

REPORT

OF THE

Maine School for Feeble-
Minded

AT WEST POWNAL

FOR THE

Two Years Ending September 30, 1912



WATERVILLE
SENTINEL PUBLISHING COMPANY
1913

TRUSTEES.

SETH C. GORDON, Portland, *President*.
LAURA L. CONY, Augusta, *Secretary*.
THOMAS WHITE, Bangor.
YOUNG A. THURSTON, Andover.
FRANK W. BURNHAM, Milbridge.
ALBERT O. MARCILLE, Biddeford.
MENANDER DENNETT, Lewiston.

OFFICERS.

GEORGE S. BLISS, M. D., *Superintendent*
MRS. ELIZABETH H. BLISS, *Gen. Matron*.

MISS GLADYS L. EASTMAN,
Bookkeeper.

MISS ELIZABETH PARSONS,
Stenographer.

MRS. ESTELLA (CROOK) LAUREY, Matron at Hill Farm.

MISS MARGARET C. CRAIG, Matron at Valley Farm.

MISS MARY A. SMITH, Matron at Girls' Home and Staples Hall.

MRS. NELLIE M. MILLIKEN, Matron at Central Kitchen.

MISS FLORA M. RANDALL, Head Teacher.

MISS HELEN F. ROSE, Assistant Teacher.

MISS FLORENEC LIBBY, Assistant Teacher.

M. M. MUZZY, Foreman at Hill Farm.

C. S. LOWE, Foreman at Valley Farm.

CLIFFORD E. GOULDING, General Construction and Carpenter Foreman

EARL HAYFORD, Engineer.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE SCHOOL, FOR FEEBLE MINDED.

To the Hon. Governor and Council of the State of Maine:

The Board of Trustees of the School for Feeble Minded offer the following report for the year ending September 30th, 1911:

Our services as Trustees began July 1st, 1911, at the time of our appointment, so we had had no knowledge of the Institution previous to that time, and as the former Board of Trustees had kept no records, we were obliged to depend upon the Superintendent's personal memoranda for the history of the institution, from the beginning up to that time.

The Superintendent, Dr. George Bliss, and his wife, came from the School for Feeble Minded, at Waverley, Mass., where they had been for several years, and had become thoroughly familiar with the demands and requirements of such a school, and so far as the Board have been able to observe, are doing most excellent work, under somewhat embarrassing conditions.

The farms, at the time of purchase, were in a state requiring much work to put them in good condition, as they had been neglected for many years. The crops for the present year, suffered much from the prolonged drouth, which affected, especially, the two most important ones, hay and potatoes. The apple crop is large the present year. The labor is done almost exclusively by the inmates, only competent overseers being hired. It seems to the Board that Dr. Bliss is using proper economy in this direction. He will give you the detail of receipts and expenditures in a separate report.

There are some important improvements required, when the financial condition of the State will allow the expenditure. A new barn is very much needed. There is room for about seventy-five more inmates, and the demand for places is very large

throughout the State, so that at the earliest possible moment, appropriations for admitting to the full capacity of the buildings should be made.

The most important problem to be solved is that of a constant, unfailing supply of good water. Thus far a sufficient amount for the actual necessities of the institution has been had, and possibly the new wells that have been started may prove adequate to the wants, and needs, of the school. The Board believe that it is now essential to the future prosperity of the school that measures be taken to ascertain, as soon as possible, the resources of the farm in this matter of an abundant water supply.

The various teachers are doing most excellent work among this very unfortunate class of inmates. At first sight, and with slight acquaintance, it would seem almost impossible to improve them, but with the careful study of individuals on the part of the teachers, and unwearied patience, the results are surprising, especially among the younger portion. It is to be desired that the School shall be largely filled with this class of inmates. The Trustees are sending back to the various towns the old and feeble men and women who are unable to do any work, in order to give room for the younger applicants who need the advantages of the institution so much more than the old and feeble. The care that most towns are able to give to their dependent poor, will provide equally good homes as are found here. We believe that this plan will ensure to the greatest good to the greatest number.

