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QUARTERLY BULLETIN

ISSUED FROM

State Board of Charities and Corrections OF COLORADO

Containing information touching Institutions
under jurisdiction of the Board and matters
of interest connected with social welfare

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The State Board of Charities and Corrections.

OFFICE: ROOMS 35 AND 36, STATE CAPITOL BUILDING.

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Bulletin No. 1

Issued by the State Board of Charities and
Corrections of Colorado

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board desires to announce the semi-annual conference of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, which is to be held in the Senate chamber, State Capitol, Denver, Colorado, on Tuesday afternoon and evening, December 3, 1912.

It is the intention to discuss questions pertaining to needed legislation from the view-point of the governing bodies and heads of the charitable and correctional institutions of the state.

Live issues are to be presented, which are sure to bring forth interesting and instructive debates. This fact was demonstrated to a marked degree at the last conference, which was the liveliest ever held.

The public should be deeply interested in all questions relating to the welfare of the state's charges, and should make this interest manifest by attending this conference. The program will be issued at a later date. There are no admission or membership fees, and the invitation is general.

INFORMATION

The office of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, at Rooms 35 and 36 in the State Capitol, is open each weekday in the month, and visitors are cordially welcome.

There are on file reports of similar boards in the United States and from institutions under their jurisdiction, besides many detailed data regarding state, county and municipal institutions and associations of Colorado. The office library also contains many volumes of value to those interested in sociology, penology, etc.; these are at the disposal of the public for reference.

Those contemplating the erection of buildings, either for public service or for private charitable or correctional purposes, would do well to consult this office before adopting plans for their proposed buildings. The members and officers of this Board do extensive visiting to all classes of institutions within the state, and an endeavor is made to inspect similar institutions in other states and countries which are models of architectural comfort and convenience, and in which the most approved systems

of government, etc., are followed; and, therefore, are in a position to offer helpful suggestions.

Architects in this western country do not have the opportunity to make as thorough a study of this class of professional work as they should; and, while many of the plans adopted show careful thought and ingenuity, some fall far short of the requirements. A recent building erected for the housing of patients on a county farm is so ill-contrived as to afford no privacy for any of the inmates, be they the superintendent's family or county charges, and the outcome will be the erection of another building, wholly unnecessary except to afford that degree of comfort ordinarily required by all.

REGARDING INSTITUTION BEDDING

Upon several occasions this Board has called attention to the matter of using comforts as bed-coverings in institutions.

It has been the experience of all having to do with well-conducted institutions that the use of comforts in public and private establishments is objectionable in the extreme, they being accumulators of filth and vermin, and not susceptible to effective cleansing. Comforts, after being washed, are not presentable in appearance and must be frequently replaced. This is not so with moderate-priced blankets. These may be frequently washed, and, after being laundered, look clean, are pleasant to the touch, and conserve warmth.

This Board desires at this time to notify all concerned that for the year beginning July 1, 1914, the licensing of any private institution under its jurisdiction, using this form of bed-covering, will be adversely considered. Over eighteen months are thus given to gradually eliminate comforts. Their replacing by blankets will undoubtedly prove to be a matter of economy in the long run, besides giving a greater measure of satisfaction to all concerned.

For some time the Board has urged the use of blankets in county institutions, and it is a pleasure to record the fact that comforts are being used less and less, and have totally disappeared in some of the institutions.

CONCERNING REPORTS

It is supposed that we are living in a progressive age and at a time when it is understood that the welfare of the individual is to receive some little attention from at least the public officers whose duties bring them in contact with those who are unfortunate, defective or delinquent.

The experience of this office in its endeavor to obtain statistics and information of the most elementary character has been, to say the least, discouraging. It seems well-nigh impossible to obtain reports, either from public officials or from those caring for the interests of private philanthropies. The reports are in-

teresting, and explain away many causes of dissatisfaction, on the part of either the taxpayer or the subscriber.

For the last four months we have endeavored to obtain complete returns from the county and philanthropic agencies of the state, but, up to the present time, our files are not complete.

To those who are required to make reports we respectfully urge prompt and full returns, as it is our desire to make the bulletins issued mediums of correct information in relation to the social welfare of the state.

COUNTY VISITORS

The law creating Boards of County Visitors provides that "It shall be the duty of such boards of visitors, by personal visitation or otherwise, to keep themselves fully advised of the condition and management of all charitable and correctional institutions supported in whole or in part by county or municipal taxation, or which are under county or municipal control, or any private hospitals, infirmaries, asylums, retreats and orphanages, and especially the infirmary, county jail, municipal prisons and children's homes; and they shall recommend such changes and additional provisions as they may deem essential for their economical and efficient administration, and at least once in every three months all of said institutions shall be visited by said board or a committee of its members." (Section 508, Revised Statutes of Colorado, 1908.)

"The Board of County Visitors each year shall prepare a full report of their proceedings during the year, with such recommendations as they may deem advisable, and shall file the same with the Secretary of the State Board of Charities and Corrections, on or before the 15th of November of each year." (Revised Statutes of Colorado, 1908.)

The disinterested services rendered by members of these boards are worthy of commendation. In several counties they have taken an active part in shaping policies dealing with county institutions, bringing about better and more wholesome conditions, and have done much in agitations for better jail, hospital and other buildings, and in aiding juvenile courts in their work among children.

