil War closed sixty years ago and many of the veterans of that conflict have passed on, those remaining are advanced in years, suffering with the infirmities of old age, and hence are increasingly seeking shelter in the state home.

Just previous to the sending of this report to the printers, January 18, 1925, the population was 421,—282 men and 139 women. This is an increase since the close of the last fiscal year, June 30, 1924, of 20 women and 12 men.

Our visits to this institution indicate that under the administration of the present very competent Commandant Col. W. H. Tower, the home is in better condition than ever before. During the past biennial period we have found it cleanly and sanitary, and the result of inspections of quarters in all buildings reflects much credit to the present management. It is also notable that there is apparently a much better feeling among the old soldiers and much more content than in years gone by. The food is wholesome and nourishing, and is placed in large platters on the main dining hall tables so that the old soldiers may help themselves to all they please. We have found these supplies to be first class in every respect and the cooking to be excellent.

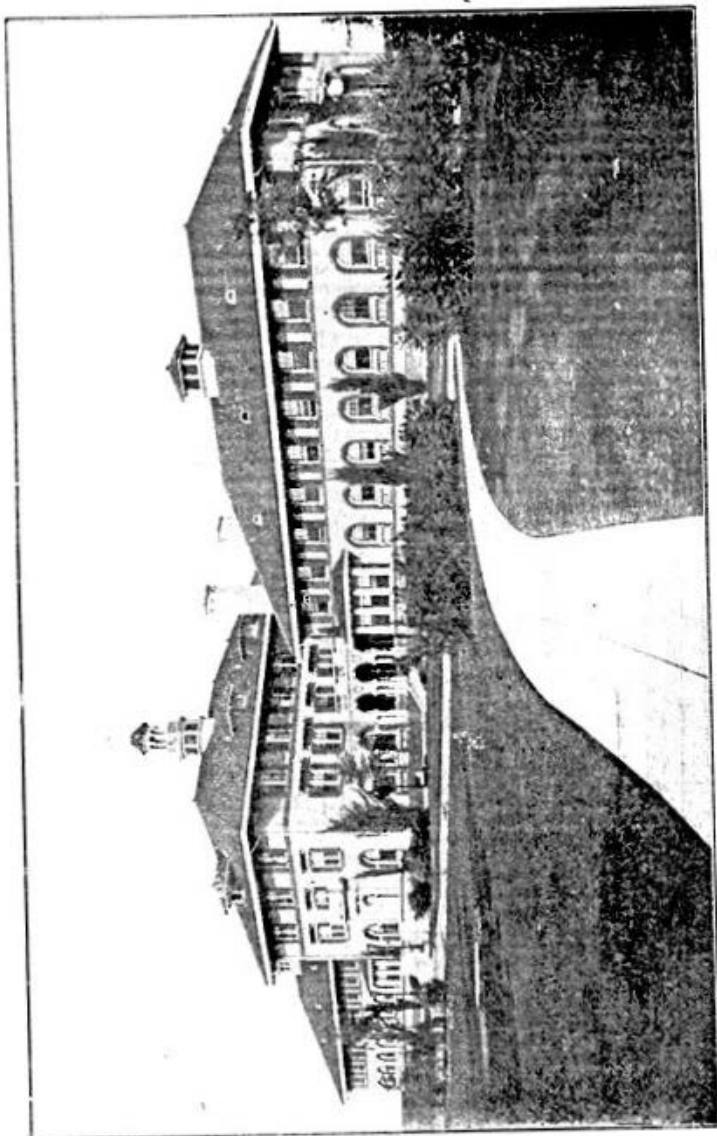
As a result of increasing infirmities of advancing years, the demands on the institution hospital are much heavier than heretofore. At the time of preparing this report, there were 98 men in the hospital, which is its full capacity. During the coming biennial period, there is little question but what the demands on the hospital will be such that possibly the old soldiers needing hospital care cannot be accommodated. The hospital building is very old and of frame interior construction. The building lacks modern facilities that could be afforded in a new structure, but Dr. Clark, surgeon in charge, is apparently giving his patients the best of care, and doing as well as can be expected with an antiquated building. The hospital building has been kept in sanitary condition, and the old soldiers we have talked with on each of our visits, seem to be very well satisfied with the care and attention they receive.

