

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT NO. 26; SIXTYETH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE
STATE INFIRMARY AT TEWKSBURY,
INCLUDING REPORT OF THE
SUPERINTENDENT AND RESIDENT PHYSICIAN,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1913**

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TRUSTEES' REPORT.

To His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Council.

The trustees of the State Infirmity and State Farm, in accordance with the requirements of the statutes, respectfully submit the sixtieth annual report concerning the administration of the State Infirmity for the year ending Nov. 30, 1913.

A decrease in admissions is noticeable when compared with the figures of recent years, but notwithstanding this the weekly average shows an increase. At no time in the history of the institution has the minimum number of persons under care, at a given time, been so high as this year, exceeding the previous year by 96, — the largest number up to that time.

There were admitted during the year covered by this report 4,240 persons, as against 4,629 during the previous year. The total number of persons under care during the year was 6,473, as compared with 6,955 during the previous year. The largest number under care at any one time was 2,595, or 22 more than the number recorded for the previous year.

The smallest number under care on any day was 2,170, a larger number than shown in any previous year. The weekly average was 2,312.87, or 29.43 more than that of the previous year, which itself exceeded by 82.44 any previous weekly average.

Under chapter 146 of the Acts of 1913 there was appropriated the sum of \$444,200 for the maintenance of this institution. During the year there was expended for current maintenance \$444,130.56. Of this total, \$155,533.42 were used for salaries, wages and labor, and \$288,597.14 for general expenses. The tables submitted in the superintendent's report are explicit as to the details of this outlay. The per capita cost is indicated as \$3.69 per week, or 13 cents more than the weekly per capita for the period last reported.

The sums received for articles sold, the amounts collected in the cities and towns in the Commonwealth and from the federal government for the care of persons subject to federal or municipal charge, amounted to \$24,546.70. Recognizing this amount as receipts and deducting the same from the total expended for maintenance, the net outlay from the State treasury for the support of the State Infirmary would be \$419,583.86.

Under special appropriations made by the General Court for permanent improvements in the institution plant, there has been expended the sum of \$29,934.71, as shown in the table herewith submitted.

The complexity of the problem within the many wards of the institution continues as varied and exacting as ever, but a résumé of the year's work proves conclusively that the management has been judicious and equal to the task as presented. Due consideration has been given to all things that tend to the health, comfort and contentment of all of the inmates. The dental work, to which much attention has been given, has shown gratifying results. The pleasure of the children, and such adults as were responsive to these events, has been greatly enhanced by the dancing classes, the drills and exercises for the boys and girls, picnics and other outdoor pastimes. Much satisfaction has also resulted from the entertainments given in the enlarged chapel.

The trustees view with much satisfaction the advance and development along the lines of industrial training. Additional teachers have been occupied throughout the year in this line of endeavor among the insane. The other departments have shared equally in this gratifying development. The introduction of kindergarten teachers among the insane has proven advantageous in many ways.

The repair department has furnished occupation for many men not adapted to more laborious tasks, and the effort in this line has been the means of recovering to constant use many articles that ordinarily might have been cast into the scrap heap as beyond use and of no value. Development in the shoemaking and repair shop has also shown a considerable advance.

All of the brooms, brushes, mats, men's stockings, toweling for the entire institution, and about all of the clothing for the men and women have been manufactured on the premises, along with scores of other necessities that enter into the daily demand of a big institution.

Considering the vast amount of labor and the necessary number of men required for a farm of such proportions as found at this institution, the results have been all that might reasonably be expected. The character of the soil in any farm has much to do with the success or failure of any undertaking of that nature. We have always been handicapped at this institution because of the unusually sandy and unproductive character of the soil. Discouraging as this handicap may seem to the average farmer, it would be possible to offset it in a measure if we but had able-bodied inmates in sufficient numbers to work the farm, and thus overcome the shortcomings of nature. But here we experience a difficulty not encountered by any other of the large institutions. Year by year the increasing percentage of children, aged inmates, the sick and debilitated has transformed the institution into a general hospital, caring for a population of helpless inmates, from whom no labor can be expected, either on the farm or in other occupation about the place.

Relative to the available laborers for the various activities at the institution, the number of able-bodied men, or near able-bodied, seems to be diminishing from year to year, while the general activities and chores of the institution are increasing. Even through the winter months, where formerly there were large numbers of men to help on the general projects and new work, it is now rarely the case that a sufficient number is present to make any satisfactory progress. There are the miles of sewers which require frequent repairing; the roads, the walks and the filter beds require constant attention aside from the necessity of continuing to add new ones to the system; the great amount of teaming, trucking or jobbing; the constant work of handling coal and ashes especially; the continuous work on the trees in fighting the gypsy and brown-tail moths and other pests; the handling of garbage; the necessary attention in caring for such extensive grounds, with much