

TENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Nebraska Industrial Home

AT

MILFORD, NEBRASKA

FOR THE TWO
YEARS ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1908

1908
THE WOODRUFF-COLLINS PRESS
LINCOLN, NEB., U. S. A.

ADVISORY BOARD

MRS. J. C. F. MCKESSON, President.....	Lincoln
MRS. CALLEN THOMPSON, Secretary.....	Lincoln
MRS. CLARA S. CARSCADDEN.....	York
MRS. DR. TOWNE.....	Omaha
MRS. DR. WILCOX.....	Hubbell

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION

LENA E. WARD.....	Superintendent
W. K. LOUGHRIDGE.....	Physician
SUDE B. WARD.....	Matron

EMPLOYES

M. EVELYN MEYER.....	Secretary and Teacher
NETTIE E. ADAMS.....	Sewing Teacher
MYRTA BILLINGSLEY.....	Nurse
CHRIS GLEISBERG.....	Engineer
MILT LOVITT.....	Farmer

To His Excellency, Governor George L. Sheldon, and the Honorable Board of Public Lands and Buildings, Lincoln, Nebr.:

It is with pleasure that I herewith submit for your consideration the tenth biennial report of the Nebraska Industrial Home, located at Milford, Nebr., for the two years ending November 30, 1908.

And I desire to express my warmest gratitude to you, individually and collectively, for the many kindnesses and courtesies, which you have shown me.

Whatever degree of success may have been made, I feel, is largely due to the prompt and hearty support which you have given me, and to the faithful, and earnest work of those who have labored here, in the Home, with me.

Trusting that our work may meet with your approval, I am

Very respectfully yours,

LENA E. WARD, Superintendent.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Nebraska Industrial Home was located at Milford, Nebr., twenty years ago. During this time over seven hundred homeless, penitent girls have sought the shelter and care of the Home.

Perhaps no institution in the state has been so severely criticised or spoken of so unkindly as has this Home. But we believe that this is due to the fact, that so many do not understand the intent or purpose of the Home, or the class of girls we have in the Home. This is not a home for bad women, as many suppose, but is a home for homeless, penitent girls, who have not or who cannot receive the proper home training, and who are liable to be led into sin and vice, if not cared for.

Then many of our girls come from good homes, where they have been carefully trained, but who have had to leave their homes, while yet too young, either that they might have better school advantages, or as is the case many times, to earn a living for themselves and sometimes to help support a number of younger brothers and sisters at home.

The majority of these girls are ignorant of the ways of this world and have no idea of the wickedness there is in the world, or of the hundreds of snares laid by cunning, vile men to rob them of their virtue and womanhood, knowing full well, that it will be she and not they, who will have to bear all the suffering and shame. These girls are not bad girls but are simply poor, unfortunate creatures, who should be pitied and not blamed. They come to this Home, feeling that everything in this world was lost, they have no friends, no home, and no money. The death angel would be gladly received by many of them, and yet they fear death, for they feel that they have committed an unpardonable sin, and that even in heaven there would be no welcome for them.

It is for such girls as these that the grand old state of Nebraska supports this Home. Here these poor creatures may come and receive a welcome, and the encouragement, which they must have or they will go on down and down, until they have reached the very bottom of degradation and sin. For the world at large shows but very little sympathy for an unfortunate girl.

Upon entering the Home each girl must agree to remain one year. During this time every possible effort is made to give her good physical, mental, moral, and spiritual training, so that, by the time her year is up, she is in every way better prepared to fight the battles of life.

Then there are the poor helpless babes of these unfortunate girls. They are just as bright and innocent as any babes and, if placed in good homes, where they will have good Christian training, and where they will be educated, we see no reason why they should not make good men and women.

We have, during the past twenty months, placed twenty-four of these babes into good homes, where they are loved and cared for as carefully as any babe could be, and we feel, that if one half of these, (and we see no reason why they might not all make good citizens) grow up to be good Christian men and women, that the state has been paid for all it has cost. For who can estimate the value of one human soul?

GOVERNMENT

We have found this to be an easy matter with but few exceptions. In the first place, we aim to have every hour of the time so full, that there will be no chance for wrong doing, for we have long since learned, that "Idleness is the mother of evil," so we try to keep every girl employed at some kind of work. And we make them feel that this is their home and that the happiness and the standing of the Home depends upon each one of them individually, and what their lives are here in the Home, is what their lives will be out of the Home. As a rule I believe every girl tries to do the best she knows. Of course some of them have never been taught to obey and to do this promptly and willingly is a hard matter at first, but after they are in the Home a short time, and see the others who do obey and who are trying to do right in every way, they soon fall in line, and by the end of the year some of those who were the most disobedient are the most obedient.