A new hospital building at the Soldiers' Home seems a rather pressing need, and one for which there will be a rapidly increasing demand in the comparatively near future. The Board of Visitors hesitates to recommend the expense of the construction of new institution buildings, but there is no question but what a new hospital at the Soldiers' Home is rapidly reaching the point of being a necessity.

It is interesting to note that the average age of the men who are hospital patients is 86 years, and the average age of inmates throughout the entire home is 82 years.

The functioning of the soldiers' relief fund, under supervision of the office of the Soldiers' Home Board, is doubtless a material factor in keeping many needy old soldiers in their respective presocial homes, instead of having them housed at the Minnehaha Falls institution and causing a crowded condition. At the close of the 1922 fiscal year, there were 1,911 people receiving relief from the fund. At the close of the 1923 fiscal year, June 30th last, this number had increased to 2,685. As the months go on, a steady increase in those seeking this relief is anticipated, as the result of the demands of dependent and decrepit old age. Since the soldiers' relief fund was created in 1887, it has disbursed a total of \$3,466,238.00. The time is not ripe yet for veterans of the recent world war to present themselves in any number for housing at this institution, but it is a certainty that as the years roll on, they will be a source of filling the home after it has been vacated by the





Main Building, State Asylum for Insane, Willmar

aged veterans for whom it now provides. At the present time there are but three world war service men in the care of the institution.

It is perhaps interesting to note that inmates of the Soldiers' Home are receiving an average pension each of \$50.00 a month. Of the total population, 175 men are receiving a maximum pension of \$72.00. Under a law enacted a few years ago by the Minnesota legislature, no part of this pension can be taken by the management of the home for the support of its inmates. This is practically generous pin money for the old soldiers who receive their pension check envelopes from the commandant of the home without said envelopes being opened by the institution management. It is perhaps a rather regrettable thing that in many cases the pension money is secured by over eager relatives of the old soldiers and that the old soldiers themselves, in a number of instances as an actual fact, seem to retain very little of their own allowance from the government. On pension days the grounds are usually flooded with relatives and friends of the old soldiers who frequently fail to call again until the next pension day rolls around.

The management of the home believes that it is best to permit the old soldiers to handle their own pension money without interference, even in cases where such money is surrendered almost as soon as it is received by the original recipients.

The Womens' building at the Soldiers' Home houses not only a number of widows of old soldiers, but also has very pleasant quarters for aged married couples. We have talked with a number of these old people, and have found them, as a whole, very happily situated, contented and appreciative. Widows are accommodated in individual rooms, while each married tie of the good quarters which they have and the attention and care they couple has a suite of two rooms, one a sitting room and the other a bedroom.

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## State Asylum For the Insane at Willmar

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The State Asylum for the Insane at Willmar, Minnesota, at the close of the 1923 fiscal year, had a population of 451, which was increased a year later to a population of 484, for which there are at present adequate and excellent modern accommodations.

This institution being practically new, is comprised of a series of modern fireproof buildings, which are all that could be asked. Our various inspections of this institution indicate that it is unusually ably managed by Dr. Geo. H. Freeman, superintendent. Every room in every building has always been found scrupulously clean and the patients very apparently have excellent care, with wholesome, well cooked food and plenty of needed clothing.

This institution is located a short distance out of the city of Willmar proper, with the main building facing a small lake. Between the main building and the lake the ground gently slopes to the water's edge and is

covered with a substantial grove of trees. Here, during the good weather, the patients are allowed to spend much of their time enjoying the fresh air. On our last visit to Withmar, July 22, 1924, Dr. Freeman told us that he intended to have considerable of the grove and grounds adjacent to the lake shore fenced in, so as to give more privacy for the patients. Two hundred lawn benches are scattered over the institution grounds for the benefit of the asylum inmates.