Recently, a number of State paupers, of the feeble minded class, have been discovered, who will, properly, be better cared for in this institution, there being abundant room, while the expense will be much less than by any other method.

SETH C. GORDON,
LAURA L. CONY,
THOMAS WHITE,
YOUNG A. THURSTON,
ALBERT O. MARCILLE,
FRANK W. BURNHAM,
MENANDER DENNETT.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE
SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE MINDED, AT WEST
POWNAI.

To the Honorable Governor and Council of the State of Maine:

The Trustees of the Maine School for Feeble Minded submit their annual report for year ending September 30th, 1912.

Preliminary to the body of the report we quote from report of Dr. Bliss, Superintendent of School.

"There are at present, remaining in the school, about 225, with a small excess of females over males. There have been about 70 admitted during the year. There have been 10 discharges and 7 deaths. Of the discharges, 8 were, because it seemed to the Board of Trustees they were too old to be able to receive any treatment which would benefit them, and because there were so many very defective young persons on our lists who could receive such benefit. These older patients, some of whom could do considerable work under supervision, could just as well be cared for by the towns, and at much less expense. This enabled us to receive many young girls who needed the training, and also the care and protection, much more than the old persons who were discharged.

A majority of the deaths were from tuberculosis, in some of its varied forms. One each from cancer, heart disease, brights disease, and acute bronchitis. The inmates came from the various counties in about the proportion to the population. 7 came from Malaga Island."

It is estimated that there are in the State, about 1,500 of these unfortunates. While the present institution is nearly filled to its capacity, and two or three hundred are already on the waiting list, it is readily seen that new buildings are demanded, and that at an early date.

Among the inmates are a number of epileptics, which should be separated from the more feeble-minded, and we believe that, at some future time, the State will deem it best to establish an

epileptic colony on the farm. As a rule, they are much less defective mentally.

At present, we are building a dairy barn, funds for which were kindly provided by your Honorable Board. This is entirely for our herd of grade Holsteins, of which, we have 40 cows, and one thoroughbred bull.

A new hay-barn is attached, in a very convenient position. The cows are all healthy, and give an abundant supply of milk.

A piggery is being built, also an older building is to be entirely renovated, for handling milk.

Most of the work of building the foundation of all these buildings was done by the inmates, under the direction of the farmer, from the Hill and Valley farms. It is also true that nearly all the farm work for the year, has been so done (with the single exception of one or two extra men during the haying season) and the abundant crops of hay, potatoes, apples and oats show the amount and character of the work.

The Trustees are also converting a building, not in use, into a hospital (so much needed), that can accommodate 15 or 20 persons, and at a comparatively small expense.

In September, the Board deemed it wise and safe to employ some additional medical man as assistant to the Superintendent. The increasing number of inmates, and the amount of labor and care, as Steward and Treasurer, requiring the Superintendent to be away from the institution more or less, left the school without any medical aid in case of accident or sudden illness. The Board were very fortunate in securing Dr. Lewis Robinson a practitioner of long experience, who was also a farmer, to quite an extent, and a man of affairs generally, thus rendering him a very competent assistant. His salary is fixed at \$800.00; while his wife accepted a position as matron at the Central Administrative Building, at a salary of \$360.00.

The Board accepted, with much regret, the resignation of Dr. George S. Bliss, who has been Superintendent since the organization of the school. He received a very flattering offer from the Trustees of the School for Feeble-Minded, at Fort Wayne, in the state of Indiana, where he has a much increased salary, and assumes a much greater responsibility.

The Board unanimously chose, as his successor, Dr. Carl J. Hedin (who had been, for many years, first assistant physician at the Maine Insane Hospital at Augusta) at a salary of

\$2,000.00, \$500.00 less than was paid Dr. Bliss. Mrs. Bliss, who was General Matron of the school, has been a most efficient officer, and the Board feel her loss keenly. Her position is filled by Miss Smith, former Supervisor of the Girls buildings. Miss Smith's salary is \$400.00, a saving of \$200.00. Mrs. Bliss having received \$600.00.

