

PN # 38-109-2

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
STATE COLONY  
FOR  
FEEBLE MINDED MALES  
AT  
NEW LISBON, N. J.  
For the Second Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1918

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**New Jersey State Library**



## Letter of Transmittal

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*To His Excellency, Walter E. Edge, Governor of New Jersey.*

SIR: We, the remaining members of the Board of Managers of the State Colony for Feeble Minded Males, have the honor to submit, as directed by law, the report of the Colony for the year ending June 30th, 1918.

We respectfully call your attention to the fact that two members of our Board, Dr. Ephraim Morrison and Mr. Richard A. Claybrook, died just previous to the ending of this fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE A. ARMOUR, *President.*

DANIEL V. BISHOP, *Secretary.*

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## Report of Superintendent

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*To the Board of Managers of the State Colony for Feeble Minded Males, New Lisbon, N. J.*

GENTLEMEN: This, the closing of the second fiscal year of the Colony, does not include the four active months of July, August, September and October of 1918, as did the previous year's summary, on account of the change of the time in the beginning of the present fiscal year on July 1st instead of November 1st.

The building operations during the past winter were practically inactive, as all work on construction was in the open and of such character that it was not practical to attempt activity along that line. However, when spring arrived no time was lost in getting things going and pushing the completion of the dormitory building, for which plans were made more than two years ago when the Colony became a State Institution and the appropriation of \$12,000.00 became available, November 1st, 1917.

The management desiring to use inmate labor as far as possible



and reduce the cost of construction, the State House Commission permitted the operation without first publicly advertising for bids. This has been a great advantage to the State, as the inmate labor has reduced the cost of construction considerably over what a contractor would have charged for doing the same work. It will be observed a separation is made of the cost of maintenance from the cost of construction. During the initial period of developing an institution such as this Colony, it is rather unfair when based upon a per capita weekly basis of maintenance for comparison with those of other State Institutions, as the amount of labor contributed to the construction and development of the Colony by inmates and employees has a tendency to increase maintenance and decrease construction.

When each acre of land is added to the farm it costs maintenance a higher rate on account of the wear and tear of clothing, shoes and tools, and gives to development a good value at a very low cost. The construction under the present plan has been reduced about twelve and one-half per cent. The management is most desirous of developing the Colony in a most practical form and make each dollar do the maximum amount of work.

Some may feel that these improvements are contrary to the ideal of simple, inexpensive surroundings, which the Colony undertook to demonstrate as compatible with the greatest possible happiness for these boys; but on further thought will surely see they are simply efficient tools for the managers. It makes no difference to the boys whether their clothes are washed tediously by hand or quickly and efficiently by machinery. It makes no difference to the boys whether their light and heat come from kerosene lamps and wood stoves or from electricity and steam radiators, but it does make a world of difference to those who are caring for these children with a mental age of anywhere of three to eleven years and with bodies of men; and efficient tools for their daily routine work makes it possible to utilize more of the labor of these child men in construction and farm work.

During the past year the work the boys have done in making concrete blocks, excavating, clearing land and farming would have cost the State at least \$1,200.00 if it had been done by paid laborers.

While the material development of the Colony under State control has been very satisfactory, we feel that the support of the

State in caring for the mentally deficient is very urgent. It will be interesting to learn that the psychologists at Camp Dix have been trying out on the Colony boys the special tests devised for the purpose of locating the feeble-minded among the men who have been drafted into the National Army and passed the physical examination. The mental status of these boys has been repeatedly measured by more elaborate methods, and the fact that they grade just about the same with the new and shorter tests is valuable proof of the efficiency of these tests. We had the very interesting experience of seeing Mr. Stech, from Camp Dix, give the tests to a selected group of the Colony boys. To many of us it was a revelation to see the utter lack of power of observation and judgment shown by one of these boys, aged 45 years, whose unusual command of language leads most people to think him of quite high grade.

Of all the men tested at Camp Dix about one per cent. are of such low grade that they cannot with safety to the others be continued in the service, and five per cent. or more of the others have to be given special jobs where their lack of judgment cannot endanger the lives of their comrades. The registration of this great number of feeble minded men is going to emphasize the necessity of making general provision for their proper care. This will surely be one of the great problems, after, if not before, the close of the war, and those most familiar with the army psychological work and the Colony, that in their opinion the Colony work is of fundamental importance in its solution.

Unless the happiness of the boys is maintained the work loses greatly in value. The public, the family and friends of those needing protection and care of such colonies will not generally consent to their being placed there if the Colonies are not known as happy homes. The Colony, in order to carry out the desires of the Management, must have improvements, which to some may seem not necessary, but theory vs. practice does not count when it comes to caring and doing for those who require it.

