

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

No. 200

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE, in favor of The Webber Hospital Association.

RESOLVE: That there be and hereby is appropriated the
2 sum of ten thousand dollars to be paid to The Webber Hos-
3 pital Association, a corporation at Biddeford, York County,
4 Maine, seven thousand of said sum to be for the use of said
5 association for the year nineteen hundred and seven, and
6 three thousand dollars to be paid for the use of said associ-
7 ation for the year nineteen hundred and eight.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

York County is the oldest county in the State, and ranks third among the counties, of the State, in valuation and population.

It has never been an applicant for State aid.

The State has never established any public institution within its borders, but it has always contributed, cheerfully, its share, for the support of public institutions, in other counties, and these institutions, such as the insane hospitals, normal schools, and hospitals in almost all the large cities, have been the sources of large revenues to the counties where located.

For more than ten years there has been a growing demand for a public hospital in this county.

A few years ago one of the citizens of Biddeford, since deceased, created, by his will, a fund for building and supporting a hospital "in Biddeford" where the unfortunate might receive good care and skilful treatment.

This fund will be available in two or three years, and it is believed by that time, that the income from this fund, and such donations, devises and bequests as those who now manifest a lively interest in it will make, together with the receipts from patients, will afford a revenue sufficient to support a public hospital that will accomodate, at least thirty patients.

In Nov. 1899, The Webber Hospital Association was organized, at Biddeford, under the Laws of this State, by prominent, public spirited citizens, for the purpose of carrying out the clearly expressed intentions of Mr. Moses W. Webber, deceased, when the fund created by him shall be available, for the support of a hospital in that city.

Biddeford is now easily accessible to almost all the towns of York county by both steam and electric railroad. It has a population of about 19,000, and the city of Saco, separated from it by the Saco River, has a population of about 7,000.

This association has now a fund of about \$6000. Has recently leased, for a term of three years, a large house, suitably located, equipped with all modern improvements, sufficiently large to accommodate at least twenty patients.

Before the expiration of this lease the association intends to accept some one of the numerous lots that have been offered to it, free, and erect thereon a suitable and commodious hospital building, where the "unfortunate may receive good care and skilful treatment" near their homes.

It is a well known fact that within a comparatively few years, the number of patients seeking treatment in public hospitals, has rapidly increased, making more and larger and better equipped hospitals absolutely necessary, and it is also equally well known that many patients in these hospitals, by skilful surgical operations, and by careful nursing, have been restored to full health, whereas, before, other persons, similarly afflicted have died for the want of such care and treatment as public hospitals afford.

The number of patients, from York county, treated in the Maine General Hospital for the years 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, and 1905 and 1906 are as follows: 1901-136, 1902-138, 1903-146, 1904-157, 1905-141, 1906-157, 1905-141, 1906-

It is under these conditions and for these reasons that the Webber Hospital Association solicits the aid specified in the foregoing Resolve with which it proposes to build and equip a public hospital in said Biddeford, to the end that the people of York county may have a public hospital, within its own borders, where its citizens, in sickness or from misfortune through accident, "may receive good care and skilful treatment."

The Webber Hospital Association

By ROBT. McARTHUR, *President*.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, February 15, 1907.

Reported by Mr. WALKER from Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs and ordered printed under joint rules.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*