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REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF CONTROL

OF THE

# Colorado Industrial Workshop for the Blind

For the Biennial Term Ending  
November 30, 1912



DENVER, COLORADO  
THE SMITH-BROOKS PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS  
1913



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*Compliments of*

Board of Control

Colorado Industrial Workshop  
for the Blind



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# BOARD OF CONTROL

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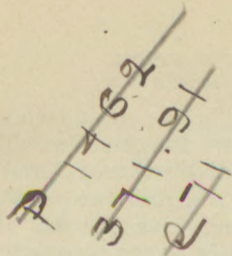
THOMAS DRAKE, President.....Denver

E. P. GALLUP, Secretary.....Denver

B. M. WEBSTER, Treasurer.....Denver

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J. A. CLAUDON, Superintendent.....Denver



# REPORT

## OF THE

### BOARD OF CONTROL

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To His Excellency

JOHN F. SHAFROTH,  
Governor of Colorado.

Dear Sir: The Board of Control of the Colorado Industrial Workshop for the Blind herewith submits its second biennial report, covering the period ending November 30, 1912.

In order to economize in the operation of the institution and to insure its operation continuously, if possible, with the meagre funds available, it was found necessary during the previous biennial period to discontinue all work except the manufacture of brooms. A car of broom corn furnishes material for us for approximately three months, and during the period just closed there have never been funds available so that we could purchase more than one car of corn at a time. During this entire period there has never been a time when we have known whether the institution could be kept open beyond the time when the particular car of corn then being used would be exhausted. As a result of this condition, it was undesirable for us to encourage new employes to enter the shop. If the shop was to be shortly closed down, then the employes already in attendance should be allowed to work as long as possible before being turned out. Moreover, new employes, upon entering the workshop, under our present regulations are required to spend approximately six months in learning the work before receiving any considerable remuneration. This ordinarily requires that such employe be supported by private or public charity during that period, and the Board was not in position to encourage new employes to come—perhaps from distant parts of the state—with the possibility that the institution would have to be closed on account of lack of funds. If this situation could be remedied by a change in the law, so



that the institution would be placed in the second class, and we could be sure that the entire appropriation made would be available, we could then take advantage of the market, and purchase broom corn and other materials in the fall, as is done by all manufacturers of brooms upon a commercial scale. Thereby a large saving would be effected, not only in the price of the broom corn purchased, but also in the selection of the corn available for our particular class of work.

During the latter part of the biennial period just closed, the Board purchased equipment and machinery, not yet installed, at a cost of \$900. It also purchased a desirable site for the erection of a workshop upon South Pearl Street in this city, at its intersection with the Denver & Fort Worth tracks, and had plans drawn and figures secured for the erection of a shop on said grounds which would be sufficient to accommodate fifty inmates, at a cost of \$794.04 (the balance of the building appropriation not being available). This building could be erected complete, with heating plant and other accessories, and necessary power equipment, for approximately \$10,000, and if, upon amendment of the statutes classifying appropriations, the workshop is placed in the second class, an appropriation of that sum would be sufficient.

As we understand it, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home and our own institution are the only two charitable institutions in the state, and, for some unaccountable reason, in the drafting of the law classifying appropriations these two charitable institutions were placed in the third class, with the educational institutions.

Both institutions are comparatively small, and it seems to us both logical and just that a reclassification should be made to include the same in the second class, with the penal institutions. We have in this state the State Board of Charities and Corrections, which carries with it the idea that the charitable institutions of the state should be included with and under the same board as are the penal institutions, and it is difficult for us to understand upon what basis or for what reason charitable institutions should be included in the same class as educational institutions. Certainly the state should be as careful in providing for such charities as it undertakes—to the blind of the state and to its old soldiers—as it is in its provision for those who are incarcerated in its penal institutions because of some infraction of its laws. In other words, those who become charges of the state because of their physical misfortunes—and, in the case of the old soldiers, because of their loyalty to the government—should not be placed in a less favored class than the inmates of its penal institutions. This is particularly true in the case of the blind in this state, many of whom were injured as the result of accidents occurring while they were engaged as miners



and in developing the resources which have made it possible for this state to reach the proud position which it now occupies.

We therefore recommend that the statutes be so amended as to place the charitable institutions of the state in the second class, and that an appropriation of \$9,000 be made for the erection of a workshop, and of \$1,000 for equipment and accessories.

We further recommend that an appropriation of \$15,000 be made for maintenance of the institution for the next biennial period.

In connection with this same subject, we further recommend that the law providing for the establishment of this institution be so changed as to leave the question of the admission of inmates more largely within the discretion of the Board, as there are a number of residents of this state who lost their sight through accidents in its mines, although not citizens in the legal sense, and therefore, under the opinion of the Attorney General, not eligible to admission; yet there is every reason, under the circumstances of their injuries, why they should be allowed admission to the institution.

We further recommend amendment of the law so that the term of only one member will expire every two years, thus providing for a "continuous" Board.

