

ELEVENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

# Nebraska Industrial Home

AT

MILFORD, NEBRASKA

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BIENNIUM ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1910.

**BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS**

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J. D. Case.....	Physician
Sude B. Ward.....	Matron

**EMPLOYES**

M. Evelyn Meyer.....	Secretary and Teacher
Mrs. Nora Benz.....	Sewing Teacher
Miss Emma Maurer.....	Nurse
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Chas. Martin.....	Farmer

To His Excellency, Governor Ashton C. Shallenberger, and the Honorable Board of Public Lands and Buildings, Lincoln, Nebraska:

Gentlemen:—I have the honor to submit for your consideration, the eleventh biennial report of the Nebraska Industrial Home, for girls.

Twenty-one years ago last May, the state of Nebraska opened the doors of this institution to her unfortunate girls, and during this time seven hundred ninety-three homeless, penitent girls have sought the protection and care of the Home.

For the benefit of those who may read this report and who do not understand the purpose of this institution, we feel that a word of explanation may not be amiss at this time. Most people think it is a Home for fallen girls and women, but this is a mistaken idea, as the Home is maintained in the interest of the unfortunate girl. Those who are unfortunate in birth, or whose parents do not realize the hundreds of pitfalls there are in the world for young girls.

If mothers would take their little girls and give them the elementary training in life's lesson, before they have the opportunity of learning it from a perverted source, she would practically assure herself that her daughter would be above the temptations that sends so many bright, young girls to this Home. Then fathers should take their young boys and explain to them the purpose of life, and the source of its existence, and the sacredness of all human anatomy; the proper respect due his sisters and all members of the gentler sex, and above all, make him understand that vice is as vicious in man as in woman, and the social sin as intolerable in the one sex as in the other. The state would have no farther need for an institution of this kind. But the world is not ideal, and so long as children cannot, or do not have proper home training there will be these unfortunate girls who must be cared for.

The greatest success with these girls is attained by giving them the best of care, making their lives pleasant, forgetful of the past, by showing them that although they have made a serious mistake, yet all in life is not lost, and that they may yet make

good noble women. Their salvation is not in penance, suffering and torture; through constant thought of their error, but rather shunning their mistake and all thought of it, they grow, only as they become oblivious of themselves, their weakness and frailties, and blossom out into self-forgetfulness and selfeffacement. The better this may be accomplished the better it is for them.

If a man makes a mistake, society again takes him in. No matter how great the crime, even murder itself; if he can escape the clutches of the law he is taken back at practically his old value. But the unfortunate girl who has only those elements that were born in her, augmented by such characteristics as the environment into which she was cast and over the making of which she had no control, is turned loose to go on down to the very bottom of sin and degradation. No encouragement is given her; only a rebuff awaits her at each house she may approach. Society as such, shuns her, even the door of her own home is closed against her. The temptations that are now thrown before young girls are appalling. Society does not stop to consider her age, knowledge and ability to withstand those temptations. Society offers no apology and accepts none. The thirteen year old girl, without a mother to guide her, is held equally responsible with the woman of thirty.

The majority of girls who come to this Home, are between the age of twelve and eighteen years. Some of course are older. A few as old as thirty and thirty-five, but these are poor, feeble minded creatures, who are in no wise responsible for their trouble and who should have been placed where they could have been protected and cared for, as they never have been and never will be, responsible for what they do.

The Home not only cares for the girl, who has made this fatal mistake, but for any girl, who is not or who cannot have the proper home training and who is in danger of being led into paths of sin and shame, may come to this Home and receive the care and protection of the Home until she is able to go out into the world and make for herself, a good honest living.

The methods and plans of the work are all formulated in the interest of protecting and aiding the one needing it. Advice and encouragement are given freely. Upon entering the Home a girl must sign an application blank, which gives a little history

of her life, and whereby she agrees to remain in the Home one year, to abide by the rules of the Home, and to do whatever work may be assigned her. The work of the Home is divided into details of six weeks each.

