
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, April 26, 1927.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Under the provisions of Article LVI. of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am returning herewith House No. 1172, "Resolve Providing for the Appointment of a Special Commission to Construct and Establish a Memorial Park on the Site heretofore Purchased for a Memorial in France to the Men and Women of Massachusetts Who Died Overseas During the World War," with the recommendation that it be amended as follows:

By striking out after the word "of" in line two the words "one person" and inserting in place thereof the words "three persons";

By inserting in line seventeen after the word "park" the words: — "and shall cause to be erected within said park a memorial tablet or tablets bearing the names of all Massachusetts men and women who were killed in action or died as a result of wounds sustained or sickness acquired in France during the World War, provided, however, that the said park shall not be constructed or the said tablet or tablets erected until after the plans therefor shall have been approved by the art commission of the Commonwealth."

Over \$40,000 has already been spent in connection with the proposed memorial at St. Mihiel, France, \$19,359.44 having been spent for the land and \$21,630.91 having been spent for several trips to France and for other expenditures. The Commonwealth has also, without the authorization of the General Court or the Governor, been involved by the special commission appointed to handle this question in possible obligations amounting to many thousands of dollars, which are to be investigated by the Attorney General under a resolve which I signed a few days ago.

These sums should have gone a long way toward providing a worthy memorial. Instead, we have a desolate piece of land which is said to be encumbered with undesirable buildings erected by squatters.

How many of the mothers and fathers of the boys who lost their lives in the great War will ever see this memorial in France?

I believe that we should definitely, finally, and completely terminate all expenditures for the purpose of a memorial in France.

The total expenditure, having in mind other claims, is now a matter of nearly eighty thousand dollars including the appropriation provided in this Resolve, more than one-fourth of which has been spent for traveling, and for this amount the only tangible thing we have is land costing \$19,359.44. Let us not increase the cost for traveling expenses in connection with this memorial beyond the proportion that obtains at the present time. Let us rather spend this last \$15,000 for something tangible. This amount should provide amply for locating a bronze table or tablets in the park which, by the terms of the Resolve, is to be constructed on the site.

The designs for memorials in this Commonwealth are subject to the approval of the Art Commission. I believe that any plan for the park and tablets should be subject to the approval of the Art Commission.

The Resolve provides for the appointment by the Governor of only one member of the commission of four. I cannot, out of respect for the dignity of the office of Governor, acquiesce to such a provision. I accordingly recommend that the Resolve be amended to provide for the appointment by the Governor of three members out of a commission of six.

ALVAN T. FULLER.

