

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE POOR AND OF THE HOUSE OF EMPLOYMENT OF SOMERSET COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st December, 1931.

To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace and the Grand Jury of Somerset County.

In compliance with the sixth section of the Act of Assembly approved the 15th day of April, 1845, providing for the erection of a House of Employment, and support of the poor of said county, the undersigned Directors herewith respectfully submit and lay before you their report for the year ending December 31, 1931, showing the number, and sex of all persons maintained and employed in said House of Employment, and of the children by them indentured, with the names of their masters, their occupations and earnings.

We also herewith submit an account of all sales, donations, devises and bequests, and moneys received by or for them.

In addition to the information required by the Act of Assembly the Board of Directors herewith furnish under suitable headings the names of those who have been assisted elsewhere, and also the children who were maintained in private families under the Act of Assembly approved 13th June, 1883, and the amounts paid for their maintenance. Also, the names of those persons removed to other institutions for medical treatment and teaching, with the cost of their maintenance and the nature of the repairs made, and description of the new buildings erected during the year, and the improvements made or added, as well as all other items, which may be of interest to the Court, Grand Jury and the Public.

ALEX. HUNTER, L. G. Colborn, WILLIAM DICKEY, Directors of the Poor.

In presenting this report to your Honorable Court and Grand Jury, it is gratifying to know that the management of the House of Employment for the past year has been approved by the citizens. We fully realize the responsibilities resting upon us. To our keeping is intrusted both the keys of office, and the office. Into our care the law commits the well being and happiness of our unfortunate, aged and infirm poor, whose condition must excite your sympathy. Those to whom "pity goes" are clearly seen. "The poor you see always with you." It has been the greatest solicitude of the Directors, in the interest of the tax payers, to use the funds so generously provided, to the greatest advantage of those for whose comfort, health and happiness the law makes our special duty to provide. The duties of the Directors of the Poor are manifold and numerous. It is expected that they should have "a ear for pity, and a hand open as day for mending charity," and at the same time have an eagle eye upon every department to prevent extravagance and waste. They are duties that should call forth the noblest prompting of the heart, they have all classes and conditions of society to deal with. The poor, many of whom peradventure were cradled in the lap of luxury, and whose very souls revolt at the mere mention of Poor House, the oppressed who have come to destitution and want through the wrongs and oppression of others, the maimed, the palsied, the widow and orphan, the insane, the blind, the deaf and dumb, and lastly the tramp with his story of woe and chapter of wrongs. The care of these, to better their condition, relieve their sufferings, smooth down the cares of a life, and find homes for the orphan, is a duty of love in which every good citizen should be interested. The past year has marked great progress in the improvements and management of the Poor House, and it is hoped that by further year the improvements yet needed, to make it compare favorably with many of the houses throughout the State will be added. The Directors were much pleased with the encouragement given them by the citizens, in making the great needed improvements that were made during the year at the Poor House.

and are constantly planning and doing those things which would be the last thing they would do, and be hurrying to them in the extreme, then it is almost a class of unfortunate beings have our first and greatest care, our love and our prayers.

In every instance where it was thought that they could be benefited, by being removed to the hospital, it was done and many have been greatly benefited and some returned to their reason.

The out-door relief is one of the most troublesome questions the Directors have to deal with. To know who are worthy? to know if it is necessary to relieve? or whether in many cases it is not encouraging dependence and idleness. In some cases the relief granted is surely a help, and relieves from distress and want and is greatly appreciated.

During the year there were an average of seventy-one inmates in the Home, all of whom appreciate the comforts thus provided for them. And while many were brought there unwillingly, some even by force, yet after being there some little time, you could hardly induce them to go away, especially if they were to be brought there, they suffered before being brought there.

They are all comfortably clad, good, wholesome and abundance of food prepared for them. Warm rooms and comfortable beds to sleep in. When sick, they are carefully watched upon and have the benefit of an eminent physician's treatment and medicine.

Those who are able and desire to read are supplied with the newspapers published in the county together with books and magazines.

Each year a Harvest Home feast is prepared and a celebration given. While all the National days are observed in a manner corresponding to the surroundings and place. At Christmas-tide Santa Clause paid each one a visit and made the legends of these poor and unfortunate people glad by a small remembrance.

There were seven deaths at the Poor House during the year, which is a smaller mortality than any like place in the county, remembering that many, if not all come there broken in health and greatly afflicted with the the illness of the greater number who died lived out their allotted time, one of whom attained the extreme age of 92 years.

But "death is no respecter of person," it comes to all alike, the rich as well as the poor. We can only advise to heed the admonition which comes to us all. Be ready for the great change.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

There was regular service held once each month by Rev. F. P. Sawyer, who also officiated at most of the funerals. His services have been greatly appreciated and exerted a good influence through the home. His visits to the bed side of the sick and maimed, his comforting words, scriptural readings and prayers, seem to make the burdens and afflictions of life more easily borne.

We extended an invitation to the ministers, both of the new and old community, in the presence of the home either during the week or on Sunday, but not any of them responded to the invitation. This is to be regretted and we fear they forget that these poor and unfortunate persons are hungering and thirsting for the "bread and water of life." It is hoped that there will be more services held in the future. We herewith extend an invitation to the various missionary societies to extend their mission field so that they may take in the home of the poor as well as foreign countries. A service of song once a month would be appreciated and soothing to them. It is the little acts that make up life. The cups of "cold water" and "boxes of ointment." His beautiful example and words should give us courage "that our hands do the labor of love," and this is surely a labor of love.

The farm in a high state of cultivation and is producing well, as by reference to the Steward's report herewith, will show. All the vegetables raised, also, all the feed for the stock and it will only be a few years until all the bread stuffs can be raised.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The improvements made the past year were all needed and are substantial and needed. The old buildings are now in good order and repair. The arched building, according to the Grand Jury report, is a model of workmanship, it is built of brick, thirteen inch walls, 30 by 32 feet, with water closets attached, two large sitting rooms and two large hospital rooms, and good broad porches attached at each end. To see the inmates enjoy this building would repay you for a trip to the poor farm. The new brick smoke house and water closet were both much needed, and add greatly to the appearance of the home. During the coming year, the wing of the large brick building, which was formerly used as an asylum will be remodeled and made to correspond with the balance of the building, which will give all a great improvement.

STOCK.

The stock on the farm was never better or looked so well. During the year, the old horses were sold at good prices and young ones purchased. A number of sheep were sold, and have on hand at present a number of cows for sale. All the milk and butter was furnished and made, besides supplying the home with beef and pork for a good portion of the year.

The Directors requesting in office take pleasure in saying of Mr. Hunter, who is retiring, that in the administration of the affairs of the Poor House, he was always interested, exercised good judgment, and had the welfare and comfort of the poor his first object, as well as the economy of the home.

Children in the public school at Ewyn, Somerset, Pa., placed at school June 2, 1931. Amount \$30.00.

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THE NOTED SPECIALISTS. Drs. McClellan and Salm. DR. MORITZ SALM, Specialist. DR. J. J. MCCLELLAN, Specialist.

CHRONIC DISEASES. — DISEASES OF THE — Ear, Eye, Nose, Throat, Lungs, and Nasal Cavities. All Eye Operations Successfully Performed by Them. — WILL BE AT — SOMERSET HOUSE, SOMERSET, Pa. THURSDAY, MARCH 10th. One day only. Call early.

Cinderella Stoves and Ranges. Its QUEEN CINDERELLA RANGE. Economical. Saves Labor. Money.

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