

"THE COUNTY JAILS, 1888-1890"
(1891)

BY

HASTINGS H. HART
Secretary,
Board of Corrections and Charities

FOREWORD

BY

Douglas A. Hedin
Editor, MLHP

In 1891, the Board of Corrections and Charities issued its fourth biennial report to the legislature. Like the previous three, it included a lengthy report by its secretary, Hastings H. Hart, about the conditions of 55 county jails he had inspected between August 1, 1888, and July 31, 1890. Appointed in 1883, Hart had served about seven years when he wrote this report, and he would serve seven more before resigning in 1898.

It is obvious that Hart was displeased with the conditions of many jails he visited during this biennium. While four new jails had been built, and two remodeled, the overall picture of inadequacy and neglect that he had painted in his first report in 1894 was unchanged. Regarding the Douglas County jail, he wrote, "No care can prevent this jail from being a constant nuisance dangerous to the health of the prisoners and officers alike." About Rock County's: "This jail will never be satisfactory. The cells are badly planned and the location of the jail in the basement will always be objectionable." Washington County's received faint praise: "The jail was found in good condition. This is an old jail, not well planned and not very secure. Prisoners are boarded here from Pine and Mille Lacs counties."

Until April 1893, when a sweeping reform act was enacted, the board of commissioners of each county controlled the construction, maintenance and management of the county jail. The state law on the maintenance of jails and prisoners was so vague and discretionary that it was practically unenforceable. It provided penalties for only one infraction—furnishing liquor to inmates.¹ It probably was because of these deficiencies that led Hart in late 1883 to request an official opinion of Attorney General William J. Hahn on who bore ultimate responsibility for maintenance of inmates of the county jails. Hahn placed the burden on the county commissioners.²

The county grand jury was authorized by state law to “inquire” into the “condition and management” of the jail,³ after which it issued an assessment of the situation. Its recommendations were advisory, not binding. In his report, Hart quotes these recommendations. The Houston County grand jury reported in

¹ Stat., ch. 120, Title I, §§1-24, at 968-970 (1878), the state law on county jails in effect in 1891, is posted in Appendix A, at 31-36. Sections 14 and 15 set the penalties for giving liquor to inmates. This chapter was repealed in by Laws 1893, ch. 157, §32, at pages 293-301, which can be found in Appendix A to Hastings H. Hart, “The County Jails, 1892-1894” 35-45 (MLHP, 2012)(first published, 1895).

² Opinion of Attorney General William J. Hahn, to Hastings H. Hart, December 21, 1883, in *Opinions of the Attorneys General of the State of Minnesota* 549-550 (West Pub. Co., 1884). It is posted in Appendix A to Hastings H. Hart, “The Jail System of Minnesota” 23-24 (MLHP, 2012) (first published, 1885).

³ 1891 legislation directed the county grand jury to investigate three areas:

Sec. 6701. The grand jury shall inquire:

First: Into the condition of every person imprisoned on a criminal charge triable in the county, and not indicted;

Second, Into the condition and management of the public prisons in the county; and,

Third, Into the willful and corrupt misconduct in office, of public officers of every description in the county.

Sec. 6702. They are entitled to free access, at all reasonable times, to the public prisons, and to the examination, without charge, of all public records in the county.

Stat., ch. 92, §§6701-2, at p. 590, (1891). This law on grand juries was enacted first in 1866: Stat., ch. 107, §§37-38, at p. 639 (1866); and re-codified without change in 1891; and later in Stat., ch. 107, §§7212-13, at p. 1891 (1894); and Stat., ch. 104, §§5283-84, at 1111 (1905).

Needless to say, a history of how the grand jury functioned in Nineteenth Century Minnesota has not been written.

October, 1889: "We have examined the public buildings of the county and find them in good condition, except painting. We recommend to the county commissioners to do all necessary painting in the jail." The Sibley County grand jury reported in November 1889: "[W]e have examined the jail building and found the same well kept. We would recommend that the county commissioners cause the addition to be anchored to the main building. Also that a cistern of about fifty barrels capacity be built at the jail for the convenience of the inmates."

Created in 1883, the State Board of Corrections and Charities was an information-gathering and advisory agency.⁴ It had authority to gather data and issue reports about "public charities and correctional institutions of the state...especially [the condition and management of] prisons, jails, infirmaries, public hospitals, and asylums."⁵ Counties were required to supply information requested by the Board and to consult with it regarding the construction of new jails ("all plans for new jails and infirmaries shall, before the adoption of the same by the county authorities, be submitted to said board for suggestion and criticism."). But even this modest requirement was ignored by some county officials. Hart noted pointedly that had Morrison County consulted his office, "objections would have been made" to four features of its jail built in 1887.

Lacking statutory authority, Hart was forced on one occasion to make a humanitarian appeal to the Hennepin County Board to provide minimal bedding and clothing to its prisoners:

The secretary of the board went before the county commissioners and requested them to provide sheets and pillow cases for the women's department, and jail suits for the men's department, as a measure of cleanliness. The estimated expense was one hundred and twenty dollars.

The recommendation of the secretary was referred to the finance committee. The chairman of the finance committee informed the secretary that the

⁴ The members, officers, staff and committees of the Board during this biennium are listed in Appendix B, at 36-37.

⁵ 1883 Laws, ch. 127, at pp. 171-2. It was effective March 2, 1883. It is posted in Appendix B to Hastings H. Hart, "The Jail System of Minnesota" 25-26 (MLHP, 2012) (first published, 1885).

committee would not favor any unnecessary wasting of public money, and so far as reported, no further action has been taken by the board.⁶

Episodes such as this must have strengthened his belief that state-wide operating standards for jails were necessary. Three years later, the indefatigable penal reformer would triumph.⁷

Hart's report on the conditions on Minnesota jails in 1888-1890 follows. It appeared first on pages 774-787 of Volume 4, *Executive Documents of the State of Minnesota* published in 1891. Though reformatted, it is complete. The original spelling and punctuation are unchanged, but the original title of the report has been altered by the MLHP to identify the period covered by it.

This is the second of three reports by Hastings Hart on county jails posted on the MLHP. The first is "The Jail System of Minnesota" (MLHP, 2012)(first published, 1885); and the third is "The County Jails, 1892-1894" (MLHP, 2012)(first published, 1895). To appreciate Hart's accomplishments and understand the transformation of the state's jail system that occurred during this decade, they should be read in chronological order.

⁶ Hart may also have referred to the following sections of the state law on county jails, but they were so vague that the commissioners could easily disregard them:

§ 8. Jail shall be kept, how—food of prisoners, etc. The keeper of such jail shall see that the same is constantly kept in a cleanly and healthful condition, and that strict attention is constantly paid to the personal cleanliness of all the prisoners in his custody, as far as may be, and shall cause the shirt of each prisoner to be washed at least once in each week; . . .

. . . .

§ 19. Shall furnish bedding, clothing, etc., at expense of county. The keeper of each jail shall furnish necessary bedding, clothing and fuel, and medical aid for all prisoners who are in his custody, unless the same are furnished by the county, and shall be paid therefor out of the county treasury; and such payment shall not be deducted from the sum he is entitled to receive for the weekly support of the prisoner, as provided by law.

The complete law is posted in Appendix A, at 31-36.

⁷ The jail reform act of 1893 incorporated many of Hart's recommendations. Laws 1893, ch. 157, at pp. 293-301; Stat., ch. 120, §§7417-7448, at pp. 1933-1939 (1894).

"The County Jails"

BY

Hastings H. Hart

IN

FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE BOARD

OF

CORRECTIONS AND CHARITIES

TO THE

LEGISLATURE OF MINNESOTA.

FOR THE BIENNIAL PERIOD ENDING JULY 31, 1890.



MINNEAPOLIS:
HARRISON & SMITH, PRINTERS,
1891.

