

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING THE

EXTRA SESSION OF 1853, AND SESSION OF 1854.



Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1854.

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

NO. 13.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND
FIFTY-FOUR.

AN ACT to provide for the appointment of a Superintendent of Common Schools, and for County Conventions of Teachers.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :

SECTION 1. There shall be appointed by the governor and council, a superintendent of common schools, who shall be duly sworn, and whose term of office shall continue for three years from the first day of May next ; and on the expiration of said term, or the occurrence of a vacancy in said office by death, resignation or removal, a new appointment shall be made for a like term of three years.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of the superintendent
2 to devote his time to the improvement of common
3 schools, and the promotion of the general interests of
4 education in this state. He shall carefully investigate
5 the operation of our school laws; collect information
6 in regard to the arrangement of school districts, the
7 location and construction of school houses, and the
8 use of the best school apparatus; consult and advise
9 with superintending school committees on the selec-
10 tion of text books adapted to the wants of schools,
11 and on the methods of ascertaining the qualifications
12 of teachers, and of visiting and examining schools;
13 inquire into the most approved modes of teaching,
14 and the best means of training and qualifying teachers
15 for their duties; examine the returns made by super-
16 intending school committees to the office of the sec-
17 retary of state, and obtain from them such facts and
18 statistics as may be useful; and, in general, procure
19 information from every available source, for the im-
20 provement of common schools.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the superintendent,
2 by correspondence with teachers, school officers and
3 others, and by public addresses from time to time, in
4 different parts of the state, to disseminate the infor-

5 mation he may have acquired, and endeavor to
6 awaken a more general interest in public education.

SECT. 4. The superintendent shall annually, prior
2 to the session of the legislature, make a report to the
3 governor and council of the results of his inquiries
4 and investigations, and of the facts obtained from the
5 school returns, including such suggestions and re-
6 commendations as in his judgment will best promote
7 the improvement of common schools.

SECT. 5. The superintendent shall receive an an-
2 nual salary of twelve hundred dollars, payable quar-
3 terly ; and he shall render an account of his traveling,
4 and other necessary expenses, to the governor and
5 council, to be by them audited, and paid out of the
6 treasury of the state.

SECT. 6. The superintendent shall prepare blank
2 forms for all returns which are required by law, or
3 which he may deem necessary, to be made by school
4 officers and teachers ; and such blank forms shall be
5 printed and distributed by the secretary of state.

SECT. 7. It shall be the duty of all superintending
2 school committees, supervisors, and district commit-
3 tees, whose annual reports shall be printed, to forward
4 copies thereof to the superintendent.

SECT. 8. The superintendent shall hold, annually,
2 in each county, a teachers' convention, to continue
3 in session one week ; and it shall be his duty to give
4 due notice of such convention, to all teachers, and
5 persons proposing to become such, and to invite their
6 attendance for the purpose of mutual consultation,
7 discussion, and instruction ; and for that of receiving
8 lectures and addresses, on subjects relating to educa-
9 tion, and the duties of teachers.

