

FIFTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS

OF THE

STATE OF NEBRASKA,

FOR THE

TWO YEARS ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1892.

THE HOME IS LOCATED ON CORNER
SOUTH AND 11TH STS.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THE HOME.

LINCOLN, NEB.:
PACE, WILLIAMS & NORTH,
1893.

LINCOLN, NEB., NOV. 30, 1892.

To the Honorable Board of Public Lands and Buildings:

GENTLEMEN: I herewith submit the fifth biennial report of the Home of the Friendless for the two years ending November 30, 1892.

Very Respectfully,

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

By MRS. H. A. BABCOCK, President.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HOME OF THE FRIENDLESS.

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MRS. A. M. DAVIS	Lincoln
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MRS. J. O. EVERETT	Lincoln
MRS. A. E. THOMAS, President Lincoln Auxiliary, resident member	Lincoln

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ALL PRESIDENTS OF AUXILIARIES ARE VICE PRESIDENTS.	
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OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE HOME.

MRS. L. BEACH HOEL.....	Superintendent
MRS. ATOSSA S. HALL.....	Assistant Superintendent
DRS. M. H. AND J. O. EVERETT.....	Physians
MRS. MATTIE E. WOOD.....	MATRON
FLORA A. BURTON.....	Teacher
LOUIE P. APPLEBY.....	Governess
SARA TAYLOR.....	General Assistant or Usher
MRS. BODDINGTON.....	Head Nurse, First Nursery
ELLA GARLAND.....	Assistant Nurse, First Nursery
L. WILKINSON.....	Assistant Nurse. First Nursery
JENNIE L. PALMER.....	Head Nurse, Second Nursery
ETHEL CLARK.....	Aissistant Nurse, Second Nursery
ALICE E. AYERS.....	Special Nurse
LIDA WHITNEY.....	Charge of Dormitory
BELLE MARTZ.....	Charge of Quarantine
LENA LLIG.....	First Cook.
KATIE KAHLER.....	Second Cook.
DORA KLUCK.....	House Cleaner
CHRISTINA ANDERSON.....	Laundress
MEBEL CRAGO.....	Assistant Laundress
ALICE E. ARNELD.....	Ironer
OTTMER GESCHWENDER.....	Engineer and Florist
ETERETT BARNHILL.....	Gardner.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Public Lands and Buildings:

GENTLEMEN: The board of directors of the Society of the Home for the Friendless herewith presents to you the fifth biennial report of its work at the Home.

It is with a measure of satisfaction that we present this report covering a period of two years, replete with so many visible results of work accomplished.

More improvements have been made than in any other period of like time in the history of the Home. For these improvements and the general successes achieved, we are under many obligations to you for assistance rendered and advice cheerfully given at all times.

The complete system of sewerage put in operation at the Home in 1890 by your honorable board has been of incalculable benefit to the institution. The exigencies of the case demanded it. Health was constantly endangered by the poisonous gasses emanating from the vile cesspool which had served as sewerage at the Home up to that time, and we had no remedy.

The electric lights which your board had placed in the main building two years ago have proven a great convenience. The danger to life and property has been greatly lessened and much anxiety saved.

The system should in our opinion be extended to every building on the ground.

The new school building is a source of pride to all concerned. The only draw-back to perfect satisfaction being the long-drawn-out time that the contractor took in which to complete it.

A year elapsed after we were to have been given possession of the building before it was finished. This delay caused us great annoyance, but now that we are permitted to furnish and use it we are very much gratified. Especially acceptable will the school room prove to be, after using the dark, dingy one in the basement of the old building so long.

A covered walk is in process of construction between the two main buildings, to protect the children from exposure during the inclemency of winter weather, as they go back and forth to their meals, and to school and dormitories.

The green house which stood in such close proximity to the new building as to be utterly worthless, had to be abandoned as you are aware. Another site was chosen and a larger and much better one was built. All the material available from the old greenhouse was used so as to lessen the cost of construction of the new. The greenhouse brings in some revenue, besides furnishing flowers for garlanding the "silent sleepers" as they lie with folded hands in their tiny burial caskets at the home.

Beautiful flowers are kept in the rooms of the sick and placed in the reception parlor and officers' rooms in profusion, lading the air with fragrance giving pleasure alike to visitors and those who live at the home.

The laying out of the grounds is an improvement which had long been pleasantly anticipated. The artistic arrangement of flower-beds, grassy plats and circular walks, made the front yard a thing of beauty, when once our florist got the plants set out and in good growing condition. The grounds at the home this past summer were considered the finest in the city, and justly so we think. The neat iron fence put in by Kimball Bros. of this city, across the front of the grounds, and on down to the new building on the east side, is a very great improvement over the dilapidated old board fence which has done duty so many years.

The supply of water at the Home is sufficiently increased since

connection with the city mains has been made, as to be ample for all needs. We consider this one of the most valuable improvements, that has ever been made at the Home, inasmuch as life and property are thus better protected.

