

SENATE No. 6.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
BOSTON, Jan. 18, 1887.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives :

I have the honor to transmit herewith to you for your information and use a copy of the order adopted by the Executive Council on Jan. 5, 1887, in conformity with the provisions of Resolve chapter 87 of the year 1886, said resolve having relation to a proposed enlargement of the State House, and also some of the reasons and facts upon which the conclusions stated in the order are based : —

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,
COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOSTON, Jan. 5, 1886.

Ordered, — That upon consideration of the provisions of Resolve chapter 87 of the year 1886, the Governor and Council recommend to the General Court the enlargement of the State House by the erection of a substantial and commodious structure in the rear of and in connection with the present building, and for such purpose the estates No. 82 Temple Street, Nos. 13 and 15 Mount Vernon Street, and all the estates on Mount Vernon Street between Temple and Hancock Streets, and running back to the Reservoir lot, so called, be taken, and that Mount Vernon Street between Temple and Hancock Streets be closed.

Further, that to protect the State House from the danger of injury to its present outlook and appearance by the erection of lofty structures on the easterly and westerly sides of the present grounds, and for the purpose of extending Hancock Street through

to Beacon Street, the estates bounded southerly by Beacon Street, easterly by Bowdoin Street, northerly by the Way estate, now owned by the Commonwealth, and westerly by Mount Vernon Street, and the estates known as Nos. 8, 10, and 12 on Mount Vernon Street, and Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 on Hancock Avenue, and Nos. 27 and 28 on Beacon Street, be secured for the use of the Commonwealth, the buildings to be removed at such time as shall seem to be for the best interests of the Commonwealth.

Further, that His Excellency the Governor be requested to communicate these recommendations to the Legislature, with such reasons and facts in support thereof as shall appear to him to justify the conclusions reached by the Governor and Council.

In Council: Adopted, Jan. 5, 1887.

HENRY B. PEIRCE, *Secretary.*

SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, JAN. 5, 1887.

A true copy:

HENRY B. PEIRCE,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

It is generally recognized that the extension of the State House in some way is a public necessity. I think the plan recommended by the Council of 1886 is the best that can be devised, and that it is in harmony with the resolve of the Legislature. It preserves the front, and makes the addition in one solid mass to the rear. This will make a more convenient building than if the addition is made to the wings. It will be much less expensive than any other plan that can be devised, as it will require less land, and will interfere with but few comparatively valuable buildings, and it will not obstruct the line of commercial travel, present or prospective. In this case the best way is also the most economical.

It is clear from the condition of the land around the State House that the extension by wings on Beacon Street would be much more expensive, and, besides, it would destroy the historical identity of the present State House, in which we all have a pride and interest, and give us an unshapely and inartistic structure in place of one that is symmetrical and in good taste.

By this plan it is not absolutely necessary to acquire the land on Hancock Avenue, or between Mt. Vernon Street and

Bowdoin Street, south of the Commonwealth building, in order to erect the addition, but it will be necessary to take the land in the rear of the State House on Mt. Vernon Street, Nos. 13 to 29 inclusive, these having an assessed value of \$288,500, and estate No. 82 Temple Street, which is assessed at \$8,500, a total valuation of \$296,800.

The recent erection of a very high apartment-house at the corner of Beacon and Joy Streets shows the danger that the land on Hancock Avenue and Bowdoin Street may be used in the same way, and thus not only dwarf the State House, but greatly increase the risk of its serious damage or its total destruction by fire. To provide against this contingency, it is better for the State to purchase this property for control, and keep it as it is, or otherwise dispose of it as may be thought advisable. This property has an assessed valuation of \$551,000, and, if it is purchased, the income from it will prevent its being a burden to the State, if it is kept in its present condition. All the buildings that will have to be removed to make room for the proposed extension will be those on Mt. Vernon Street, immediately in the rear of the State House.

The extension of the building in the rear will secure for it ample light on its east, west, and north sides, and there will be no possibility of the erection of structures that will cut it off. If, in addition, the simplicity of the present structure is preserved, the cost of construction will be very moderate, and the symmetrical proportions of the present structure could be maintained without causing it to be altered materially. The old and the new parts of the building could be connected without the appearance of "patching," and the interior architectural arrangements could easily be made to conform with those in the existing building. If lateral wings are added, the apartments in the east and west wings of the present State House must be radically disturbed, if not entirely reconstructed.

I therefore recommend to your consideration the plan approved by the Governor and Council of 1886, and respectfully suggest that it is a matter in which prompt action may advantageously be taken.

OLIVER AMES.