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS AND CHARITIES**THE COUNTY JAILS.****ALPHABETICALLY BY COUNTIES.**

The county jails of Minnesota have been described fully, in previous reports, therefore in this report it will be unnecessary to describe at length any except those which have been recently built. The new jails are those of Aitkin, Carleton, Morrison and St. Louis counties. The jails of Rice county and Stearns county have been remodeled.

AITKIN COUNTY JAIL—Was visited March 19th, 1890.

This is a new jail. Plans were submitted to the State Board of Corrections and Charities, and a qualified approval was given to the plans, as being the best that could be done under the circumstances. The jail is in the rear of the court house and attached thereto.

The cell room is 24x36 and about 10 feet high. The floor is of concrete and is a wretched job—a disgrace to the contractor. The ceiling is of corrugated iron filled with cement, making the jail entirely fire-proof. The walls are plastered on the brick—a very good job.

There are two cells, built by the Pauly Jail company, each 7x8 feet, with a prisoners' corridor 6x14. Each cell has a rear 2½x7. The front of the prisoners' corridor is of open lattice work composed of flat bars with their edges toward the light. The cell doors are made double, with an inner solid door and an outer grate door. No use is made of the solid door, but it permits the keeping of prisoners separate if desired. The form of lattice used admits light and air freely, and one of the cells is well lighted, the other is dark, owing to the placing of the windows.

Each cell has two canvass hammocks and two iron bunks. The beds are supplied with excelsior mattresses, feather pillows and blankets.

The sheriff's residence is on the second floor above the jail. It consists of a sitting-room 12x15; dining-room 8x12; kitchen 8x14; store-room 6x9; two bed-rooms 12x15, and 9x13; a hall

4x32. There is an outside landing and stairway opening from the kitchen. The sheriff's quarters are contracted, having only five small rooms. The sheriff's family complains of the noise of prisoners tramping on the steel floor of the cage.

This jail is not entirely satisfactory, but it is a great improvement upon some of the older jails in the state. It would be desirable to open an additional window opposite the prisoners' corridor. The water closet is not satisfactory; it is flushed from the sink and not from the tank as it should be. There is good ventilation from two flues. A well under the cell room furnishes water which is pumped to the tank on the top of the cells.

The prisoners are required to do their own washing, but two prisoners claim they had no change of underclothing. The prisoners were lousy. The interior of the cage was not clean. The prisoners reported a liberal bill of fare. Good reading matter is furnished by the sheriff and Rev. Mr. Ritchie. The jail register is well kept.

The grand jury, January 4, 1890, reported as follows: "We find the jail in good condition; the jail well managed. We find the cement floor of the jail badly in need of repair."

ANOKA COUNTY.—The jail has not been in use for the past two years, having been condemned by successive grand juries.

County prisoners are kept in the city lock up. While the lock up is not a satisfactory place for keeping county prisoners, it is a great improvement upon the county jail.

BECKER COUNTY.—The jail was visited June 19, 1889. The jail has been supplied with two double-deck beds, having woven wire springs and woolen mattresses. The beds were supplied with dirty pillows, old quilts and blankets. No sheets were furnished unless supplied by the prisoners.

The jail was reasonably clean, though the walls have been defaced by prisoners. The water closet had been clogged up for several weeks, and was not in use. Wooden cell buckets were supplied.

The prisoners were running loose in the outer corridor by day; a practice which is certain to result in escapes; but the jailor considered it inhuman to keep men locked up in the cage in summer.

The prisoners reported the food abundant and well cooked.

BLUR EARTH COUNTY JAIL—Was visited March 1, 1890, by Mr. Amundson, chairman of the committee on jails, with the secretary. The sheriff was not at home. The jail was found in reasonably good condition.

The old vault which formerly made this jail so offensive, has been closed up; but the jail is damp, dark, unwholesome, and insecure. The commissioners are considering the question of building a new jail at an early date, which ought, by all means, to be done.

BROWN COUNTY JAIL.—was visited March 14th, 1890, by Mr. Amundson, chairman of the committee on jails, with the secretary. This is a miserable jail, insecure, unwholesome, dangerous to officers. There were two convicted murderers in the jail, and the jailer was locked in to guard them. The floors were dirty and neglected; the excuse given was that the floors are so decayed that the water runs through and makes the jail damp. A quantity of sweepings and ashes were heaped upon the floor. The privy vault under the jail, adds to its unsanitary condition. Wash-jug is done weekly; each man has a change and a separate towel. The prisoners report plenty of good food.

The beds were supplied with Excelsior mattresses and one sheet each. It is difficult to keep this jail in decent condition, but improvement is possible.

Brown county needs a new jail.

The grand jury reported, May 30, 1890, as follows:

“We have fully examined the county jail and find same place, in good and satisfactory condition. For the safe keeping of the prisoners, we recommend the construction of an iron door on the outside of the entrance to the jail. This door is considered also to be necessary for the protection of the sheriff.”

The iron door had not been provided at last report.

CARLETON COUNTY.—Having learned that a new county jail was being built in Carleton county, the secretary of the board met the commissioners by appointment, Dec. 21, 1890. They informed him that the village of Northern Pacific Junction, in consideration of the removal of the county seat to that village, had erected buildings for the court house and county.

The jail is a one-story brick building, situated in the rear of the court house and about seventeen feet distant from the court house. The cell room is 21 by 23 feet and 12 feet high. The walls are solid brick. The walls are furred out on the inside and covered with lath and plaster. The ceiling is of lath and plaster; the building has a hipped roof, shingled. The door is of wood. The windows look east and west and are supplied with slender window gratings.

The cells had not yet been put in, but a contract has been made with the Pauly Jail and manufacturing Company to put in a steel cage of three cells, each 6½x8 feet, with a prison corridor 5x19½ feet. Each cell is to have a lattice door and an inner solid door. The lattice is to be of the "Key bar" construction, admitting light and air freely. Each cell is to be supplied with hammocks, and there is to be a water closet in the corridor, supplied with water from a tank overhead and connected with a cess pool outside.

Had the plans for this jail been submitted to the state board of corrections and charities, as required by law, the board would doubtless have made the following criticisms:

The building should have had hollow walls, which would have done away with the need for plastering. The roof and ceiling should have been tinned for security against fire. There should be an inner grated door with basket peep. The window gratings should have been stronger and more securely anchored. The cage will be secure and will admit light and air freely. It will also permit keeping each prisoner by himself. The water closet should have been omitted altogether, as such water closets have invariably proved a nuisance in small jails, where there are no water works. The building will be exposed to danger from fire, owing to its nearness to the court house and its inflammable roof.

The plans are essentially the same as those which were provided for the jail in Swift county, and were approved by the board, with the proviso that the proposed water closet be omitted and patent odorless buckets substituted.

CARVER COUNTY.—The jail was visited May 21, 1889. The jail has three brick cells in the basement of the court house. The floors are of brick and cannot be kept clean. The jail is so damp that it is necessary to have a fire every day in the year, when it is occupied. There is a privy seat connected with a vault beneath—a public nuisance. The beds had sheets and pillow cases, were moderately clean. The jail looks south and is well lighted, but it is unfit for use and should be condemned.

The grand jury reported, March 11, 1889: "We have examined into the condition of the jail and find that the same is properly kept and is in a healthful condition."

CHIPPEWA COUNTY.—The jail was visited May 21, 1889. A steel cell, built by the Herzog Manufacturing Company, has been put into this jail. The cell is a decided improvement over former cells of similar construction, for the reason that the chrome steel bars are set with their edges toward the light. The cell is 7x7 feet, and is intended for four prisoners, but is altogether too small for that number.

The cement floor in the cell room is in bad condition. There is a water closet which does not work, because there is no water tank. The jail was dirty and neglected. This fact was explained by the sheriff on the ground that the jail was used chiefly by the village marshal, and was under the care of the marshal.

The village of Montevideo should build a lock-up.