Fire escapes, soon to be placed upon the two main buildings, will be duly appreciated. They are a most necessary means of protection to the lives of the inmates.

Fires, at the Home, have broken out on two or three occasions, but being discovered in their incipency, were easily subdued. Now that we are provided with hose and a plentiful water supply we shall not stand in so much dread of fire.

The new barn is also an improvement of great importance. It has a capacity for storing quite a quantity of hay for winter use, besides bins for ground, feed, corn, roots, etc. Fifteen cows can be comfortably housed within its shelter. The fresh, pure milk is a very agreeable accessory to the diet of the children. We find it costs less to keep the cows than to buy milk, and the quality of the milk is vastly superior to that obtained elsewhere. From ten to thirteen cows are kept on the premises.

REPAIRS.

The repairs of the Institution have been carefully looked after and every part of the machinery and all the buildings kept in good order.

In an institution the size of this, it means something to keep the machinery in motion, with no losses caused by carelessness or inattention to business. "Eternal vigilance" is the watchword of success. To our valuable and efficient Superintendent is entrusted this supervision; and to say that it has been well done, is but a mild way of expressing our appreciation of her work. The ladies, comprising our board, lose no time in attending to these repairs when the Superintendent reports the necessity of the care of them.

All the work of directing or managing the multitude of diversified interests of the Home for the Friendless is performed by its Board of Directors, through its standing committees. These committees, selected with reference to the especial fitness of each lady for a special part of the work, are appointed annually by the the President, subject to the approval of the board. To the proper committee, each line of the work is assigned and faithfully attended to.

This board of ladies, receives no compensation for the time and labor given to this work. They simply do it for the love they bear for it. Every other duty outside of their own homes, is made subservient to these calls upon their time.

Regular sessions of this board are held at the Home on the last Tuesday of each month, when each committee reports through its chairman the work done in its particular line during the month.

All bills for repairs or for supplies of any kind purchased for the institution, are read at these meetings and vouched for by the committee having contracted them, so that there is little danger of mistakes being made.

The addition of the new building will not lessen the work of the board. The additional room means more inmates received and the larger the Home family becomes, the more work is necessary, and the more careful planning is required for its government. Many of the difficulties which have confronted us in the past will, however, be overcome with the use of the new building, with its convenient school room, large and completely equipped dormitory for boys and the numerous other rooms at our disposal. These pleasant changes will add to the convenience and comfort of the whole institution and we believe will add much to its success.

The Home for the Friendless of Nebraska has come to stay.

Its management has long been acknowledged the most economical of any institution in the state.

Seventy out of the ninety counties in Nebraska have either sent inmates to the Home or received children for adoption from the Home. The work is a glorious one. The good already accomplished cannot be estimated.

The dawning of a still brighter day is opening before it.

The people of the state are awake to its importance and to its necessities. The Honorable Legislators, who meet in Lincoln bi-ennially, appreciate the Home, and their acts in granting the appropriations asked for its support attest the fact more than their earnest words of praise and satisfaction could do.

Letters received from friends and strangers alike, from every part of this great state, bring cheering words of encouragement and thankfulness for what the Home is doing. Our hands are strengthened and "our hearts are made to rejoice and be glad" by these assurances of approval from these strangers and friends. Surely their endorsement is most gratifying; and it is the object of the directors to look so well to the ways of the household of the Home—as to be ever worthy of the words of commendation we receive. To do the greatest good to the greatest number in the way that seems best to the board, is its motto and its aim.

NEEDS OF THE HOME.

The greatest need at the Home at present is a boiler house. In our report two years ago this subject was presented, but was not favorably acted upon by the legislature. We quote from that report as follows: "The present boiler house is used as a laundry on the first floor, and as a dormitory above, an arrangement both inconvenient and dangerous, as we are often reminded by the not infrequent boiler explosions elsewhere. If a new commodious boiler house could be built and two new boilers put in, it would

add to the facilities at the home and lessen somewhat our running expenses.”

More land is also one of the great needs of the Home. Each year we pay a high rent for a small plat of ground upon which to raise the garden vegetables for use in summer. Pasturage for the cows on rented land is also very expensive. Should these needs be favorably considered by the next Legislature, the Home for the Friendless management will be very thankful. It is our earnest wish that at some not far distant day the Home will be located on much larger grounds than it is at present.

The finances of the Home are in good condition. With our habit for economy we shall be able to keep up the running expenses and repairs and furnish and equip the new building ready for use, out of the appropriation granted us by the last Legislature. If we had had the use of the new building a year before we did, as we expected to have, we would not have had funds sufficient for fuel. Three thousand dollars a year seems to be a very reasonable sum to expend for fuel and lights for such an institution. There is the main building, the laundry and boiler house combined, and two cottages to light and warm. The washing for the large family (averaging about 120 persons), is all done at the laundry at the Home. Summer and winter, washing and ironing is done every day in the week, Sundays excepted.

