

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Seventieth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 312

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND ONE.

RESOLVE in favor of Summer Training Schools for teachers
and the distribution of educational documents.

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

Resolved, That the sum of two thousand five hundred
2 (\$2,500) be appropriated, annually, from the state school
3 fund to defray the expenses of holding at least four
4 summer training schools for teachers and for the purpose
5 of preparing and distributing among the teachers of the
6 schools and school officers of this state, outlines, sugges-
7 tions and directions concerning the management, discipline
8 and methods employed in teaching, for the purpose of
9 promoting improved systems of instruction; said schools

10 to be conducted by and said documents to be prepared
11 and distributed under the direction of the state superin-
12 tendent of public schools. The governor and council are
13 hereby authorized to draw their warrant from time to
14 time for the expenditure of said sum, upon the presenta-
15 tion of bills properly avouched by said superintendent.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

A sum equal to the one named in this resolve has been spent for the following purposes during the past year :

Six summer schools were maintained for two weeks each—twelve weeks in all—with an aggregate attendance of nearly 1,100 teachers. Instruction was given in the common school branches, literature, psychology, pedagogy, nature studies, penmanship, physiology and hygiene, and art, together with outlines in methods and illustrations of devices for teaching the same. The service rendered by these schools has received the heartiest commendations of superintendents and citizens who have had opportunities of seeing the improvements they have wrought. Their best work is found in the fact that they influenced a large number of teachers to continue their education in secondary schools and higher institutions of learning. The schools were taught and managed by eight instructors and one conductor.

There are 15,000 people in the northeastern part of the state who speak a foreign language. Until recently the English language was seldom used in conducting the work in the schools located in this section. It has been necessary to inspect 110 schools in this territory, provide the teachers and pupils with circulars, pamphlets and other documents needed in carrying on their work, and assist in other ways in conducting the schools as provided by statute. The results secured are reasonably satisfactory.

The school improvement leagues of Maine have a membership of about thirty thousand at the present time. These leagues have enlarged and graded, and surrounded with suitable fences, a large number of school grounds, papered and painted many schoolrooms, purchased thousands of volumes of useful books, and reproductions of pictures of merit, besides providing maps, charts, globes, and other material and apparatus needed for the efficient administration of the schools. It has rendered its greatest service by being

instrumental in reviving the old-time enthusiasm for, and pride in, the local school. The prosecution of the work of the leagues has made necessary the preparation and distribution of a large number of documents.

On pages 48-55 of the report of this department for 1900 will be found a detailed statement of the work done in complying with an order passed by the legislature of 1899. These returns show that the amount of the permanent school fund, as reported by each municipality, is \$335,742.57, and that the annual interest on the same is \$19,506.42. The record reflects great credit upon the officials of some towns, and indicates that gross carelessness has deprived certain communities of a legitimate source of income for the maintenance of common schools.

In the pamphlet entitled "Synopsis of Documents Issued by the Educational Department," will be found a detailed statement of the contents of publications prepared by the department. "A Plan for the Study of Local History," the pamphlet on school improvement leagues, together with the one giving a detailed statement of the work done by this organization, and "The plan of Work and Evidences of Improvement" are among the last issued. The department has sought to stimulate an interest in the schools by sending this material to teachers, school officials and other citizens.

The above paragraphs give a partial list of the lines of work upon which this fund has been expended.

This appropriation is made from the common school fund.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
AUGUSTA, March 6, 1901.

Reported by Mr. GILMORE of Turner, from Committee on Education,
and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*