CLAY COUNTY JAIL—was visited March 21, 1890. Two new cells have been added on top of the cage; one a dungeon for punishment, and one a solitary cell used for murderers.

The expensive steam, heating has at last been discarded, and the jail is comfortably heated by stoves. Storm windows have been put on.

The jail was in admirable condition, thoroughly clean, neat, and orderly. The bedding was in good condition; the hammocks neatly folded. The prisoners reported a liberal bill-of-fare, and offered no complaints. The jail was highly creditable to Sheriff Jorgen Jensen.

CROW WING COUNTY JAIL.—was visited March 19, 1890, with Commissioner Gardner. The cement floor was in very bad condition; the sewerage defective; the jail very dark and gloomy, consequently the prisoners were allowed the use of the outer corridor, causing great risk of escape. There are two cells, each 6½x8 feet, besides two cells for women, and the sheriff has had as many, as 13 prisoners at one time. The cells were dirty. The cells were supplied with wretched cots with excelsior tops—vermin breeders.

The prisoners reported the food good and abundant.

The grand jury reports as follows, March 18, 1890:

“We find the building clean and in good shape, but recommend that iron screens be placed over the windows, as there is nothing at present to prevent the introduction of articles through the windows. We find the beds worn out, and recommend that iron bedsteads be provided them. There are no chairs for prisoners and they should be furnished.”

DAKOTA COUNTY.—The jail was visited September 10, 1890. There were ten prisoners, all males. Five prisoners were sleeping in the cage and five on the top of the cells. The beds were supplied with blankets and sheets and were reasonably clean. The jail was dirty and disorderly.

It was stated that the prisoners were expected to do more or less cooking on the jail stove. The jail was very dark and a lamp was burning in the day time. There was one large bucket in the corridor, which was used by all the prisoners in common. The bucket was uncovered and gave out a foul smell. The prisoners reported the place free from vermin. The prisoners were required to do their own washing weekly. There was a sufficient supply of good reading matter.

This jail is dark, poorly ventilated, damp and unwholesome. It should be re-constructed and supplied with city water and sewerage. The sheriff's attention was called to the need of greater cleanliness. The sheriff and jailor were warned of the

danger of opening the jail, without assistance, when prisoners run loose in the corridor.

The grand jury reported December 13, 1889: "We find the county jail in a clean and good condition, as nearly as it can be made with the appliances at hand, and when its construction is taken into consideration. We also find the privy vault in a very filthy condition, which demands immediate attention, and we recommend the county commissioners to take some means for the cleaning of the same, either by the construction of sewerage or otherwise."

DOUGLAS COUNTY.—The jail continues to be a public nuisance as in the past.

Grand jury reported May 9, 1889: "The grand jury has thoroughly examined the county jail and finds it in good condition, well taken care of in all respects, and finds no particular changes, under the circumstances, can be made in its construction, except that it seems necessary that in the central part of the building, or in the next best location, there he built a ventilating chimney with a flue, from ground line up to above the roof, for the purpose of doing away with the foul and damp air from the cells and other rooms. Also that special attention be given to the two outside cells, and that their walls be lathed and plastered, as the cells of the main part of the jail."

This report will be understood when it is known that the jail is in the cellar of the sheriff's residence, that there are two under ground cells built outside the cellar wall, like the coal bins of a city building, and that there is a privy with the vault underneath, constructed in like manner. No care can prevent this jail from being a constant nuisance dangerous to the health of the prisoners and officers alike.

FARIBAULT COUNTY.—The jail was visited September 13, 1888. The jail was quite clean; the bedding very clean. The cells are very dark and badly arranged. With the reconstruction of this cell room, it would be easy to put in twelve good cells, well lighted and so arranged as to greatly reduce the expense of heating.

The water closet in this jail was out of order and could not be used on account of defective sewerage.

FILLMORE COUNTY.—The jail was visited August 13, 1890. There was but one prisoner in the jail. The largest number of prisoners at one time during the year has been three. The jail was not very clean. The prisoner slept on a straw bed laid on the floor. He had blankets and a dirty pillow. As the prisoner was serving sentence, it was suggested that he be required to clean up the jail and cells.

The grand jury reported November 15, 1889: "We have visited the jail and examined same, and find it in good condition."

FREEBORN COUNTY.—The jail was visited September 14, 1888. The prisoners' beds were supplied with sheets and pillow cases. The jail was pretty clean. There had been only two prisoners in six months. It was suggested that the interior of the cage be painted a light color, as the cells are very dark. This jail is very insecure. Prisoners have escaped by prying the cage bars apart with bed slats.

GOODHUE COUNTY.—The jail was visited June 17, 1889, and at sundry times. This jail was always found well kept and in good condition. Prisoners are kept for the most part on the separate plan—each prisoner in his own cell, and the sheriff pronounced emphatically in favor of that plan. Prisoners who have not suitable clothing, were furnished jail suits, worth about four dollars per suit. This enables the sheriff to enforce personal cleanliness and exclude vermin. There is a water closet in each cell, which require a great deal of watching to keep them in order.

The grand jury reported October 15, 1889: "We have examined the county jail and find the same in excellent condition."

HENNEPIN COUNTY.—The jail was visited April 4, April 28 and May 5, 1890, and at sundry times. The jail was visited December 2, 1889, with the United States Marshal, W. M. Campbell, and April 28 with Hon. Geo. A. Brackett. The jail appeared reasonably clean, except the cells for women and the cells for insane persons. Prisoners complain of being troubled with vermin, and the jailer admitted that such was the case. Jailer Riley stated that the water for bathing was heated by steam, from the court house and that it is necessary for the engineer to keep extra steam in order to heat the water; also that when hot water was furnished for bathing, it made the

lower offices in the court house uncomfortably warm and caused complaint. He stated that hot water for bathing was only furnished once in two weeks and that prisoners who came in the meantime had to wait until next bath day, so that if a man came in with vermin on his person he could not be cleaned until that time. The result was that other prisoners also became infested. The jailer stated that the washing of prisoners was done every two weeks. This does not comply with the law which requires that it shall be done weekly.

An iron floor has been constructed in the corridor of the main cell room, but its use is not very apparent. It does not afford security for the reason that the avenue of escape, from this jail, is generally through the ceiling, which remains unprotected. It was not needed for fire protection, as there was a stone floor. It is of little use, but adds to the accumulation of moisture under the cell, with consequent unsanitary condition.

The secretary of the board went before the county commissioners and requested them to provide sheets and pillow cases for the women's department, and jail suits for the men's department, as a measure of cleanliness. The estimated expense was one hundred and twenty dollars.

The recommendation of the secretary was referred to the finance committee. The chairman of the finance committee informed the secretary that the committee would not favor any unnecessary wasting of public money, and so far as reported, no further action has been taken by the board.

HOUSTON COUNTY.—The jail was visited August 13, 1890. There was only one prisoner who had the liberty of the corridor. This jail has a capacity of twenty-one prisoners, but the largest number at one time since 1885 has been seven. The hot air furnace has been abandoned, because it did not heat the jail. The expense of heating is very great. The cell room is about 36x50x22 feet. The expense could be greatly diminished by running a partition through the middle of the jail, and putting on storm windows. The water works have been abandoned. There was one sheet on each bed. The jail was reasonably clean and well kept.

The grand jury reported in October, 1889: "We have examined the public buildings of the county and find them in good

condition, except painting. We recommend to the county commissioners to do all necessary painting in the jail."

ISANTI COUNTY.—The jail has two cells, 18x18 feet. The grand jury in its last report upon this jail, recommended "that the corridor be enlarged so that the prisoners can have more room for exercise."

The number of prisoners kept in this jail is small, the largest number at any one time having been two.

KANABEC COUNTY.—The jail has not been visited during the two years. It contains two cells each 7 by 9 feet, intended to accommodate 8 prisoners. The cells were built by the Pauly Jail Company. The jail cost \$1,300. Prisoners are allowed to run together by day. The largest number of prisoners at any one time has been two. The sheriff reports that there are no rules for the government of prisoners.

