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ST. MARY'S BEACON

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION—\$2.00 per annum in advance. No subscription will be received for a shorter period than six months, and no paper will be discontinued until all arrears are paid except at the option of the publisher.

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A crop grower and improver of the soil. For TOBACCO, GRAIN, GRASSES and ROOT CROPS, it has no superior.

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CERTIFICATES.
Morgans, St. Mary's co., Md.,
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Messrs. Neale, Harris & Co.,
Gentlemen—I used the Patapasco Guano on my tobacco crop last year. I applied it at the rate of 200 lbs per acre, side by side with the same quantity of Peruvian Guano. I saw no difference in the growth of the tobacco at cutting time. When I stripped it, I found the tobacco grown from Patapasco had cured much finer than that grown from "Peruvian," and when sold, it brought a higher price.

Most respectfully,
C. J. RUSSELL.

On Ist, Cumberland co., Va.,
Bechtold, 18th, 1867.

Messrs. D. T. Williams & Co., Richmond Va.
Gentlemen—The Patapasco Guano purchased from you was used on my tobacco crop at the rate of 200 lbs per acre, side by side with the same quantity of Peruvian Guano. I saw no difference in the growth of the tobacco at cutting time. When I stripped it, I found the tobacco grown from Patapasco had cured much finer than that grown from "Peruvian," and when sold, it brought a higher price.

Most respectfully,
C. L. GLOON.

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L. D. ROBINSON,
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(LATE OF VIRGINIA.)
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—AND—
AGENT FOR THE SALE OF LANDS,
No 55 Pratt St., near Commerce,
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Liberal Advances made on Con-
signments.
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FOR SALE AND RENT.
A small stock of goods for sale at Ed-
ward Tubman's old stand. This is the
HOUSE at this place is for rent. Apply to
A. C. CLARKE.
April 16, 1868—41.

State Laws.

LAWS—GENERAL.

PASSED BY THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MD.
At the January Session, 1868.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.
CHAPTER 407.

An Act to add a new Article to the Code of Public General Laws, to be entitled "Public Education," providing a general system of Free Public Schools for the State of Maryland, and to repeal all laws inconsistent therewith.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That there shall be throughout the State of Maryland a general system of free public schools, according to the provisions of this act.

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, that this act shall be added to the Code of Public General Laws, under the title "Public Education," and that all existing laws inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

TITLE I.—SUPERVISOR.—CHAPTER I.

Section 1. Educational matters affecting a county shall be under the control of a Board of County School Commissioners, one of whom shall be chosen as the President of said board, and a person not a member of said board shall be elected to serve as secretary and treasurer.

Sec. 2. And school district boards, composed of three persons, one of whom shall be the School Commissioner of the election district in which the school-house is situated.

HOW THE OFFICERS ARE DESIGNATED AND REMOVED.—CHAPTER II.

County Boards.

Sec. 1. The Board of County School Commissioners shall be composed of one commissioner for each election district, to be elected by the people thereof at each general election for members of the General Assembly, to serve for two years from the 1st day of January next succeeding said election, and until their successors are duly qualified, and the time intervening from the passage of this act until the next general election said School Commissioners shall be appointed by the County Commissioners of the respective counties.

Sec. 2. The two school district trustees shall be elected by the legal voters of the school-house district, at such time and in such manner as hereinafter set forth.

CHAPTER III.
County School Commissioners.

Section 1. The school under the charge of the Board of County School Commissioners for each county shall respectively be designated as the school district No. 1, No. 2, &c., of the respective counties. The county board shall hold four sessions a year, each session shall continue not longer than two days, and each commissioner shall receive three dollars per day for each day of his attendance, and shall be paid by the School Commissioners out of the school fund. All the property, real estate, effects, money, funds, claims and State bonds now vested by law in the school authorities of any county for the use and benefit of public, primary, free or high schools are hereby transferred to and vested in the Board of County School Commissioners and their successors in office. And it shall be the duty of the school authorities aforesaid to convey, transfer and pay over all such property, real estate, effects, money, funds, claims and State bonds to the Board of County School Commissioners. If any of the parties aforesaid shall refuse to comply with the provisions of this section, the Board of County School Commissioners shall immediately apply to the Judge of the Circuit Court for the writ of mandamus to compel obedience hereto; provided nevertheless, that the titles to all school-houses and lots and all personal property now held by the aforesaid school authorities shall remain to the said Board of County School Commissioners without any formal conveyance.

