

## SENATE....No. 312.

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### Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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IN SENATE, May 27, 1868.

The Joint Special Committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company, and the Report of the State Directors of the Western Railroad Corporation and Boston and Albany Railroad Company, with power to send for persons and papers, have considered the same, and

#### R E P O R T :

That the matter embraced in the Order, and referred to them, was not referred until the latter part of April, subsequent to which time the several members of the Joint Special Committee have been constantly occupied on various other committees, not leaving time to pursue and investigate this important subject.

The Committee are of the opinion that the subject is one of deep and growing interest to the people of the Commonwealth. The large cash and extraordinary stock dividend declared by the Western Railroad, and the large surplus accumulations of the Boston and Albany Railroad Company, lead to the conviction that the public have been, and still continue to be oppressed by higher rates for transportation of passengers and freight, than is consistent with the obligations of the railroad

corporation to the public, or than their chartered rights would justify.

The railroad corporations of the State, chartered by the people of the State in their legislative capacity, are amenable to the people of the State for any abuse or violation of their chartered rights and privileges.

The Committee are fully of the opinion that a thorough investigation of the matters embraced in the Order and Report to them referred, would result in great good to the people, and would aid materially in future legislation upon railroad matters.

The Committee therefore ask for full powers to sit during the recess, the power to send for persons and papers, to employ clerical assistance, and report to the next legislature.

MARSHALL WILCOX,  
DANIEL NEEDHAM,  
ROBT. C. PITMAN,

*Committee on the part of the Senate.*

JOHN Q. ADAMS,  
CHA'S J. KITTREDGE,  
MOSES FARNUM,  
WILLIAM MIXTER,  
D. D. HART,

*Committee on the part of the House.*