KANDIYOHI COUNTY.—The jail was visited March 28, 1890. There was one prisoner, who had the liberty of the corridor. The jail was moderately clean, but there was a noticeable jail smell. The prisoners report a liberal bill of fare. The sheriff's residence is rather out of repair. In reply to a request for a copy of the last report of the grand jury on the jail, the sheriff wrote, "no report since the jail was built."

KITTSOON COUNTY.—The jail is a wooden building. Its value is estimated by the county auditor at \$800. It has four cells, each 8 by 9. It has not been visited during the two years.

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY.—The jail is a new building, located at Madison. The jail is a wooden building and contains two steel cells. It was not occupied when visited and was not in very good condition.

LE SUEUR COUNTY.—The jail was visited. The jail is very poorly built, and was in a wretched dilapidated condition; plastering, floors, etc., being very poor. The jail was reasonably well kept. The number of prisoners is small. The total number during the year 1889 being 17.

McLEOD COUNTY.—The jail was visited May 22, 1889. The jail is now heated by a stove, the hot air furnace having proved a

failure. Storm windows have been provided. The water-closet had been repaired and was in good condition. The jail was in need of some small repairs. There were cots in the corridor, which were used for the better class of prisoners. The beds were supplied with blankets; pillow-cases were furnished, but no sheets. The jail was reasonably clean and well kept. The two cells for women were found in excellent condition. The jailor said that prisoners were allowed the liberty of the corridor, unless deemed unsafe. Sooner or later this plan will result in escapes. All the cells are so dark as to make constant attention into a hardship.

The grand jury reported May 16, 1889: "We find the offices and building of said county in good condition, except that we would recommend that a woodshed be built in the jail and that the wood in the jail be placed therein; we would further recommend that the walks in the jail yard be repaired, that the fence be repaired, and that the inside of the jail be white-washed and generally cleaned up."

The grand jury reported in November 18, 1889: "The jail is kept in a fair condition, except that there has been carelessness on the part of the jailer, in having wood piled in reach of the prisoners while in the cells, thereby furnishing the means for their escape; and further, that the county commissioners are guilty of wilful neglect, in not building a woodshed as was recommended by the grand jury in last report. We would further recommend that the county commissioners take such steps as are necessary for making the outside of the jail more secure, by lining the inside of the wall with steel or iron plate."

MARTIN COUNTY.—The jail was visited in September, 1888. The jail was well kept, bedding clean, and good reading matter supplied. There has been no sheriff's report from this jail for several years.

MEEKER COUNTY.—The jail was visited March 29, 1890. The jail was in admirable condition, clean and orderly. The beds were supplied with sheets and pillow cases. Each cell contains four beds, each consisting of a stout oak frame, about 6½ feet by 20 inches; this makes a comfortable bed, easily kept clean. The cement floor was in good condition. A prisoner who was in jail for nine months, amused himself by walking around and around the cage and wore a path in the cement floor. The hexagon paving blocks would be an improvement.

MILLE LACS COUNTY.—The jail has not been in use for the past two years, having been condemned by the grand jury. Prisoners are sent to the Washington county jail.

MORRISON COUNTY.—The jail was visited June 5, 1890. This jail was built in 1887. The plans were not submitted to the state board of corrections and charities, as required by law. The cell room is 28 by 20 feet and 20 feet high. There are four windows on the north, four on the east and two on the south, each consisting of two panes 22x30 inches. The outer walls are of brick, 12 inches. The west side and half of the south side, adjoining the sheriff's residence, are of lath and plaster partitions, so that the cell room is very insecure. The cell room floor is of oak. The cage was built by the Diebold Safe and Lock company. It consists of three cells, each 8 by 6½ by 7 feet and a prisoners' corridor, 19 by 48 feet. The cells are of old fashioned construction. The lattice openings consist of chrome steel flat bars, 2 1/3 inches by 3/8 inches, put together so as to leave openings 2¼ by 2 inches. Notwithstanding the numerous openings, the cells and prisoners' corridor are dark. The workmanship of the cells is good. The cells are locked by lever bars. The cells have each two swinging bunks, well constructed. Each cell has a patent odorless cell bucket and is ventilated from the corner to a galvanized pipe 6 inches in diameter, going through the roof. Heat is furnished by a box stove. The jail is lighted by two incandescent electric lights. The jail is entered by a basket door, with a wooden outer door. The building cost \$4,600 and the cells \$3,100, making a total of \$7,100.

If the state board of corrections and charities had been consulted as required by law, objections would have been made to the following points:

First: The cell room walls should have been of solid brick. At present only two thicknesses of lath and plaster separate the cell room from the outer hail. **Second:** The cell room should have been in two stories. As it is now constructed the whole room, 20 feet high, must be heated for one prisoner, and the heat goes to the top, where it is not wanted. **Third:** The cage should have been constructed with an open lattice of round bars, or fiat bars with edges to the light, instead of the present construction, which makes the cells dark. **Fourth:** The cell floors and corridor floors should have been of stone instead of iron and wood.

There were two prisoners, each serving a sixty days sentence. The jail was reasonably well kept.

MOWER COUNTY.—The jail was visited August 14, 1890. The jail was scrupulously clean and neat. The bunks were supplied with clean sheets and pillows.

This jail was built like the jails in Olmsted and Otter Tail counties, with reference to the keeping on the separate plan; but these prisoners are allowed to run together, causing the sheriff to be in constant danger of being overpowered. It would be a much better plan for each prisoner to be kept entirely by himself.

NICOLLET COUNTY.—The jail was visited March 8, 1839. The jail was very clean and well kept. There were four prisoners. The principal difficulty at this jail, is that it is used as a lock-up by the city of St. Peter. There should be a separate lock-up.

The grand jury reported December 13, 1889: "the same was found in a good, clean and healthful condition; the food good and wholesome. The jury would recommend that some measure be taken to protect the jail and other property that have been endangered by the taking out of earth on the north side of the same."

NOBLES COUNTY.—The jail was visited at sundry times. This jail has been reasonably well kept, but it is unfit for use, and in constant danger of fire. The jail is in the wooden court home, and is reached through a long passage way. There is one single steel cell, but there have been as many as seven prisoners at one time.

The grand jury reported November 9, 1889: "We have visited the county jail and found everything clean. The prisoners were satisfied with their food and treatment. It appears to us that the arrangements for ventilating the jail are by no means complete, but there is room for considerable improvement in this direction."

OLMSTED COUNTY.—The jail was visited May 16, 1889, and at sundry times. The jail was invariably found in admirable condition, clean, well ventilated and orderly. As a rule each prisoner is kept in his own cell, and sheriff Richardson heartily

indorses that plan. This is one of the best jails in the state, and is one of the best kept jails in the state.

The grand jury reported in 1889: "We found the jail in fine condition, everything in and around it kept in a neat and orderly manner."

OTTER TAIL COUNTY. —The jail was visited March 26, 1889, and at sundry times. This jail has always been well kept, clean, orderly and well ventilated. The discipline is of the very best. Each prisoner is kept in his own cell, and the sheriff reported that he would not on any condition return to the system of allowing prisoners to run freely together. Sheriff Brandenburg was the first sheriff in the northwest to adopt this system, and has adhered to it constantly.

The grand jury reported: "We have inspected the public buildings of the county, and given some attention to the management of our jail and poorhouse. We can cheerfully commend the way in which these institutions are conducted. The inmates are fairly well cared for, and the general sanitary condition good."