Sec. 2. The Board of County School Commissioners shall have the general superintendence of all the schools of the county, and of school-houses and district libraries; they shall pay the salaries of teachers of the counties, distribute the school books, and perform such other duties as may hereafter be enumerated. The County Examiner shall be the secretary of the Board of County School Commissioners, and shall keep the minutes of their proceedings.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer of the County Board shall give bond to the State of Maryland, with at least two sureties, to be approved by the Board of County School Commissioners, in such penal sum as the Board of County School Commissioners shall determine, with the condition that he will faithfully perform the duties of Treasurer, pay over and apply all moneys that shall come to his hands or care as Treasurer, to such persons and in such manner as the said Board of County School Commissioners may, under the provisions of this act direct; and that he will keep a full account of all moneys received and paid by him, and of all matters relating to the duties of his office, and preserve the same, and all vouchers relating thereto, and deliver up all books and vouchers relating to his office to his successors.

Sec. 4. The State school fund is primarily intended, under this act, to pay the salaries of the teachers of the school

districts, and to provide school books and stationery for the children of the State. It is, however, in apportioning the said State school fund among the different counties and the city of Baltimore, the share of any county should prove inadequate for the purposes aforesaid, then the County Commissioners of such county are hereby authorized, empowered, directed and required to levy and collect such a tax upon the assessable property of such county as the Board of County School Commissioners shall designate as such, to make good the deficiency, and to pay quarterly, on the days fixed for the payment of the State school fund to the several counties, the amount so levied and collected over to the treasurer of the said Board of County School Commissioners, in order that the schools of such counties may be kept open for the time herein set forth, and said tax shall be levied and collected as other taxes for the same purpose, and the legal voters of any county to decide upon the imposition of a tax for the erection and maintenance of a county high school, or for any other educational purpose affecting and concerning the county generally; said tax to be levied and collected as aforesaid, and to be paid to the treasurer of the Board of County School Commissioners as aforesaid.

Sec. 5. For the purpose of ascertaining the sense of the people of a county in regard to any proposition intended to effect public education in said county, the Board of County School Commissioners shall cause such proposition to be submitted to the voters of said county at the general election next ensuing; provided said proposition and notice of election be published in all the newspapers of said county once a week for four successive weeks next prior to the day of said election; and said Board of County School Commissioners shall cause to be printed and placed at each poll in said county, on the day of said election, before the opening of said poll, a sufficient number of ballots having on them "For" or "Against" the proposition, in words accurately describing the same. And the judges of the polls shall receive, deposit, and return to the clerk of the Circuit Court of said county, in the same manner and subject to the same regulations as are provided by law in case of general election for members of the General Assembly. And said clerk of the Circuit Court shall return the same to the Board of County School Commissioners and to the Board of County School Commissioners at their first meeting respectively held after said election. And the County Commissioners of said county shall lay on the property of said county, and collect the same as other taxes, are levied and collected, a sum sufficient to defray the expenses of said election and publication, as certified to them by the Board of County School Commissioners.

