

HOUSE No. 1155

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LOWELL TEXTILE SCHOOL,
LOWELL, MASS., Dec. 31, 1918.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In compliance with the provisions of chapter 269 of the General Acts of the year 1915 I have the honor to present the following extracts from the first report of the Board of Trustees of the Lowell Textile School appointed under chapter 274 of the General Acts of the year 1918, covering the period of their term of office from Aug. 1, 1918, to Nov. 30, 1918, embodying recommendation for legislative action, and accompanied by drafts of two bills covering the legislation recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

A. G. CUMNOCK,
Chairman.

EXTRACT FROM THE FIRST REPORT OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LOWELL TEX-
TILE SCHOOL FOR THE PERIOD OF THEIR
OFFICE FROM AUG. 1, 1918, TO NOV. 30, 1918.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. *Fire Insurance.*

With the transfer of the property of the Lowell Textile School from the ownership of a private corporation to that of the Commonwealth, the new Board finds itself subject to laws and policies that are not applicable to private corporations.

Since the erection of the first buildings of the school in 1904 and the installation of machinery, the Board of Trustees, composed largely of mill managers, have followed what they have found sound policy of protection in their mills and have carried fire insurance upon buildings and equipment. As a protection against the commencement of a fire, all buildings as far as possible have been provided with automatic sprinkler systems, and these, together with general condition of the buildings, have received regular and frequent inspection by representatives of the insurance companies. This practice provides not only careful inspection by trained technical insurance engineers but acquaints the school management with the latest methods of fire protection and fire prevention of mill property, thus serving as a part of the instruction for a mill man.

Considerable of the machinery and equipment now in the school has been loaned or donated to the school on condition that it be properly protected. It is a question whether machinery manufacturers would continue to make such loans if no protection against loss by fire could be assured them. The policy of loan of machinery has ad-

vantages over purchase, and it is desirable to continue it if possible.

The present Board of Trustees believe that this policy of fire insurance should be continued, and that permission be granted it by the General Court to insure the school property of buildings, machinery and equipment.

2. *Purchase of Land.*

About five years ago the former Board of Trustees, recognizing the desirability of owning for future expansion a certain piece of land adjoining their property on the easterly side but having no funds to purchase, obtained a lease on the land to run for five years with the privilege of purchase at any time within that period for a specified sum of money. The owners of the land are the Proprietors of the Locks and Canals, owners of the power rights on the Merrimack River at Lowell. The lease expires in April, 1919.

The addition of this piece of land to the school property at this time will make possible future extensions of the plant at a reasonable expense. It offers further protection from adjoining buildings, for the probable extension of the river boulevard by the school will undoubtedly encourage future buildings and will enhance the value of this particular piece of land to a considerable degree.

The Board of Trustees recommend that this purchase be made before the expiration of the lease and the amount of money stated in the accompanying bill be appropriated for this purpose.

