

# HOUSE . . . . No. 210.

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 23, 1887.

The Committee on Prisons, to whom was referred the petitions of officials and citizens of cities and towns in Essex County relative to the matter of the Ipswich House of Correction and Receptacle for the Insane, report as follows:—

The only order relative to the matter is that of Mr. J. Donovan of Boston, introduced in the House Jan. 26, 1887, a copy of which is as follows:—

“That the Committee on Prisons consider the expediency of abolishing the Jail, House of Correction and Insane Hospital at Ipswich.”

A copy of the petitions hereinbefore referred to is as follows:—

*“To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled.*

“The undersigned citizens of \_\_\_\_\_, in the county of Essex, having been informed that there is a proposition before your honorable bodies to abolish the House of Correction and Receptacle for the Insane at Ipswich, and to erect a new house of correction at an expense of more than \$250,000, respectfully remonstrate against the passage of an act for the purpose, and represent that upon their knowledge or information the present House of Correction, built in the most substantial manner, is, as

it has been for many years, suitable for the purpose; and that modern improvements can be made in the same, if deemed necessary, at a comparatively small expense. They further represent that the subject of abolishing the Receptacle for the Insane has not been considered by the people of the county, and request that the subject be referred to the next Legislature, that the citizens of the county have opportunity to consult and consider the expediency of abolishing the institution, and if abolished to make provisions for the insane now there."

Your committee submit that said petition is at variance with the order before it, and misrepresents the facts; and particularly relative to the statements concerning the abolition of the Insane Hospital. Your committee would state that last year the same matter was considered, and report made for its abolition; that upon the vote being taken in the House, your committee is informed and believe that but one member, and he from Essex County, voted against the same; that the Senate concurred therein, but subsequently reconsidered its vote. Yet at the hearing before your committee, when informed of these facts, the party responsible for the circulation of said petitions, while stating that had he known the facts as herein recited, he would not have circulated the petitions, yet refused to correct the same, that the matter might be properly presented to the people of Essex County. Your committee feel that the matter has been misrepresented throughout said county, that therefore the petitions cannot represent the sentiment of the people thereof, and submit that they should be relieved of the further consideration of said petitions.

For the Committee,

CHARLES H. SYMONDS.