Sec. 6. In all cases where the county has not been properly divided into school districts, and full records of the boundaries thereof have not been made and recorded, the Board of County School Commissioners shall appoint a committee, in their opinion they deem it necessary, consisting of three persons of intelligence and sound judgment, members of their own body or otherwise, who shall divide the county into suitable school districts, define and describe the boundaries of each district, and that no school district shall contain a greater area than four miles square, unless a part of it be located in a thinly settled region. In the formation of the school districts, the committee shall take into consideration the most suitable place for the school-house, the general features of the country, and shall make each school district of such size and form as will best accommodate the population within its bounds. The committee shall make an accurate description of the bounds of the school districts accompanied by a plat, and shall report the same to the Board of County School Commissioners, who shall thereupon give notice to all the newspapers of the county at what time they will meet to hear application for a change of boundaries, which applications shall be made in writing, and within two months from the date of the first meeting of the Board of County School Commissioners. When the applications shall have been made and considered, the Board of County School Commissioners may then change the boundaries of the school districts, and revise the description, or they may, without application, make such change as may be deemed important, or they may ratify and confirm the report of the committee. The description of the boundaries of school districts prepared by the committee shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose by the Secretary of the Board of County School Commissioners. In those counties where no newspaper is published, the notice of application for a change of boundaries shall be published in such a manner as the Board of County School Commissioners may decide. Whenever it may be necessary, the Board of County School Commissioners shall employ a surveyor to aid the committee in the performance of such duty, and they shall allow each member of the committee and the surveyor such compensation for their services as may be just and proper. The cost of dividing the county shall be paid by the School Commissioners out of the school fund of the county. If a county has already been divided into school districts, and it may be necessary to revise the same, the Board of County School Commissioners shall have full power to make such revision or alterations as may be necessary to accommodate the population and increase the efficiency of the schools. A full description of such changes and alterations shall also be made and recorded as aforesaid.

Sec. 7. The Board of County School Commissioners shall examine any charge affecting the moral character of any teacher within their county, first giving the teacher reasonable notice of the charge and an opportunity to defend himself; and if the charge be sustained, shall annul the teacher's certificate granted in the county in which he is teaching, by whomsoever granted, and shall give notice thereof to the principal of the State Normal School. In all cases where the trustee thereof to the principal of the State Normal School, from any cause, refuse or neglect to exercise their functions, and keep in operation the school committed to their care, the Board of County School Commissioners shall be vested with all the rights of the delinquent trustee, and shall take charge of and manage the school until the trustee be elected and qualified, and shall the incumbents give assurance of a return to their duty.

Sec. 8. It shall be the duty of each teacher to present in tabular form the condition of his school to the Board of County School Commissioners at each of its quarterly meetings. These reports shall be filed and preserved by the board, and used by the President of the board in making up his annual report to the principal of the State Normal School.

Sec. 9. Whenever the number of children attending school in any school district is greater than one hundred, then the Board of County School Commissioners may, with the consent of the trustees, establish schools of different grades and determine into which school each pupil shall be admitted; or the school district may be divided. And whenever the average attendance in any school for any two consecutive quarters is less than ten pupils, then said school may be closed by the Board of County School Commissioners, and the trustees of the district may keep the school open in part at the expense of the district, and shall receive their proportion of the school fund for said school, rating a full school at twenty-five scholars.

Sec. 10. The Board of County School Commissioners shall publish annually, in all the papers of the county, a statement of the moneys received and expended, setting forth all the financial operations of the district; and if there be no newspaper within the limits of the county, then they shall publish the same in such other form as may be determined, and forward a copy to the principal of the State Normal School.

CHAPTER IV.
The Board of School House District Trustees.

Section 1. For the purpose of electing two trustees of the school-house district, and deciding such other questions as may arise, an election by ballot shall be held in every school district on the first Saturday of the month of May, at 3 P. M., in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, and on the first Saturday in May in every year thereafter, at which every registered voter having a legal residence therein shall be entitled to vote. And the School Commissioners for the several counties shall give at least ten days' public notice of such elections by advertisement in the newspapers of the county or had on the day aforesaid, then the Board of County School Commissioners shall appoint said trustees.

Section 2. The School District Boards shall have the care and control of all houses and lands connected therewith, intended for school purposes, within the limits of their respective districts, also of the furniture, apparatus and other school property belonging to the district. They shall attend to all necessary repairs, and charge the cost among the legal owners of the school, to be paid out of the tax levied upon the assessable property of the county as herein provided for; provided that when repairs are to be paid for out of a county school tax the amount to be expended for said repairs shall be determined by the Board of School Commissioners before the repairs are made.

The Board shall employ a teacher from among those persons who hold the required certificate; they shall exercise a general supervision over their respective schools and visit them frequently, and shall cause instruction to be given for ten months in the year. And the County Commissioners shall provide by general county taxation for school houses in the several districts to be paid from the school fund of the county.

Sec. 3. Every school-house shall be built and furnished according to plans and drawings issued from the office of the Principal of the State Normal School, or according to plans from the Board of County School Commissioners, that proper regard may be had to light and ventilation, and other matters that conduce to the comfort, health and good order of the pupils.

