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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MANAGERS

of

CLINTON FARMS

NEW JERSEY STATE REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN

CLINTON, HUNTERDON COUNTY

NEW JERSEY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31st

1914

NEW JERSEY STATE LIBRARY

Union Hill, N.J.
Dispatch Printing Company
1915

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BOARD OF MANAGERS REPORT

TO THE HONORABLE JAMES F. FIELDER, GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY:

SIR:-

The Managers of the New Jersey State Reformatory for Women desire to present their second annual report, which will be brief, as that of our Superintendent contains all that seems necessary to bring to your attention.

The second year of the existence of our institution has been marked by what we have reason to regard as a slow and healthy growth both in numbers and in the loyal spirit among our charges, which is the reflection of that which our officers are bringing to their difficult work. As we follow the development of the girls and women while they are at Clinton and later when they are subjected to the strain of meeting the difficulties and temptations of the outside world after leaving us, we feel encouraged in the belief that we can make certain claims:-

That all the girls and women are improved in health while they are with us; that all have plainly put before them the reality and consequences of the mistakes which have caused them to become offenders in the eyes of the law; that large numbers respond in a surprising degree to the efforts made to help them; that they leave us better able to earn an honest living and with an improved mental equipment; that moral and religious motives for future action have been taught and that each one has been brought back to her special religious service.

*Parole
office*

We are realizing more and more that our work does not cease when parole begins but, on the contrary, becomes more necessary and more telling than anything that can be accomplished under the necessarily artificial conditions of an institution. We are fortunate in having so efficient a Parole Agent as Miss Little to follow the girls out into the world and to do all that is possible to make permanent the training we have endeavored to give them.

We have not succeeded and we do not expect to succeed in all cases, but as we get to know the story of each life that comes to us, we feel more than ever assured that a large proportion of these girls and women can be, under Providence, redeemed to the better and higher life of a strengthened and purified womanhood.

CAROLINE BAYARD WITTPENN,
President Board of Managers.

TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1914

Appropriation.	Spent.	Unused Balance.
\$3,800.00 Salaries of Officers and Employees.....	\$3,800.00
1,800.00 Farm Laborers.....	1,799.97	.03
6,000.00 Maintenance.....	6,518 .30	2.16
520.46 Miscellaneous Earnings.....)		
1,000.00 Extra Help and Miscellaneous Expenses..	981.55	18.45
500.00 Horseshoeing and Wagon Repairs.....	469.99	30.01
1,900.00 Maintenance of Live Stock.....	1,853.08	46.92
500.00 Fire Insurance.....	499.16	.84
300.00 Renewal of Live Stock.....	300.00
900.00 Fertilizers.....	900.00
250.00 Seeds and Plants for Crops.....	216.34	33.66
3,500.00 Roads and Gutters.....	3,123.74	376.26
3,801.18 Small Cottage for Help.....	2,762.50	1,038.68
25 ,000.00 Cottage for 30 Colored Girls.....	12,108.01	12,891 .99
<u>\$49,771.64</u>	<u>\$35,332.64</u>	<u>\$14,439.00</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL

200.00 Manager's Expenses.....	148.93	51 .07
2,500.00 Sewage Disposal.....	25.72	2,474.28
600.00 Pump.....	600.00
2,500.00 Pipes for Water.....	26.24	2,473.76
750.00 Furnishing Farm House.....	748.07	1.93
<u>\$56,321.64</u>	<u>TOTALS \$36,881.60</u>	<u>\$19,440.04</u>

Respectfully submitted,

ALFRED G. EVANS,
Treasurer.

To the Board of Managers of the New Jersey State Reformatory for Women

Ladies and Gentlemen: Since the New Jersey State Reformatory for Women was opened in January, 1913, we have added three new buildings besides the two old farm houses which were remodeled for our use. One, the cottage for the utility man, has been in use for the past six months. The other two will soon be ready for occupancy. Our first new cottage, to accommodate thirty women, was built after the Bedford plan of cottages, and here the colored women will live. For these we hope to secure colored officers, for we feel that capable colored women of education will be able to exert a very beneficial influence over less fortunate members of their own race. The third building is a beautiful memorial chapel, presented to the institution by Mrs. Wittpen. Around it the religious life of Clinton Farms will center. We shall use the basement for a gymnasium and school. We are peculiarly fortunate to have the chapel so early in the life of the institution, so emphasizing our feeling that true religion must play a vital part in any real reformation.