Upon the resignation from the Board of Mr. T. A. Tuttrup, who had been its secretary from the time of his appointment—which resignation occurred in November, 1912, and was made necessary by his removal from the state—Mr. Thomas Drake, who served as a member and as president of the Board during the former biennial period, was appointed to fill the vacancy. We cannot pay too high a tribute to the faithful, unselfish, and efficient services rendered by Mr. Tuttrup. He took a keen interest in the problems of the institution, and not only gave the benefit of his wide business experiences, but brought with it a rare sympathy and kindness of heart. It was with the deepest regret that we were compelled to accept his resignation. It was, however, a great pleasure to renew our associations with Mr. Drake, and the work of the Board was taken up by him where it had been left by Mr. Tuttrup, without interruption. Thereupon the Board was reorganized, Mr. Drake being elected President and Mr. E. P. Gallup secretary.

The work of the institution has been, to a certain extent, experimental, and the results not all that could be wished for; but it has been work in a good cause, and was carried on under great financial disadvantages. With proper financial support it would, in the opinion of your Board, more than justify the hopes of those who were responsible for its establishment. We hope that the present legislature will make it possible to carry on the good work by proper legislation, in accordance with the recommendations here made.



We submit herewith the report of the superintendent, containing much valuable information regarding the operation of the Workshop, and upon the data on which the above recommendations are largely based.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. DRAKE, President;

E. P. GALLUP, Secretary;

B. M. WEBSTER, Treasurer;

Board of Control.



## Report of the Superintendent

To the Board of Control of the Colorado Industrial Workshop for the Blind.

Gentlemen:—I beg to submit herewith the superintendent's second biennial report of the Colorado Industrial Workshop for the Blind, covering the two years ending November 30, 1912.

For the purpose of comparison, I have divided this report so as to show each year separately, as follows:

### GENERAL STATEMENT

December 1, 1910, to November 30, 1911

#### Debit—

Resources on hand, December 1, 1910.....	\$3,502.99	
Received from State of Colorado.....	1,500.00	
		<hr/>
	\$5,002.99	

#### Credit—

Cost of materials used.....	\$4,227.87	
Wages .....	3,693.97	
Product on hand, inventory December 1, 1910.....	\$32.23	
		<hr/>
Cost of product received and manufactured.....	\$8,754.07	
Product sold and on hand, inventory November 30, 1911....	6,962.27	
		<hr/>
Loss in manufacture.....	\$1,791.80	
General operating expenses: salaries, rent, expense.....	1,963.56	
Depreciation on machinery, furniture, etc.....	70.30	
		<hr/>
Total cost to State of Colorado for the year.....	\$3,825.66	
Resources on hand, November 30, 1911.....	\$3,015.64	
Sundry accounts payable November 30, 1911.....	1,838.31	
		<hr/>
Net resources November 30, 1911.....	1,177.33	
		<hr/>
Grand total balance.....	\$5,002.99	\$5,002.99
Total cost to state of Colorado for the year, as above.....	\$3,825.66	
Abnormal loss on closing out old brushes and brush materials.....	214.94	
		<hr/>
Actual cost of operation for the year.....	\$3,610.72	
Actual cost of operation for the year was \$3,610.72, or \$300.89 a month.		



Average daily wage paid to the blind.....	\$ 1.13
Greatest average monthly wage paid to a blind employee.....	42.77
Greatest average daily wage paid to a blind employee.....	2.07
Greatest monthly wage paid to a blind employee.....	60.12

During the year 27,294 brooms were manufactured, and 27,693 brooms were sold, for which the Workshop received \$6,085.71.

Twelve blind men and four blind women, to whom was paid \$3,125.32, were given employment, and there was an average of 10½ blind employes a day for the whole year; the per capita cost being \$343.88 a year.

### GENERAL STATEMENT

December 1, 1911, to November 30, 1912

#### Debit—

Resources on hand, December 1, 1911.....	\$3,015.64	
Sundry accounts payable December 1, 1911.....	1,838.31	
Net resources December 1, 1911.....	\$1,177.33	
Received from State of Colorado.....	6,000.00	
		\$7,177.33

#### Credit—

Cost of materials used.....	\$ 7,056.16	
Wages .....	5,025.84	
Product on hand, inventory December 1, 1911.....	657.07	
Cost of product received and manufactured..	\$12,739.07	
Product sold and on hand, inventory November 30, 1912 .....	9,782.40	
Loss in manufacture.....	\$2,956.67	
General operating expenses: salaries, rent, expenses .....	1,974.27	
Depreciation on machinery, furniture, etc.....	87.87	
Total cost to State of Colorado for the year..	\$5,018.81	
Resources on hand, November 30, 1912.....	\$3,270.82	
Sundry accounts payable November 30, 1912.....	1,112.30	
Net resources November 30, 1912.....	2,158.52	
Grand total balance.....	\$7,177.33	\$7,177.33



Total cost of operation for the year was \$5,018.81, or \$418.23 a month.