The serious problem that the institution faces is that of an abundant supply of water. Already there is a lack of sufficient quantity at the central buildings. Each morning we are obliged to wait before water enough is supplied for domestic purposes—and this only the beginning of cold weather.

The Trustees, at the October meeting, voted to expend \$1,000 in driving an Artesian well, as an experiment, temporarily. The contract is now made, and December 1st will find them at work.

The State own, in connection with the School, a brook, which flows into Royal River, near the Station of the Maine Central Railroad at Gray, which may be made available for a water-supply, if demanded, but, at a cost not less than \$40,000.00, as estimated by a competent engineer, Mr. Charles H. Fenn, and one of our Board, Mr. Y. A. Thurston. The situation is one of serious importance, and unless the Artesian well proves successful, we must, at once prepare for the larger expenditure.

The Trustees are very much gratified at the marked improvement in the inmates, physically and mentally. Under the watchful care and patient endeavors of our teachers, wonderful results are accomplished in reading, spelling and numbers. In the Industrial Departments, equally marked progress has been made. Needle work, of all kinds; rug-making, both by drawing and weaving; basketry, lace making, and fancy work of various kinds, on the part of the girls; and wood work, of all kinds, by the boys, demonstrate what modern methods have done for this otherwise helpless, dependent class of humanity.

Let us hope that the wisdom of the State will be directed to rapidly enlarge the accommodations for this philanthropic work.

SETH C. GORDON,
LAURA L. CONY,
THOMAS WHITE,
YOUNG A. THURSTON,
ALBERT O. MARCILLE,
FRANK W. BURNHAM,
MENANDER DENNETT.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Board of Trustees of the Maine School for Feeble-Minded:

I herewith submit my annual report for the fiscal year ending October 1, 1911.

The year past has been marked by the opening of the two brick dormitories, Staples Hall and the Girls' Home. These are fire-proof, brick buildings with a capacity of 70 people each. Our population has increased from 131, Sept. 30, 1910 to 174 on Sept. 30, 1911.

There have been 17 discharges and 11 deaths. Of the deaths 6 were male and 5 female. 5 were from Pneumonia, 3 from Epilepsy, 2 from Nephritis, and 1 from Tuberculosis.

The patients now here are distributed by counties as follows:

	Admitted.	Discharged or Dead.	Here now.
Androscoggin	15	1	14
Aroostook	5	1	4
Cumberland	29	6	23
Franklin	4	1	3
Hancock	12	1	11
Kennebec	15	1	14
Knox	11	2	9
Lincoln	10	3	7
Oxford	7	1	6
Penobscot	23	2	21
Piscataquis	13	1	12
Sagadahoc	17	3	14
Somerset	7	1	6
Waldo	13	5	8
Washington	18	3	15
York	11	4	7
	210	36	174

We now have room for 64 more girls in the new buildings as soon as our financial condition will allow of their support.

To fill these vacancies we have blanks on file for 84 girls and 86 boys, besides letters of application for 133 girls and boys, making total applications of 300 now awaiting admission. Some of these are very urgent, and we are constantly receiving letters urging immediate action in regard to them.

Our estimate of running expenses furnished the last legislature was based on a per capita of \$4.81 per patient per week and was as low as could consistently be made in the present state of development of the institution and the high price of provisions.

On account of the large State deficiency, the legislature cut all appropriations as low as possible.

Our appropriation was included in this reduction, and we have been obliged to suspend new admissions till such time as the income available for the support of the school will allow it.

If we had income sufficient to warrant filling our new buildings, Staples Hall and the Girls' Home, we could, I think, bring our per capita expense to the amount estimated.

Our average number of patients excluding those away for any reason for the year from October 1, 1910 to October 1, 1911, was 161. If we divide the total expenses for the year, \$52,945.56, by this we get \$6.32 per week per capita.

