

HOUSE....No. 215.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 15, 1859.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred the Order of the 23d of February, relative to High Schools, and the Order of the 5th of March, relative to employing teachers of hygiene in schools, report the accompanying Bill.

Per Order,

CHARLES W. UPHAM.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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

AN ACT

Relating to Schools.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 SECT. 1. In every town in the Commonwealth,
2 there shall be kept for at least six months in each
3 year, at the expense of said town, by a teacher or
4 teachers of competent ability and good morals, a suf-
5 ficient number of schools for the instruction of all
6 the children therein, in orthography, reading, writing,
7 English grammar, geography, arithmetic, the history
8 of the United States, and in good behavior. Physi-
9 ology and hygiene shall be taught by lectures or
10 otherwise, in all cases in which the school committee
11 shall deem it expedient.

1 SECT. 2. Every town containing two thousand
2 inhabitants and less than three thousand, shall, be-
3 sides the schools prescribed in the preceding section,
4 maintain a school for at least six months in each
5 year, to be kept by a teacher of competent ability
6 and good morals, who in addition to the branches of
7 learning before mentioned, shall give instruction in
8 general history, bookkeeping, algebra, surveying,
9 geometry, natural philosophy, chemistry, botany, the
10 civil polity of the Commonwealth, and of the United
11 States.

1 SECT. 3. Every town containing three thousand
2 inhabitants, and less than four thousand, shall be-
3 sides the schools provided for in the first section of
4 this act, maintain an annual school in character and
5 qualifications like that contemplated in the preceding
6 section. Any or all of the branches of learning re-
7 quired to be taught in towns of four thousand inhab-
8 itants, as hereinafter provided, may be taught in the
9 schools provided for in this and the last section, at
10 the discretion of the school committee.

1 SECT. 4. Every town containing four thousand
2 inhabitants and upwards, shall, besides the schools
3 prescribed in the first section of this act, maintain an
4 annual school, the teacher or teachers of which, shall
5 in addition to the branches herein before required,
6 give instruction in the Latin, Greek and French lan-
7 guages, astronomy, geology, rhetoric, logic, intellec-
8 tual and moral science and political economy. The
9 schools provided for in this and the two preceding sec-
10 tions, shall be kept for the benefit of all the inhabi-
11 tants of the town, and at such convenient place, or

12 alternately at such places in the town as the inhabi-
13 tants at their annual meeting may determine.

1 SECT. 5. Two adjoining towns, having not more
2 than two thousand inhabitants each, may establish a
3 union high school, whenever a majority of the citi-
4 zens of each town, in meetings called for the purpose,
5 shall so determine. The school committees of the
6 two towns, shall together have the control and man-
7 agement of said school, and shall determine the loca-
8 tion thereof. The expense of the erection or hiring
9 of a building therefor, and of furnishing and keeping
10 the same in repair, and the expense of maintaining
11 the said school, shall be borne by the two towns, in
12 such proportions as the said school committees may
13 agree upon and determine.

1 SECT. 6. The provisions of this chapter shall ap-
2 ply to cities, so far as applicable thereto, except as it
3 may be otherwise provided in their respective char-
4 ters, or acts in amendment thereof.