

HOUSE No. 1946

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, March 29, 1916.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

I am informed that the Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission has submitted to your Honorable bodies a report of its doings under chapter 20 of the Resolves of 1915. This Commission, composed of public-spirited citizens of the Commonwealth, has at its own expense made very careful and intelligent study of the subject referred to it and its conclusions are entitled to great weight in considering any legislation that may be undertaken. Without attempting to repeat its various recommendations I desire to emphasize and somewhat amplify that feature of its report which relates to the holding of a world's fair or exposition.

Massachusetts has in her keeping a very great tradition and a correspondingly great responsibility goes with it. The Plymouth Landing with the principles that animated it may better than any other stand for the beginning, upon this continent, of institutions dedicated to civil and religious liberty and as the germinal colonization out of which the nation was to spring. It devolves upon us to take the lead in such a commemoration of a great historic event as shall do it justice and at the same time shall give to the world the opportunity which it is ours to give.

The immediate moment may not seem propitious for considering the holding of an international exposition with the enormous disturbance now seen in the relations of the nations to each other and when the tides of war are threaten-

ing to engulf the civilization of Europe. But it will require no extreme exercise of faith to believe that long before the time of this anniversary the nations fighting each other will be glutted with war and in close contrast with its brutal savagery, peace will seem fairer and more beautiful than before. If that is true the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims will have a dramatic fitness and the commemoration of an event of transcendent importance in the establishment of free political institutions and in the development of nations will afford a signal opportunity for the peoples of the world to celebrate the return of peace and to associate together in friendly rivalry in its arts. After the appalling catastrophe we are now witnessing and the reaction against war which will inevitably spring up in the minds of men at its close, so signal a commingling of the nations would give emphasis to the return of peace and might well lead to some effective limitation upon those causes which are likely to disturb the peace of the world.

The event and the times in which we live will conduce to make possible an international fair of the highest character. Without attempting to reproduce those features of such expositions as have been made somewhat commonplace by repetition, we should be able to have a fair which in its educational aspects, in the fine arts, in the higher forms of industry, in the reproduction of the civilizations of the different periods of the world's history and in the portrayal of the civilizations of the different nations today would easily stand without a rival. We should extend invitations to the states to join with us in the exposition and in order to give it a due international character should request the national government to invite foreign governments to participate.

I recommend legislation which shall establish an unpaid commission to be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Council, which shall be authorized to employ such permanent officers and experts as in its opinion will be necessary to perfect the plan for an exposition to consider the place where, and time when it should be held, and to make report upon the same to the Legislature on the first Wednesday of next January. Such Commission

should also have the authority to employ expert assistance for the preparation of detailed plans and estimates of cost and of a comprehensive scheme by which the exposition might best be financed, and to this end I recommend that an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars be made to be expended by the Commission, all expenditures to be submitted for the approval of the Governor and the Council. If it shall be determined to hold an exposition the said Commission should be empowered to take charge of it and to have the direction of its affairs as the representatives of the Commonwealth.

SAMUEL W. McCALL.

