

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE
STATE TEACHERS' COLLEGES

UNDER CHAPTERS 47 AND 82 OF THE RESOLVES OF 1953

DECEMBER, 1953

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

RESOLVE AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION.

[CHAPTER 47]

RESOLVE PROVIDING FOR AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION RELATIVE TO THE STATE TEACHERS' COLLEGES.

Resolved, That an unpaid special commission, to consist of one member of the senate to be designated by the president thereof, two members of the house of representatives to be designated by the speaker thereof, one member of the board of education to be chosen by said board from its membership, and three suitably qualified persons to be appointed by the governor, is hereby established for the purpose of making an investigation and study relative to the state teachers' colleges, including the Massachusetts School of Art; their existing educational programs, facilities, management, charges, staffs and locations; their conformity with accepted standards of teacher training institutions; their capacity to meet present and prospective requirements for teachers in the public schools of the commonwealth; the placement of their graduates in public and private schools and in other occupations; the respective roles of the state teachers' colleges and of private institutions of higher learning in the total supply of trained teachers; temporary measures which may be taken to augment the existing supply of teachers; specific needs for the improvement or extension of the plants, facilities and equipment of the several colleges and financial requirements therefor; and the provision of adequate facilities for the state teachers' college in Boston. Nothing in this resolve shall be construed to authorize any delay in proceeding with projects previously authorized in chapter seven hundred and ninety-five of the acts of nineteen hundred and fifty, chapter seven hundred and fifty-six of the acts of nineteen hundred and fifty-one and chapter six hundred and four of the acts of nineteen hundred and fifty-two. Said commission shall be provided with adequate quarters in the state house or elsewhere, may hold public hearings, may travel within and without the commonwealth, and may expend for professional, clerical and other services and expenses such sums as may be appropriated therefor. Said commission shall report to the general court the results of its investigation and study, and its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of legislation necessary to carry such recommendations into effect by filing the same with the clerk of the house of representatives not later than the first Wednesday of December in the current year.

For the purposes of this resolve there is hereby appropriated from the General Fund the sum of five thousand dollars to be available for nineteen hundred and fifty-three and succeeding fiscal year.

Approved June 11, 1953.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE LEGISLATIVE RECESS COMMISSION APPOINTED TO STUDY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGES.

In accordance with the resolve (chapter 47 of the Resolves of 1953), the legislative recess Commission considered its purpose to be to examine all facilities available for the preparation of teachers in Massachusetts, to determine how best to meet the pressing need for a greatly increased number of qualified teachers to serve the children pouring into the schools of the Commonwealth.

The Commission has met eleven times since September 17, when it was organized, and has reviewed past reports concerned with teacher training and with the state teachers colleges. The two most recent were made by the Joint Standing Committee on Education of both Houses, which submitted its final report on March 27, 1951, and the Special Commission on the Structure of the State Government, which submitted its report on education in January, 1952. Both these studies covered more generally the Department of Education, and consequently neither one was able to consider in detail the matter of teacher preparation. But both reports recommended that something positive be done to re-establish the prestige of the present teacher training institutions. The last definitive and more inclusive study was made in 1923.

Statistics indicating the pupil population trend in the public schools, and the consequent teacher need, show that by 1959 there will be 34 per cent more children in Grades 1 to 8 than in 1952 (428,099 in 1952; 597,148 in 1959); 58 per cent more in Grades 7 to 9 and 58 per cent more in Grades 9 to 12. These figures are based on children already born.

By 1959, 14 per cent more teachers will be needed than in 1952 for Grades 1 to 8; 17 per cent more for Grades 7 to 9 and 22 per cent more for Grades 9 to 12.

In other words, there were 791 graduates of the 10 teachers colleges in June, 1952, and there is a need for approximately 4,000 teachers each year, from all sources, both state and private colleges, to fill the new classrooms and to replace those teachers leaving each year.

The Commission has interviewed twelve persons, named below, whose experience has brought them close to Massachusetts education. These men and women were questioned about the capacity of the Massachusetts state teachers colleges to meet present and future requirements for qualified teachers in the public schools of the Commonwealth. They expressed a variety of opinions, some complimentary and some highly critical. There were several points, however, on which all agreed. They were —

1. A study of the total teacher training facilities available to the State, both from state colleges and from private institutions, would be most useful. The teachers colleges must be studied from the point of view of their curriculum, their administration, their effectiveness, their recruitment efforts and their faculties. These colleges must remain a most important source of teacher supply for the Commonwealth. Such a study should be made preferably by some one from outside the State, who would combine a knowledge of both the teachers colleges and the liberal arts colleges.

2. Such a study should serve as a working blue-print for the expansion of the teacher training program, to insure a proper supply of qualified teachers for the ever-increasing enrollment of pupils, particularly in the elementary schools. This study must be specific and detailed and thoroughly positive in approach, and money to improve the facilities for teacher training should be spent according to an orderly plan in the future. The Commission feels that the hearings revealed that the morale of the teachers colleges is at a low point, because of the tendency in recent years to criticize the colleges superficially. A more constructive attitude must be adopted.

PERSONS INTERVIEWED BY THE COMMISSION.

