

FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

NEBRASKA

INDUSTRIAL HOME

FOR THE

TWO YEARS ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1890.

MILFORD, NEBRASKA.

OMAHA, NEB.:
HENRY GIBSON, PUBLIC PRINTER
1890.

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MRS. M. ISABEL BOND.....	Lincoln.
MRS. W. S. LATTA.....	Lincoln.

NAMES OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

MRS. E. M. PERKY.....	Superintendent.
MRS. ELIZABETH KENT.....	Matron.
MRS. EMMA L. SMITH.....	Teacher.
MRS. U. A. WHITAKER.....	Teacher of Dressmaking.
MARGRATH WILLIAMS.....	Cook.
MINNIE JOHNSON.....	Laundress.
A. W. PATTERSON.....	Engineer.
GEO. MARGREUM.....	Farm Hand.

NEBRASKA INDUSTRIAL HOME, MILFORD, NEB.,)
November 30, 1890. }

To His Excellency, Governor John M. Thayer, and the Honorable Board of Public Lands and Buildings:

GENTLEMEN:—Fully realizing the situation in which I am placed and the necessity which is laid upon me, as the superintendent of a State institution, to furnish you a summary of the work done and such information as may be expected of a person acting in this capacity, I respectfully submit for your careful consideration, and I trust also for your approval, this, the first report of the Nebraska Industrial Home.

Very respectfully,

E. M. PERKY,
Superintendent.

HISTORY.

The legislature of 1887 made provision for the establishment of an institution to be known as the Nebraska Industrial Home. (See Compiled Statutes, Chapter 39, Section 1).

In accordance with this provision the industrial home was located on a tract of land comprising forty acres donated by the citizens of Milford, a mile and a quarter east of that place.

Appropriations were made and buildings erected, an account of which will be found in the report of the treasurer of the Woman's Board of Associate Charities. As the superintendent is working under the supervision of this board, whose treasurer will report to you the financial condition of the home, with the amount of money received by them, and how expended, it becomes her duty to call your attention only to the following general information :

TABULATED STATEMENT.

The home was opened and first inmate received May 1, 1889.

Whole number admitted to November 30, 1890.....	57
Of American parentage.....	38
Of foreign parentage.....	19
Average age.....	20
Number who were left orphans in infancy.....	17
Number whose parents are in a foreign land.....	4
Number whose father is dead.....	10
Number whose mother is dead.....	9
Number whose parents are both living.....	17
Received from other institutions.....	4
Returned to friends.....	14
Returned to Douglas county.....	1
Gone at end of year without recommendation.....	1
Married at the home.....	2
Retained as employes.....	3
Ran away.....	1
Returned to Kearney Industrial School.....	1

Honorably discharged	14
Average number of adults during each year.....	28
Adults now in the home	21
Children born in the home.....	45
Still-born.....	1
Premature.....	4
Lived a few hours.....	3
Sent to Home of the Friendless.....	2
Died from sickness.....	1
Taken by child's mother.....	7
Number for whom homes have been found.....	16
Average number of children cared for each year.....	23
Children now in the home.....	13
Total number of adults and children November 30, 1890.....	34
Average number of adults and children for each year.....	51

DISCIPLINE.

It is designed to provide an exemplary home for the inmates, and in most cases we find that they fully appreciate the efforts that are made in their behalf. They are allowed as much freedom in the home as is considered consistent with genteel behavior, and in only special cases have we found it necessary to resort to anything more than an occasional reprimand. Three times we have punished persons by isolating them to give them time to reflect, but in no one of these cases was the person deprived of a comfortable bed and nourishing food.

PLAN OF WORK.

The inmates are detailed for work in the various departments, but this plan cannot be as satisfactorily carried out as in other public institutions on account of ill-health. They are taught plain sewing, dressmaking, knitting, crocheting, fancy work of various kinds, cooking, baking, general housework and nursing. Their stay is limited to one year and they are often unfit for much work during several months of that time.

SCHOOL.

Not until recently have we had a school-teacher employed, but instruction was given by others in the home until sickness among the inmates made this impracticable. The common English branches are now taught, with the view of

making this as practical as possible in the short time that they remain here. A separate class is formed for foreigners who wish to learn to read and write in English. When the school-room is fitted up in the new building, this work will be more systematized than it can be now.

SEWING DEPARTMENT.

At first, on account of the scarcity of money, it was thought best to make this department as nearly as possible self-supporting, hence those only who intended to make this work a means of support were placed in the sewing-room. Outside work was taken in, and the department earned \$125.00. It was afterward deemed unjust to deprive others of the advantages of the instruction in this department, and now all are given an opportunity to learn to sew, and but little outside work is done.

OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

For the first three months the superintendent and physician were the only officers. The first matron was installed August 19, 1889. The teacher of dressmaking, December 10, 1889. We have now four officers with salary as follows:

Superintendent, per month.....	\$50.00
Matron, per month.....	25.00
Teacher of dressmaking, per month.....	20.00
School teacher, per month.....	25.00

We are fortunate in having a very efficient matron. Not only in her own line of work does she prove herself capable, but her influence is felt throughout the house. Our teacher of dressmaking is thoroughly competent to instruct those under her care and several have already gone out prepared to earn their living by sewing. The Christian influence and culture which the inmates also receive from her is valuable and will undoubtedly be of great good to those who are associated with her here. The school-teacher has been with us but a short time.