POLK COUNTY.—The jail was visited March 25, 1890. The jail was removed to the court house square, and refurnished at a cost of about \$500. The interior was painted, city water was introduced, and water closets were put in. The jail is only outwardly improved; in reality it is little better than before. The ventilation is bad; the jailer's residence is infested with vermin, and the cells are exceedingly dark. The jailer said that the prisoners were required to do their own washing. One of the prisoners had on a very dirty shirt. The blankets were clean, but the interior of the cage was dirty. The corridor was moderately clean, but was in disorder. The prisoners were loose in the outer corridor at 8:30 p. m. The jailer said that it was their uniform practice to give the prisoners the use of the outer corridor. The jailer and sheriff were admonished that the practice of allowing the prisoners to run loose after dark was a dangerous one, and would inevitably result in escape, and perhaps in injury to the jailer.

The grand jury reported, Dec. 7, 1889: "We have visited the county jail and do not hesitate to condemn it as unfit for occupancy. The stench arising from the vault is almost

unbearable, and we consider it greatly injurious to the health of the prisoners. We suggest that a vault be built separate from the building.”

As a result of this report, city water and closet were put in, but these changes only serve to mitigate the condition of the jail.

POPE COUNTY.—The jail has been disused for several years, having been condemned by the grand jury.

RAMSEY COUNTY.—The jail has been visited at frequent intervals during the past two years, and has always been found in excellent condition. It is kept clean and as wholesome as the circumstances will admit. Excellent discipline is enforced. The women’s department is orderly, quiet and well kept by an efficient matron. The boys’ department would have been much better had there been provision for a separate cell, well lighted, for each boy, for the reason that the older boys corrupt the little ones, but it is a very great improvement upon the plan of allowing the boys to run with the older prisoners. The construction of this jail renders it impossible to prevent the herding of prisoners together, but it is now possible to divide them into six distinct classes, which is a great gain.

The jail reflects great credit upon Sheriff E. S. Bean.

RENVILLE COUNTY. —The jail was visited May 7, 1890, by request of the board of county commissioners. The following correspondence explains itself:

**AUDITOR’S OFFICE,
RENVILLE COUNTY.**

BEAVER FALLS, Minn., Jan. 13, 1890.

H. H. Hart, Esq., Secretary State Board of Charities and Corrections:

DEAR SIR: According to a resolution the county board adopted Jan. 10, 1890, you are kindly requested to meet said board at Beaver Falls, May 6, 1890, with a view to adopt plans for remodeling and reconstructing the Renville county jail. Respectfully yours,

P. H. KIRWAN, County Auditor.

**AUDITOR’S OFFICE,
RENVILLE COUNTY.**

BEAVER FALLS, Minn., May 7, 1890.

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners of Renville County:

GENTLEMEN:—In accordance with your request, I have examined your county jail to ascertain how it can be remodeled so as to make it a suitable place for detaining prisoners.

The proportions of the building are such that an ideal arrangement is impossible, but I would respectfully recommend the following changes:

First: Use the small office at the right of the entrance as a jailor's office.

Second: Divide the north end of the long office on the left into two cells for women or insane patients, each six (6) feet wide. Line these two rooms with 1/8 inch boiler iron.

Third: Take the second floor for the jailor's residence and divide it into a sitting room, dining room and kitchen and three bedrooms. It would be desirable to widen the hall and move the stair case into the hall, also to have an outside stair case communicating with the kitchen, but this is not essential.

Fourth: Take out all the wood-work in the present jail-room and enlarge the cell-room to a size of 22x24 feet, separated from the north end of the building by an 8-inch brick partition.

Fifth: Cover the ceiling of the cell-room with 1/8 inch boiler iron as a protection against fire. Do not fur out and plaster the walls.

Sixth: Take out the floor, excavate to a depth of 2½ feet and fill in with boulders, broken stone and sand, laying a floor of first-class Portland cement tiles in the cell-room.

Seventh: Put in two (2) "steel" cells and two (2) iron cells with a middle corridor of iron, arranged as per plan hereto attached. Let the "steel" cells have "steel lathings on top, bottom and rear. Let the partition on the east side of the prisoners corridor be extended to the wall on each end so as to divide the cell-room into two parts for heating purposes.

Eighth: Let the cell doors, cell partitions, cell tops, cell floors and sides of prisoners' corridor be of ¼ inch boiler

plate. Let the whole of the outside of the cage be composed of open lattice work, except the south end of the two cells nearest the jailor's entrance. All plate iron work in the steel cells to be protected by "steel lathing."

Ninth: Let all lattice work be composed of flat bars 5x2½ inches, set with edges to the light, one inch round bars or ¾ inch square bars, set 3½ inch centres.

Tenth: Let each cell door have a first-class jail lock and a strong hasp and padlock.

Eleventh: Let each cell have a proper bucket box in the inside corner, ventilated to the chimney; each bucket box to have strong, well secured bucket door, opening to the middle corridor, so that the buckets can be removed without opening the cell doors. Each cell to be supplied with an air tight, odorless bucket such as are used in the Ramsey county jail.

Twelfth: Enlarge the two small windows, on the east and west sides of the jail, and cut two windows on the east side, one on the south side and one on the west side, as indicated on the plan.

Thirteenth: Let the windows have gratings of ¾ inch round iron bars, ½ inch square iron bars or ¼ inch steel netting, thoroughly secured and anchored; also place a fine jail netting over each window, in cell room to prevent passing articles to prisoners.

Fourteenth: Let each cell be provided with an iron folding cot or a first-class canvas hammock; said cot or hammock to be secured in the strongest manner possible.

Fifteenth: Let the builders of the cells furnish complete and detailed specifications of their work before making any contract.

Any additional information or suggestions which you may desire will be furnished on request.

Yours respectfully. H. H. HART, Secretary.

The grand jury reported October 10, 1889: "We find the jail clean and properly arranged for the convenience of prisoners and the prisoners now confined there inform us that they are properly fed and cared for."

RICE COUNTY.—The grand jury reported in 1889: "The county jail was visited and carefully inspected. We find it unfit for the safe keeping of prisoners, unless they are locked within the cells. All a prisoner wants is a little ingenuity and a good stock

of perseverance to regain his liberty. We believe that more than enough money has been expended for recapturing jail breakers in Rice county, to have made the jail perfectly secure."

The jail was visited at sundry times. May 11, 1890, the jail was visited in accordance with the request contained within the following letter:

FARIBAULT, Minn., April 21, 1890.

H. H. HART, Secy., St. Paul.

We are contemplating changing the cells in our jail and putting on new grates to windows, building jailer's room, etc. Can you refer to parties who do the best work for the least money? If you are down this way call on us and give us some suggestions. If you can come down and can let me know a few days in advance, I will have the committee meet you.

Yours respectfully,

**A. W. STOCKTON,
Ch. Bd. Co. Com.**

The jail was carefully examined by the secretary with Messrs. Stockton and Pettis of the board of county commissioners. The cell-room is 20x28x16 feet. There are three windows looking to the west, each having two panes of 16x32 inch glass, and one window looking to the east of the same size. There were four iron cells, each 5x7x8 feet; the cells were very dark having very small openings in the door. The prisoners' corridor was 4x2 feet with open lattice front. One cell had a water closet in good order. The jailer's corridor was 8½x28 feet, with a jog 6¼x11½ feet. The walls are plastered on the stone. The ceiling is lath and plaster. There is a boiler iron floor and a small ventilation opening in the chimney, a four inch vent through the water closet and a very small ventilator in the ceiling. After careful examination, the following memorandum was made by the secretary and filed with the commissioners:

First: Move the cage 4½ feet to the west. Take off the ends of the cells on the east side and substitute open lattice work, cut three new windows on the east side, each standing 3½ feet from the floor and to be 3x4½ feet. Make the necessary repairs in the iron floor.

Second: Put in a floor with 6-inch joists, the joists to

rest on the cage and to be carried into the wall. The construction of the second story floor to be similar to that of the first, covered with boiler plate, and the ceiling to be covered with heavy sheet iron.

Third: Put in an iron stairway, starting in the south-west corner of the cell-room and ending above the entrance door.

