

by water courses and containing a considerable area of swamp and waste land. The soil of the portion which has been brought under cultivation, and which does not exceed sixty acres, is light and apparently not very productive. It was considered by the officials in charge that the council made a very unfortunate selection when this farm was chosen as the site of the poor house. The original cost of land and farm buildings is stated at \$3,741. The house then contained thirty-four inmates, exclusive of the keeper's family, most of them very aged and infirm, and incapable of doing much manual labor. The cost of maintenance has been gradually diminished from an expenditure by the county of \$58.68 per annum for each inmate in 1871, to \$30.13 in 1885. No interest charge, however, is included in either sum. Estimating this at six per cent. upon a total investment of \$10,000, the cost for maintenance would be increased to \$43.77 for each individual during the latter year. Owing probably to the poor quality of the soil, a partial failure of the crops seems to have been of frequent occurrence, and the yield is seldom above the average. The whole of the labor upon the farm, with exception of reaping the grain, is performed by the inmates, one team of horses and eight cows being maintained on the farm.

The house and premises were found thoroughly clean and in excellent order, and the inmates apparently comfortable and contented with their treatment. Persons with whom your committee conversed upon the subject, appeared satisfied without exception that this method of maintaining the indigent was the most economical and satisfactory that could be adopted by the county. The system of management in this county, however, differs from that which obtains in others in this important respect, that the services of an inspector have been dispensed with, and the entire responsibility of making purchases and sales rests upon the keeper himself. Supplies are not even obtained by tender.

The entire expenditure for provisions, fuel, clothing, light, and salaries for 1886, with an average number of forty-four persons to provide for, was \$1500.93, and deducting moneys received from sale of produce, \$1330.30. In 1873 the entire expenditure, with an average number of thirty-four inmates was \$1,851 or \$1,465.58 net; in 1877, with forty-three inmates \$1,708.45 or \$1,209.45 net; in 1880, with thirty-nine inmates, \$1,873.55 or \$1,830.41 net; in 1882, including

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