But of this \$52,945.56, quite an amount, \$7,619.09, was extraordinary expenses not properly classed as running expenses, such as furnishing our new buildings, extraordinary repairs to the old buildings on the grounds, laundry furnishings, etc. Deducting these extraordinary expenses, our actual running expenses for the year are \$45,326.47 or \$5.41 per week per capita. This covers not only board and clothes, but medical care and nursing, schooling, with salaries of teachers, school supplies and industrial training.

We could fill our new buildings without increase in our overhead charges. And if we can do this, we can reduce our per capita cost for the next year to \$5.00 per capita, and, I think, less.

Respectfully submitted,
GEORGE S. BLISS, M. D.,
Superintendent.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

*Statement of Operating Expenses and Income for Year Ending
September 30, 1911.*

Salaries and Supplies:		
Salaries of Officers	\$3,776 13	
Pay Roll of Employees.....	14,246 98	
Fuel, Coal	2,010 89	
Fuel, Wood	1,116 75	
Groceries	5,185 58	
Butter, Eggs and Milk.....	3,614 60	
Meats	1,670 93	
Fish	359 03	
Hats, Caps and Clothing.....	984 01	
Dry Goods and Millinery.....	314 70	
Boots and Shoes	673 18	
Rubber Goods	29 57	
Kitchen Utensils and Crockery.....	279 45	
Books and Periodicals	1 20	
Medicine and Attendance.....	225 84	
Miscellaneous Supplies	433 40	\$34,922 24
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Maintenance:		
Household Furnishings	\$1,249 31	
Repairs to Buildings and Grounds.....	4,940 07	
Insurance	210 00	6,399 38
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Farm:		
Farm Equipment	\$176 91	
Repairs and Renewals of Equipment.....	504 23	
Cattle	1,032 00	
Horses	5 00	
Hogs	131 00	
Hens	28 50	
Feed	2,715 69	
Hay	2,400 00	
Farm Miscellaneous	2,320 09	9,313 42
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Miscellaneous Expenses:		
Telephone	\$526	92
Postage, Stationery and Printing.....	216	32
Traveling Expenses	317	03
Freight and Express	66	14
Office Furnishings		68
Sundry Expenses	152	72
Laundry Furnishings	429	71
Entertainment for Children.....	16	93
Construction Tools	68	99
Water Supply Expense	498	43
Storehouse Equipment	13	95
School Industrial Equipment.....	2	70
		<u>2,310 52</u>
Total Expenses		\$52,945 56
Surplus, employed as follows:		
Increased Assets:		
Inventories	\$1,092	25
Plant	20,819	55
George S. Bliss, Sup't.....	10	00
Patients' Accounts	93	54
Cash	1,159	94
Decreased Liabilities:		
Audited Vouchers (Bills Payable).....	19,832	32
Appropriation	29,416	14
Surplus	1,214	63
		<u>\$73,638 37</u>
Decreased Assets:		
State of Maine	23,748	94
		<u>49,889 43</u>
		\$102,834 99

Assets and Liabilities, September 30, 1911.

ASSETS.

Inventories:	
Fuel, Coal	\$1,782 00
Fuel, Wood	165 00
Groceries	2,093 55
Hats, Caps and Clothing.....	418 97
Dry Goods and Millinery	2,533 32
Boots and Shoes.....	262 21
Rubber Goods	85 08
Kitchen Utensils and Crockery.....	783 76
Books and Periodicals	75 00
Medicine and Attendance.....	127 66
Miscellaneous Supplies	383 57

Household Furnishings	8,392	85	
Repairs to Buildings. and Grounds (materials)	2,810	70	
Farm Equipment	3,822	39	
Cattle	1,568	00	
Horses	2,695	00	
Hogs	432	00	
Feed	250	00	
Hay	2,500	00	
Office Furnishings	991	62	
Laundry Furnishings	205	16	
Entertainment for Children.....	231	23	
Construction Tools	443	53	
Storehouse Equipment	28	71	
School Industrial Equipment.....	468	53	\$33,549 84
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Plant Account	176,634	82	
Dr. George S. Bliss (Mileage Account).....	50	00	
Patients' Accounts	104	34	
State of Maine	16,031	50	
Cash	2,093	50	
<hr/>			
	\$228,464	00	

LIABILITIES.

