

HOUSE No. 485.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, April 27, 1892.

The committee on the Judiciary, who were instructed to consider certain questions relative to the distribution of mail matter under the direction of the Sergeant-at-Arms, respectively submit the following

REPORT :

To the first question submitted, in the following terms, viz. : " Whether it is in violation of the postal laws of the United States for the Sergeant-at-Arms to receive and deliver letters and packages to members of the Legislature placed in his hands by private individuals or others, and not coming through the United States mail," the committee reply in the negative.

There is obviously no intention or organized purpose on the part of the House to interfere with the government monopoly or to evade the United States law. The appointment of the Sergeant-at-Arms by the House to receive and distribute the mail of the members is an incidental convenience, and, in the opinion of the committee, he can, as such agent, without violation of law, receive for the members whatever letters or documents they may direct.

By the second clause of the Order, the committee were directed to inquire " What ruling, if any, the post-office

department has made in reference to the reception and delivery of letters and packages to members of the Legislature upon which the postage had not been paid."

In respect to the subject matter of this inquiry the committee report that no evidence was offered them of any ruling by the post-office department, except that one of the Boston inspectors had advised that the reception and delivery of first class mail matter, upon which postage had not been paid, to members of the Legislature was a violation of the United States postal laws.

By the third clause of the order the committee were directed to inquire, "What person or persons, if any, have made complaint to the post-office department in reference to the reception and delivery of such letters and packages upon which the postage has not been prepaid."

In respect to the subject matter of this inquiry the committee report that no evidence was offered them that any complaint had been made to the post-office department.

For the Committee,

FRED'K H. GILLET.