### KITCHEN

In this department there are two cooks, one who cooks meat and vegetables; a pastry cook, who bakes the bread, pies and cakes, makes all deserts and prepares hospital meals. A milk girl, who cares for the butter and milk and prepares the baby food. The following is a tabulated statement of the work done in the kitchen aside from preparing the regular meals:

Loaves Wheat Bread.....	13,761
Loaves Graham Bread.....	6,620
Light Rolls.....	8,105
Cinnamon Rolls.....	1,331
Buns .....	2,012
Corn Bread, sheets.....	100
Ginger Bread, sheets.....	107
Coffee Cakes.....	137
Graham Gems.....	1,275
Meat Dumplings.....	311
Bakingpowder Biscuits.....	5,993
Doughnuts .....	618
Cookies .....	1,070
Tea Cakes.....	269
Roll Jellie Cakes.....	21
Layer and Loaf Cakes.....	468
Pies .....	1,119
Puddings .....	206

### Fruit Canned

Apples, quarts.....	210
Crab Apples, quarts.....	426
Apples and Quince, quarts.....	61
Blackberries, quarts.....	92
Cherries quarts.....	33
Gooseberries quarts.....	130
Tomatoes, quarts.....	119
<b>Total quarts.....</b>	<b>1,971</b>

**Preserves**

Watermelon, quarts.....	34
Sweet Apple, quarts.....	57
Grape, quarts.....	98
Apple and Quince, quarts.....	108
Peach, quarts.....	22
Crab Apple, quarts.....	9
<b>Total quarts.....</b>	<b>328</b>

**Sweet Pickles**

Cucumber, quarts.....	77
Sweet Apples quarts.....	35
Pears, quarts.....	60
Green Tomato, quarts.....	224
<b>Total quarts.....</b>	<b>416</b>

**Jellies**

Apple, quarts.....	140
Gooseberries, quarts.....	8
Grape, quarts.....	6
Apple and Quince.....	12
Current, quarts.....	10
Crab Apple, quarts.....	11
<b>Total quarts.....</b>	<b>151</b>

**Jam**

Gooseberries quarts.....	6
Current, quarts.....	6
<b>Total quarts.....</b>	<b>14</b>

**Butter**

Apple, gallons.....	182
Tomato, gallons.....	45
Peach, gallons.....	22
Plum, gallons.....	20
Crab Apple, gallons.....	7
<b>Total gallons.....</b>	<b>276</b>

**Meat Relish**

Catsup, gallons.....	5
Chillisaucce, gallons.....	13
Jersey Pickle, gallons.....	12
Chow Chow, gallons.....	37
Mangoes, gallons.....	14
Paccalilli, gallons.....	44
<b>Total gallons.....</b>	<b>125</b>
Mince Meat, quarts.....	36
Cucumbers, in brine, gallons.....	90
Sauerkraut, gallons.....	100

**LAUNDRY**

This work is divided into two details, one in the wash room and the other in the ironing room. The washing and ironing is done every day of the week, in the same manner it would be done in private homes, as the object in each detail is to teach the girls to do the work as they will have to do it in private homes.

On Monday, nursery and hospital washing is done. Tuesday, nursery and employe's washing. Wednesday, nursery and girls' washing. Thursday, nursery, kitchen and table linen. Friday, nursery, bed linen and extra washing. Saturday nursery.

We have no regular teacher in this department, but a monitor is appointed, both in the ironing and wash room for six weeks, and with the assistance of the matron look after the work and see that it is properly done.

Average number of pieces laundered per week, 1,973.

**SEWING ROOM**

In this department we are more fortunate, having a competent teacher who teaches the girls to do all kinds plain sewing and mending, as well as some fancy needle work, that by the time a girl is ready to leave the Home, she is if at all apt with the needle, able to care for her own wardrobe:

Number of pieces made and mended are as follows:

Dresses, adults .....	133
Aprons, with sleeves.....	140

White waists, adults.....	56
Colored waists, adults.....	40
Serge skirts.....	50
Sateen skirts.....	52
Gowns .....	108
Corset covers.....	113
Sanitary belts.....	32
Sanitary napkins.....	360
Kitchen aprons.....	96
Pants, pair.....	15
Hose supporters.....	6
Dresses, infants.....	294
Skirts, infants.....	255
Shirts, infants.....	197
Gowns, infants.....	182
Bands .....	98
Pinning blankets.....	12
Receiving blankets.....	18
Napkins, nursery.....	762
Coats .....	38
Hoods, .....	29
Bibs .....	40
Nursery quilts.....	23
Nursery sheets.....	98
Nursery pillow cases.....	125
Hospital gowns.....	12
Hospital bands.....	6
Sunbonnets .....	10
Ironing sheets.....	58
Iron holders.....	62
Wash clothes.....	72
Towels .....	78
Table clothes.....	114
Table napkins.....	24
Laundry bags.....	4
Bed pads, quilted.....	24
Comforts, tied.....	30
Curtains, pair.....	14
Dresses scarfs.....	5
Mittens, pairs.....	12

Boys suits.....	16
Boys pants, pair.....	3
Boys waists.....	5
Rompers .....	12
Number of garments mended.....	7,030

### HOUSEWORK

Each girl on this detail is given one floor, which she must keep neat and clean.