Audited Vouchers (Bill Payable).....	\$3,959	57	
Appropriation	10,364	30	
Surplus Account	214,140	13	
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	\$228,464	00	

INCOME.

State of Maine	\$93,613	13	
Interest and Discount	66	08	
Board of Patients	925	39	
Farm (Products)	8,230	39	
Total Income	\$102,834	99	

SUMMARY.

Cash on hand October 1st, 1910.....	\$933	56	
Patients' Accounts, October 1st, 1910.....	10	80	
George S. Bliss, Sup't. (mileage account).....	40	00	
Plant, October 1st, 1910.....	155,815	27	
Inventories October 1st, 1910.....	32,457	59	
Received from the State, maintenance.....	68,336	75	
Received from the State, plant.....	19,609	18	
Interest and discount	66	08	
Board of patients	925	39	
Farm products	8,230	39	
Bills payable, October 1st, 1911.....	3,959	57	
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	\$290,384	58	

Cash on hand October 1st, 1911.....	\$2,093 50
Patients' Accounts, October 1st, 1911.....	104 34
George S. Bliss, Sup't., October 1st, 1911.....	50 00
Plant, October 1st, 1911.....	176,634 82
Inventories, October 1st, 1911.....	33,549 84
Maintenance, Oct. 1, 1910 to Oct. 1, 1911.....	52,945 56
Surplus	1,214 63
Bills payable Oct. 1, 1910.....	23,791 89
	<hr/>
	\$290,384 58

RESOURCES.

Inventories	\$33,549 84
Plant	176,634 82
Dr. George S. Bliss (mileage account).....	50 00
Patients' accounts	104 34
State of Maine balance of appropriation, Sept. 30, 1911.....	14,323 87
State of Maine to reimburse institution for advance.....	1,707 63
Cash on hand.....	2,093 50
	<hr/>
	\$228,464 00

LIABILITIES.

Audited vouchers payable by State out of appropriation.....	\$3,959 57
Unexpended balance appropriation 1911.....	10,364 30
Surplus	214,140 13
	<hr/>
	\$228,464 00

October, November and December Bills of 1911.

Amount appropriated for maintenance for 1911...	\$45,000 00
Amount of bills paid to and including Oct. 20th meeting of Council	\$33,213 69
Bills due Oct. 1, 1911 and unpaid	3,444 45
	<hr/>
Balance available to pay maintenance for the school for three months	\$8,341 86

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Board of Trustees of the Maine School for Feeble-Minded:

I herewith submit my annual report for the fiscal year ending October 1, 1912.

During the year our population has increased from 174 on September 30, 1911, to 222 on September 30, 1912. We have admitted during the year 65. There have been 10 discharges and 7 deaths, 3 girls and 4 boys. Of the discharges 8 were made because it seemed to the Board of Trustees that they were too old to be capable of receiving benefit from any training we could give them, and because there were so many young defectives on our lists who could receive such benefit. These older patients, some of whom could do considerable work under supervision, could be just as well cared for by the towns, and at less expense. This step enabled us to receive a number of young girls, who needed the training and also the care and protection much more than the old persons who were discharged.

Of the deaths one was from tubercular meningitis, one from general miliary tuberculosis, one from pulmonary tuberculosis, one from chronic bright's disease, one acute bronchitis, one facial epithelioma, and one endocarditis.

The patients now here are distributed by counties as follows:

	Admitted.	Discharged or Dead.	Here now.
Androscoggin	17	1	16
Aroostook	11	2	9
Cumberland	37	7	30
Franklin	9	3	6
Hancock	18	1	17
Kennebec	20	2	18
Knox	11	3	8
Lincoln	12	4	8
Malaga Island	7	2	5
Oxford	9	1	8

Penobscot	24	4	20
Piscataquis	14	3	11
Sagadahoc	22	5	17
Somerset	12	2	10
Waldo	15	5	10
Washington	20	5	15
York	18	4	14
	276	54	222