The cooking for this large family is all done at the Home also except the light-bread. It is thought to be cheaper to buy the bread than build a bake-oven and hire a baker to attend to it.

With the large new building to warm and light hereafter we shall need more funds for that purpose. Hence, we respectfully ask that our appropriation for fuel and lights be increased to \$4,000 annually.

THE OBJECT OF THIS INSTITUTION.

“The object of this institution is to give shelter and protect-

tion to homeless women and children of Nebraska and to place surrendered children permanent homes. Its management is non-sectional, non-political and non-sectarian. This motto stands at the head of "Our Home News," a little paper published monthly solely in the interests of the Home for the Friendless.

Children constitute the larger part of the inmates of the Home. Indeed, it is the wish of the management to make it more and more a "Children's Home." As other institutions have been and still are being established in various parts of the state, for different classes, we find the way being made clear for the fulfillment of our long cherished plan.

The last institution to open its charitable doors, is the Nebraska Home for the Aged, 1422 North Twenty-seventh street, Omaha, Neb. This is one of the most worthy institutions in the State, and we predict for it a successful career. Its object is worthy indeed, and it will be a grand work. We wish most heartily the Honorable Legislature would surprise the management with an appropriation of a few thousand dollars towards its support. What can be more pitiable than an aged mother standing penniless, homeless, friendless, and alone, not knowing which way to turn for shelter or relief. Surely this great State, with its bursting bins of golden grain, and its surplus of provisions can take care of the aged fathers and mothers within its borders. State of Nebraska, reach out to them your hands of plenty, gather them in and give them of your abundance!

The four old ladies in the Home for the Friendless have become so attached to their pleasant surroundings that it would be a great sorrow to them to have to make a change. They will probably spend the remainder of their years where they are; but it is not deemed best to admit any more, since there is a Home, especially for old ladies in Omaha.

In closing this report we extend sincere thanks for courtesies received from your Honorable Board, and for assurances given

us that you approve our management, and our disbursement of the funds granted by the last Honorable Legislature for the maintenance for the Home for the Friendless of Nebraska.

INMATES ADMITTED.

Since the Home first opened its doors for the reception of inmates in January 1882, up to November 30, 1890, the date of our last biennial report, 1308 persons have been admitted.

Since Nov. 30, 1890, 382 have been received, making a total of 1690. They have been received from the following counties.

Adams, Antelope, Boone, Buffalo, Burt, Butler, Box Butte, Colfax, Cass, Clay, Cheyenne, Custer, Cherry, Cumming, Cedar, Deuel, Douglas, Dawson, Dodge, Dundy, Dakota, Fillmore, Frontier, Franklin, Furnas, Gage, Greeley, Grant, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Kimball, Keith, Lancaster, Logan, Madison, Merrick Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Polk, Platte. Pierce, Red Willow, Richardson, Saunders, Saline, Sarpy, Seward, Stanton, Sheridan, Thayer, Thomas, Valley, Washington, Webster, York.

CHILDREN ADOPTED.

Number of children placed in homes by adoption or agreement since the Home was instituted up to Nov. 30, 1890, 130; since Nov. 30, 1890 up to Nov. 30, 1892, 112; a total of 242. These children have been placed in homes in fifty-one counties of Nebraska as follows:

Adams, Antelope, Butler, Buffalo, Boone, Burt, Cedar, Custer, Cass, Cheyenne, Dodge, Douglas, Deuel, Dundy, Dawes, Dawson, Frontier, Franklin, Fillmore, Furnas, Gage, Hitchcock, Harlan, Holt, Hayes, Johnson, Jefferson, Knox, Kearney, Lancaster, Lincoln, Merrick, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Polk, Pierce, Richardson, Red Willow, Sioux, Saline, Sherman, Seward, Saunders, Sarpy, Thayer, Thomas, York, Webster.

Temporary shelter has been given to friendless women from other states than Nebraska as follows:

Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Vermont, Missouri, Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana. They were sheltered until transportation could be procured for them to return to friends or employment obtained for them here or elsewhere.

Temporary shelter has been given to a large number of women and children from Nebraska each year since the Home was organized. These are not included in the number of those admitted, since their stay is generally for a short period. Employment is given or obtained for transients, whenever it is possible to do so.

Estimates of salaries, employes' wages, current expenses, repairs and improvements, stationery, clothing, etc. for the Home for the Friendless for the two years ending March 31, 1895:

	<i>Officers' Salaries Per Annum.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Superintendent	\$ 900	\$ 1,800
Assistant Superintendent.....	600	1,200
Physician	600	1,200
Matron.....	480	960
Employes' wages.....	5,000	10,000
Living expenses, drugs and feed for stock.....		10,000
Repairs and improvements.....		3,000
Stationery, printing, books, telephone, telegraph postage and incidentals.....		2,000
Clothing, bedding and furniture.....		5,000
Fuel and lights.....		8,000
Total.....		\$43,160

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. H. A. BABCOCK.

President, Board of Directors.