Stew
Chapel

We are hoping that the Legislature this year will grant us the appropriation which will enable us to open the cottage for colored women in May. This appropriation will be needed, not only for running expenses of the cottage, but also for the salaries of two colored officers. It has been, after much thought and consideration, that we have finally decided upon employing colored women to work with members of their own race who will be committed here. The problem of dealing with colored delinquents is admittedly more difficult than that of dealing with white delinquents, and therefore it is necessary to take every precaution to avoid future trouble of any kind. The cottage which we are planning to use for colored women is at some distance from the other buildings now in use, and we must get strong, reliable officers to carry on this work there so that they will be able to cope with any difficulty. The need for this can be readily seen when one realizes that we are running this Reformatory without any guards and that we are situated in an isolated section of the country. In a reformatory somewhat like this one in eastern Pennsylvania, where there had been constant trouble among colored girls, the recent introduction of colored officers in the place of the white officers seemed to solve the problem. We are hoping it will be successful here.

During the two years that this institution has been running we have built up, in common with all other places of this kind, a regular course of training for the girls and women in all the household departments of laundry, cooking, dining-room work, sewing and general housework. Our object in doing this has been twofold. We feel, at least at present, that the safest positions which we can find for young women are general housework. There, women who have no homes of their own, or at least no decent homes, can live in good neighborhoods and in clean, well-kept houses. Their wage is not much, it is true, but it makes it possible for them to save more in the end, on twelve or twenty dollars a month at housework-the amount of wage depending on their skill at cooking-than at other kinds of work where the monthly pay is higher, but where they must spend most of this for their living expenses. In addition to this, putting them in such places makes it possible for us to keep closer supervision over them.

Secondly, most of our women are either mothers or are looking forward to having homes of their own at some time, and we feel that

our training here helps them to know better how to keep their homes, how to guard against disease by keeping their children and houses clean, what sort of food to buy and how to prepare it. Of course, there are some exceptions to this general rule, and we try always to place a woman at the work for which she has a decided talent. We have, for instance, one young woman who showed a great aptness for dressmaking. She is now living out by herself and supporting herself by this means.

When the women come here each one is subjected to a thorough physical and mental examination, the former by our trained nurse and a physician from Clinton, and the latter by our psychologist, who is also our teacher. The women who need any treatment are taken care of by the nurse, and the women who need custodial care, on account of their mental deficiency or abnormality, are transferred to other institutions which can give them care. In this connection we would like to bring out the great saving to the State if such mental examination could be made prior to their commitment to a reformatory institution. In this case the judge would have such information in his hands at the time of the trial, which would enable him to know whether the woman should be placed in a reformatory, an institution for feeble-minded or a State hospital. As it is now, the county pays the expenses entailed in bringing the woman to the Reformatory, and then, if she is found abnormal or subnormal, the institution pays for her removal to another institution to which she could have been taken more easily and inexpensively in the first place.

psychologist
+ teacher

Our school work still presents us with some of our greatest difficulties due to the large number of foreigners we have among our present number of 35, as well as to their great lack of previous educational advantages. To do the greatest possible good we must give the women education along extremely practical lines. Our class of beginners, foreigners, who are unable to read and write English, are taking up that work particularly, with a training as well in the more fundamental branches of arithmetic. For the others, we try to teach them things for which they will have need in their future lives, since they are going out to housework or to homes of their own. Our arithmetic follows the lines of household accounts, trying to use actual prices, teaching them the relative costs and values of food. In our hygiene classes we take up with them the care of their bodies and their homes and the great need for such care, and in the mother's club, which, with the hygiene, is conducted by our trained nurse, under supervision of our teacher, we show them how to bathe, look after their children and the necessity for such watchful care.

We feel that we are doing better work along school lines this year, due partly to the fact that we have a teacher to regularly supervise our school work, as well as to the fact that we know better what sort of subjects we wish to teach.

In this connection it might be well to bring again before the public our great need for some sort of a library to which we, officers as well as women, can turn for reference. It is impossible for us to do really effective school work without this aid, and we have no library whatever available in the small town near us.

To summarize our general work here, our aim is to make the women feel the importance and necessity of doing good housework in all its branches. Along with this we try to raise the standard of housework by making them feel that it requires just as good or better

training than any other work and that it is worth their best effort. Of course, to carry this training to its logical conclusion, we ought to find for the women whom we place out positions where they will not be looked down on because they are servants, but will be made to feel that their work is just as high in the social scale as factory work, a thing which they seldom do feel when they come here. For that reason we try to place them in positions in small towns where there is less feeling that servants as a class are lower in the social scale than other workers.