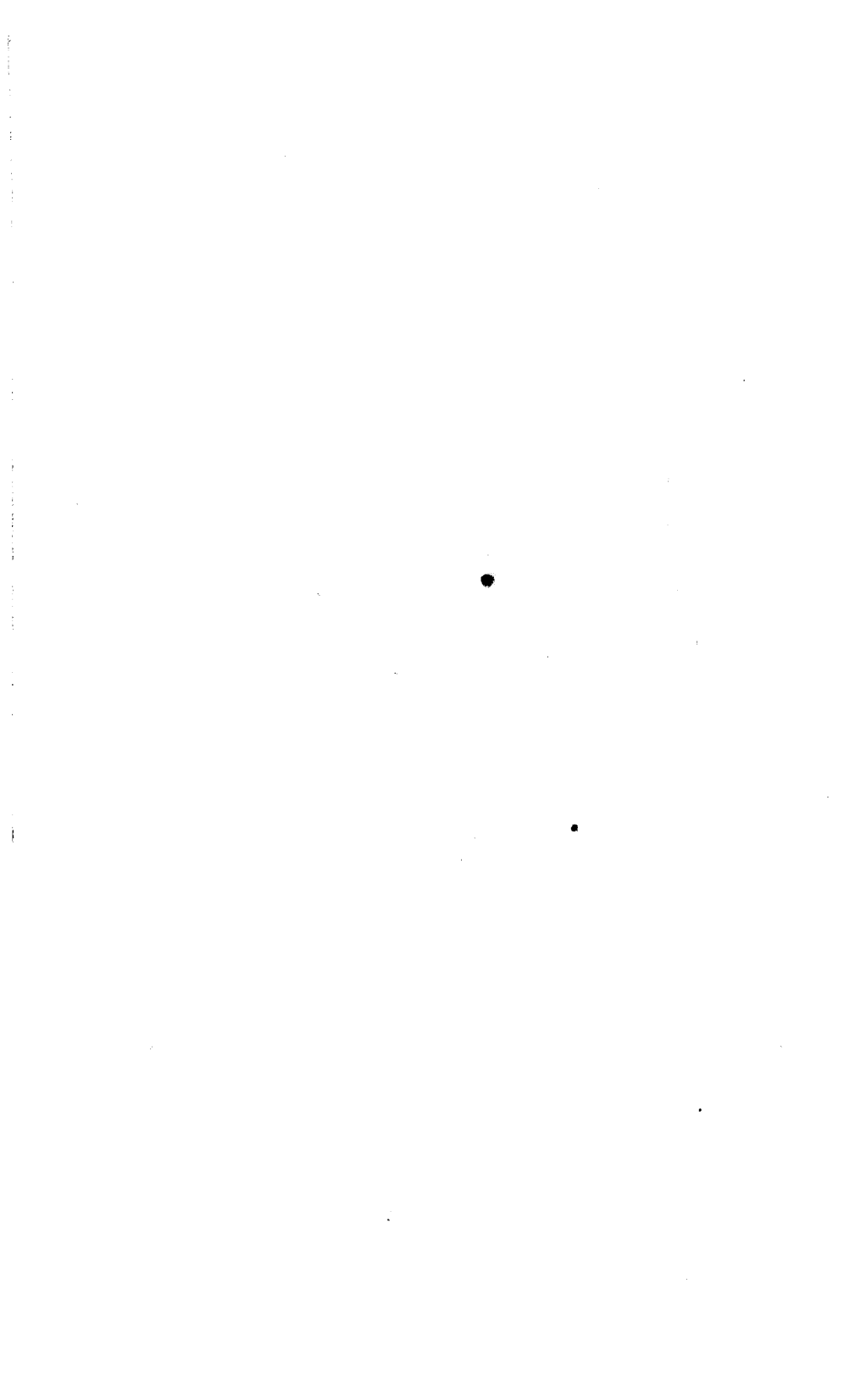
SECT. 9. The superintendent shall attend and have
2 the charge of each convention, and shall employ
3 suitable instructors and lecturers, to instruct and ad-
4 dress those who may there assemble, with the view of
5 aiding them in qualifying themselves for a better and
6 more successful discharge of their duties as teachers.

SECT. 10. For the purpose of defraying the expense
2 of the teachers' convention, there shall be annually
3 appropriated the sum of two thousand dollars, to be
4 expended by the superintendent ; and he shall render
5 to the governor and council an annual account of his
6 expenditure of said appropriation, to be by them ex-
7 amined and audited.

SECT. 11. The act entitled "An act establishing a
2 commissioner of common schools in each county in

3 the state," passed the twenty-sixth day of April, in
4 the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred
5 and fifty-two, is hereby repealed.

SECT. 12. This act shall take effect and be in force
2 from and after its approval by the governor.



STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 31, 1854.

This bill, reported by Mr. Torsey from the committee on Education, was read once, and Tuesday next, ten o'clock, assigned for a second reading, and

ORDERED, That 350 copies of said bill be printed for the use of the Legislature.

WILLIAM TRAFTON, *Secretary.*