

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND
THE THIRTY-FIFTH AND THIRTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE INSANE ASYLUM OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA(AT STOCKTON.) FOR THE
TWO YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 1888**

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Biennial Report of the directors and the thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth annual report of the superintendent of the insane asylum of the state of California(at Stockton.) For the Two Years Ending June 30, 1888 by Various

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VARIOUS

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THIRTY-FIFTH AND THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE
INSANE ASYLUM OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
(AT STOCKTON.)

For the Two Years Ending June 30, 1888.



SACRAMENTO:
STATE OFFICE, : : : J. D. YOUNG, SUPT. STATE PRINTING.
1888.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

OCTOBER, 1888.

ROBERT WATT, *President*.....Oakland.
Appointed by Governor Irwin, 1876; reappointed by Governor Perkins, 1880; reappointed by Governor Stoneman, 1884; reappointed by Governor Waterman, 1888.

J. K. DOAK, *Vice-President*.....Stockton.
Appointed by Governor Booth, 1874; appointed by Governor Perkins, 1880; reappointed by Governor Stoneman, 1884.

C. H. RANDALL.....Sonora.
Appointed by Governor Stoneman, 1884.

J. D. McDOUGALD.....Stockton.
Appointed by Governor Stoneman, 1885.

OBED HARVEY, M.D.....Galt.
Appointed by Governor Waterman, 1888.

MEDICAL OFFICERS.

HIRAM N. RUCKER, M.D. Superintendent.

WILLIAM A. WASHINGTON, M.D. Assistant Physician.

JUNIUS D. YOUNG, M.D. Assistant Physician.

N. M. ORR.....Treasurer and Secretary of Board.

H. W. TAYLOR.....Superintendent's Secretary.

T. J. KEYS.....Steward.

JOSEPH D. WATSON.....Supervisor.

Mrs. M. E. RAMSELL.....Matron.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

To his Excellency R. W. WATERMAN, Governor of the State of California:

In accordance with the law controlling the management and direction of the State Insane Asylum at Stockton, we as Directors submit our biennial report for the two years ending June 30, 1888, together with those of the Medical Superintendent and Treasurer, which are made a part of this report.

The management of this institution, for the past two years, has been made arduous and difficult, because of an insufficient appropriation, and the largely increased number of patients to whom it was absolutely necessary to give care and attention, although the accommodations were entirely inadequate for the purpose.

As will be seen by the report of the Medical Superintendent hereto attached, the number of patients receiving care and treatment in this asylum increased sixty-seven during the year ending June 30, 1887, and ninety-three during the year ending June 30, 1888, at which time there were sixteen hundred and forty-seven patients in the institution. This number is at least five hundred in excess of the number the buildings are designed to accommodate, and in consequence not only are the various wards excessively crowded, but the corridors and attics are necessarily used to furnish sleeping rooms for the large number of patients who have been forced upon the care of the managers of the institution.

It was confidently expected that the overcrowded condition of the wards of the asylum would be relieved to a limited extent by a transfer of patients to the new asylum at Agnews, but as is well known, that expectation has not been realized; although an appropriation was made for the support of patients at Agnews, and the amount asked for by this Board for the support of this institution correspondingly reduced, no transfer of patients has been made, and all have been retained and supported here.

It is also a noticeable fact that the commitments to this asylum have been largely in excess of those made to the Napa Asylum.

Under the circumstances it has been found impossible by the exercise of the strictest economy to meet the necessary requirements of this institution from the appropriations made by the Legislature for its support. On June 30, 1888, our expenditures exceeded the appropriation by \$12,405 21, leaving that deficiency, as shown by bills now on file with the State Board of Examiners. We estimate that there will be a deficiency of at least \$15,000 for the present fiscal year, and we respectfully ask that an appropriation of \$27,405 21 be made to cover these amounts.

Our failure to obtain the appropriation asked for in our last report, in order that many much needed improvements and repairs might be made, with a purpose of protecting and preserving the public property, and providing better facilities for the care of the wards of the State placed under our control, has rendered it impossible to carry any of the proposed plans into successful operation, while the necessity for an appropriation has been greatly increased by the delay, and the cost of some of the repairs will now be much greater than if they had been made at the proper time.