Of course we have some who do not have the proper amount of pride and self respect, and who will indulge in gossip and do many things that are injurious, not only to themselves but to the Home in general. With these we deal as we think best at the time according to the offense and the individual.

INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT

The work of the Home is divided into details of six weeks each as follows: kitchen, dining-room, laundry, sewing-room, nursery, hospital and general housework. It is our aim to give each girl good practical training in each of these departments, so that by the time she is ready to leave the Home, she is well fitted to go ahead with the work in any good home. It is very gratifying to see the interest the girls take in their work.

We do not have a regular laundry teacher or cooking teacher as so many institutions do. But this is all under the supervision of the matron so that it is impossible for her to be with the girls all of the time. But after she has planned the work and the girls know what is to be done and how, they go ahead and do it, when she returns she not only finds the work done, but well done. This we greatly appreciate in the girls and every one, who has visited the Home, has remarked about their willingness to work and the interest they take in their work. Many of our girls have gone out into good homes and are earning from three to six dollars per week, as domestics.

SEWING ROOM

In this department, we have a competent teacher who is with the girls all of the time, and who not only teaches them to do plain sewing and mending but to cut and fit their dresses and also to do some fancy needle work. So that any girl who is diligent and who has any ability is well able to care for her own wardrobe.

Then if any girl wants to earn her living with her needle, she is allowed to remain over time and is given every possible chance so that she will be thoroughly capable when she leaves the Home.

EDUCATIONAL

All detail work closes at 2:30 and every girl is expected to attend school until 5:00.

The branches taught are reading, penmanship, language, spelling, geography, history, physiology and arithmetic.

While it is impossible in the short time which we can give to school work to accomplish as much as we would like to, yet we feel that this is an important part of our work. As some of the girls can scarcely read and write when they enter the Home, and what schooling they get here will be all that many of them will ever have. Then others are high school girls and some even out of the grades,

who expect to enter school again as soon as they leave here, and this gives them an opportunity to keep up their studies or review them.

Then as any and all education is worthless without moral and religious training we have Sunday School every Sunday afternoon at 2:30 and chapel exercises every evening at 7:15.

The chapel exercises are conducted by the different teachers except on Wednesday night, when we have our Christian Endeavor meetings. These meetings are always conducted by one of the girls. It is remarkable, the interest the girls take in the Christian Endeavor meetings and the splendid programs they prepare.

FARM

Our farm consists of about thirty-seven acres, the railroad having taken off about three acres.

Of this amount eleven acres are in pasture, four acres in alfalfa three acres in timothy, four and one half acres in garden, four acres in potatoes, two acres in orchard, and nine acres in lawn and yards.

REPAIRS

Upon taking up the work here, one year ago last April, we felt that the question of repairs was a serious one, for it seemed that everything on the farm would have to be repaired or replaced. Just where to begin, what to do first, and just how much could be done here, and how much there with the amount allowed us, was the question. But by careful and close figuring, we have been able to make a number of these much needed repairs.

The first thing we did was to give the plumbing a general overhauling. There was not a respectable or sanitary toilet-room in either building. The pipes all leaked, the bath tubs and lavatories were all enclosed in a frame work, which made it impossible to clean around them as they should be. All this we had torn out, the leaky pipes taken up and new ones laid and in place of the old tubs, lavatories and closets, which were no longer fit for use, we have nice new ones. And each one of these rooms received a fresh coat of paint, so that we now have toilet-rooms that we are no longer ashamed of, and our plumbing is now in a good sanitary condition.

The next thing we did was to tear down the little old porches, which were no longer safe, and have nice, large, new porches built, which have not only been a comfort to us, but which add so much to the appearance of the buildings.

We then set to work to clean up the inside of the buildings. The walls and woodwork all over were in a very bad condition. A great deal of plastering had to be done before we were able to put on any new paper. After getting the walls in as good a shape as we were able to, forty-one rooms and six halls were newly papered and painted and fourteen steel ceilings were put on. A number of the carpets and a great deal of the old furniture was entirely worn out, so we had to get new furniture and new carpets for a number of the rooms.

The whole interior of the cottage was papered and painted.

