

SENATE....No. 25.

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled:

The Trustees of the Worcester County Agricultural Society, for and in behalf of said society, respectfully ask leave to add their petition to the prayer of kindred associations, within the Commonwealth, for further patronage and encouragement to the great interests of *husbandry*, by the government of the State. The bounty of the Legislature, heretofore liberally manifested, in annual contributions from the treasury to the county societies, has done much to stimulate to a higher aim in the direction of labor, to improve the modes of cultivation, and to increase the products of the *field*, and the qualities and profits of the *fold*. But the advance has yet been rather experimental and fortuitous than systematic, scientific, and instructive, yielding greater partial results to the mere exertion of hard working and tiresome industry, than to the unfailing benefits of judicious management, enlightened and directed by skill and knowledge. The deep want of the husbandman is *instruction* in those elementary principles which give the *impress of mind* to his occupation. He should learn something of the properties of matter with which he has to deal; of the character of the soil to be subdued by his labor; of the fit applications to enrich and increase its productiveness; of the grains and plants best adapted to situation, and to economy and profit in their cultivation. In a land of *tillage*, like New England, where the fructifying qualities of a virgin earth are well nigh exhausted,

Science alone can supply the deficiency in those parts which are essential to vigorous vegetation and abundant harvest. Let agriculture be raised to the *dignity of a profession*, rather than regarded as the *destiny of condition*, and the labor of man will be profited as largely as the character of society will assuredly be improved. Chemistry, botany, entomology, the art of surveying, and some acquaintance with the law of mechanics, will be found efficient auxiliaries to the management of the farm, the orchard, and the garden; and, without their aid, in the competition of the products of the corn-fields of New England with the rich alluvial deposits of the western prairies, both the energy and perseverance of the Massachusetts farmer will in vain strive for encouragement as their just reward.

The trustees of this society will not attempt to point out the precise manner in which the government of the State may best foster the great interest of agriculture. In the report of the appropriate committee, now under consideration in the Senate, which proposes to establish a school of instruction, they see an instrumentality of great power and efficacy. But in whatever mode the wisdom of the Legislature shall be exercised, they pray leave, in behalf of the society which they represent, to offer the assurance of a deep interest, and of an earnest and zealous coöperation in producing the best and highest practical results.

For, and in behalf, and by order of the

Trustees of Worcester County Agricultural Society,

LEVI LINCOLN,

President of the Worcester Co. Agricul. Soc.

Worcester, Feb. 4, 1850.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty.

RESOLVES

Concerning the Establishment of an Agricultural School.

Resolved, That his excellency the governor, with the advice of the council, be requested and empowered to appoint a board of ten commissioners, one from each congressional district in the State, who shall have power to select and obtain, by gift or purchase, and take a conveyance, to the Commonwealth, of a farm or lot of land, which shall be an eligible site for an agricultural school or college, for the instruction of such pupils as may wish to attend such an institution, in all those branches of agricultural knowledge, necessary for the advancement of the interests of agriculture in this State.

Resolved, That the said commissioners shall be directed to procure plans and estimates for the buildings necessary for such an institution, and to prepare and mature a system for the government thereof, with the requisite studies to be pursued at the same, and to ascertain what laws and regulations would be necessary and proper to put the same into successful operation.

Resolved, That the said commissioners be directed to consider the expediency of establishing an agricultural and statistical department in our State government, that shall sustain a similar relation to the interests of agriculture and other indus-

trial pursuits, that the Board of Education does to our system of common instruction; what appropriations, if any, may be necessary, on the part of the Commonwealth, to secure instruction in this science, in our medical and other colleges and Normal schools; whether any further aid should be granted to local agricultural and horticultural societies; whether instruction in agriculture can properly be introduced into the common schools; and by what other and proper means this branch of industry, so important to the Commonwealth, and so intimately connected with the welfare of the people, may best be promoted.

Resolved, That the said commissioners consider the expediency of appropriating the property of the Commonwealth in lands, in the State of Maine, or any other available resources, to the general purposes of education in agriculture, and to devise a plan, by which the income of the property so appropriated, may be most equitably and usefully divided among such institutions as are, or may be, established for the culture of the minds of the youth of Massachusetts.

Resolved, That the said commissioners report the result of their deliberations to his excellency the governor, in season to be communicated to the Legislature at the commencement of their next session. And the said commissioners shall present all their accounts to the governor and council, to be by them audited and allowed as they may deem just.

Resolved, That to defray the expense incurred by the purchase of said land, and in the execution of the other objects of this commission, his excellency the governor be authorized to draw his warrants, from time to time, on the treasury of the Commonwealth, for any necessary sums of money, not exceeding in all, the sum of fifteen thousand dollars.