Fourth: Put in three new windows on the west side, same width as the present windows and four on the east side, each 3x4½ feet, with suitable iron window gratings.

Fifth: Put in four steel cells in the second story, each 5½x7 feet, the east and west sides of each cell to be of open lattice work, (except 18 inches wide.) Cells to be of flat bars with edges 'toward the light, round bars, one inch in diameter or square bars ¾ inches square. Each cell to have an entrance door on the west side, constructed in the best possible manner, with a first-class jail lock and a hasp and padlock. Each cell to have also a bucket door, locked by a padlock and constructed like those in the Fergus Falls jail, so the bucket cannot be removed without closing the opening on the inner side. There is to be no prisoners' corridor. Cells to be equal distance froth east and west walls. The steel cells to have "steel lathed" floors and ceilings.

Sixth: The first and second stories to be separate and a suitable entrance door to be provided at the head of the stairs, with a "peep-basket."

Seventh: A room for the jailer to be constructed above the woman's cell with an iron peep-hole opening into the upper cell room at such an angle as to give a full view of the jailer's corridor.

Eighth: Proper ventilation to be provided for each cell, communicating with the chimney. A separate chimney to be constructed for the second story.

Ninth: A slop sink, with city water to be placed in one corner of the cell room on each story for cleaning and emptying buckets.

These suggestions were partially adopted and in some respects improved upon. The sheriff's office was improved, a good sleeping room provided for the jailer and excellent cells provided for women and insane persons, above the sheriff's office.

The iron cells were moved away from the east wall, and a grated opening was put into the rear of each cell to admit light and air. Three steel cells have been purchased from the Pauly Jail Company, and are to form a second division of cells above the old cells. It was not considered practicable to enlarge the windows.

The jail is heated by a first class hot water apparatus, and is greatly improved, both as to its security and its sanitary condition. It would have been desirable to separate the upper tier of cells entirely from the lower tier, but this was not deemed practicable by the board of commissioners.

ROCK COUNTY.—The jail was visited July 20, 1889. The jail is located in the basement of the new court house. The cell room is 24x27 feet looking east and is well lighted by three windows. There are two cells 6½x7 feet with a prisoners' corridor 4½x13 feet. There is a separate cell for women adjoining the cell room but it was in use for storage. This cell has a window into the sheriff's office. The cell room has a cement floor, which is a very poor job, not level and beginning to scale off. There is a water closet in the cage, which, like all such closets, is beginning to give trouble, and can never be satisfactory. There is a ventilation pipe from the cells to the chimney, but the ventilation is imperfect. The beds are furnished with blankets and quilts. There were no prisoners, and the jail was not very clean. The cell room is exposed to view from the outside, the windows being nearly level with the ground.

This jail will never be satisfactory. The cells are badly planned and the location of the jail in the basement will always be objectionable.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY.—The jail has been a public nuisance. The jail had only eight cells, while the number of prisoners was sometimes over sixty. The ventilation was poor and the prisoners' discomfort amounted to hardship, and deplorable moral contamination was inevitable under such circumstances. A large number of city prisoners were kept in the jail. These prisoners were infested with vermin and it was impossible to keep them clean. The result was that the county prisoners shared their miseries.

The new jail has 32 cells for men, each 6x7 feet. The general plan of the jail resembles that of the jails of Otter Tail, Goodhue and Olmsted counties, which have proved thoroughly satisfactory on trial. The cells are set back to back, with a middle corridor, 6 feet wide. The front of each cell is composed of open lattice work.

The cell-fronts, floors and ceilings are of iron and steel. The first and second floors are entirely separate. On the second floor above the sheriff's office are three excellent cells for women, with a bath room, and there is a bath room on each tier of men's cells. The sheriff's residence is convenient and commodious, having on the first floor office, kitchen, dining room and parlor; and on the second floor four chambers and three cells for women.

The sheriff and the board of commissioners, after consultation with the secretary of this board, concurred in the opinion that the jail should be kept on the separate plan and an excellent code of rules was prepared by the sheriff and adopted by the board of county commissioners.

St. Louis county is to be congratulated upon the excellent workmanship and the admirable arrangement of this jail. If the jail is administered in strict accordance with the rules which have been adopted, it will be one of the best jails in the United States.

SCOTT COUNTY.—The jail was visited May 20, 1889. The jail had been newly whitewashed and repaired. The water Closet had been undergoing repairs. Like all such closets where there are no city water works, it has worked very unsatisfactorily. Storm windows have been supplied. The jail was in good condition, clean and well kept. The beds for county prisoners were supplied with clean sheets and pillow cases.

Part of the jail is used for city prisoners and has no sheets or pillow cases, it being useless to supply them for such prisoners.

There was only one prisoner—a horse thief who gave himself up voluntarily and was waiting to plead guilty. He reported himself well fed and cared for and had no complaints to make. The condition of the jail was satisfactory in all respects.

There had been but four prisoners since January 1, 1889. The average number of prisoners for 1888 was 68. Cost of caring for them—board (\$4.00 per week) \$14.30; fuel \$28.00; jailer's salary \$480; total \$648, being an average rate per year of \$943 per prisoner or \$18.25 per week.

The grand jury reported December 9, 1889: "We recommend to the county commissioners that they have the roof of the jailer's residence, also the roof of the jail painted. We have examined the jailer's residence and the county jail and we found them properly kept."

SIBLEY COUNTY.—The grand jury reported November 1889: "we have examined the jail building and found the same well kept. We would recommend that the county commissioners cause the addition to be anchored to the main building. Also that a cistern of about fifty barrels capacity be built at the jail for the convenience of the inmates."

THE STEARNS COUNTY JAIL was visited March 31, 1890.—The jail has been reconstructed. The old cells have been taken out and a new cage has been put in, consisting of three steel cells, three iron cells and a middle corridor. The cells are each 6½x8x7 feet. The front of each cell is of open lattice work, except about 18 inches wide. The rear of each steel cell is of solid jail plate, with a solid door. The rear of each iron cell is of open lattice work. In the centre corridor is a bath tub and water closet.

The water closet seat is of cast iron—good for nothing—was broken before being put in. There is a window opposite each of four cells. The jailor said that windows were to be cut opposite the other two cells. If that is done, the jail will be well lighted. The jailer's corridor will be tiled. The middle corridor will receive light through the iron cells. The ceiling will be covered with corrugated iron. The cells are supplied with cheap galvanized iron buckets which will soon become a nuisance. The bucket boxes are to be connected with ventilation pipes but the ventilation will be uncertain.

Two iron cells for women and insane persons are to be put in the second story.

The reconstructed jail will be a great improvement on the old jail and will give good satisfaction, provided each prisoner is kept in his own cell; but if the prisoners are allowed to run together escapes will probably occur.

The jail was revisited November 29, 1890. The jail was in reasonably good order, but the prisoners were running freely together. One prisoner had already escaped from the jail by cutting out of the cage; additional escapes may be expected unless the prisoners are kept in their cells. There are not enough cells, however, to permit of proper separation.

STEELE COUNTY.—The jail was visited May 16, 1889. by Mr. Amundson and the secretary. The jail had been neatly painted and repaired and removed two feet back from the windows, the water closets reconstructed in the cage and in the women's cell. This jail is not and cannot be a satisfactory jail. The cage is too dark for the comfort of the inmates or the safety of officers. The cell for women opens into the sheriff's office on one side and is exposed to the public by the window on the other side, so that it does not afford privacy.

The grand jury reported June 4, 1889: "We found the jail in a good condition, with regard to the safe keeping of any prisoners therein."

STEVENS COUNTY.—The jail was visited March 28, 1889. The jail was reasonably clean. The bedding was clean. The water closet has been abandoned as a nuisance. There were two prisoners, one from Grant county and one from Pope county. The prisoners had the liberty of the corridor on account of the darkness of the cells. The cement floor is very unsatisfactory; it is rapidly wearing down and creates a dust. The reading matter consists of the Bible in different languages and newspapers. The prisoners reported a liberal bill of fare, that the food was good and abundant. Sheriff Monroe recommended that a satisfactory room be fitted up for insane persons. This could be done at a cost of from \$400 to \$500 dollars, and would be a very desirable improvement.