Average daily wage paid to the blind.....	\$ 1.26
Greatest average monthly wage paid to a blind employee.....	50.28
Greatest average daily wage paid to a blind employee.....	2.00
Greatest monthly wage paid to a blind employee.....	56.79

During the year 38,522 brooms were manufactured, and 34,629 brooms were sold, for which the Workshop received \$8,174.05.

Eleven blind men and four blind women, to whom was paid \$4,377.34, were given employment, and there was an average of  $11\frac{3}{4}$  blind employes a day for the whole year; the per capita cost being \$427.13 a year.

### CASH STATEMENT

December 1, 1910, to November 30, 1912

Cash on hand, December 1, 1910.....	\$	309.60
Receipts—		
From State of Colorado.....	\$	6,188.81
From sales of product.....		14,477.30
From sales of machinery and tools.....		2.95
From refund of freight and interest.....		13.98
		<hr/>
		20,683.04
Disbursements—		
For merchandise .....	\$	7,962.05
For wages .....		7,532.56
For expense and rent.....		1,308.49
For salaries .....		2,000.00
For machinery, furniture, etc.....		50.96
For sundry accounts.....		1,838.31
		<hr/>
		\$20,692.37
Cash on hand, November 30, 1912.....		300.27
		<hr/>
	\$20,992.64	\$20,992.64



## APPROPRIATIONS STATEMENT

December 1, 1910, to November 30, 1912

(H. B. No. 465, Approved April 17, 1911)

## MAINTENANCE FUND

Appropriation .....	\$15,000.00
Vouchers issued—	
Merchandise .....	\$ 594.03
Wages .....	369.18
Salaries .....	200.00
Rent .....	99.00
Expenses .....	48.98
Transfer to cash fund.....	6,188.81
	<hr/>
	7,500.00
	<hr/>
Balance of appropriation unpaid.....	\$ 7,500.00

## BUILDING FUND

Appropriation .....	\$15,000.00
Vouchers issued—	
Land .....	\$ 600.00
Architect's fee for plans and specifications.....	197.04
	<hr/>
	797.04
	<hr/>
Balance of appropriation unpaid.....	\$14,202.96

## EQUIPMENT FUND

Appropriation .....	\$ 2,000.00
Vouchers issued and contracts made (estimated).....	900.00
	<hr/>
Balance of appropriation unpaid.....	\$ 1,100.00

The following table shows the average blind attendance, wages paid to the blind, and the per capita cost for the past four years. Although the per capita cost has increased somewhat, this is entirely due to the increase in wages paid to the blind employes.

	Attendance	Blind Wages	Per Capita
April 10, 1909, to November 30, 1909.....	12	\$2,310.47	\$400.54
December 1, 1909, to November 30, 1910.....	16	3,892.25	319.41
December 1, 1910, to November 30, 1911.....	10½	3,125.32	343.88
December 1, 1911, to November 30, 1912.....	11¾	4,377.34	427.13

The actual cost of operation for the biennial period was \$8,629.53, and the amount paid to the blind for the same period



was \$7,502.66, or within \$1,126.87 of the cost of operation and \$2.66 more than the Workshop received from the State of Colorado.

Of the fifteen present employes, nine men and three women are entirely self-supporting, and two men are nearly self-supporting. This is an increase for the past two years of five in the number of entirely self-supporting blind employes.

The per capita cost of the Workshop could be largely reduced:

First—By increasing the number of blind employes, which would result if a *living* wage could be paid while they are learning the work and are not in fact self-supporting (no provision having been made by the state, up to the present time, for rooming and boarding the employes). This would necessitate an entire readjustment of our wage schedule.

Second—By equipping our plant so that the product could be manufactured at approximately the same shop cost as in "seeing" factories. A shop building suitably arranged for the work is absolutely necessary.

Third—By providing the necessary capital so that materials could be purchased in larger quantities and at the proper time of the year, and so that we should never be *forced* to sell our product on a dull market at a sacrifice, in order to raise the necessary money to meet our pay-rolls, etc.

Fourth—By realizing more on our product. This can be accomplished by selling direct to the consumer and making deliveries through the parcels post, which would, however, necessitate a wide advertising campaign.

Our present quarters are small, cramped, insanitary, and not suitably arranged for our work. We should have a warehouse of sufficient size to store a supply of broom corn, handles, etc., for an entire season. Our sorting-room is crowded to its full capacity now, and we could not work one more person in it without seriously handicapping the department. We have no suitable place for the storage of brooms, sometimes having been compelled to sell our product at a discount in order to make room for that being manufactured, and we have frequently lost a considerable amount on our product because the brooms became very dry and discolored from the dust and heat. Our winding-room is filled to its full capacity, already seriously handicapping the work, and, as we are compelled to do our seeding in this room, it is at times, particularly during the winter months, entirely unfitted for a workroom, due to the dust which arises from the broom corn when being seeded. We have practically no ventilation in either room in the winter time, as it is now impossible to heat the rooms properly with stoves, if the windows and doors are opened.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. CLAUDON,

Superintendent.



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