In our farm work we have made some interesting experiments in showing what women can do. Our aims for the women, in connection with farm work, are stated too clearly in the report of the Farm Manager to need repetition here. From the institutional side the farm work, which we carry on for all the girls from May to November and for some girls all the year, has proved to be of greatest value in providing a constant fund of decent, wholesome subjects of conversation. In the evenings when we gather about the living-room table to read, sew or crochet the talk is very largely of our farm activities; how the calves are growing, their names, the dispositions of the different animals, which cows are hard to milk, when we expect to kill the pigs, how much they weigh, and how long the pork will last. All this, besides taking the place of talk of their "past careers," which is something all institutions wish to discourage, supplies the women with many points of practical knowledge. One of the most obvious benefits of our farm work is the building up of the general health and the increase, by this, of their control and resistance to temptation.

The farm work serves another and very different end, one which was only vaguely realized at the beginning, but which impresses itself upon us more and more. Institutional life at its best is abnormal in its condition. Necessarily it lacks all the normal opportunities for affection found in home life, no matter how poor the home. For some of the women, to whom commitment here has meant separation from their children, the animals have provided a real, though poor, substitute, in giving them a healthy way of pouring out their love for something weaker and more dependent than themselves. This opportunity for a safe expression of their emotions is not to be disregarded.

✓ Some of the most serious problems, this past year, have come up in connection with our parole work, and we are not yet quite satisfied with our rules. So far we have kept the women here, committed for the less serious offenses, one year, providing it has been a year of good behavior. Then we have placed them out on parole. A study of our women, and the causes of their getting into trouble, shows us that more than sixty per cent. are in for different kinds of sexual offenses. Yet here in the institution we can give them no special training to combat this temptation except the general one of raising their ideals. What these women need, we feel, is a long time on parole, where they will be subject to this temptation ^{and} yet under our supervision, so we can help and advise them. Some have recommended that we keep them here longer and so decrease their time on parole. This would look better for the institution, it is true, for then we could discharge them from parole after a short time, say, one or two years, instead of keeping track of them for six or seven years. Thus, since a discharged case is entirely out of our supervision, we would impress the public as really "reforming" large percentages who probably would not be so considered by those who knew them. We have really been advised to do this for this reason, and certainly, as far as the statistics of the institution are concerned, it would be best.

But our test must be the effect on the individual. Perhaps we have not had as yet sufficient experience along this line to warrant our reaching a final decision in this matter at this point.

In developing our honor system we feel we are using the best means of training the women, aside from desiring to increase methods of this kind in reformatory institutions. This system reaches its highest point at the Homestead, where we have a picked group of women, who have made especially good records here, living in the old farmhouse with no regular matron over them, without locks or bars of any kind; and where also there are several women sleeping out on the porches. As we have said before, we have made every effort to send the women out stronger in character than when they came here. There is surely no better way to train these women to be self-reliant and strong and to withstand temptation than to constantly give them the opportunity to choose between right and wrong while here, and so teach them to resist it. We are proud of the fact that in spite of our method of honor and trust, by which women come and go between our different houses and to their work with very little supervision-or, as we truly believe, because of this- we have not had one breach of this trust in over a year. The women feel that this a sacred privilege of freedom and trust and is theirs to guard. Nothing is reported more quickly, nor watched for more carefully, than the desire on the part of the women recently committed here to run away. They all feel to allow this to happen would deprive all of the free life here which they so thoroughly enjoy. This is what we wish to have every woman feel that the responsibility for this place, and what it stands for, is hers.

We feel that one of the strongest forces which we have over the women here to turn them in the right direction and more important to keep them there, after they have been placed on parole is the power of religion. Both Catholics and Protestants are given instruction in their faith and opportunities of going to their own church once a month if they desire. Besides this, under the guidance of our supervising chaplain, the Rev. T.A. Conover, of Bernardsville, we have regular non-sectarian services on Sunday afternoon which all attend and enjoy. These will be even more helpful than they are at present when they can be held in the beautiful little chapel which will be completed before this goes to print. Aside from these formal services, we have family prayers at night, and many serious private talks with the individual, trying to make them feel the necessity of relying on their religion, of whatever form or creed it happens to be, to help them lead strong, helpful lives in whatever community they are placed. *Religion*

Our aim at Clinton Farms is to develop such a strong spirit of selfreliance and helpfulness that during their stay here the women will form habits of industry and gain in character to such an extent that they will go out from us to take their places in the world and be forces for good in their neighborhoods as strong as hitherto they have been forces for evil. This is a high ideal, but we hope to see it accomplished in most of our women. We can truly hope for this if we can, above all, inculcate a spirit of true Christianity which seeks to serve and help rather than hinder.