Our present buildings are practically full, yet we still have on the waiting list 72 girls and 103 boys for whom application papers have been filled out. Besides these 175 actually on the waiting list, there are about 150 cases for whom application papers have been sent out and not yet returned to the School. Figuring by the lowest proportion of defectives to population, 1 to 500, there are at least 1,500 defectives in the State of Maine. The State census shows 750, which seems at first glance a large discrepancy from the probably actual figures, but this discrepancy does not seem as great when we consider that few parents or relatives will acknowledge that a member of their family is feeble-minded, especially if the defect be not great and show little. Our average number of patients excluding those away for any reason for the year from October 1, 1910 to October 1, 1911, was 190.

Respectfully submitted,
 GEORGE S. BLISS, M. D.,
Superintendent.

INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER
30, 1912.

INCOME.	
State appropriation	\$43,885 33
Farm products	12,444 55
Board of Patients	2,124 67
Interest and discount	76 22
Industrial school, articles made by pupils.....	65 67
	\$58,596 44
EXPENSES.	
Salaries of Officers	\$4,718 18
Pay roll of employees	15,437 80
Fuel, coal	2,156 99
Fuel, wood	934 88
Groceries	7,363 75
Butter, eggs and milk	5,145 51
Meats	1,734 63
Fish	342 50
Hats, caps and clothing.....	631 37
Dry goods and millinery	639 85
Boots and shoes	610 77
Rubber goods	7 08
Kitchen utensils and crockery	273 69
Medicine and attendance	47 91
Miscellaneous supplies	237 97
Household furniture	205 10
Repairs to buildings and grounds.....	1,479 19
Insurance	141 17
Farm equipment	342 75
Repairs and renewals of farm equipment.....	420 92
Cattle	267 00
Horses	11 13
Hogs	475 89
Hens	13 18
Feed	2,943 15
Hay	1,420 00
Farm miscellaneous	2,103 82
Telephone	459 96

Postage, stationery and printing.....	277 61
Traveling expenses	266 11
Freight and express	62 71
Office furniture	10 74
Sundry expenses	275 88
Laundry furnishings	18 58
Entertainment for children.....	6 24
Construction tools	42 75
Water supply expense	456 51
Store house equipment.....	63
	<hr/>
Total expenses for year.....	\$51,983 90

Surplus for year, employed as follows:

INCREASED ASSETS.

State of Maine	\$2,347 05
Plant	1,808 93
Patients' accounts	417 04
Inventories	2,792 65
Cash	559 49
	<hr/>
	\$7,925 16

DECREASED ASSETS.

Dr. Geo. S. Bliss	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$7,875 16

DECREASED LIABILITIES.

Bills payable	952 85
	<hr/>
	\$8,828 01

INCREASED LIABILITIES.

Appropriation	2,215 47	6,612 54
		<hr/>
		\$58,596 44

SUMMARY.

Cash on hand Oct. 1st, 1911.....	\$2,093 50
Patients' accounts, Oct. 1st, 1911.....	104 34
Geo. S. Bliss, Supt., mileage account.....	50 00
Plant, Oct. 1st, 1911.....	176,634 82
Inventories, Oct. 1st, 1911.....	33,549 84
Received from State, maintenance.....	43,753 75
Interest and discount	76 22

Board of patients	2,124 67
Farm products	12,444 55
Industrial School	65 67
Bills payable Oct. 1, 1912	3,006 72
	<hr/>
	\$273,904 08
Cash on hand Oct. 1st, 1912.....	\$2,652 99
Patients' accounts, Oct. 1st, 1912.....	521 38
Plant, Oct. 1st, 1912.....	178,443 75
Inventories, Oct. 1st, 1912.....	36,342 49
Maintenance, Oct. 1, 1911-1912.....	51,983 90
Bills payable, Oct. 1, 1911.....	3,959 57
	<hr/>
	\$273,904 08

RESOURCES.