SWIFT COUNTY.—The old jail has long been a public nuisance. It was a wooden jail with two cells very much exposed to danger of fire and very insecure. The cells were well lighted. There was always a foul jail smell. The jail has been

condemned by one grand jury after another, and the late Judge Brown finally issued an order that no prisoners should be confined in it for a longer period than ten days.

The county commissioners finally decided to build a jail and have made a contract with the Pauly jail company for three steel cells. These cells are to be so constructed as to admit light and air freely and to allow prisoners being kept separate. While the funds for the construction of the jail do not permit of an ideal plan, the plan was approved by the state board of correction and charities as being on the whole satisfactory for a small jail.

TODD COUNTY has not been visited during the two years. The grand jury reported October 4, 1889: "We have this day examined the county jail, and find it in a good, clean and healthy condition."

The number of prisoners in this jail is very small, the total number for the year 1889 being 14.

WABASHA COUNTY.—The jail was visited May 28, 1889. There were five prisoners; an unusually large number. The jail was clean and in good condition. The cells were supplied with sheets and pillow cases, furnished by the sheriff at his own expense, and blankets. There were no signs of vermin. There is a privy in the jail with a vault underneath, which is in a very offensive condition. There are no seats, and its use should be discontinued. Prisoners report the food good and abundant. The sheriff furnishes good reading matter; cards and dominoes furnish amusement. This jail is not a secure one, and the prisoners are allowed to run together in the outer corridor; which is an unsafe liberty, exposing the jailer to danger.

Four men were serving sentence, and one was awaiting trial. One boy, 18 years of age, was serving 30 days sentence after having lain in jail six months before he was tried. On the whole, this jail is well kept and creditable to the sheriff.

WASECA COUNTY.—The jail was visited February 14, 1890. There was but one prisoner. The cells were not very clean. The privy seats are offensive. The blankets were clean. The beds were supplied with sheets and feather pillows. The prisoners' corridor is well lighted. The cells are very dark. This jail is very insecure. There have been escapes five or six times. The jail register was well kept.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.—The jail was found in good condition. This is an old jail, not well planned and not very secure. Prisoners are boarded here from Pine and Mille Lacs counties.

WILKIN COUNTY.—The jail was visited March 27, 1890. The jail has recently been repaired and improved. A partition has been put in to divide the jail into two parts, and a double entrance has been provided. The grated doors are of primitive manufacture, being made by the village blacksmith. The cement floors are in bad condition. The cells are very dark and are unventilated, except by the grated door. The cells have miserable wooden cots, which are vermin dens. The new department does not provide proper separation for the sexes, there being two grated doors allowing free conversation. This is one of the worst jails in the state; unwholesome, insecure and dangerous to officers. There were no prisoners.

WINONA COUNTY.—The jail was visited July 14, 1890. The jail was not very clean. There were clean sheets and pillow cases on the beds. The ventilation is imperfect. The water closet was in bad condition. The cells were dirty and disorderly. The old furnace registers have become a depository for sweepings and other refuse, which is injurious to the health of the prisoners. The cage needs painting, but has not been painted for a number of years. There is great need of a bath tub. There is a good supply of reading matter; the prisoners had also the Police Gazette.

The prisoners had the liberty of the outer corridor until 9 or 10 o'clock at night. This is a dangerous and unnecessary practice, as the cage is sufficiently lighted. There is a single door at the entrance of the jail, and there is great danger of the jail officers being mobbed. The attention of the sheriff and the jailer was called to this fact. The sheriff said in answer to direct inquiry, that the United States did not supply needed underclothing for prisoners, making it necessary for the sheriff to supply underclothing at his own expense, or to allow the men to become infested with vermin.

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY.—The jail was visited May 21, 1889. This jail is used jointly by Yellow Medicine county and the village of Granite Falls. It is a wooden building made of pine scantling, and like all such buildings, is unfit for use. It contains one iron cell, which is not very secure, but it is dark

and unwholesome. The bedding consists of straw ticks, quilts and blankets, and was not very clean, The floor had not been apparently scrubbed for a long time. The village marshal said, "We had it scrubbed out last fall; we are just going to clean it up." The following inscription was copied from the wall:

**"We are two bums, two jolly good bums;
We live like royal Turks,
We have good luck in bumming our chuck—
To hell with the man that works!"**

APPENDIX

A.

The following statute, first enacted in 1878, on county jails was in effect when Hart wrote this report in 1891. Title I of Chapter 120 covered jails and Title 2 covered the state prison.

Three years later, the legislature adopted legislation that set requirements for all aspects of the construction and maintenance of county jails and granted powers to the Board of Corrections and Charities. It also repealed Title 1 of Chapter 120, although several provisions were incorporated in the 1893 law. The 1893 law can be found in Appendix A to Hastings H. Hart, "The County Jails, 1892-1894" 35-45 (MLHP, 2012).

JAILS AND PRISONS

Stat., ch. 120, Title I, §§1-24, at 968-970 (1878).

TITLE 1.

COUNTY JAILS.

§ 1. Every county to have a jail. There shall be established and kept in every county, by authority of the board of county commissioners, and at the expense of the county, a jail for the safe-keeping of prisoners.

§ 2. Jail, how to be kept. The sheriff of the county, by him or deputy, shall keep the jail, and be responsible for the manner in which the same is kept; he shall keep separate rooms for the sexes, except where they are lawfully married; he shall provide proper meat, drink and fuel for prisoners.

§ 3. Where prisoners shall be kept when there is no sufficient jail. When there is no sufficient jail in any county wherein any criminal offence has been committed, the examining magistrate upon his own motion, or the district judge upon application of the sheriff, may order any person charged with a criminal offence, and directed to be committed to prison, to be sent to the jail of the county nearest having a sufficient jail; and the sheriff of such nearest county shall, on exhibit of such magistrate or judge's order, receive and keep in custody, in the jail of his county, the prisoner ordered to be committed as aforesaid; and the said sheriff shall, upon the order of the district court or a judge thereof; re-deliver such prisoner when demanded.

§ 4. Fugitives from justice to be kept in any jail—compensation. Any county jail may be used for the safe keeping of any fugitive from justice in this state, in accordance with the provisions of any act of congress; and the jailor shall be entitled to reasonable compensation for the support and custody of such fugitive from the officer having him in custody.

§ 5. United States prisoners, how kept—liability of sheriffs, etc., for misconduct, etc. All sheriffs and jailors to whom any person is sent or committed by virtue of legal process issued by or under the authority of the United States, shall be and they are required to receive such person into custody, and to keep him safely until discharged by due course of law; and all such sheriffs and jailors offending in the premises shall be liable to the same pains and penalties, and the parties aggrieved shall be entitled to the same remedies against them or any of them, as if such prisoners had been committed to their custody by virtue of legal process issued under the authority of this state.

§ 6. United States liable for support of such prisoners. The United States shall be liable to pay, for the support and keeping of said prisoners, the same charges and allowances as are allowed for the support and keeping of prisoners committed under the authority of this state.

§ 7. Treatment of juvenile prisoners. Juvenile prisoners shall be treated with humanity, and in a manner calculated to promote their reformation; they shall be kept, if the jail will admit of it, in apartments separate from those containing more

experienced and hardened criminals; the visits of parents, guardians and friends who desire to exert a moral influence over them shall, at all reasonable times, be permitted.

§ 8. Jail shall be kept, how—food of prisoners, etc. The keeper of such jail shall see that the same is constantly kept in a cleanly and healthful condition, and that strict attention is constantly paid to the personal cleanliness of all the prisoners in his custody, as far as may be, and shall cause the shirt of each prisoner to be washed at least once in each week; each prisoner shall be furnished daily with as much clean water as he shall have occasion for, either for drink or for the purpose of personal cleanliness, and with a clean towel, once a week, and shall be served three times each day with wholesome food, which shall be well cooked and in sufficient quantity.

