

no 7
FIRST BI-ENNIAL MESSAGE

OF

Gov. J. S. PILLSBURY,

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA

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for the next fifty years. Without hesitation I recommend an appropriation be made biennially as will be sufficient to cover insurance on all public buildings. Before leaving this subject, I deem an act of simple justice to make public acknowledgment of the courage and zeal displayed by the officers of the hospital and citizens of New York in their efforts to rescue the unfortunate inmates and save the asylum of the institution from destruction.

Attention is directed to the ample report of the directors and trustees of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, which shows that during the two years 140 pupils have been connected with the deaf department and 35 with the blind department, making a total of 175 inmates cared for by the institution since the date of the last report. The care and judgment heretofore exercised in the management of this institution continue to mark its management.

By an act of the last legislature, the trustees of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind asylum were authorized to provide accommodations for the care of such feeble minded and idiotic children as the commission should select from the patients at the several asylums for the insane. Such commission, consisting of Drs. G. Weston, H. Leonard and C. H. Boardman, after having made the necessary examinations, selected twenty-two patients from the Insane asylum at Peter and Rochester, as proper subjects for training under the trustees having provided accommodations in the way of a school. This number was transferred to the custody of the trustees, and on the 1st of July last the school for their training and instruction opened under the efficient Superintendent, Prof. H. H. Knight.

It is stated that there are as many in number of feeble minded children in our State as of insane persons. After having observed the progress and improvement which these unfortunate children have made in the short time that the school has been in operation, the trustees are of the opinion that it is almost a crime to send these children to the asylum for the insane, where there is no hope whatever of improvement in their condition, and where they must certainly pass the remainder of life an expense to the State. It has been clearly shown in other States that a large portion of these children, if properly educated in early youth can, by training and instruction, be brought to a useful and intelligent condition. The trustees recommend that this school be perpetuated for the training and instruction of feeble-minded children, which recommendation I most cordially endorse.