On our last visit we found 78 patients had recently been transferred from the Fergus Falls State Hospital for the Insane. These patients were of the very much disturbed class and unfortunately, at Fergus Falls, because of the crowded condition of the institution, were in rather cramped quarters. When we saw these same patients at Fergus Falls, most of them were in restraint and were very violent; at Willmar asylum we were struck with the difference in their behavior. None of them were in a disturbed condition and none in restraint. Their better condition was doubtless due to being provided with lighter, better ventilated and much more commodious quarters. Their very decided improvement is doubtless an illustration of the great benefits to be received by providing proper modern housing for such unfortunates.

The transfer of much disturbed patients to Willmar apparently marks a new era relative to the housing of the insane under direction of our State Board of Control. Heretofore it has been the policy to transfer only the physically well and the chronic non-violent cases from the hospitals to the asylums. The new policy seems to be to transfer the disturbed patients who are chronic and incurable cases, as well as the patients who are not of a disturbed character. We believe that this change in procedure is a material advance, in view of the much better mental condition shown by the patients transferred from Fergus Falls to Willmar.

The Willmar asylum has a very satisfactory and comparatively new amusement building, with a hall that seats 700 people comfortably. New seats for this hall had been ordered at the time of our last visit. Church services are held on every Sunday, and during the winter, movie shows are given once a week and thoroughly enjoyed by patients and employees alike.

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## State Sanatorium For Consumptives at Ah-Gwah-Ching

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The State Sanatorium for Consumptives is located at Ah-Gwah-Ching, near Walker, Minnesota. The institution has grounds covering 866 acres, but because of the timbered and rough condition of much of the land, only 103 acres are under cultivation.

At the close of the fiscal year 1922, June 30th, this institution had a patient population of 234. At the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1924, the population was 253.

During the first year of the past biennial period, 350 patients were admitted, 260 discharged and 20 died. During the second year of the period, 293 were admitted, 211 discharged and 30 died. The apparent material difference between admissions for the two years is explained by the large number of re-admissions in 1923, 100 as compared with 46 admissions in the 1924 fiscal year.

The law regulating the functioning of the State Sanatorium contemplates the reception at the institution of only such patients as are incipient cases of tuberculosis, and not apparently in an incurable condition. With a view to securing enforcement of this requirement with each patient, a certificate is required from an attending physician, or one acquainted with the case, stating that the patient is substantially in physical condition to be helped at the sanatorium. In practical operation, however, it has been demonstrated that a number of far advanced cases have been sent to the institution. Located as it is far from the large centers of population of the state, it is a tedious and tiresome trip for a patient to make; as a result of this, when advanced cases have been received, it has been the rule to keep them and give them the best care possible, in preference to requiring them to make a long trip home, which might have very serious consequences. We believe the best interests for successful fight against the ravages of tuberculosis throughout the state are the better served by enforcing the rule more strictly, relative to receiving those cases which may be benefited through sanatorium care and treatment. In this respect, Dr. P. M. Hall, superintendent, suggests the employment of a field expert who could hold clinics throughout the state and pick out cases suitable for the sanatorium. Dr. Hall says the institution could thus be kept running at full bed capacity, and with a reduction in the per capita cost of maintenance and with a better record as to the number of patients discharged. Incidentally, no patient is discharged as "cured," but as having tuberculosis "apparently arrested."

We would suggest that if it is not feasible, or if too expensive to have a field agent for the institution, that possibly co-operation could be secured from city and county health officers of the respective municipalities and counties from which the prospective patients make their applications.

Dr. Hall states that the institution has a waiting list and that increased bed capacity is especially needed for the treatment of children. At the time of our last visit to this institution, September 18, 1924, there were 29 children numbered among the institution patients; they range from three and one-half to sixteen years of age and occupy a special isolated cottage, which is operated under the supervision of a capable and kindly matron. Most of these little children suffer from glandular or bone tuberculosis, and the treatment in most of these cases is that of so-called "sun cure." The little ones, during other than winter weather, run about the grounds in the vicinity of their own cottage, clothed only in loin cloths, with their little bodies tanned like Indians. The results of thus permitting them to be exposed to the sun as much as possible is very remarkable, and instances where continually increasing benefit do not result, are the rare exceptions to the rule.



Main Building, State Sanatorium for Consumptives, Walker

The infirmary building occupied during the past biennial period is filling a long felt want; inmates of this building are practically all bed patients. The infirmary has been filled since the day it was opened. The old infirmary rooms in the main building have been reconstructed into rest rooms which were much needed.