### NURSERIES

We have two large nurseries in which the babies are cared for during the day, two or three girls being detailed in each nursery to look after the babies, under the direct supervision of the Home nurse.

Detail work beginning at seven o'clock in the morning, closing at 2:15 in the afternoon, when all girls go to school until five in the evening. The school work is very much like that of a district school, classes ranging from third to fourth grades to eighth and tenth grade work. We often have come to the Home a foreign girl, who can neither read nor write. Special attention in the school work is given in such cases, that they may be better able to go out into the world.

At 5:30, girls' supper is served. 7:30 chapel exercise; conducted by the different teachers except on Wednesday evening, which is Christian Endeavor, these meetings being conducted by one of the girls. On Sunday we have our regular services. We often have girls who have had but little, if any, religious training and it is very gratifying to see the interest they take in the Chapel work.

When a girl is ready to leave the Home, if she has no home of her own to go to, or if her home surroundings are not what they should be, she is provided with a home in some good Christian family, where they will take an interest in her and look after her. She is also given a good wardrobe so that she will have plenty of clothes to last her until she can earn more.

As a rule, the girls make good records after leaving the Home. Some marry and marry well, making good wives. Two girls in the last four years have taken up nursing while in the

Home and one upon leaving the Home went into a hospital in Chicago and completed her course there last spring. The other one studied and worked what she could in the hospital while here in the Home and when she was ready to leave the Home a place was found for her with a doctor, who furnished her with plenty of practical nursing, where she received from eight to fifteen dollars per week. After working in this state for some-time, she went to one of the western states where she received twenty and twenty-five dollars per week. Others have gone to their own homes and are doing well. Two have taken their babies with them, working as domestics, and are getting thirty dollars per month and babies cared for. A number of others are receiving from five to six dollars per week, giving splendid satisfaction. Some are clerking and others are in school again.

During the last two years fifteen babies have been placed in good homes, where they will be protected from the stigma which always follows an illegitimate child through life, and where they may be trained to be good Christian men and women.

### FARM

There are thirty-seven acres of land in connection with the institution. Of this eleven acres are in pasture, four in alfalfa, three in timothy, eight and one-half in garden, two in orchard, nine in lawn and yard. In addition to this we rented eight acres for corn. Our early garden and potatoes were almost a failure, on account of the dry weather.

#### Farm Products

Potatoes, bushels.....	560
Sweet Potatoes, bushels.....	31
Onions, bushels.....	71
Beets, bushels.....	60
Turnips, bushels.....	555
Cabbage, heads.....	3,500
Lettuce, bunches.....	1,040
Carrots, bushels.....	20
Beans, bushels.....	80
Tomatoes, bushels.....	70
Corn, bushels.....	488
Squash, dozen.....	1

Pumpkins, dozen.....	24½
Cucumbers, bushels.....	60
Peas, bushels.....	18
Apples, bushels.....	200
Radishes, bushels.....	66
Eggs, dozens.....	947
Milk, gallons.....	9,248
Butter, pounds.....	372
Hay, tons.....	18
Alfalfa, tons.....	43

### REPAIRS

We were not able to make all the repairs the past two years that we had hoped to, our repair fund being so small, but by careful figuring and by using some of the maintenance fund have been able to make a few of the much needed repairs. It was impossible to get through another winter with the old boiler room, which stood just a few feet from the back door, so this we had torn down and now have a nice new one, away from the main buildings. While it is not completed as it should be, yet we can get through the winter and hope we will be able to have more work done on it, out of the old appropriation. The engine was entirely worn out, this has been replaced by a new one. We have also a new deep well pump, which was badly needed. The little old wooden water tank has been replaced by a large steel tank of nearly three times the capacity of the old one. Some new hard maple floors have been laid, papering and painting have been done, twenty-four new radiators have been placed in the buildings and a number of new pipes laid.

### REPAIRS NEEDED

We have been unable to do anything with the sewerage question for lack of funds and will have to again ask the legislature for an appropriation for this, as it cannot go longer without something being done.