Inventories	\$36,342 49
Plant	178,443 75
Patients' accounts	521 38
State of Maine, balance of appropriation, Sept. 30, 1912.....	15,867 82
State of Maine to reimburse institution for advance.....	2,510 73
Cash on hand	2,652 99
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	\$236,339 16

LIABILITIES.

Audited vouchers payable by State out of appropriation.....	\$3,006 72
Unexpended balance of appropriation 1911.....	12,579 77
Surplus	220,752 67
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	\$236,339 16

REPORT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE.

To His Excellency Frederick W. Plaisted and Members of the Executive Council:

The Standing Committee on School for Feeble-Minded for the years 1911 and 1912 submit the following report:—

Our first visit to the School was in February 1911. We found a population of about one hundred and thirty-five, with a per capita cost of nearly seven dollars a week. Upon seeing many of the inmates personally, and scanning the Registry closely, we plainly saw that pupils were being received, whose condition was wholly outside the requisites for admission, and but little attention was being given to keeping the Institution within the scope of its founding.

The Legislature of 1907 passed an Act with the following title: "An Act to Establish a *School* for the Feeble-Minded." Among other things declared in the Act, and showing plainly the chief purpose for which the Institution was established, is this statement.

"Feeble-Minded persons over six years of age, and capable of being *benefitted* by School Instruction shall be admitted, etc." The thought occurred to us at once, that the very essence of the Act was misunderstood, and the population showed plainly, that in the minds of many, it was regarded as a *Home*, rather than a *School*, which the framers of the Act had solely in mind. Taking all things into account, the following facts were evident to your Committee.

1st. The prime object for which the Institution was founded, i. e., receiving those capable of being benefitted by school instruction, was being ignored, as the population consisted to quite an extent, of aged imbeciles, many over forty, and some as high as seventy-five and eighty years of age,—a class of people,

totally deficient mentally, wholly unimpressionable, and incapable of mental improvement.

2nd. Up to that time, no department for study or for manual training had been established.

3rd. Certain sections of the State were well represented among the inmates, while other sections numbered comparatively few.

4th. The per capita cost for maintenance, nearly seven dollars per week, seemed very large. Numerous instances were cited by your Committee, where in their own towns, or in others within their knowledge, this elderly class of people, were given good homes and were well cared for by their towns, at an expense not exceeding \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week.

To bring about results in accordance with the right object of the Institution, and to give an equitable representation to different sections of the State, the Council Committee recommended the following:—

1st. A return to the towns, of which they were resident, of all the aged ones who were incapable of mental improvement, and a filling of the vacancies by feeble-minded, younger in life, who were capable of being benefitted by school instruction. The Superintendent and the Trustees to be the sole arbiters of these selections.

2nd. Establishing as soon as practicable, a school for learning, together with a department for manual training.

3rd. As the Institution was not large enough to care for all who might apply for admission, and in order that each section of the State might be equitably benefitted, candidates suitable for admission should be apportioned among the different counties of the State, in proportion to the number of feeble-minded persons resident therein.

4th. To reduce the per capita cost, listed applicants suitable for admission, up to its capacity, should be received by the School. As far as practicable in these admissions preference should be given to the girls, so that the communities would be better safeguarded, by lessening the likelihood of a new generation of imbeciles. It was also the opinion of the Committee, that State wards should have first choice of admission over others.

Your Committee is pleased to report that the Superintendent and Board of Trustees adopted these suggestions, and for the past year the management of this Institution has been along these lines.

We most heartily endorse the Act of the Legislature of 1911, in creating a Board of Hospital Trustees, to have charge of the Insane Hospitals and the School for Feeble-Minded. These Institutions are so closely interrelated that they should be under the same Trustee management. Your committee believe that in this way, more good can be accomplished at much less expense to the State, than by separate Boards as heretofore.