Sun porches are located on the roof of the infirmary building and are in daily use. On the occasion of our last visit there were 22 patients receiving sun baths on the women's side and 23 patients receiving sun treatment on the men's side. The sun roof is divided with a small structure in the center in which are located the powerful electric lamps which are used as substitutes for sunlight during cloudy weather. Treatment with these lamps causes tanning of the skin more rapidly than the actual sunlight. The sun-bath treatment among adults is for tuberculosis of the glands, bone, intestines, ear and throat. On our last visit we were told that every one of these patients was improving with very rapid gain being made in many instances.

On each of our visits to the sanatorium, we have not only gone through the various wards and apartments in the large main building, but have also inspected each of the numerous cottages. In the cottages or pavilion, the patients are those of the physically better type, and are able to a large degree to take care of their own quarters.

Throughout the institution the patients are required to rest several hours each afternoon. At night the services of an active watchman, who patrols the entire institution grounds assure quiet, and the fact that the patients are all in their respective dormitories.

On our various rounds we have talked with a large number of patients on each of our visits. They are of one voice in their praise and appreciation of Dr. Hall. His genial kindness to one and all, means a great deal to these unfortunates whose stay must of necessity be long in their battle against the great white plague. As might be expected, with little to do, many of them suffer with homesickness, and it is doubtless the warm hearted sympathy and advice of Dr. Hall which keeps down the number of those who insist on going home before they should and thus practically surrendering in their battle with the disease with which they are afflicted.

We have regularly inspected the food supplies and kitchen of the institution. The food is of excellent quality, well cooked and bountifully served. Dr. Hall believes that an essential part of the treatment for those afflicted with tuberculosis is to build them up through a wholesome and plentiful diet.

Good use is being made in the institution amusement building. Here is located the library, occupying one side of the ground floor. Across the hall is the industrial department where instruction is given to some 40 odd patients in various lines of work, including the tooling of leather, willow work, basket making, etc. Every Friday evening there is a movie show in the amusement hall auditorium. Each Tuesday there is an entertainment given by local talent of the institution. On Wednesday or Saturday evening of each week, there is a dance for the employees. The auditorium is also supplied with a powerful radio receiving apparatus and loud speaker.



On our visits during the past biennial period, we have called attention to conditions in the institution hog yard. On our last visit the yard contained 167 hogs. They lack running water, and a cement pool would be a decided improvement. Stagnant water with a great deal of mud is constantly to be found; this is not a healthy condition for the hogs, and the yard should be moved in the near future (we understand such a move is under contemplation). Betterments as above suggested, should be made without delay.

On our visits, we have found a number of table spoons, knives and forks among the quantity of old dried bones existing in the hog yard, indicating carelessness on the part of kitchen help in handling table ware and throwing it away with kitchen food scraps. We have called attention to this in our reports.

Among the present needs of the institution is a nurses' home. A cottage is used for this purpose at present, but is inadequate. A nurses' home would not only give the nurses better accommodations and make them more content to remain in this somewhat lonely institution, but would also permit the cottage they now occupy to be used by patients.

We believe the employment of a social worker, if funds can be provided, would be helpful in raising the spirits of the patients and further providing for their individual needs and welfare. The mental rest and attitude of the patients is of importance for their recovery. The more contented they are made to be, the fewer will be the number who insist on returning to their homes before they should.

About 10 per cent of the total number of patients at the sanatorium are so-called "private pay cases," while the balance are paid out of county funds from the respective counties in which their homes are located. The cost for maintaining these patients, whether paid by private parties or by the county, is \$1.40 per day. It is interesting to report that no difference is made in the food used or care of patients whether they are county or private charges. As a matter of fact, no individual patient is supposed to know the status as a patient of any of the others, and the records on this subject are kept as private information by Dr. Hall, superintendent.

During our visits we have made a number of recommendations which have been submitted to the proper authorities for consideration. We have also in our talks with individual patients, received requests of various sorts which we have endeavored to carry out to the best of our ability.

