

SENATE.....No. 72.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *Feb.* 18, 1842.

The Joint Special Committee, to whom was referred "the Fifth Annual Report of the Board of Education, together with the Fifth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Board," have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to

REPORT:

That they do not think it necessary to enlarge on the evidence exhibited in said reports, and already in the possession of the Legislature, of the great recent improvements in the system of common school education, nor on the means and encouragements of further effort for the advancement of an object so highly regarded by every considerate citizen of the Commonwealth. In the discharge of their duty, the attention of the committee has been particularly directed to two subjects, designated in the reports as calling for immediate legislative action, viz: the continuance of the normal schools, and the extension of the system of school district libraries.

The normal schools were established by means of a donation of ten thousand dollars from a public-spirited indi-

vidual, to which was added an equal sum from the treasury of the Commonwealth. The first school was established at Lexington, in July, 1839; the second at Barre, in September of the same year, and the third at Bridgewater, in September, 1840. At the expiration of three years from their establishment, respectively, the funds as yet provided for their maintenance, will be exhausted, with the exception of a small balance. In view of the evidence possessed by themselves, in common with numbers of their fellow-citizens, of the signal success of these institutions, as far as there has yet been opportunity for the experiment to be tried, the committee have not hesitated as to the propriety of recommending that they should still be an object of the patronage of the Commonwealth, so far as to provide, at the public charge, for the salaries of the instructors.

The committee are further of opinion, that the formation, throughout the Commonwealth, of district school libraries, would be a measure attended with most beneficial results, and that it could be accomplished in a manner free from all objection, by means of the appropriation of a small portion of the school fund.

In conformity with these views, they respectfully submit the following resolves.

By order of the committee,

JOHN G. PALFREY

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-Two.

RESOLVES

Concerning Normal Schools and School District Libraries.

1. *Resolved*, That the sum of six thousand dollars annually, for three years, be, and the same is hereby appropriated to the support of normal schools, under the direction of the board of education. And his excellency, the governor, is hereby authorized, from time to time, to draw his warrant on the treasury for the same, on the application of said board.

2. *Resolved*, That the sum of fifteen dollars, to be taken from the school fund, be, and the same is hereby appropriated to every school district in the Commonwealth, to be expended in books for a school district library; and that the treasurer pay said sum for said purpose, to the order of the mayor of every city, and the selectmen of every town, for each and every school district within the same, which shall have produced evidence of having raised and appropriated fifteen dollars or more, for the same object.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *March 2, 1842.*

Passed to be engrossed.—Sent up for concurrence.

L. S. CUSHING, *Clerk.*