The outside walls of the two main buildings will also have to be looked after, as they are in such conditions that the rain beats through and in a number of rooms the inside walls are all covered with mildew and the paper which has only been on a

few years is ruined. The plastering in a number of rooms is in bad shape and will soon be falling off if not cared for. Other rooms need new ceilings and floors.

Storm windows should be made for each building. The buildings are getting old and the windows loose so that on cold windy days it is almost impossible to keep the house comfortable.

The cottage is also badly in need of repair. A great deal of papering and painting will have to be done.

There will have to be some repairing around the barn and barn yard.

### STATISTICAL REPORT

#### Population

From December 1, 1908 to December 1, 1909.

	Male	Female	Total
Number inmates present at beginning of fiscal year .....	15	36	51
Number received during year.....	21	59	80
Number discharged and died during year.....	22	49	71
Number at end of year.....	14	46	60

#### Expenditures

##### Current Expenses:

Salaries .....	\$ 4,391	51
Maintenance .....	8,955	16
Repairs .....	1,618	16
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	\$14,964	83

#### Population

From December 1, 1909 to December 1, 1910.

	Male	Female	Total
Number inmates present at beginning of fiscal year .....	14	46	60
Number received during year.....	9	41	50
Number discharged and died during year.....	13	45	58
Number at end of year.....	10	42	52

#### Expenditures

##### Current Expenses:

Salaries .....	\$ 4,497	32
Maintenance .....	8,412	93
Repairs .....	5,624	18
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	\$18,534	43

**Average Per Capita Cost of Maintenance**

For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1908 to May 31, 1909.....	\$ 154 42
For semi-annual period June 1, 1909 to Nov. 30, 1909.....	81 02
For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1909 to May 31, 1910.....	110 03
For semi-annual period June 1, 1910 to Dec. 1, 1910.....	119 12
	\$ 464 59

**Average Per Capita Cost Repairs**

For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1908 to May 31, 1909.....	\$ 23 35
For semi-annual period June 1, 1909 to Nov. 30, 1909.....	15 57
For semi-annual period Dec. 1, 1909 to May 31, 1910.....	50 05
For semi-annual period June 1, 1910 to Dec. 1, 1910.....	49 45
	\$ 138 42

**Cash Fund**

Cash on hand Dec. 1, 1908.....	\$ 879 16
Cash receipts from Dec. 1, 1908 to Dec. 1, 1910.....	2,983 05
Cash expended from Dec. 1, 1908 to Dec. 1, 1910.....	3,170 85
Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1910.....	709 36

**Appropriation of 1907****Lapsed**

Employees wages .....	\$ 250 80
Maintenance .....	683 83
Repairs .....	20 02

**Appropriation 1909**

	Appropriated	Expended	Balance
Officers' Salaries.....	\$ 4,400 00	\$ 3,666 64	\$ 733 36
Employees' wages.....	4,640 00	3,700 87	840 13
Maintenance .....	17,000 00	11,551 42	5,448 58
Repairs .....	6,000 00	5,944 64	55 36

**Estimated Appropriation for Coming Biennium.**

Salary of Superintendent for two years.....	\$ 2,400 00
Salary of Matron for two years.....	1,400 00
Salary of Physician for two years.....	1,400 00
Employes' wages for two years.....	5,200 80
Maintenance for two years.....	17,000 00
Repairs for two years.....	6,800 00
Total estimated appropriation.....	<u>\$34,280 00</u>

In conclusion I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Governor, Board of Public Lands and Buildings, Members of the Advisory Board, Co-workers and all friends who have so generously aided us in carrying on the work of the Home.

Very respectfully,  
 LENA E. WARD, Superintendent.

**PHYSICIAN'S REPORT**

December 13, 1910.

To Hon. A. C. Shallenberger, Governor, and the Board of Public Lands and Buildings of Nebraska:

Sirs:—I have the honor to report that the general health of the inmates of the Nebraska Industrial Home for Girls at Milford has been exceptionally good during the past year. Only one death has occurred among the adult inmates. There have been no epidemics of any kind, the sanitary condition of the Home having been kept very good. This excellent showing is largely due to the competent and careful management of the Home by the superintendent, Miss Lena Ward, and the matron, Miss Sude Ward.

It is my belief that the compensation now paid the superintendent and matron is entirely inadequate, considering the responsibility of the positions and the high degree of skill and experience required, and I would recommend that the legislature be requested to increase these salaries.

Respectively submitted,

J. D. CASE, Physician.

Dorchester, Nebr.