

By such modifications of our laws as I have thus briefly suggested, it is quite probable that at least fifty thousand dollars can annually be saved to the state in the administration of our civil and criminal jurisprudence.

*Asylum for insane colored people.*

Soon after entering upon the discharge of my duties as provisional governor, I ascertained that both the Eastern and Western lunatic asylums were filled to overflowing with patients, and that there were many insane people, both white and colored, in the various county jails and other places about the state, where they could not be properly treated or cared for. It seemed imperatively demanded that some measures should be promptly provided for the suitable care and custody of these unfortunate people. The propriety of enlarging the Eastern lunatic asylum was first considered, but the expense of such enlargement seemed too great to justify its being undertaken at that time. Besides, it was deemed advisable that the insane of the two races should be provided for separately. Subsequently, the property lying immediately east of the city, known as Howard Grove hospital, through an arrangement effected by the commanding general, was turned over to the state, and it was determined to convert the same into an asylum for the colored insane, and to remove thereto those of that race who were at the Eastern lunatic asylum, thus leaving in that institution sufficient accommodation for the white insane, who, as before stated, were in different jails and other places of confinement in the state. That arrangement has been carried fully into effect. The property thus turned over to the state, without cost, is of considerable value. It consists of eighteen acres of land, now under lease to the state for ten years, at an annual rental of two hundred dollars, whereon stand several wooden buildings, worth five or six thousand dollars; one additional wooden building has been erected, and some necessary improvements and repairs made at the expense of the state. Beds, bedding, and other necessary articles, which were in use or stored on the premises, were purchased from the government at a nominal price.

The lease and a plan of the grounds and buildings are on file in the office of the auditor of public accounts. The report herewith submitted of the superintendent of public buildings, who, at my instance, has had charge of this property for the past month, contains a statement of the expenditures made by the state, the condition and capacity of the institution, and the number of patients now under treatment. With the further expenditure of a small sum, it is believed that all the colored insane of the state can be well and comfortably accommodated at this asylum for the next ten years. I would respectfully recommend that a law be at once enacted organizing this asylum upon the plan of the Eastern and Western lunatic asylums, and providing for the care and custody of all the colored insane of the state at the same.