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## The Influence of Organized Communism Among Juveniles

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Although accurate statistics are unobtainable relative to juvenile crime and incorrigibility throughout the state, it seems evident there is an increased restlessness among the youth of the state. Greater privileges

allowed young people, as a result of which the tendency is for freedom to increase to license, is perhaps in part responsible. It seems but a logical consideration that whatever is done to increase restlessness, discontent of existing conditions and disrespect of law must lead to greater trouble for juveniles and have its material influence against their future usefulness as good citizens.

In this regard we wish to call attention to the fact that within recent months the daily press of our large cities has openly called attention to the active work being carried on among children of our public schools by organized communists. Facsimiles of pages from a publication called, "The Young Comrade," have been published by the daily press with the statement that this publication is issued by communists in a printing plant at Chicago. "The Young Comrade" is apparently the official organ for propaganda of communism for what is known as the "Young Workers League." The "Young Workers League" is an organization to instruct school children in communist doctrine, and we understand from those who have made investigations, that this league has branches in 40 different towns and cities of Minnesota; that there are five such organizations said to exist in Minneapolis and three in St. Paul. The campaign of instruction for members of the Young Workers League includes the communist doctrine for the overthrow of American government and organized opposition to capitalism in any and all of its forms.

We understand the propaganda includes telling the children that all wealth should belong to the workers and that they are not receiving their rights when they do not themselves enjoy all the privileges of the children of wealthy parents. The children are encouraged to contribute articles to the "Young Comrade," which oppose our government and practically all the established forms of Americanism.

The continued work of destructive communists among children of the state cannot but lead to material harm, especially if they are to grow up as active opponents of Americanism.

We strongly urge the enactment of a law which will prohibit the activities of any and all organizations within the limits of the state of Minnesota which, through organized effort, spread instructions aiming to incite the overthrow of existing American government.

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## Financial

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The members of the State Board of Visitors, six in number, donate their services to the state. The only money they draw is for their actual expenses, consisting of transportation, hotels and meals, and occasionally, livery hire. The only salary paid is to an executive secretary, who is at the office of the Board at the Old Capitol each day, and who receives \$200.00 a month.

The Board of Visitors receives an appropriation of \$5,000.00 a year, to cover all its expenses and request is made that this appropriation be continued at the same figure. If there is a consolidation of the Women's Board of Visitors and this Board, it will mean the consolidated Board will take on additional institutions, which will entail some additional expense. During the past biennial period, the expense for each fiscal year was as follows:

#### FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURES, 1922-1923

Transportation .....	651.83
Hotels and meals .....	389.11
Livery .....	44.55
Telephone and telegraph .....	109.11
Supplies and printing .....	352.43
Salaries .....	2,400.00
Postage .....	40.00
Miscellaneous .....	80.73
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$4,089.76</b>
1922-23 appropriation .....	\$5,000.00
1922-23 disbursements .....	4,089.76
<b>Balance over .....</b>	<b>\$930.24</b>

#### FISCAL YEAR EXPENDITURES, 1923-1924

Transportation .....	801.06
Hotels and meals .....	528.77
Livery .....	46.05
Telephone and telegraph .....	101.01
Supplies and printing .....	144.05
Salaries .....	2,400.00
Postage .....	20.00
Miscellaneous .....	28.98
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$4,068.05</b>
1923-24 appropriation .....	\$5,000.00
1923-24 disbursements .....	4,068.93
<b>Balance over .....</b>	<b>\$931.05</b>

The Board has operated as economically as possible, and its accounts are regularly audited by the State Department of Public Examiner. A detailed record of all expenditures is kept at the office of the Board by the executive secretary.

It will be noted that for the fiscal year 1922-1923, the Board was able to make a saving in appropriation of \$939.24 at the close of the 12 months. For the fiscal year 1923-1924, the Board was able to make a saving of approximately the same amount, \$931.05. For the first half of the 1924-1925 fiscal year, the expenses of the Board have totaled \$2,174.39. If the same ratio of expense takes place during the remainder of the present fiscal year, the Board will have a balance on hand June 30, 1925, of approximately \$650.00.

We believe it will be unwise financially to make any reduction therefore, in the present appropriation for the Board of \$5,000.00 a year.