Sec. 4. Every school-house site must be provided with suitable outbuildings.

Sec. 5. No school-house shall be used for any other than public school purposes and school district meetings.

Sec. 6. Contiguous portions of two or more school-house districts may, with the consent of the Board of County School Commissioners, combine and form a new school-house district, and when thus formed the said new school-house district shall be invested with all the rights and powers hereinbefore set forth as pertaining to such districts; provided that the new school-house district thus formed, or said district from which it may be formed, shall not contain less than thirty-five legal resident voters.

CHAPTER V.
School House Sites.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the School District Board, with the consent of

the Board of county school commissioners, to select a suitable school house site in each district whenever the necessities of the public schools demand a change of site or sites already built upon, or a new school house to be built.

Sec. 2. The Board of county school commissioners may receive donations of such sites or locations for school-houses, or of houses already built, adapted to school purposes, or suitably located, or may purchase the same; but in no case shall any site be built upon, or any house be occupied until a good and sufficient title shall have been obtained for the same, in the corporate name of the Board of county school commissioners.

Sec. 3. When land shall be required for a school-house lot, and the school District Board shall from any cause be unable to contract with the owner thereof, the Board of county school commissioners may apply for a writ of *ad quod damnum* to the clerk of the circuit court for the county, who shall forthwith issue the same, and the sheriff shall execute said writ and return an inquisition describing the land and stating the amount of damages to be paid to the owner; and the judge of the circuit court for the county may at any time after the return of the inquisition, in term or during recess, hear a motion to confirm such inquisition on such notice to the parties as may be direct, and confirm or quash the same; and if he quashes the inquisition he shall order a new one forthwith to be taken; but no lot so taken or confirmed shall exceed in the whole one acre, including the land occupied by the school building.

Sec. 4. In all cases when school-house sites are thus purchased or condemned, the cost thereof shall be paid as other school-house property is paid for.

CHAPTER VI.
Schools.

Section 1. In every school-house district in each county, established as herebefore provided, there shall be kept for ten months in each year one or more schools, according to population, which shall be free to all white youth over six and under eighteen years of age.

Sec. 2. In every district school there shall be taught orthography, reading, writing, English grammar, geography, arithmetic, history of the United States, and the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Maryland, and good behavior, algebra, book-keeping, natural philosophy, vocal music, drawing, physiology, the laws of health and of domestic economy shall also be taught whenever the school district Boards shall deem it expedient.

Sec. 3. Whenever a school numbers over sixty children an assistant teacher shall be employed; and then for every additional forty children one additional teacher shall be appointed; and the Board of county school commissioners shall direct the division of the people so as to form a graded school.

Sec. 4. Public examinations shall be held in each school, once in each term, of which due notice shall be given, that parents and others interested in public education may attend.

Sec. 5. Schools shall be kept open each week day except Saturday, for six hours, and the hours for teaching shall be regulated by the several district boards.

Sec. 6. Any person who shall disturb any district school in session shall, upon conviction thereof, before a justice of the peace, forfeit and pay twenty dollars, to be collected as other fines, and to be paid to the school District Board for the benefit of the school-house district, or said person shall be imprisoned until the penalty and costs be paid, not exceeding, however, thirty days.

Sec. 7. The school year shall be divided into four terms, which shall be designated the fall term, winter term, spring term and summer term, and the time of the beginning and closing of each term shall be regulated by the Board of county school commissioners; provided that the financial reports of the schools of the State shall be made up and rendered to the thirtieth day of September, inclusive, of each year; and provided further, that there shall be no change in or encroachment upon the holidays and vacation set forth and established in the following paragraph. The month of August shall be vacation throughout the whole State, and the following days shall be holidays, viz: Thanksgiving day, from Christmas eve to the first day of January, inclusive, Washington's birthday, the fourth day of July, from the Friday before Easter to the Monday after Easter, inclusive, and the Monday of Whitsuntide, and the remaining month of the vacation shall be fixed and designated by the Board of county school commissioners to subservise the convenience and advantage of their respective counties. In one term it may be necessary to open school for two or three terms, if it shall close at the end of the term, and all accounts shall be settled at the meeting of the county Board held at the end of the term.