During the past two years a hay barn has been constructed. This structure was an absolute necessity, as previously the surplus fodder gathered from the farm during the summer had to be put in stacks for winter use, and in consequence became much damaged. With present facilities a supply of hay for the use of the animals kept upon the grounds during the winter months can be laid in early in the season, and its cost is thereby materially lessened.

One of the steam boilers in use at the female department building, having been condemned and pronounced unsafe by the Inspector, it was replaced by a new one; it was also found necessary to procure a new washing machine to replace one long in use in the laundry building, and which had become so worn as to be practically unserviceable.

Considerable necessary grading has been done upon the grounds and around the buildings, and the work of graveling the streets and walks within the grounds has been continued so far as practicable, and the facilities for easy communication between the several buildings and portions of the grounds correspondingly improved. During the year 1886, the balance of the appropriation of \$25,000, made by the Legislature of 1885, was expended, the heating apparatus was put in operation in the old building, and repairs were made to that structure which have very materially improved the general appearance, and added much to the convenience and comfort of the inmates.

The Act of the Legislature providing for the construction of an open canal from and along North Street in the City of Stockton, to the San Joaquin River, is now being carried into effect by this Board; and contracts have been let for the construction of said open canal, and also for laying a pipe-line from the asylum grounds connecting with the present sewerage system along said canal, for such a distance from the asylum grounds as shall insure the discharge of the sewerage matter into the canal, where it will be carried into the river and no longer be objectionable to the residents of the vicinity.

IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED.

This Board, in its present report, can but reiterate what has been said in former reports concerning the great necessity of provision being made by the Legislature for the repairs of buildings connected with this institution, and for various improvements that are absolutely demanded in order that the wards of the State here confined may have suitable accommodations, and every facility be afforded the management for giving them such attention and care as shall most conduce to their comfort, and if possible to their speedy recovery.

We approach this portion of our report with reluctance, for judging by the past, we are aware that in asking for an appropriation to carry out the various improvements and repairs absolutely necessary to protect the property of the State, and to provide for an economical and effective management of this institution, we are liable to be misrepresented, and that a certain class of would be economists, whose influence seems to be great in our legislative bodies, are not disposed to treat the great charities of the State with that broad, just, and liberal spirit, which their importance and magnitude now demand.

We must, however, repeat several of the recommendations made in our last report, and earnestly urge upon your attention—and, through you, upon the attention of the Legislature—the absolute necessity of improvements which this Board has been unable to make, because of the want of means.

The asylum building occupied by the female patients is sadly in need of repair; and, for a statement of its present condition, we refer you to the report of the Medical Superintendent, and we cordially indorse his recommendations concerning the changes and improvements necessary to be there made. A liberal expenditure should be made upon the building, in order to protect it from further damage from the elements, and also to guard and preserve the health of its inmates.

The law governing the asylum provides that its Directors shall provide suitable apartments upon the asylum grounds for the use of the Assistant Physicians and their families. This law has thus far remained a dead letter, for the reason that no appropriations have ever been made to pay for the erection of such apartments, and the management of the institution is rendered less efficient and satisfactory in consequence thereof; and, in this connection, we desire to particularly refer to the recommendations of the Superintendent, that another Assistant Physician be provided for the asylum, and would ask that authority be given this Board to employ, at their discretion, another physician, and to fix his compensation.

In order to most efficiently care for the large number of patients here confined, all the physicians should reside upon the grounds, to be within easy call in case of an emergency, and the construction of cottages to enable this result to be attained is, in our opinion, imperatively demanded.

We also cordially indorse the recommendation of the Superintendent that a residence be provided for the Supervisor.

A large boiler house should be erected at the male department, and be furnished with boilers of larger capacity to meet the wants of that portion of the institution. The boilers have been in use for a long time, and are of inadequate capacity to furnish the steam required, and by making the change proposed a considerable saving could be made in the consumption of coal, which is a very important item of expense to the institution.

We earnestly urge upon your especial attention the recommendation of the Medical Superintendent, that workshops be provided in which the patients may have employment, and we think the reasons he has given for the adoption of such a policy must receive the cordial indorsement of all whose sympathies have been awakened to the condition of the unfortunate class here confined.

