

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

No. 13

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Hayes' Young Women's Home
at Lewiston.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated the
2 sum of one thousand dollars to be paid to the Women's
3 Christian Association of Lewiston for the benefit of the
4 Hayes' Young Women's Home at Lewiston, for the use
5 of said institution for the year one thousand nine hundred
6 and nine and one thousand dollars for the use of said insti-
7 tution for the year one thousand nine hundred and ten.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Thirty years ago the Women's Christian Association of Lewiston, was organized. The object of the Association was the temporal and spiritual welfare of poor young working girls, especially those not having homes in the city, dependent upon themselves for support, who came there in large numbers seeking employment. The Association first established a reading room on the principal business street of the city, consisting of one room only. So many working girls resorted to the reading room that an additional room was added as soon as the funds could be secured for its support, until four rooms were occupied for reading and social purposes. The success of this work and the great need of the girls impressed the ladies of the Association of the necessity of a home and they bent their energies and efforts to accomplish this purpose. In November, 1892, the Association having accumulated \$4,000.00, purchased a desirable two-story brick house and ell lot on the corner of Pine and Bates Streets, a most eligible location facing the Park, for \$8,500.00, the balance of the purchase money being raised by mortgage. From this date the larger work of the Association commenced. The Young Women's Home, for which this appropriation is asked, was then opened, not as a reformatory but as a home. The poor, homeless, unsophisticated working girls from pure homes just arriving in the city seeking work, subject to great danger because unacquainted, here find a home and protection to the capacity of the house. If sick they have the best of care. After obtaining employment the girls whom the Home cannot shelter for lack of room here find a pleasant, homelike place to spend their leisure hours, a place more attractive than their cheerless boarding houses, or the streets, a reading room with more than a thousand volumes of well selected books, a large number of magazines and papers, a social room with a piano, sewing machine and healthful amusements, a well furnished parlor and a competent lady to

advise them if desired, and during the cool months classes in cooking, dress-making, and sewing are taught by competent instructors to the great benefit of the girls, and an employment bureau is also maintained. The management of the house is Christian, but in no respect sectarian. Girls with or without religious preferences are alike welcome.

By the indefatigable efforts of the ladies who manage the Home, with the generous aid of others in sympathy with the objects of the Association, the mortgage was paid and the Home was freed from all debts in 1899 and has remained so ever since. But so great is the need for more rooms for the girls that the Association is now striving to raise funds for an enlargement of the house for which the lot has ample room, and plans for this purpose are now being formulated, but aid from the State for the erection of the addition is not asked.

The work of the Home is not local. Of the more than eleven hundred poor girls who the last sixteen years have been cared for in the Home, exclusive of the thousands who have had the use of the reading and other rooms and the benefits of the classes, averaging more than five thousand visits yearly, less than thirty, and these without homes, were residents of Lewistown. Girls from every county and nearly every town in the State, fifty-five towns being represented the past year, have been cared for in the Home. It is emphatically an institution benefitting all sections of the State. It was for this reason that the Legislatures of 1901, 1903, 1905 and 1907 made an annual appropriation of \$1,000.00. It is to continue this work and increase its usefulness that this sum is now asked by the Association.

This Home was established and carried on for eight years without cost to the State. The work has so increased and the burden become so heavy that the Association asks the State to share with it the expense to this limited extent.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, January 22, 1909.

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

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*