The laundry too was in need of repairing and cleaning up. Some new pipes had to be laid, walls painted, glass put in windows, and a number of things done. Then there was no way of drying the clothes on stormy days, except hanging them around the house on radiators or in the basement, where the winter vegetables are kept. So we had an addition, twelve by twenty feet, built to the laundry and put in a sectional metallic dry-room. It is now possible for us to get our clothes dry in stormy weather.

All the worn out board walks around the buildings have been taken up and cement walks laid.

A new smoke stack for the boiler-house has been put up, one of the boilers reset.

The dynamo-room was badly in need of repair. The roof leaked, the sand and lime were constantly falling down on the machinery, so that we had to put on a new roof, ceiling and wainscoting.

Thirty-eight new window screens were put on, and six new screen doors were hung.

Then we were fortunate enough to find, stored away in the basement, two barrels of mineral paints, so with no cost, except twenty dollars for oil and white lead, we have been able to make our barn and other out-buildings look like new.

The fences were all down, so that it was impossible to keep the stock in the pasture or lots. These we have either repaired or replaced by new ones, until we now have good pasture for both hogs and cattle.

The trees have all been trimmed and the yards and lawns have been cleaned up.

While there is a great deal of repairing yet to be done, still we feel that we have been able to accomplish a great deal in the two years, and with the amount allowed us for repairs.

REPAIRS NEEDED

The old boiler-room, which is only a hole in the ground, and only five feet from the kitchen door, is in very bad condition. We have only made what repairs we felt were absolutely necessary here, for we were in hopes that the next legislature would move this away from the buildings, for it is not only a dirty thing to have so near the main buildings, but is unsafe. The walls are caving in, one boiler must be reset, a new engine and pump are badly needed.

We just have an old wooden tank for water supply, in place of this there should be a new standpipe, for in case of fire we would be almost helpless.

The question of the sewerage of the institution must be settled, for the cess-pools are constantly overflowing and cause a great deal of trouble.

Both buildings should be pointed up, and storm windows made for each. Also a number of new raditaors will be needed. The fire hose in each building is beginning to leak and will soon have to be replaced.

In making out this statement of repairs needed, we have tried to go over the ground carefully, and not ask for anything that is not needed to preserve the property of the state and to keep up the institution in a creditable manner.

TABULATED STATEMENT

Number adults in Home December 1, 1906.....	40
Number admitted from December 1, 1906 to December 1, 1908	66
Number American parentage.....	24
Number foreign parentage.....	42
Number parents living.....	29
Number parents dead.....	6
Number father, only, living.....	15
Number mother, only, living.....	26
Number returned to friends.....	46
Number married.....	5
Average age.....	19
Returned to other institutions.....	1
Number placed in homes to work.....	25
Number of adults cared for each year.....	53

Number died.....	1
Number adults in Home December 1, 1908.....	28
Number of children in Home December 1, 1906.....	25
Number children in Home December 1, 1908.....	23
Number born from December 1, 1906 to December 1, 1908....	65
Number transferred to Home of the Friendless.....	3
Number died.....	10
Number still-born.....	4
Number taken by mothers.....	25
Number placed in Homes.....	23
Number babes cared for each year.....	48
Number children and adults in Home December 1, 1908.....	51
Total number children and adults cared for each year.....	101
Average daily attendance of children and adults.....	51

WORK DONE IN SEWING ROOM

Dresses, adults.....	142
Sleeve aprons, adults.....	157
White waists, adults.....	64
Colored waists, adults.....	34
Black serge skirts, adults.....	68
Black sateen skirts, adults.....	57
Gowns, adults.....	115
Corset covers.....	106
Sanitary belts.....	61
Sanitary napkins.....	378
Kitchen aprons.....	121
Drawers.....	10
Hose supporters.....	5
Infants' dresses.....	336
Infants' skirts.....	197
Infants' shirts.....	205
Infants' gowns.....	135
Infants' bands.....	129
Infants' pinning blankets.....	64
Infants' receiving blankets.....	36
Diapers.....	827
Infants' coats.....	44
Infants' hoods.....	46
Infants' bibs.....	62