Our only source of data, for the number of resident feeble-minded, is in the census returns for 1910, from the Assessors of the different municipalities in Maine. While this census is undoubtedly incomplete, it nevertheless gives an approximate idea of the number, sex, and age of this class of unfortunates. The following is the number and sex, given by counties:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Androscoggin	13	5	18
Aroostook	38	16	54
Cumberland	48	39	87
Franklin	21	10	31
Hancock	31	18	49
Kennebec	30	22	52
Knox	19	13	32
Lincoln	14	16	30
Oxford	35	25	60
Penobscot	52	22	74
Piscataquis	18	18	36
Sagadahoc	9	5	14
Somerset	36	16	52
Waldo	37	16	53
Washington	22	20	42
York	23	15	38
	446	276	722

While the number given above seems quite large, it is believed that the total is not 50% of the actual number resident in Maine. Good authority sets ratio of feeble-minded to the population as

1 : 500, which would give a census of at least 1,500 defectives in the State of Maine.

Your Committee believe that the Law should be mandatory, requiring the Assessors to send annually to the Governor and Council, as correct a list as possible, of the name, age, and sex of all feeble-minded persons resident in their municipalities. We fully realize the difficulty in obtaining a correct list, as people are very loath to give in, as defective, any of their children, but only in this way does the State know with whom they have to deal, and this knowledge would add very largely to the efficiency of the Institution.

We also would be in favor of some law, authorizing and compelling, the municipal officers of the cities and towns to commit or to have committed to this Institution feeble-minded persons, 12 years old or over, girls preferably, who have become dangerous sexually or otherwise, and are not properly cared for at their homes. Recent events have transpired in our State sacrificing life, and costing the State large sums of money, which certainly would show the value of a law like this.

In a majority of cases, the census of 1910 gives the ages of the people, from which is deduced the following facts:—

Of the number given, 498 are over 25 years of age, leaving 224, or nearly the present capacity of the school, under that age; 181, or 1-4 the entire number listed, are over 50 years of age; 124, or 1-6 of the number are over 60 years of age, while 54, or more than 7% of the entire number are over 70 years of age.

If the estimated population of defectives in Maine, 1,500, is correct, and the ages of all, are approximately those in the census returns, 750, these deductions are interesting in showing the fact, that Maine at the present time, has only one-half of the caring capacity for her feeble-minded, who are under 25 years of age.

The Insane Hospitals and the School for Feeble-Minded are so closely related, that we believe the laws transferring from one Institution to the other should be so constituted as to make as little trouble as possible in the interchange of inmates. At the present time the Board of Trustees have authority to order a transference from the Insane Hospitals to the School for Feeble-Minded, while in transferring from the School to the Insane Hospitals, the regular procedure of commitments as in

towns and cities has to be complied with, causing an unnecessary expense and trouble. In relation to this matter your Committee would endorse the suggestions of Dr. Carl J. Hedin, the present Superintendent of the School.

"Until the Institution is large enough to care for all feeble-minded persons within the State, in order to enable us to receive and detain all the feeble-minded who are capable of being benefitted by treatment and instruction, there should be some law, authorizing the Trustees of the Institution to transfer to either one of the two Insane Hospitals in the State the following:—

"1st. Those who are 21 years of age or over who are not capable of being further benefitted by school instruction, but who need custodial care.

"2nd. Those who are 16 years old or over, who have become insane, or otherwise unmanageable at this Institution."

At the present time the school has a few vacancies, through the inability to get commitments for State wards.

The vacancies will soon be filled. With the completion of the Hospital, the capacity of the Institution will be increased to 275.

During the past year, although the population has increased nearly 65 over the previous year, the total cost for maintenance is about \$6,000 less than the previous year, making a per capita cost of about \$4.00 per week. This is partly due to increased farm products.

The progress made at the School, both in study and in manual training, has been very gratifying, and shows what can be accomplished in training defective minds when the proper methods are used.

We would extend thanks for courtesies from the Superintendent and officials of the School. Our relations with the Hospital Board of Trustees have been harmonious and pleasant.

The School is doing good work, and the Inhabitants of Maine may well feel that it is a worthy Institution, and deserves the most liberal consideration at their hands.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES L. TURGEON, *Chairman*,
GUSTAVUS C. KILGORE,
ALFRED S. KIMBALL,

Standing Committee on School for Feeble-Minded.