While the powers conferred upon these boards are not great, the moral effect of their activities is larger than may be imagined by those unacquainted with the work performed by an active board, and naturally the sphere of their influence becomes larger as their usefulness becomes apparent. The public is greatly indebted to those who compose the several active boards throughout the state.

Boards of County Visitors can be of great assistance in shaping the policies of the incoming new county administrations, and thus aiding in the maintenance of the continuity of humane and advanced ideas in dealing with the unfortunate.

To all such boards as have not hitherto taken an active part in their work, we wish to urge the great necessity of taking advantage of the opportunities offered by the law creating them—among other things, in observing the causes and effects in the social life of their communities.

While these boards serve without compensation, the knowledge obtained, and the benefit derived from coming in contact with social conditions and in dealing with individual cases, more than repay them for any inconveniences encountered in the performance of their duties.

FAMILIES OF CONVICTED MEN

Under our present system of dealing with law-breakers, the families, and not the culprit, suffer most from the operation of the law. The shame and humiliation which the convicted man may feel is not exposed to public gaze; while, on the other hand, the family not only suffers from these same feelings, but the fact that they are connected with a man serving time militates against them, both in their endeavor to gain a livelihood and socially, while the wrong-doer is at least fed and comfortably housed.

The only solution of this unfortunate question appears to be the payment of some compensation to the prisoner for his labor, a generous portion of which should go to his family. Were this done in a satisfactory manner, a most effective engine for the punishment of men who desert their families would be placed in the hands of the authorities, as desertion is now a felony in this state. Long-term sentences could be imposed, which would aid, rather than further distress, the deserter's family, by reason of remittances from the prisoner for work performed in the prison.

Then, again, at the expiration of their term, prisoners will be provided with sufficient funds to tide them over the period required to obtain employment, which at times is hard to find; and, in consequence, those easily discouraged fall back into criminal ways.

The question of compensation for prisoners should receive the earnest consideration of all thinking men and women.

THE PUBLIC EXAMINER

For many years the State Board of Charities and Corrections recommended the passage of an act creating the office of public examiner, and on March 26, 1909, a law establishing this office was approved.

This officer is required to formulate, prescribe and install a system of accounting and reporting that shall be uniform for every state and county public office, and state and county institutions, penal, reformatory, educational or charitable. All state and county public officers are required to keep all accounts in conformity with the forms prescribed by the public examiner.

Ninety-odd forms for the accounting and reporting by the different departments of county government have been compiled and ordered by the present examiner, and it is hoped that the incoming officer in charge of this work will enforce this order and aid in every way the final installation of this system.

This law will relieve the state and public officers of much responsibility, as their accounts will be examined and certified to by a responsible official; and as soon as the counties of the state are in a position to adopt the required forms, the public will be fully informed as to the items of receipts and expenditures of public moneys.

Owing, however, to the constant changing of state and county officers, no continuity of policy can be followed, if the examiner and his assistants are to be changed with each incoming administration.

Steps should be taken to remedy the possibility of too many changes in the department of public examiner, so that its usefulness may not be impaired.

Statistics from this department should be of much value, but that value will be greatly diminished if compiled in accordance with the individual views of too many successive incumbents.

It would seem advisable either that this board be placed under the appointive power of the governor, with a term of office of the public and state examiners running six years, or that the department be placed under classified service.

MONTHLY CENSUS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS

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| Institutions— | Month. | Male. | Female. | Total. | Paroled During Month. |
|--|--------------|-------|---------|--------|-----------------------------|
| State Home (for Children) Denver.. | July | 162 | 104 | 266 | .. |
| | August | 173 | 105 | 278 | .. |
| | September .. | 158 | 100 | 258 | .. |
| Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, Monte Vista | July | 165 | ... | 165 | 17* |
| | August | 164 | ... | 164 | 42* |
| | September .. | 162 | ... | 162 | 24* |
| Industrial Workshop for the Blind, Denver | July | 11 | 3 | 14 | .. |
| | August | 11 | 3 | 14 | .. |
| | September .. | 11 | 4 | 15 | .. |
| State Insane Asylum, Pueblo..... | July | 708 | 481 | 1,189 | .. |
| | August | 703 | 479 | 1,182 | .. |
| | September .. | 703 | 479 | 1,182 | .. |
| State Home and Training School for Mental Defectives, Arvada..... | July | 11 | 6 | 17 | .. |
| | August | 15 | 10 | 25 | ... |
| | September .. | 15 | 10 | 25 | ... |
| State Penitentiary, Canon City..... | July | 799 | 11 | 810 | 26 |
| | August | 785 | 11 | 796 | 25 |
| | September .. | 776 | 10 | 786 | 24 |
| State Reformatory, Buena Vista.... | July | 60 | ... | 60 | 36 |
| | August | 58 | ... | 58 | 21 |
| | September .. | 62 | ... | 62 | 17 |
| State Industrial School for Girls, Morrison | July | ... | 113 | 113 | 6 |
| | August | ... | 111 | 111 | 5 |
| | September .. | ... | 109 | 109 | 4 |
| State Industrial School for Boys, Golden | July | 372 | ... | 372 | 16 |
| | August | 382 | ... | 382 | 34 |
| | September .. | 403 | ... | 403 | 10 |
| Total in State Institutions..... | July | ... | ... | 3,006 | Decrease, 11 |
| | August | ... | ... | 3,010 | Increase, 4 |
| | September .. | ... | ... | 3,002 | Decrease, 8 |

*Out on furlough.

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