Infants' quilts.....	31
Crib sheets.....	104
Crib pillow cases.....	154
Gowns, hospital.....	12
Bands, hospital.....	24
Skirts, hospital.....	10
Wash rags.....	80
Sunbonnets.....	29
Ironing sheets.....	35
Iron holders.....	64
Towels hemmed.....	49
Table cloths hemmed.....	13
Table cloths hemstitched.....	3
Napkins hemstitched.....	24
Tea towels.....	290
Laundry bags.....	17
Bed pads quilted.....	4
Comforts tied.....	10
Curtains.....	64
Scrim, hemstitched.....20 pairs	
Muslin, ruffled.....20 pairs	
Net, insertion and lace...24 pairs	
Dresser scarfs, embroidered and hemstitched.....	12
Pillow cases monogram.....	18
Mittens, pair.....	31
Number garments mended.....	8,084

WORK DONE IN KITCHEN

Loaves wheat bread.....	15,236
Loaves graham bread.....	435
Graham gems.....	4,988
Buns.....	5,778
Cinnamon rolls.....	2,486
Biscuits.....	12,010
Pies.....	744
Cakes.....	210
Doughnuts.....	5,168
Cookies.....	1,880
Sheets ginger bread.....	120
Sheets corn bread.....	304

Loaves coffee cake.....	194	
Pancakes.....	1,008	
Fritters.....	2,743	
Puddings.....	2,430	
Cream puffs.....	107	
Canned Fruits—		
Gooseberries.....	46	quarts
Pie plant.....	28	quarts
Cherries.....	14	quarts
Crab apples.....	59	quarts
Tomatoes.....	145-2	quarts
Apples.....	42	quarts
Total canned.....	334-2	quarts
Preserved—		
Peaches.....	42	quarts
Watermelon.....	14	quarts
Total preserved.....	56	quarts
Pickled—		
Beans.....	36	quarts
Jersey.....	22	quarts
Chilli.....	28	quarts
Chow Chow.....	60	quarts
Piccalilli.....	64	quarts
Tomatoes.....	60	quarts
Peaches.....	24	quarts
Total pickled.....	294	quarts
Butter—		
Apple.....	145	quarts
Tomato.....	138	quarts
Peaches.....	24	quarts
Total butter.....	307	quarts
Jelly—		
Apple.....	61-2	quarts
Grape.....	1	quart
Total jelly.....	65-2	quarts

Jam—

Gooseberry..... 7 quarts

Grand total..... 1,061 quarts

PRODUCT OF OUTDOOR LABOR

Potatoes.....	295 bushels.....	\$221.25
Sweet potatoes.....	30 bushels.....	72.00
Onions.....	50 bushels.....	50.00
Beets.....	43 bushels.....	15.05
Turnips.....	100 bushels.....	45.00
Cabbage.....	13,100 pounds.....	262.00
Lettuce.....	50 dozen bunches.....	30.00
Carrots.....	25 bushels.....	12.50
Beans.....	50 bushels.....	90.00
Tomatoes.....	80 bushels.....	80.00
Corn.....	85 bushels.....	63.75
Oats.....	70 bushels.....	35.00
Squash.....	2-2 dozen.....	3.00
Pumpkins.....	200.....	40.00
Cucumbers.....	7 bushels.....	35.00
Peas.....	10 bushels.....	16.00
Pie plant.....	60 bunches.....	3.00
Cherries.....	2 bushels.....	4.50
Apples.....	125 bushels.....	93.75
Strawberries.....	20 quarts.....	3.00
Gooseberries.....	125 quarts.....	12.50
Radishes.....	75 bushels.....	37.50
Eggs.....	309-2 dozen.....	51.53
Milk.....	7,798 gallon.....	1,169.70
Butter.....	85 pounds.....	17.00
Hogs.....	.....	45.00
Hay.....	27 tons.....	189.00
Alfalfa.....	20-3 tons.....	183.00
Fodder.....	.....	51.50
Pasture.....	.....	137.00
Hog pasture.....	.....	40.00
Total.....	.....	\$3,108.53

TIME TABLE

Winter

Rising bell.....	6:00 A. M.
Breakfast bell—	
For girls.....	6:45
For officers.....	7:00
At work in all departments.....	7:30

Summer

Rising bell.....	5:00 A. M.
Breakfast.....	6:00
At work in all departments.....	6:30
Dinner bell—	
For girls.....	11:30
For officers.....	12:00 M.
At work in all departments.....	1:00 P. M.
School.....	2:30
Recreation.....	5:00
Supper bell—	
For girls.....	5:30
For officers.....	6:00
Chapel.....	7:30
Retiring.....	9:00

