

Chapter 45.

[Published March 22.]

An Act to provide for the purchase of a certain number of copies of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, and for their distribution to the several public schools of this state.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. The state superintendent of public instruction is hereby authorized to purchase, on behalf of this state, a sufficient number of copies of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary of the English language, as revised by Professor Chauncey A. Goodrich, at a price not exceeding four dollars per copy, as may be necessary to supply each organized school district in the state with one copy thereof, and in case where there is more than one common school in a district, each school and department thereof, shall be furnished with one copy. The contract for the purchase of said books shall specify the time when they will be delivered by the publishers, which shall not be later than the first Monday of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five.

Superintendent authorized to purchase certain number copies.

When to be delivered.

SEC. 2. One half of the price of said books shall be paid on the fifteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, and one half on the fifteenth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven; and a sufficient sum is hereby appropriated for that purpose, to be paid out of the income of the school fund, as hereinafter provided.

Appropriation, and when to be paid.

SEC. 3. For the purpose of ascertaining the exact number of organized school districts and common schools in the state, the town superintendent of each town is hereby required, on or before the first Monday in June next, to report in writing to the state superintendent the number of organized school districts in his town, and the number of parts of organized joint districts, in cases where the school house of such joint district is situated within his town, giving the number of each district and joint district. In cases where there is more than one common school taught in a district, he shall report the same, with the number of departments in each such school.

Town superintendents required to report to superintendent.

SEC. 4. It shall be the duty of the state superintendent, as soon as he shall receive the books as above provided, to forward a sufficient number of copies to the register of

Duties of state superintendent prescribed.

deeds of each county in the state, whose duty it shall be to receive the same, to supply the several common schools therein, and at the same time, inform the town superintendent of each town, of the number of copies which he is entitled to receive from the register of deeds of his county, to be distributed to the several common schools in his town.

Duties of register of deeds prescribed.

SEC. 5. Whenever the register of deeds of any county shall receive the books, as provided in the last preceding section of this act, he shall forward immediately to the state superintendent a receipt for the same, in the form prescribed by said state superintendent, and shall deliver to the town superintendent, of each town in his county on application, the number of copies of said book it shall appear such town is entitled to receive, on presentation to him of an order from the state superintendent specifying the number.

Duties of town superintendent

SEC. 6. On receipt of such books the town superintendent shall deliver to the librarian of each organized school district in his town, one copy for each common school taught therein, and shall take his receipt for the same, and file it among the records of his office.

Such books to belong to district library.

SEC. 7. Such books, when received by the several districts in this state, shall be considered as belonging to the library of the district, and shall be subject to the same laws and regulations as other library books; but during the time a school shall be taught therein, it shall be and remain in the school room, for the exclusive use of the scholars and teachers of such school, and under the control of the teacher, who shall be responsible to the district for its loss, or for any unnecessary damage it may receive, the same as any other book of the district library.

Duty of state superintendent

SEC. 8. In making the annual apportionment of the income of the school fund among the several towns and cities of this state for the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six and seven, it shall be the duty of the state superintendent to deduct from the amount to which each town and city shall be entitled, according to such apportionment, an amount equal to one half the cost of the books furnished to the several common schools therein as herein before provided.

Duty of state treasurer.

SEC. 9. In certifying to the state treasurer the apportionment of the income of the school fund for the years mentioned in the last preceding section, the state superintendent shall state in such certificate the whole amount apportioned to each county, the aggregate amount deduct-

ed from the several towns and cities of each county, and the amount payable by him to the order of the county treasurer, and the amount so deducted from the amount apportioned to each county, shall be retained by the treasurer, and held subject to the draft of the state superintendent for the payment of the books herein authorized to be purchased.

SEC. 10. The register of deeds and town superintendent Fees of officers shall receive such compensation for the services required of them by the provisions of this act, as the county and town board of supervisors respectively shall deem proper.

SEC. 11. The provisions of this act shall be so construed as to apply to the superintendents of common schools of the several cities of this state, the same as to town superintendents.

SEC. 12. This act shall not apply to any district which may have been already supplied with a copy of said dictionary; and the town superintendent shall report to the state superintendent, pursuant to section three of this act such districts only as do not own a copy thereof, to be ascertained by him from the librarian of each district. *Provided*, The schools in the city of Milwaukee shall each be entitled to one copy.

SEC. 13. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved March 21, 1855.

Chapter 46.

[Published May 2.]

An Act for the relief of the purchasers of School and University Lands in this State.

The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. No sale by private entry heretofore made of any lot or lots of school or university lands in this state, shall be impeached or in any way impaired or effected by reason of failure of the applicant, at the time of such entry, to make a written application therefor, or of the Sec-