The Commission has made every effort to get at all aspects of the difficult problem of the whole teacher preparation program in Massachusetts. It sought the opinion of representatives from the State Department of Education, the school superintendents, the taxpayers, the liberal arts colleges and the teachers colleges themselves.

The following is a list of those persons interviewed:—

- Lyman H. Ziegler, Massachusetts Taxpayers Federation.
Patrick J. Sullivan, Director of the Division of State Teachers Colleges, Massachusetts Department of Education.
John F. Bowler, assistant to the Director of the Division.
John F. Tilton, dean of Tufts College.
Cyril G. Sargent, Director of the Harvard Graduate Center for Field Studies.
Edward J. Harriman, superintendent of schools, Littleton.
Harold B. Gores, superintendent of schools, Newton.
William Sanders, superintendent of schools, Springfield.
William R. Barry, superintendent of schools, Northampton.
Frederick S. Conlin, professor at state teachers college at Westfield, president of the State Teachers College Federation.
Mrs. Alice M. Glover, professor at Framingham, and past president of the State Teachers College Federation.
Miss Madelaine M. Murphy, supervising principal of Clarke School, Swampscott.

WHAT THE 1952 GRADUATES OF THE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGES ARE DOING.

In June, 1952, there were 791 graduates of Massachusetts state teachers colleges. Of these, 628 (79.4 per cent) were teaching in Massachusetts as of December, 1952; 74 (9.4 per cent) were teaching out of state; 31 (3.9 per cent) were in graduate work as of December, 1952; 62 (7.8 per cent) had entered the armed forces; 35 (4.4 per cent) had taken other positions; 24 were married; and 35 were not employed as of December, 1952.

HOW OPINIONS ABOUT THE COLLEGES VARIED.

Opinions varied all the way from one spokesman, who called them "a catch-all for those high school graduates who cannot get into any other college," to another who maintained that the colleges get "the cream of the crop" and "are first-rate professional schools."

Some said that the teachers colleges do not take into account the needs of the local schools; that is, they train too many specialists in physical education, home economics, etc., when there is a crying need for elementary teachers.

All agreed that the salaries of the presidents of these colleges are too low to attract and retain educators of the highest calibre. Likewise, there should be adjustments made in some of the faculty salary classifications.

One of the most crucial problems brought up concerned the best way to recruit students from the high schools. The Commission was told that very often not enough is done in the high schools to encourage bright pupils to enter the teaching profession.

All agreed that the development of attractive catalogues for the colleges would help in recruiting high school graduates for teaching, and would be very important. There was high praise from all for the Future Teachers of America, an organization of high school students interested in becoming teachers.

CONCLUSION.

The Commission was not organized until September, and has been able to make only a very cursory study of the scope of this whole problem of teacher education.

It is anxious to ascertain exactly how many qualified teachers will be needed in Massachusetts in the next ten years; how many are being trained in the private colleges and universities; and how many should be trained in the state teachers colleges in order to meet the ever-increasing demand.

The Commission agrees with the 1951 report of the Joint Committee on Education, which recommended strongly that a professional survey of the state teachers colleges be undertaken to include all of the facilities available to the State for teacher preparation, and the rôle of each in a long-range educational plan.

Four eminent men in the field of education have been contacted by the Commission, all of whom would be qualified to make such a survey. They are: —

Clyde M. Hill, chairman of the Yale University Department of Education.

Robert H. Morrison, assistant commissioner for higher education for the State of New Jersey.

Francis G. Cornell, professor of education at the University of Illinois College of Education.

F. C. Rosecrance, dean of the New York University School of Education.

The last three of these men have been interviewed by the Commission. All four have conducted complete and very satisfactory studies of teacher facilities in other parts of the country. They would be willing to start on a Massachusetts survey early next year.

They estimated that the cost of such a survey would range from \$25,000 to \$80,000.

The Commission, therefore, recommends that its life be extended until December 1, 1954, to allow it to continue its work and file a final report, and it further recommends that such money be appropriated as is necessary for the survey mentioned above.

SEN. PHILIP A. GRAHAM,
Chairman.

REP. IRENE K. THRESHER,
Clerk.

REP. ROBERT X. TIVNAN.

WILLIAM E. PARK.

THERESA J. MORSE.

RUTH N. FLETCHER.

SIDNEY OSBORNE.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Four.

RESOLVE REVIVING AND CONTINUING THE SPECIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED TO MAKE AN INVESTIGATION AND STUDY RELATIVE TO THE STATE TEACHERS' COLLEGES.

1 *Resolved*, That the unpaid special commission es-
2 tablished by chapter forty-seven of the resolves of
3 nineteen hundred and fifty-three is hereby revived
4 and continued for the purpose of continuing its in-
5 vestigation and study relative to the State Teachers'
6 Colleges, including the Massachusetts School of Art,
7 as set forth in said resolve. Said commission shall be
8 provided with adequate quarters in the state house
9 or elsewhere, may hold public hearings, may travel
10 within and without the commonwealth, and may ex-
11 pend any amounts heretofore appropriated therefor,
12 and such sums as may hereafter be appropriated
13 therefor. Said commission shall report to the general
14 court the results of its investigation and study, and
15 its recommendations, if any, together with drafts of
16 legislation necessary to carry such recommendations
17 into effect by filing the same with the clerk of the house
18 of representatives not later than the first Wednesday
19 of December in the current year.