CHAPTER VII.

Section 1. No person shall be employed as a teacher under this law unless such person shall hold a certificate of qualification issued by the examiner of the county which he proposes to teach, the principal of the State Normal School or a diploma as graduate of said Normal School.

Sec. 2. Teachers shall be appointed by the school District Board, and may be removed at any time said board may think proper, after thirty days' notice.

Sec. 3. Teachers shall enter into registers prepared for that purpose an accurate account of the names of the pupils of text books used, and branches taught, and such other statistics as may be required, and make due return thereof to the Board of county school commissioners at the end of each term; and no teacher shall be entitled to receive payment for services until the registers properly filled up and completed be so returned. Their reports shall be filed by said board for the purpose of making the annual returns to the principal of the State Normal School.

Sec. 4. The salaries of teachers of each county shall be fixed by the Board of county school commissioners.

CHAPTER VIII.
Pupils.

Section 1. All children, within the ages of six and eighteen years shall be admitted into any of the public schools of the State, the studies of which they may be able to pursue; provided that whenever these are graded, the teacher in the school of the higher grade shall determine to which school pupils shall be admitted.

Sec. 2. The School District Board shall have power to suspend and expel pupils for cause.

Sec. 3. Children living remote from the school of the district in which they reside may attend school in an adjoining district, with the consent of the trustees of the respective school districts.

Sec. 4. Every child, before it is admitted to any public school, shall produce a certificate from a regular physician that it has been properly vaccinated.

CHAPTER IX.
Text Books.

Section 1. School books shall contain nothing of a sectarian or partisan character.

Sec. 2. Each Board of County School Commissioners shall purchase the text books for their respective counties, after having examined such as may be recommended by the Board of Trustees of the State Normal School, whose duty is hereby made to present a list of books to said County Boards with their written reasons for such recommendation.

Sec. 3. They shall authorize the delivery of books and stationery to the various schools in the county upon the order of the commissioners of the election districts, and file their reports for the same to the Board of County School Commissioners, who shall publish annually in all the newspapers of the county an exhibit of the cost of the text books and the distribution thereof, and the money therefor from the several school-house districts.

Sec. 4. The Board of County School Commissioners shall keep an account of the books and stationery delivered to the several schools in their respective districts, and file their reports for the same to the Board of County School Commissioners.

Sec. 5. The Board of County School Commissioners shall publish annually in all the newspapers of the county an exhibit of the cost of the text books and the distribution thereof, and the money therefor from the several school-house districts.

TITLE II.—MODES OF SELECTING COMPETENT TEACHERS.
CHAPTER I.
Examination of Teachers.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of each Board of County School Commissioners to appoint a county examiner, whose duty it shall be to examine candidates for the position of teaching, in the presence of at least three members of the Board of School Commissioners; to give to such persons as are found qualified, under the sanction of the said board, a certificate setting forth the branches such persons are competent to teach. But no certificate shall be granted without satisfactory evidence of the moral character of the applicant.

Sec. 2. The certificate issued by each county examiner shall be numbered and registered in a book kept by the Board of County School Commissioners, and be delivered to their successors in office, and shall be denominated first or second grade, as the case may be; and the principal of the State Normal School shall keep a book in the same manner as the county examiners. Certificates of the first grade shall embrace orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, English grammar, book-keeping, algebra and natural philosophy, and the second grade shall embrace orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history and English grammar.

Sec. 3. No certificate of qualification as a teacher shall be issued to any male under nineteen years of age, or to female under seventeen years of age.

Sec. 4. No certificate shall continue in force longer than three years.

Sec. 5. The county examiner shall hold regular examinations of teachers at each quarterly meeting of the board, and at such other times as the board of County School Commissioners may direct.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of each county examiner at least twice within each school year to visit the schools in his county in counties having fifty schools or less, and once in counties having more; he shall observe the method of the teacher, and give him such practical suggestions as the circumstances may prompt; he shall, whenever possible, attend public examinations, and report quarterly, in detail, the result of his observations to the Board of County School Commissioners; he shall receive as compensation for his services as treasurer, secretary and examiner, such sum payable quarterly by the School Commissioners out of the school fund of each county, as the Board of County School Commissioners shall in their judgment deem proper.