§ 9. Prisoners to have bibles—religions instruction. The keeper of each jail shall provide, at the expense of the county, for each prisoner under his charge who may be able and desirous to read, a copy of the bible or new testament; and any minister of the gospel disposed to aid in reforming the prisoners, and instructing them in their moral and religious duties, shall have access to them at seasonable and proper times.

§ 10. Calendar of prisoners—contents. The sheriffs of the respective counties shall keep a true and exact calendar or register of all prisoners committed to any jail under their care, and the same shall be kept in a book, to be provided by the county for that purpose; said calendar shall contain the names of all persons committed to prison, the place of abode, the time of their commitment, the cause of their commitment, and the authority that committed them, and, if they are committed for criminal offences, shall contain a description of their persons; and when any prisoner is liberated, said calendar shall state the time when, and the authority by which such liberation took place, and, if any prisoner escapes, shall also state particularly the time and manner of said escape.

§ 11. Same—copy to be returned at each term of court. At the opening of each session of the district court within his county, the sheriff shall return a copy of said calendar, under his hand, to the judge holding said court; and if any sheriff neglects or refuses to do so, he shall be punished by fine, not exceeding three hundred dollars.

§ 12. Convict to be furnished with tools—expense, how paid—earnings. Whenever any person is confined in any jail pursuant to the sentence of any court, if such sentence, or any

part thereof, is that he be confined at hard labor, the sheriff of the county in which such person is confined shall furnish such convict with suitable tools and materials to work with, if, in the opinion of such sheriff, the said convict can be profitably employed either in the jail or yard thereof; and the expense of said tools and materials shall be defrayed by the county in which said convict is confined, and said county shall be entitled to his earnings.

§ 13. Furnishing liquors to convicts forbidden—exception. No sheriff, jailor or keeper of any jail shall, under any pretence, give, sell or deliver to any person committed to any prison for any cause whatever, any spirituous liquor, or any mixed liquor, part of which is spirituous, or any wine, cider or strong beer, unless a physician certifies in writing that the health of such prisoner requires it; in which case he may be allowed the quantity prescribed, and no more.

§ 14. Penalties for violation of duties by sheriffs, etc. If any sheriff, jailor or keeper of any jail sells or delivers to any prisoner in his custody, or willingly or negligently any such prisoner to have, any liquor prohibited in the preceding or places or keeps together prisoners of different sexes, contrary to the provisions of the second section, he shall in each case forfeit and pay, for the first offense, the sum of twenty-five dollars; and such officer shall, on a second conviction, be further sentenced to be incapable of holding the office of sheriff, or keeper of any jail, for the term of five years.

§ 15. Penalty for other person furnishing prisoner with liquor. If any person other than mentioned in the preceding section, sells or delivers to any person committed for any cause whatever, any liquor prohibited in this chapter, or has in his possession, in the precincts of any jail, any such liquor, with intent to carry or deliver the same to any prisoner confined therein, he shall be punished by fine not exceeding fifteen dollars.

§ 16. Copy of process to be kept by sheriff—effect as evidence. When a prisoner is confined by virtue of any process directed to the sheriff, and which requires to be returned to the court whence it issued, such sheriff shall keep a copy of the same, together with his return made thereon; which copy, duly certified by such sheriff shall be prima facie evidence of his right to retain such prisoner custody.

§ 17. Expense of keeping prisoners from other counties, how regulated. Whenever any prisoner by the proper authority is directed to be confined in any county other than that in which

the offence was committed, the sheriff of the county in which such prisoner is to be confined shall keep said prisoner at the expense of the county in which the offence was committed, and shall be allowed therefor, four dollars per week. The board of county commissioners of the county from which said prisoner was sent, at their first session after the commitment of such prisoner, shall authorize the auditor of their county to issue to the sheriff of the county to which such prisoner was sent for confinement, orders upon their county treasurer for the expense of maintaining such prisoner from the time of his confinement until the meeting of the court at which he is to be tried; and if such prisoner is not tried at the first term of said court, the said board, at their first meeting thereafter, shall provide in like manner for the maintenance of such prisoner until the next session of said court, and so on, in like manner, until said prisoner is finally tried.

§ 18. Sheriff shall preserve orders of commitment, etc. All instruments of every kind, or attested copies thereof, by which a prisoner is committed or liberated, shall be regularly indorsed and filed, and safely kept in a suitable box by such sheriff, or by his deputy acting as a jailor. Such box, with its contents, shall be delivered to the successor of the officer having charge of the jail.

§ 19. Shall furnish bedding, clothing, etc., at expense of county. The keeper of each jail shall furnish necessary bedding, clothing and fuel, and medical aid for all prisoners who are in his custody, unless the same are furnished by the county, and shall be paid therefor out of the county treasury; and such payment shall not be deducted from the sum he is entitled to receive for the weekly support of the prisoner, as provided by law.

§ 20. Solitary confinement. Whenever any person committed to jail for any cause whatever, is unruly, or disobeys any of the regulations established for the management of jails, the sheriff or keeper may order such prisoner to be kept in solitary confinement, and fed on bread and water only, for a period not exceeding twenty days for each offence.

§ 21. Escaping from jail, how punished. If any person who may be in any jail, under sentence of imprisonment in the state prison, shall break jail and escape, he shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for the term of one year, in addition to the unexpired term for which he was originally sentenced.

§ 22. Same. If any person under sentence of imprisonment in the county jail, or any person committed for the purpose of detaining him for trial, for any offence not capital, shall break jail and escape, he shall be imprisoned in the county jail for the term of six months.

§ 23. Same. If any person committed to jail for the purpose of detaining him for trial for a capital offence, shall break jail and escape, he shall be imprisoned in the state prison for the term of two years.

§ 24. In case of fire, prisoners may be removed. If any jail, or any building thereto attached, takes fire, and the prisoners are exposed to danger by such fire, the keeper may remove them to a place of safety, and there confine them so long as may be necessary to avoid such danger; and such removal and confinement shall not be deemed an escape of such prisoners.

B.

The following are the members, officers, staff and committees of the Board in 1888-1890, listed in its Fourth Biennial Report to the Legislature.

STATE BOARD OF CORRECTIONS AND CHARITIES, 1888-1890.

OFFICE AT THE STATE CAPITOL.

GOV. WILLIAM R. MERRIAM, *ex-officio*.

JOHN W. WILLIS, St. Paul.....Term expires January, 1891.
CHRISTOPHER AMUNDSON, St. Peter...Term expires January, 1892.
WILLIAM C. WILLISTON, Red Wing.....Term expires January, 1892.
SAMUEL G. SMITH, St. Paul.....Term expires January, 1893.
GEORGE A. BRACKETT, Minneapolis.....Term expires January, 1893.

OFFICERS.

Gov. WILLIAM R. MERRIAM.....President.
HASTINGS H. HART.....Secretary.
GEORGE G. COWIE.....Clerk.
ZILLAH KNOX.....Clerk.

COMMITTEES.

ON HOSPITALS FOR INSANE—Messrs. Brackett and Amundson.
ON INSTITUTE FOR DEFECTIVES—Messrs. Smith and Willis.
ON REFORM SCHOOL AND SCHOOL FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN—
Messrs. Williston, Brackett and Amundson.
ON STATE PRISON AND REFORMATORY—Messrs. Willis, Smith
and Amundson.
ON JAILS, LOCKUPS AND POOR HOUSES—Messrs. Amundson,
Williston and Willis.
ON SOLDIERS' HOME—Messrs. Brackett and Williston.
AUDITING COMMITTEE—Messrs. Smith, Willis and Amundson. ■

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Posted MLHP: November 28, 2012