Respectfully submitted,
MAY CAUGHEY
Superintendent.

CLINTON FARMS.

NEW JERSEY STATE REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN

No. in attendance January 1, 1914, 27; No. in attendance January 1, 1915, 35; No. in attendance during 1914, 65; No. admitted to institution since January 1913, 69; No. paroled since January 1913, 20; No. discharges since January 1913, 5; No. transferred since January 1913, 8; No. discharged by order of court, 1.

STATISTICS.

The following are based on total number admitted.

AGE—(Youngest, 16; Oldest, 60)—Below 21, 27; 21 to 30, 25; above 30, 17.

COUNTIES—Atlantic, 2; Bergen, 4; Burlington 3; Camden, 1; Essex, 26; Hudson, 17; Mercer, 1; Middlesex, 1; monmouth, 1; Morris, 1; Passaic, 8; Somerset, 1; Union, 3.

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONAL EXPERIENCE—Essex Co. Penitentiary, 2; House of Good Shepherd, Newark, 4; State Home for Girls, Trenton, 1; St. Anne's Home for Inebriated, 1; Florence Crittendon Mission, Atlantic City, 1; Florence Crittendon Mission, Newark, 1; Orphan Home, Mt. Vernon, N.Y., 1; House of Mercy, Inwood, N.Y., 1; Blackwell's Island, N.Y., 1.

NATIONALITIES—American, 22; German, 14; Irish, 10; Slavish, 10; Dutch, 3; English, 3; Italian, 3; Jewish, 2; Scotch, 1; German-Polish, 1.

EDUCATION ON ENTRANCE—Illiterate, 10; unable to read and write, 5; read and write, 12; read and write arithmetic to fractions, 18; grammar school and above, 24.

CIVIL CONDITION—Single, 30; Married, 39; Not living with husband at time of commitment, 18. (Of these only two of the husbands were dead.)

OCCUPATION IMMEDIATELY PREVIOUS TO COMMITMENT—No gainful occupation, 25; housework, 11; factory, 9; furnished room house, 5; day's work 3; restaurant, 2; telephone operator, 2; sales girl, 2; prostitute, 2; boarding house keeper, 1; cranberry picking, 1; tea and coffee agent, 1; lady's maid, 1; sweat-shop work, 1; vaudeville, 1; model, 1.

CHARGES—Against property, 25; grand larceny, 7; larceny and receiving, 13; shoplifting, 5; forgery, 3; robbery, 1; defrauding board, 1; against person, 9; murder (First degree, 2; second degree, 2), 4; assault with intent to kill, 1; atrocious assault and battery, 2; assault and battery, 2; immorality, 27; bigamy, 6; adultery, 10; fornication, 1; open lewdness, 3; malicious mischief, 1; disorderly house, 6; transferred from State Home for Girls, 8.

In ten cases of those committed under charge against property, they would not have been committed, if, when their offenses were investigated, it had not been found that their relations with men were such as to warrant their being committed for that alone. In addition to this, four of the State Home girls were sent here because of their behavior in this respect when on parole from that institution. This increases the immorality charges to 41 instead of 37.

CAUSES—Mental deficiency, 13; home conditions, 10; bad companions, 11; mistreated by husband or father of child, 8; economic, 7; drugs and alcohol, 7; desire for an immoral life, 5; illicit love, 3; jealousy, 1; physical, 1. vanity, 3;

69
31
38

17
25
27
69

To the Board of Managers of the New Jersey State Reformatory for Women.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Through the year that has just passed, the second year of Clinton Farms, we have striven mainly for three things: To teach the regular farm women to assume responsibility for their work; to produce an abundance of milk, eggs and vegetables for both women and officers; to begin an improvement of the general condition of the farm.

The most encouraging feature of the work on the farm is the degree of interest that the dairy and poultry women take in their work, and we believe that the tradition once established will be permanent and that we may expect some results in the garden work next year. The women of these two departments, though supervised, are not under the constant surveillance of the farm superintendent. If this were necessary, the spirit of the women would suffer and our results would be greatly curtailed, for we have no out-of-door officer. As it is, the ability of the women to carry on this work is a very important item economically, owing to the shortage of paid labor. From the standpoint of advantage to the women themselves it is much more important, for the work with the animals is beneficial in many ways. In the past year we have added largely to our poultry by the pullets that we have raised; we have started a swine herd by the purchase of two young purebred Berkshires from the New Jersey State Experiment Station; and what is as helpful to the women, we have acquired three pedigreed Collie dogs. From these dogs we are raising pups that are a delight to all, and we hope that we shall find sale for these choice pets.