#### POPULATION OF STATE INSTITUTIONS AT END OF FISCAL YEARS

##### (BOARD OF CONTROL STATISTICS)

Institution .....	1921 .....	1923 .....
Asoka asylum .....	301	320
Hastings asylum .....	1,000	966
Willmar asylum .....	184	451
Vergara Park hospital .....	1,637	1,615
Rochester hospital .....	1,380	1,320
St. Peter hospital .....	1,476	1,473
<b>Total insane .....</b>	<b>6,881</b>	<b>6,741</b>
State training school .....	297	223
Home school for girls .....	324	340
<b>Total delinquent .....</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>563</b>
State reformatory (men) .....	650	629
State reformatory for women .....	63	56
State prison .....	1,652	1,673
<b>Total criminalistic .....</b>	<b>1,765</b>	<b>1,718</b>
Hospital for leprosy .....	9	4
School for feeble-minded (a) .....	1,773	1,491
School for blind (a) .....	92	80
School for deaf (a) .....	252	252
State public school .....	358	354
Sanatorium for consumptives .....	253	234
Hospital for crippled children .....	196	193
<b>Total other classes .....</b>	<b>3,004</b>	<b>3,010</b>
<b>All institutions .....</b>	<b>12,202</b>	<b>12,033</b>

**GROSS AND NET EXPENDITURES AND GROSS AND NET PER CAPITA COST FOR CURRENT EXPENSES**  
(State Board of Control Statistics)

INSTITUTION	Year Ended June 30, 1924				Year Ended June 30, 1923			
	Expenditures		Per Capita Cost		Expenditures		Per Capita Cost	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Anoka Asylum.....	\$149,481.04	\$123,116.57	\$152.53	\$133.68	\$141,349.68	\$116,356.06	\$163.79	\$134.83
Hastings Asylum.....	179,399.84	154,070.31	172.44	155.94	194,332.00	159,790.58	187.34	162.36
Willmar Asylum.....	95,999.67	89,013.27	201.80	170.69	81,230.51	64,311.67	177.36	144.78
Fergus Falls Hospital.....	384,071.88	337,115.25	231.63	204.74	383,570.37	348,987.27	211.13	218.35
Rochester Hospital.....	314,051.32	294,481.64	255.09	247.74	323,600.68	298,729.22	246.66	188.43
St. Peter Hospital.....	373,982.49	315,433.74	257.70	215.90	376,863.33	347,873.91	261.16	241.08
School for Feeble-Minded.....	434,321.14	350,780.57	221.33	183.39	446,531.33	377,738.76	298.66	201.89
School for Blind.....	63,302.51	50,306.87	718.41	473.25	62,570.19	59,142.56	772.46	720.15
School for Deaf.....	114,937.61	90,306.87	718.41	473.25	110,772.62	87,558.48	456.64	441.31
State Public School.....	148,375.48	111,484.96	458.74	362.15	139,253.03	118,948.19	456.64	441.31
Training School for Boys.....	182,233.51	151,122.47	601.57	600.99	175,705.09	157,698.26	613.18	613.43
Home School for Girls.....	162,907.25	161,586.27	509.09	504.96	180,945.98	174,683.36	516.98	492.01
Reformatory (Men).....	251,100.01	216,291.82	415.05	357.51	248,214.76	195,621.31	417.42	352.12
Reformatory for Women.....	31,246.04	28,676.16	537.07	512.13	32,701.62	29,051.31	417.42	352.12
Prison.....	432,100.00	(Cr) 11,698.72	437.21	11.29	418,299.53	31,199.49	457.07	618.29
Sanatorium for Consumptives.....	185,096.74	38,503.28	781.00	162.47	194,227.70	35,867.28	802.50	148.24
Hospital for Crippled Children.....	140,330.19	140,779.78	701.65	703.90	120,462.02	128,125.91	636.40	625.09
<b>All Institutions.....</b>	<b>\$5,023,368.72</b>	<b>\$2,655,769.39</b>	<b>\$299.22</b>	<b>\$219.19</b>	<b>\$3,687,851.79</b>	<b>\$2,743,018.48</b>	<b>\$310.37</b>	<b>\$250.85</b>

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