

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

EXTRA SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 1853,

AND THE

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1854.

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Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,  
Feb. 26, 1840, and March 16, 1842.  
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Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1854.

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE.

1854.

any way impair the powers given to the board of trustees, in the act to which this is additional. CHAP. 89.

SECT. 2. The costs of transporting to the reform school, boys or youth sentenced to that institution, shall be paid out of the treasuries of the respective counties where such boys or youth shall be convicted, in the same manner as the costs of conveying prisoners to the several county jails are now by law paid; and the county commissioners of the several counties shall have power to examine and allow all such costs as may appear to them to be reasonable. Transportation,
how paid.

[Approved April 17, 1854.]

Chapter 89.

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:

SECT. 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. Superintendent
of common
schools, appoint-
ment and term
of office.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of the superintendent to devote his time to the improvement of common schools and the promotion of the general interests of education in this state. He shall carefully investigate the operation of our school laws; collect information in regard to the arrangement of school districts, the location and construction of school houses and the use of the best school apparatus; consult and advise with superintending school committees on the selection of text books adapted to the wants of schools, and on the methods of ascertaining the qualifications of teachers, and of visiting and examining schools, inquire into the most approved modes of teaching, and the best means of training and qualifying teachers for their duties; examine the returns made by superintending school committees to the office of the secretary of state, and obtain from them such facts and statistics as may be useful, and in general, procure information from every available source, for the improvement of common schools. —duties of.

CHAP. 89.

Superintendent
of common
schools, duties
of.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the superintendent, by correspondence with teachers, school officers and others, and by public addresses from time to time in different parts of the state, to disseminate the information he may have acquired, and endeavor to awaken a more general interest in public education.

—report of.

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

—salary of.

SECT. 5. The superintendent shall receive an annual salary of twelve hundred dollars, payable quarterly; and he shall render an account of his traveling and other necessary expenses to the governor and council, to be by them audited and paid out of the treasury of the state.

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

Superintending
school commit-
tees, duties of.

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

Teachers'
conventions.

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

—duties of
superintendent
in regard to.

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

—expenses, how
defrayed.

SECT. 10. For the purpose of defraying the expense of the teachers' conventions, there shall be annually appropriated the sum of two thousand dollars, to be expended by the superintendent; and he shall render to the governor and council an

annual account of his expenditure of said appropriation, to be by them examined and audited.

SECT. 11. The act entitled "An act establishing a commissioner of common schools, in each county in the state," passed the twenty-sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two, is hereby repealed.

Act establishing
commissioners of
common schools,
repealed.

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

[Approved April 17, 1854.]

Chapter 90.

An act in relation to costs in real and mixed actions.

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

SECT. 1. In all real or mixed actions now pending, or which may be hereafter commenced, in which the tenant shall prove that he and those under whom he claims, have been in the open, notorious and exclusive possession of the demanded premises for a period of forty years next preceding the commencement of the demandant's action, it shall be the duty of the jury to inquire into and decide as to the fact of possession aforesaid, and if they find that the tenant, and those under whom he claims, had occupied the premises, claiming to hold the same adversely against all persons in fee simple, they shall return their verdict accordingly; and in case they find that the tenant, and those under whom he claims, have so occupied, the demandant or demandants shall recover no costs.

Tenancy
claimed for 40
years, fact in
regard to pos-
session, how
determined.

SECT. 2. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

SECT. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval by the governor.

[Approved April 18, 1854.]