CHAPTER II.
State Normal School.

Section 1. The city of Baltimore a State Normal School for the instruction and practice of teachers in the science of education, the art of teaching, and the use of governing schools. For the government of the normal school and the election of the principal and professors the Governor shall nominate and, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint at the present session of the General Assembly of Maryland, and at every regular session thereafter, three persons, to be styled the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Normal School; said board shall elect a treasurer, who shall also be the secretary, at a salary of \$300 per annum, who shall be held in such amount as the board may direct. The principal of said school shall receive a salary of \$2,000 per annum, payable quarterly, and the professors and teachers of the Normal School shall receive such salary as the board may decide.

Sec. 2. The sessions of the State Normal School shall be held in such building as the trustees of the Normal School may select, the rent to be charged among the incidental expenses.

Sec. 3. The faculty of the State Normal School shall consist of the principal and of two male and two female professors, who shall be appointed by the trustees of the State Normal School, and to three such salaries and perform such duties as said Board may direct; and the State superintendent now acting under the system of public instruction about to expire by limitation of the Constitution, shall transfer all school property and effects in his hands to the said principal of the Normal School.

Sec. 4. The sessions of the State Normal School shall be determined by the Board of Trustees of the State Normal School; provided, that the school shall be open for not less than nine months in each year.

Sec. 5. Students of both sexes shall be admitted to the State Normal School; females at the age of sixteen years, and males at the age of seventeen years. The students shall be appointed by the trustees of the State Normal School among the several counties and the city of Baltimore, in proportion to their respective representation in the General Assembly of the State. The students shall be selected by the several Boards of County School Commissioners and the Board of Commissioners of Public Schools of the city of Baltimore, from among persons having the scholastic qualifications herebefore required for teachers. Before any appointment shall be made the applicants shall procure the certificate of the county examiner in testimony of their scholastic proficiency, and shall also file a written declaration that their object in obtaining admission is to qualify themselves as public school teachers, and that it is their intention to engage in the profession of teaching within the State; and in case any students shall fail to fulfill the condition upon which they were admitted, they shall forfeit and pay thirty dollars for each session they have attended the Normal School; to be collected as other debts are collected, and to be applied for the benefit of the Normal School. If there be not applicants sufficient from any county, or the city, then the principal of the Normal School may fill all vacancies by selecting applicants possessing the requisite qualifications from any other portion of the State, in the proportion aforesaid.

Sec. 6. In addition to the students admitted from the counties and the city of Baltimore, who shall enjoy a privilege of the school, and be furnished with the use of the text books free of charge, there may be admitted, in the proportion of one to two of the scholars selected by the county and city boards, other persons having the requisite qualifications, who shall pay the sum of twenty-five dollars per session, and purchase their own text books, and be subject in every respect to the same rules and regulations as the other students; provided that the number of students not to exceed two hundred, and as long as this number is not reached by the State, all remaining vacancies may be filled by paying scholars to the full capacity of the school.

Sec. 7. The Board of Trustees of the State Normal School shall prescribe the course of study, and supervise the school in every particular not provided for in this law; they shall make provision for model and experimental primary and grammar schools under qualified teachers, in which the student of the Normal School shall have opportunity to practice the modes of instruction and discipline inculcated in the Normal School. The salaries of the teachers of the model and experimental schools shall be paid in part from the tuition fees derived from the pupils of said model schools.

Sec. 8. The annual sum of eight thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the support of the Normal school, to be paid in quarterly installments by the treasurer on the warrant of the comptroller, to the board of trustees of the State Normal School, to be applied to the payment of salaries and the purchase of educational apparatus, for the principal of the Normal School, for text books, stationery, fuel, light and cleaning the rooms, and other incidental expenses of the school.

Sec. 9. All donations or bequests of money or personal property, and all grants of land for the benefit of the Normal School shall be held in trust by the trustees of the Normal School.

Sec. 10. All male students of the State Normal School shall be taught military tactics, embracing the manual for infantry and the school of the company, and shall be required to introduce a

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Sec. 2. The sessions of the State Normal School shall be held in such building as the trustees of the Normal School may select, the rent to be charged among the incidental expenses.

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