

## *The County Poor*

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**HAVE A CONFORTABLE, HAPPY AND BEAUTIFUL HOME**

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**Where their Every Want is Administrated to, and Where Care and Kindness and Abundantly Bestowed to make the Happy.**

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Dr. A McMillan is one of the superintendents of the county poor and faithful to his charge makes regular visits to the Poor Farm, ever watchful of the interests of both the institution and its inmates. Upon one such visit a State Republican reporter was kindly invited to accompany the Doctor, and taking a seat in the carriage, both were soon on their way “over the hills to the poor house.”

The Poor farm is located about nine miles east and two miles south of the city, on the line of the D.L. & N. railroad, also on the Cedar river, and about two miles from Dobbie Lake. The land is rolling and fertile, and the buildings occupy an elevated and imposing position. The main brick building is 70x140 feet, built of brick, and stands three stories above basement, and its interior is admirably planned for the comfort and care of its inmates which number thirty-two at this time, being a trifle less than average. A tank of 30-barrel capacity is situated in the third story, into which water is pumped from a 60 foot well by an Eclipse windmill, and from this tank water is conducted into the cook, wash and bath rooms, and also to the stockyards. The building is the model of neatness, all the departments being fresh and clean, the whole being under the supervision of Mr. Frank A Hoes and his matronly wife, for both of whom the inmates evince no little attachment, and who in turn are ever mindful of the wants of the aged and feeble in their charge. The oldest inmate in point of years is Mrs. Jennet Nims, having just turned her 90<sup>th</sup> year, while the oldest to enjoy the comforts of the institution is Peter Finch, who has been in the House since January, 1852. Five deaths have occurred during the year, the last two being that of Minnie Lyons, of Leslie, and Louis Bundy, county, which occurred last week, the former from consumption, and the latter from old age.

Two meals are daily served during the winter months, and three during the summer, commencing, April 15, of each year. The breakfast consists of bread, pancakes, ham or pork, fried cakes, sauce, coffee and tea, milk, sugar, butter and molasses, while for the afternoon meal is given boiled vegetables, boiled meat, bread and butter, milk, tea, sugar, etc. Coffee is given at breakfast only, eggs three times a week and fish on Friday. The food is wholesome and substantial, all being produced on the farm except sugar, coffee, tea, etc.

The farm contains about 160 acres, and is supplied with the best of modern agricultural implements. Fifteen acres of winter wheat were sown which is in good condition. Spring plowing will commence in eight or ten days, and the spring crop will embrace 16 acres of oats, three acres of potatoes, four acres of peas, 16 acres of corn, one-third of an acre for garden and the same amount will be devoted to beets, carrots, turnips, etc. Squashes and pumpkins will be grown with the corn. The farm is stocked with 19 head of hogs, seven cows, four horses, and 22 heads of Cotswold sheep, all of which are in excellent condition. Six cows are being milked at the present time which supplies the institution with milk and butter, and if there is a weak spot about the institution it lies in the absence of a small creamery, which we understand, will be supplied during the coming summer. The yards are abundantly supplied with poultry from which the institution draws its supply of eggs.

A good orchard is on the farm from which about 90 barrels of apples were gathered last season, a supply equal to the demand of the institution. Five barrels of cider were made, also vinegar, preserves, jelly and dried apples, all for the use of the inmates. Three hundred bushels of potatoes were grown last season of which there remains an abundant supply, while the store room contains barrels of pork and beef in the brine with a smoke house full of hams and shoulders, all the product of the farm.

An ice house was erected during the winter, in which was stored 40 tons of ice taken from Dobbie Lake. In short nothing remains undone which would give the inmates not

only the necessities of life but the luxuries as well. The health of the inmates is guarded by Dr. Parker, who resides in the vicinity, and who visits the institution twice each week.

The Board of Directors is composed of Dr. A. McMillan of Lansing; S.E. Jeffres, of Williamston; C.L. Casterlin, of Mason. This Board meets at the institution on the first Monday in each month and transact all the business connected with the farm.

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