For instance, an institution of this character without some provision for caring for its sick, quarantining or isolating is not a proper place to maintain inmates of any character. As the population increases so must the development and construction, and the buildings or additions are absolutely essential.



During the past winter the amount of wood consumed for fuel would be almost unbelievable, and had it not been for the available wood used our institution would have suffered severely.

The general health of the inmates has been exceptionally fine during the past year. Located as we are, six miles from a railroad and eighteen miles from a metropolitan town, where the attending physician resides, we were exceptionally fortunate in not needing one often. The physician called but five times during the entire year.

We do not feel the Purchase Act has been of any advantage to this Institution, as we have compared practically each consignment of goods which were purchased through the Department and found the prices to be no less than locally and invariably received articles of inferior quality, and in many instances not suitable for our needs, besides not knowing when the articles would be received and in many cases not knowing the price paid until some time after the goods were received, and in many cases not knowing the price paid until after the goods were received. This places the Colony, and no doubt other institutions, in a position that is difficult in regulating the needs at the time the application for supplies is requested, especially with a small population on a per capita basis.

We firmly believe in a State Use System, providing the same class and grade of goods can be furnished as can be procured in the open market at the same price, but when institutions are compelled to pay open market prices for articles made by other institutions and receive anything that does not compare favorably, it is an imposition to compel the institutions to use such goods and is more expensive in the end.

With the limited facilities we are doing as much canning and preserving as it is possible to do. The boys gathered for canning purposes two hundred and fifty quarts of huckleberries, and the small farm, entirely cleared by them, will grow all the vegetables for table use during the season as well as a nice lot of farm crops.

Every employee has rendered the maximum amount of service during the year, and from the Management of the Institution they are most heartily commended.

Accompanying herewith is a statement of this year's operations.

Respectfully submitted,

J. FRANK MACOMBER,

Superintendent.

## Financial Statement

Balance appropriations 1916-1917..... \$ 6,631.43

### RECEIPTS

Maintenance .....	\$15,000.00	
Salaries and Wages.....	7,150.00	
Converting Stable into Shop.....	1,000.00	
Painting, Laying Walks, etc.....	500.00	
Barn .....	4,000.00	
Pig Pens, Outbuildings .....	600.00	
Dormitory .....	12,000.00	
Equipping Dormitory .....	2,000.00	
Equipping Shops .....	500.00	
Live Stock and Farm Implements.....	1,500.00	
Insurance .....	300.00	
Earnings .....	861.97	
		45,411.97
		<u>\$52,043.40</u>

### DISBURSEMENTS

Food .....	\$ 3,264.75
House Supplies .....	1,668.44
Clothing .....	1,100.71
Repairs .....	231.99
Farm, Stable and Grounds.....	2,583.07
Fuel and Power .....	1,266.52
Miscellaneous .....	54.17
Incidentals .....	672.69
	<u>\$10,842.34</u>
Salaries and Wages.....	4,404.72

### Expenditures on Special Appropriations—

Converting Stable into Shops.....	\$ 256.21
Painting, Walks, etc. ....	315.79
Barn .....	427.03
Pig Pens, Outbuildings .....	427.27
Dormitory .....	3,844.56
Equipment Shops .....	230.91



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Live Stock and Farm Implements.....	1,367.22	
Insurance .....	299.19	
Contracts, 1916-1917 Appropriations.....	5,406.98	
		<u>12,602.04</u>

Total disbursements .....	27,822.22
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*\*Lapses on Appropriations—*

Maintenance .....	\$ 5,019.63
Salaries and Wages.....	2,745.28
Equipping Dormitory .....	2,000.00
Insurance .....	.81
Appropriations 1916-1917 .....	300.27

Reverted to State Treasurer.....	10,065.99
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*Balances on Appropriations—*

Converting Stable into Shops.....	\$ 743.79
Painting, Laying Walks, etc.....	184.21
Barn .....	3,572.97
Dormitory .....	8,155.44
Equipping Shops .....	269.09
Live Stock and Farm Implements.....	132.78
Pig Pens and Outbuildings.....	172.73
Balance Contract 1917 Appropriation.....	924.18

	<u>14,155.19</u>
	<u>\$52,043.40</u>

STATISTICAL REPORT

Number of boys in Colony, October 31, 1917.....	44
Admissions during the year.....	2
	<u>—</u>
Population, June 30, 1918 .....	46 *

\*Portions of appropriations were lapsed owing to eight month fiscal year by act of Legislature.

Corrected -  
to relation 45 -

8/25/33