SUMMARY OF INVENTORY DECEMBER 1, 1908

Land.....	\$4,810.00
Two main buildings.....	30,000.00
Cottage.....	350.00
Barn.....	800.00
Laundry.....	1,500.00
Engine house and machinery.....	5,000.00
Horses, cows, hogs and poultry.....	990.00
Vehicles, harness and robes.....	145.00
Farm and repair tools.....	75.00
Furniture, both buildings.....	5,000.00
Clothing and dry-goods.....	1,400.00
Provisions.....	750.00
Fuel.....	380.00
Total.....	\$51,500.00

STATISTICAL REPORT

Population

From Dec. 1, 1906 to Dec. 1, 1907	Male	Female	Total
Number inmates present at beginning of fiscal year.....	13	45	66
Number received during year.....	24	51	75
Number discharged or died during year....	25	57	74
Number at end of year.....	12	39	51
Average number of officers and employes..	3	5	8

Expenditures

Current expenses—

Salaries.....	\$4,278.81
Maintenance.....	8,544.16
Repairs.....	6,063.26
Total.....	\$18,856.23

Population

From Dec. 1, 1907 to Dec. 1, 1908	Male	Female	Total
Number inmates at beginning of fiscal year..	12	39	51
Number received during year.....	23	43	56
Number discharged or died during year....	20	46	66
Number at end of year.....	15	36	51
Average number of officers and employes..	3	5	8

Expenditures

Current expenses—

Salaries.....	\$4,250.00
Maintenance.....	7,235.77
Repairs.....	843.49

Total..... \$12,329.26

Total..... 18,856.23

Total for biennium..... \$31,185.49

AVERAGE PER CAPITA COST OF MAINTENANCE

For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1906 to May 31, 1907.....	\$120.37
For semi-annual period June 1, 1907 to Nov. 30, 1907.....	128.59
For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1907 to May 31, 1908.....	96.36
For semi-annual period June 1, 1908 to Nov. 30, 1908.....	92.33
Total per capita cost for biennium.....	\$437.65

AVERAGE PER CAPITA COST OF REPAIRS

For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1906 to May 31, 1907.....	\$9.47
For semi-annual period June 1, 1907 to Nov. 30, 1907.....	115.47
For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1907 to May 31, 1908.....	11.32
For semi-annual period June 1, 1908 to Nov. 30, 1908.....	3.30
Total per capita for biennium.....	\$139.56
Grand total.....	\$577.21

AVERAGE PER CAPITA COST OF MAINTENANCE WEEKLY

For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1906 to May 31, 1907.....	1.46
Average daily attendance.....	55
For semi-annual period June 1, 1907 to Nov. 30, 1907...	1.78
Average daily attendance.....	48
For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1907 to May 31, 1908...	1.06
Average daily attendance.....	55
For semi-annual period June 1, 1908 to Nov. 30, 1908...	.90
Average daily attendance.....	67
Total average per capita cost per week for biennium.....	1.30
Average daily attendance for biennium.....	56

CASH FUND

Cash on hand Dec. 1, 1906.....	\$210.58
Cash receipts from Dec. 1, 1906 to Dec. 1, 1908.....	1,490.35
Cash expended from Dec. 1, 1906 to Dec. 1, 1908.....	803.77
Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1908.....	897.16

APPROPRIATION OF 1905

Overdrawn

Drugs, paints and oils.....	\$60.22
Feed for stock.....	52.55
Official expense.....	39.52
Maintenance.....	1,429.86
Fuel and lights.....	768.38

Lapsed

Employes' wages.....	\$272.49
Fuel and lights.....	12.68
Repairs and improvements.....	42.76
Stationery, postage and telephone.....	4.17
Drugs, paints and oils.....	19.70
Water supply.....	38.03

APPROPRIATION OF 1907

	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Officers' salaries.....	\$4,000.00	\$3,333.30	\$666.70
Employes' wages.....	4,720.00	3,702.52	1,017.48
Maintenance.....	19,000.00	12,499.50	6,500.50
Repair.....	8,000.00	6,682.08	1,317.92

ESTIMATED APPROPRIATION FOR COMING BIENNIUM

Salary of superintendents for 2 years.....	\$2,000.00
Salary of matron for 2 years.....	1,200.00
Salary of physician for 2 years.....	1,600.00
Employes' wages for 2 years.....	5,080.00
Maintenance for 2 years.....	19,000.00
General repairs for 2 years.....	11,000.00

Total estimated appropriation..... \$39,880.00