

shall elect a President and Clerk, and may elect all such other officers as said corporation may think fit for conducting and managing the corporate affairs and estate, and the same may change and remove, as said corporation shall see fit.

May choose officers.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted,* That said corporation shall continue and be in force for the term of twenty years from the time of the passage of this act, unless sooner repealed by the Legislature.

[Approved by the Governor, March 4, 1826.]

## CHAP. CLXX.

An Act further to provide for the Instruction of Youth.

SEC. 1. **BE** *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That each town in this Commonwealth, shall, at the annual March or April meeting, choose a School Committee, consisting of not less than five persons, who shall have the general charge and superintendence of all the public schools in said town; and it shall be the duty of said committee, to visit the schools in said town, which are kept through the year, at least once a quarter, for the purpose of making a careful examination of the same, and to see that the scholars are properly supplied with books; also, to inquire into the regulation and discipline of such schools, and the proficiency of the scholars therein; and it shall also be the duty of said committee to visit each of the district schools in said town, for the purposes aforesaid, on some day during the first week of the commencement thereof, and also on some day during the last two weeks of the

School Committee to be chosen, and the duty thereof.

Committee to visit schools.

same; and it shall further be the duty of one or more of said committee to visit all the schools in the town, at least once a month, for the purposes aforementioned, without giving previous notice thereof to the instructors. And it is hereby further made the duty of said committee, to require full and satisfactory evidence of the good character and qualifications of said instructors, conformably to the laws now in force relating to the subject; or to require them to furnish such other evidence of character and qualifications, as shall be equally satisfactory to said committee; and no instructor shall be entitled to receive any compensation for his service, who shall teach any of the schools aforesaid, without first obtaining from said committee a certificate of his fitness to instruct.

Further duty of committee.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the school committee of each town shall direct and determine the class books to be used in the respective classes, in the public district and town schools of the town; and the scholars sent to such schools shall be supplied by their parents, masters, or guardians, with the books prescribed for their classes; and the school committee of each town shall procure, at the expense of the town, and to be paid for out of the town treasury, a sufficient supply of such class books for the public district and town schools, and give notice of the place or places where such books may be obtained: and such book shall be supplied to scholars at such prices as merely to reimburse to the town the expense of procuring the same; and in case any scholars shall not have been furnished by his or her parent, master, or guardian, with the requisite books, every such scholar shall be supplied therewith by the school committee, at the expense of the town, and the school committee shall give notice, in writing, to the assessors of the town, of the names of the scholars so supplied by them with books, of the books so furnished, the prices of the same, and the names of the parents, masters, or guardians, who

Books furnished.

ought to have supplied the same ; and said assessors shall add the amount of the books so supplied, to the next annual tax of the parents, masters, or guardians, who ought to have supplied the same : and the amount so added shall be levied, collected, and paid into the town treasury, in the same manner as the public taxes : *Provided however,* that Proviso. in case such assessors shall be of opinion that any of such parents, masters, or guardians are not able, and cannot afford, to pay the whole expense of the books so supplied on their accounts respectively, such parents, masters, or guardians shall be exonerated from the payment of the whole, or a part of such expense, and the said assessors shall omit to add the amount of such books, or shall add only a part thereof, to the annual tax of any such parent, master, or guardian, according to the proportion of such expense, which such parent, master, or guardian shall, in their opinion, be able and can afford to pay.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That all questions arising in any district respecting the removal or the changing the scite of the district school-house, and also, where any district shall be divided by any town, all questions arising respecting the division of the district property or funds, except the property or funds accruing from donations or voluntary grants, and also, all questions arising as to the contribution or compensation to be made by the party retaining any of the estates or property of the district so divided, shall be determined in the same manner, and by the same proceedings, as are provided to determine the scite of a district school-house, by an act passed on the twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred, in addition to the act to which this is in addition. Scite of school-house.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That this act shall be in force on and after the first Monday of April next ; and all provisions of former acts, inconsist- When to be in force.

ent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed.

Report to Secretary.

Subject of report.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That the school committee, in the city of Boston, and in the several towns in this Commonwealth, be, and they hereby are, required to report to the Secretary of this Commonwealth, on the first day of June, of each year, for three years next ensuing, the amount of money paid in their respective city or towns, each preceding year, for the instruction of youth, designating, as far as is convenient or practicable, the amount paid for the instructors of public schools, the number of academies and private schools, the estimated amount of compensation of the instructors of academies and private schools, the number of school districts into which said city or town is divided, and the length of time in said year, during which, the several schools were kept in said town, the number of pupils, male and female, designating those of each sex under seven years of age, between seven and fourteen, and over fourteen; and also, what number of children, living in said city or towns respectively, over seven years of age, and under fourteen, do not attend school, and whether there are any, and what number of persons over fourteen years of age, and under twenty-one years of age, who have had a right to education in the public schools in this Commonwealth, who are unable to read or write; and that they further report, what is the average annual expense of school books for each pupil in the public schools of their said city or town, and whether there are any, and what number of children prevented from attending school by reason of such expense.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of this Commonwealth furnish to each town and city in this Commonwealth a blank form of return in manner following:

**RETURN**

OF THE

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF**

**CONCERNING SCHOOLS IN SAID TOWN.**

**NUMBER OF PUPILS IN THE TOWN SCHOOLS.**

*Females.*

From 14 up-  
wards.

From 7 to 14

Under 7.

*Males.*

From 14 and  
upwards.

From 7 to 14.

Under 7  
years.

Time of keep-  
ing schools in  
the year.

No. of public  
school dis-  
tricts.

Amount paid  
for public in-  
struction.

Number of per-  
sons over 14 years  
unable to read &  
write.

Number of per-  
sons prevented  
by expense of  
school books.

Number of chil-  
dren from 7 to  
16 not attend-  
ing school.

Expense of school  
books for each  
pupil in town  
schools.

Estimated am't  
of private tui-  
tion fees.

Estimated num-  
ber of pupils in  
private schools.

Number of acad-  
emies and pri-  
vate schools.

*School Committee.*

Att.

[Approved by the Governor, March 4, 1826.]