A morgue is also much needed, as at present there are no suitable and convenient apartments upon the ground to be used for that purpose.

Believing that the improvements referred to in this report are imperatively demanded, and, in order that the situation might be properly presented, we employed Messrs. Percy & Hamilton, architects, to make a thorough examination of the buildings, ascertain their condition, and to make an estimate of the cost of the improvements required. A copy of their report and estimate is hereunto attached, which we respectfully submit for your consideration, and earnestly request that an appropriation of at least \$80,000 may be made for the purposes therein specified.

APPROPRIATION FOR SUPPORT.

The number of patients in this asylum at the date of this report is one thousand seven hundred. Should a transfer be made from this and the Napa Asylum of such a number as the new asylum at Agnews will accommodate, it cannot reasonably be expected that more than two hundred will be taken from this institution; this will leave one thousand five hundred to be cared for, and that number will be gradually increased by commit-

ments. To support this large number of unfortunates, for the next two years, will require an expenditure of at least \$230,000 per annum.

It should be clearly understood that the reduction in the number of patients will not proportionately reduce the cost of running this asylum; at present the institution is overcrowded, and the removal of two hundred patients would afford relief to a limited extent, yet it would not be possible to reduce the number of attendants, nor would the cost of heating, lighting, supplying water, etc., to the buildings, be lessened in the least.

The only saving that will be made to this institution by the proposed transfer will be the mere cost of feeding and clothing the number that may be removed; and these two items aggregate but about 40 per cent of the whole cost of their support.

Confidently believing that we will have your hearty coöperation in the management of the important trust submitted to our charge, we commend this great public charity to your favorable notice.

ROBERT WATT,
J. K. DOAK,
CHARLES H. RANDALL,
J. D. McDUGALD,
OBED HARVEY,

Directors.

STOCKTON, October 22, 1888.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND
TREASURER OF ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE,
STOCKTON, CAL., July 30, 1888. }

To the Board of Directors of the State Insane Asylum:

GENTLEMEN: In accordance with the by-laws of this institution, I have the honor to present the following biennial report of the receipts and expenditures of the State Insane Asylum at Stockton for the two years ending June 30, 1888:

GENERAL FUND.

Receipts.

July 1, 1886, balance as per last biennial report	\$35,146 44
August 10, 1886, Warrant No. 350	10,172 62
September 11, 1886, Warrant No. 2,328	15,549 23
October 8, 1886, Warrant No. 3,827	17,046 52
October 10, 1886, Warrant No. 5,154	18,425 53
December 8, 1886, Warrant No. 6,224	19,719 79
January 5, 1887, Warrant No. 6,511	19,920 08
January 30, 1887	19,847 94
February 26, 1887	17,569 02
April 23, 1887	15,891 41
April 28, 1887	16,722 30
July 9, 1887, Warrant No. 15,196	16,580 20
August 11, 1887, Warrant No. 99	16,227 52
September 13, 1887, Warrant No. 2,780	16,618 87
Transferred from Contingent Fund	18 50
October 11, 1887, Warrant No. 3,800	16,577 85
October 28, 1887, Warrant No. 5,373	19,335 23
December 12, 1887, Warrant No. 6,505	17,521 51
January 10, 1888, Warrant No. 7,934	19,448 78
February 6, 1888	19,447 74
February 29, 1888	19,474 35
March 10, 1888, transferred from Contingent Fund	13 25
March 27, 1888	17,075 42
March 27, 1888, balance of appropriation thirty-seventh fiscal year	133 00
March 27, 1888, balance of appropriation thirty-eighth fiscal year	4,881 01
May 9, 1888	18,731 52
May 23, 1888	17,722 33
	<u>\$430,745 06</u>

Disbursements.

Amount paid for general support, as per vouchers now on file, for the year ending June 30, 1887	\$211,309 66
For year ending June 30, 1888	212,392 11
Balance in General Fund June 30, 1888	7,043 29
	<u>\$430,745 06</u>

CONTINGENT FUND.

Receipts.

Board, etc., for year ending June 30, 1887	\$8,478 89
Steward's sales for year ending June 30, 1887	2,598 48
Board, etc., for year ending June 30, 1888	9,470 80
Steward's sales for year ending June 30, 1888	2,221 97
	<u>\$22,770 14</u>