

Proviso.

are hereby repealed: *provided*, that this act shall not affect any prosecution pending at the time of its passage, or any rights acquired, or liabilities incurred under any existing law, on account of any thing done before this repeal takes effect.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect from and after its passage. [*Approved March 28, 1857.*]

Chap. 38.

AN ACT to amend "An Act concerning the Indexing of Deeds."

Be it enacted, &c., as follows:

Act amended.

The second section of chapter two hundred and ninety-two of the Acts passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, entitled, "An Act concerning the Indexing of Deeds," is hereby so amended, that the county commissioners in each county, shall have power, whenever they shall deem it expedient, to extend the time within which the copies of indexes required by said section, shall be made: *provided, however*, that such copies shall in all cases be made for each year, within the next succeeding year. [*Approved March 31, 1857.*]

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Chap. 39.

AN ACT to extend the time within which to locate and construct the New York and Boston Railroad.

Be it enacted, &c., as follows:

Time for location and construction extended.

SECTION 1. The time for locating and constructing the New York and Boston Railroad, is hereby extended one year beyond the time now required by law.

Time for assessing damages extended.

SECTION 2. The fifty-eighth section of the thirty-ninth chapter of the Revised Statutes, is, in this case, hereby extended, so as to allow all persons, whose lands or other property have been taken for the purposes of this road, one year, after the entire road is completed and opened for use, within which to apply to the county commissioners to estimate their damages.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect from and after its passage. [*Approved March 31, 1857.*]

Chap. 40.

AN ACT in relation to Public Reports and Documents.

Be it enacted, &c., as follows:

Annual reports of public officers, &c., to be made to secretary of Commonwealth.

SECTION 1. All annual reports of public officers, boards or institutions, which are now required by law or custom to be made to the legislature, or to his excellency the governor, to be by him transmitted to the legislature, or to be made to the governor and council, shall hereafter include the year ending on the thirtieth day of September,

annually, and shall be submitted to the secretary of the Commonwealth on or before the fifteenth day of October, annually; and the secretary shall cause said reports to be forthwith printed, so that they may be laid before the legislature in a printed form on the first Wednesday in January, annually: *provided*, that if any of said reports shall be unnecessarily voluminous, or contain matter improper to be printed, the secretary is hereby authorized and required, with the authority of the governor and council, to omit such portions as may be unnecessary or improper, in order to reduce the printed report to a reasonable length and a proper form.

Secretary to cause reports to be printed.

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SECTION 2. The said documents shall be styled the "Public" series of documents, and shall be numbered separately from the "Senate" and "House" series; and the secretary shall include in said series the annual abstracts prepared in his office, and shall cause the same to be printed before the first Wednesday in January annually.

Style and number of documents.

SECTION 3. Any commission now established or which may hereafter be established, shall make reports at the time and in the manner prescribed in the first section of this act.

Reports of commissioners.

SECTION 4. The first section of this act shall not apply to the annual reports of the treasurer, auditor, attorney-general, board of education, board of agriculture and adjutant-general, which shall be made at the times now required by law, nor to the annual address of his excellency the governor; but said officers are hereby authorized to require any portion of their reports to be put in type previous to the first Wednesday in January, annually, when the same can be done consistently with the public advantage.

Act not to apply to certain officers.

SECTION 5. The first section of this act shall not apply to the annual reports of the railroad corporations; but said reports shall include the year ending on the thirtieth day of November, annually, as now provided by law; but in lieu of the present provisions of law respecting the delivery and printing of said reports, it is hereby enacted that the several railroad corporations shall cause their reports to be printed at their own expense, in conformity to the style and form heretofore usual; and each corporation shall deliver to the secretary of the Commonwealth, annually, one thousand copies of its report in a printed form, on or before the first Wednesday in January.

Act not to apply to railroad corporations.

Railroad corporations to print their annual reports, and furnish one thousand copies to secretary.

SECTION 6. Any railroad corporation, which shall neglect to make its report as prescribed in the foregoing section, shall be liable to the penalty provided in the second section of chapter one hundred and two of the acts of eighteen hundred and fifty-one, relating to the annual reports from railroad corporations.

Penalty for neglecting to make report.

Secretary to prepare abstract of returns.

SECTION 7. The secretary of the Commonwealth shall prepare an abstract of the returns from the railroad corporations, in the form now prescribed by law, and shall submit the same to the legislature, in a printed form, as soon as practicable after the returns are received.

Act not to apply to insurance commissioners.

SECTION 8. The first section of this act shall not apply to the annual report of the board of insurance commissioners ; but said report shall be made at the earliest practicable date after the returns are received from the several insurance companies, and shall be printed on or before the first Wednesday in January, annually.

Secretary to determine number to be printed.

Towns to be furnished with complete sets.

SECTION 9. The secretary shall determine the number of copies of said reports which shall be printed ; and in addition to the distribution which has heretofore been usual, in conformity with existing provisions of law, he shall furnish annually a complete set of the public series, in a bound volume, to every town in the Commonwealth, to be preserved in some public place in the town.

Next reports after passage of this act.

SECTION 10. The next reports of public officers, boards and institutions, made after the passage of this act, shall be made for the period, although less than a year, ending on the thirtieth day of September next, any thing contained in the first section of this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Special reports not prohibited.

SECTION 11. Nothing in this act contained shall be construed to prohibit public officers or boards, or the managers of public institutions, from making special reports at other times, in addition to their annual reports ; and it is hereby declared to be their duty to make such special reports, whenever the public interest may be subserved thereby.

Legislature may order documents printed.

SECTION 12. Nothing in this act contained shall be construed to qualify the right of either house of the legislature to order to be printed, at any time, such documents as they may see fit.

Inconsistent acts repealed.

SECTION 13. All acts and parts of acts, and all provisions of law, inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed. [*Approved April 2, 1857.*]

Chap. 41.

AN ACT in relation to the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Be it enacted, &c., as follows :

Election of corresponding members.

SECTION 1. Nothing in the act of incorporation of the Massachusetts Historical Society, shall prevent said society from electing associate or corresponding members residing without the limits of this Commonwealth, or honorary members residing either within or without said limits, or from

Honorary members.