As very material losses occur from frequent changes among those who care for the animals, the regular farm or poultry woman is never removed from her capacity except when absolutely necessary. She is given a place on the farm because she requests it, and as it is considered a position of honor, she rarely asks to be removed to another department. The work is usually done cheerfully.

During the most of the year we have had an abundance of milk and eggs. This means that the women have eggs frequently and of milk all that they can drink. Many of the women come here in a very low physical condition, and undoubtedly the milk and eggs they receive contribute largely to the marked improvement they show the first few months.

We had at the beginning of spring only a small garden of perhaps a quarter acre. The only other suitable spot was a mass of Canada thistles. This whole patch was worked over by the women, who dug out the thistles one by one, and at the end of the summer the ground was in much better condition; so that another year we shall have six acres of ground fairly well prepared. Notwithstanding the condition of our garden and the long drought, we had an abundance of summer vegetables, and have stored for the winter a large quantity of potatoes, beets, squash, carrots and ruta baga.

Our intensive work, therefore, has gone forward reasonably well. It is the general farming that has suffered. The women help enthusiastically with the haying, it is true, and are of no small assistance; but there is a vast amount of work that they are unable to do, and the farm is in a very run-down condition; the timothy and clover are choked with wild carrots; the pastures are quite worn out; thousands of feet of good fencing are needed; the buildings are too small for the stock that should be carried for the benefit of maintenance and for the building up of the soil. We look with regret at the fertile fields useless because of lack of cultivation, and hope that the Legislature

will see the larger possibilities of this farm, given a reasonable amount of labor, and will appropriate a sum that will enable the general farming to go forward, so that the soil may yield crops that will add steadily to the income of the Reformatory and the fields by their evidence of good farming may make Clinton Farms a model for the community and an inspiration to the women who are sent here for the moral and physical betterment.

HARRIET B. BRADNER
Farm Superintendent

CLINTON FARMS

PRODUCE REPORT

February 16, 1914, To January 1, 1915

FARM PRODUCE—Straw, 9 tons; hay, timothy, 38 tons; cow pea and oats, 17 tons; mixed hay, 4 tons; poor hay, 8 tons; mangel wurzel and sugar beets, 35 tons; corn on the ear, 1,305 bu.; wheat, 104 bu.; oats, 112 bu.; rye, 276 bu.

DAIRY PRODUCE, MEAT AND EGGS—Milk, 18,945 qts; butter, 441 lbs.; eggs, 12,509; fowls, 171 lbs.; young chickens 382 lbs.; veal 297 lbs.; calf's heart, liver, tongue, 12 lbs.; sweet reads, 3 prs.; pork, 416 lbs.; heart, liver tongue, 10 lbs.

SUMMER VEGETABLES—Beets, 663 qts.; beet greens, 337 qts.; cabbage, 326 heads; carrots, 82 qts.; cauliflower, 159 heads; corn, 4,669 ears; cucumbers, 843; cucumbers, (pickling), 224; lettuce, (boiling), 192 qts; lettuce, 1435 heads; lima beans, 808 qts.; onions, (dry), 78 qts. onions, (large green), 156 bunches, (25 each); onions (small green), 160 bunches, (25 each); peas, 373 qts. (peppers, 21 doz.; potatoes, 36 bu.; radishes, 37 bunches; rhubarb, 30 bunches, (12 stalks); ruta бага, 108 qts.; spinach 162 qts; string beans, 759 qts.; Swiss chard, 282 qts.; tomatoes, 834 qts.

WINTER VEGETABLES—Beans, (dry), 59 qts.; celery, 1,125 stalks; beets, 82 bu.; carrots, 31 bu.; potatoes, 382 bu. ruta бага, 52 bu.; squash, 44 bu.

MISCELLANEOUS EARNINGS

January 1, 1914, To November 1, 1914.

Hay, 16 tons, 380 lbs.; at \$14.00.....	\$226.72
Hide, 36 lbs., at .08	2.88
Potatoes, 18 bus., at .90.....	16.20
Eggs, 36 doz., at .25 (average).....	9.00
Rye, 206 bus., 7 lbs., at .78.....	160.77
Seed Rye, 14 bus. at .85	11.90
Pasturage, Calves, Colts and Cows.....	65.10
Calves.....	7.50
Interest from Madison Trust Co., (Treasurer's account);.....	4.91
Gasoline sold for emergency.....	.48
Board, Miss Perkins, Six weeks.....	15.00

Total.....\$520.46