She is a classical graduate from a college in Illinois and comes well recommended. We find her a good Christian woman and well adapted to the work of the institution.

To the ability and faithfulness of my co-workers in office I attribute much of the present success of the home.

Much credit is due the engineer for the sanitary condition of the home, as by his vigilance the sewerage is kept in good order. He has also rendered good service doing carpenter work and general repairs. Our farm hand is a valuable acquisition. He has tended to the farm, kept the animals in good condition, done considerable grading and otherwise improved the grounds, and has proven himself trustworthy in every particular. Owing to the drouth but few vegetables were raised this year. This will make the living expenses greater than they otherwise would have been.

Of the ninety-six inmates during the two years but one has died of disease, hence great credit is due to the physicians employed. The institution has been visited by la grippe, pneumonia, puerperal fever, measles and whooping-cough. As our physician does not reside in the home, much of the care for the sick devolves upon the superintendent and the matron. Our employes have been generally faithful in the discharge of their duties, and have shown a disposition to work for the good of the home.

MISCELLANEOUS.

While it is possible that the home is not carried on in just the manner in which it was designed, and the hospital work seems to have been forced upon us, as we have felt obliged to open our doors to the unfortunate class who come to us, yet we have the assurance that we have accomplished much good. We have not been able to accommodate all who have applied for admission on account of the small appropriation for board and clothing.

It is a source of regret that, while the state of Nebraska provides so comfortable a home for unfortunate girls and

their children, their partners in guilt are permitted to enjoy freedom while the tax-payer bears the expense.

A number of those who have gone from us have expressed their thankfulness by letter for the benefit they received here and have repeated their determination to lead better lives. We have reason to believe that the majority of them are more sinned against than sinning. We have chapel services every evening and preaching every Lord's day afternoon.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We are greatly indebted to the pastors of the Congregational, Methodist and United Brethren churches in Milford for preaching at the home on Sunday afternoons. We are also under obligations to the Milford Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the ladies of the Congregational church for periodicals and other valuable reading matter; to the editors of the Reporter, the Blue Valley Blade and the Saturday Evening Star (all of Seward) for their papers; to the editors of the Lincoln State Journal and the Milford Nebraskan for their papers which we received for a short time. We also got the Union Signal of Chicago, Temperance Greetings of Pawnee City and Our Work of Weeping Water, for all of which we are thankful. Mrs. R. A. Huntley, editor of Temperance Greetings, kindly offered to solicit books for a library and has already sent eight volumes.

I take pleasure in tendering my thanks to the Board of Associate Charities who have borne with my inexperience and rendered me valuable assistance in my work, also to the Board of Public Lands and Buildings who have been always ready to encourage and advise me when necessary.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

In view of the fact that the home is built out in the country where there is no protection against fire as in the cities, and that the present supply of water is barely sufficient for the daily needs of the house, I would most earnestly call

the attention of the Governor and Board of Public Lands and Buildings to the great necessity of building a large tank outside of the buildings, and that there be sufficient hose furnished for any emergency, also that there be chemical fire extinguishers placed in every hall.

I would recommend that there be a laundry built with all the usual steam fixtures, including a drying-room, also that there be an ice-house built.

I would further recommend the fencing of the farm and otherwise improving the grounds, and that there be sufficient fruit set out for the use of the institution.

I would recommend that there be one more horse and four more cows furnished for the use of the institution.

I most gratefully acknowledge the uniform kindness shown me by the Governor of the state, and recall with pleasure the sympathy which he has manifested toward our institution.

Respectfully submitted,

E. M. PERKY, Superintendent.

MILFORD, Neb., November 30, 1890.

TREASURER'S REPORT OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF ASSOCIATE CHARITIES.

To Hon. B. R. Cowdery, Secretary:

I submit the following report of money appropriated and expended from April, 1898, to November 30, 1890:

	Appr'tion.	Pay'ts.	In Treas'y.
Salary of officers and physicians.....	\$ 3,000	\$1,931.50	\$1,086.50
Board and clothing.....	4,000	3,901.08	98.92
Employes' wages.....	2,000	1,748.66	251.44
Fuel and lights.....	2,000	1,841.21	158.79
Drugs, stationery, printing, telegraph and incidentals.....	1,000	1,000.00
Transportation of officers, patients, trustees.	300	300.00
Grading and sidewalks.....	150	150.00
Two wagons.....	150	137.50	12.50
Mules and horse.....	425	402.15	22.85
Five cows.....	125	124.00	1.00
Harness.....	60	59.00	1.00
Furniture, linen, etc.....	2,500	2,495.60	4.40
South wing.....	31,000	25,615.06	5,384.94

Respectfully submitted,

S. A. LATTA, Treasurer.