

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1835.

AUGUSTA:
WILLIAM J. CONDON,.....PRINTER.

1835.

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

NO. 30.

HOUSE.

STATE OF MAINE.

House of Representatives, Feb. 24, 1835.

The Committee on State Lands, to whom was re-committed a Report and Resolve for making a Road from "Weeks' Mills in Brighton, to Moose Head Lake," for a statement of facts, have attended to the subject, and ask leave to Report. The following facts being all that appeared to them as material to the case.

On the 26th of February, 1833, a Resolve was passed, authorizing the Governor with the advice of Council, to appoint an Agent to view the most expedient and practicable route, and to lay out a Road from Weeks' Mills in Brighton, to Moose Head Lake.—On the 7th of March, 1833, Silas Barnard, was appointed. He went on, explored the route, and laid out said road. During the session of the Legislature of 1834, this subject was referred

to the Committee on State Roads, before whom Mr. Barnard appeared with the plan of said Road, (now deposited in the office of the Secretary of State,) the whole subject was fully investigated—the Committee reported in favor of its acceptance, and it was accepted February 20, 1834. The Road as laid out by said Barnard, commences at Weeks' Mills in Brighton, and runs about four miles in said town—thence about six and a half miles in No. 3, Second Range, Bingham Purchase, now owned by Sanford Kingsbury, Simon Greenleaf, Oliver B. Dorrance, and others, to your Committee unknown—it then enters and runs about eight miles in the town of Blanchard, crossing the Piscataquis River, over which there is a good Bridge, which cost one thousand dollars. About four miles of the Road in Blanchard, is already made so as to be a fair carriage road. There is about twenty settlers on the road in said town. The land in said town, excepting that which has been sold to settlers, is the property of Charles Blanchard—thence the Road passes about three miles across a corner of the town of Shirley, on which there are a few settlers, and the land is owned by persons unknown—it then passes into a Plantation called Fullers, being Number nine in the Ninth Range, and runs about four miles in the same. This township contains several settlers, owners unknown—thence it passes about two and a half miles to the Lake in Haskell's Plantation, in which there

are several settlers on the **Road**—the owners of the **Land** in said **Plantation** are unknown to your **Committee**.

The whole length of the **Road** is about twenty eight and a half miles, a fair proportion of which, is over good settling land, and generally favorable for a **Road**. It is on the direct route from **Augusta** to **Moose Head Lake**. From the facts within their knowledge, the **Committee** are of opinion, that the cost of making said **Road**, might be safely estimated at two dollars per rod, or six hundred and forty dollars per mile, amounting in the whole to eighteen thousand two hundred and forty dollars. It was stated to the **Committee**, that the **Land Agent** of **Massachusetts**, was very desirous that said **Road** should be opened and that he would recommend to the **Legislature** of that **State**, the appropriation of a sum equal to that appropriated by the **State** of **Maine**. It was also stated, that the owners of **Land**, over which said **Road** passes, and in the vicinity of the same, would contribute a sum equal to that paid by this **State**.

Your **Committee** stated to the **Land Agent** of this **State**, the following questions :—

To the Land Agent of the State of Maine,

SIR,—To what amount, in your opinion, would the **Lands**, belonging to the **State** of **Maine**, be increased in value, by the making of a **Road** from **Weeks' Mills** in **Brighton**, to **Moose Head Lake**, on the route, and according to the plan of the **Road**,

as laid out by Silas Barnard? What number of Townships of Land, either divided or undivided, is there in the vicinity of said Lake, now belonging to this State, that would be increased in value by said Road? From the best information in your possession, what part of said Lands are suitable for settling?" To which the Land Agent gave the reply accompanying this Report.

All which is respectfully submitted,

E. S. PHELPS, *Per Order.*

LAND OFFICE, }
 AUGUSTA, February 17, 1835. }

To the Chairman of the Joint Committee upon State Lands.

In reply to your first question—"what will be the increase of value of the Lands in the vicinity of Moose Head Lake, which belong to the State of Maine, by the building of a Road from Weeks' Mills in Brighton, to Moose Head Lake?"—It will be impossible for me to give a definite answer, but I have no doubt that the increase will be, at least, equal to the whole expense of making said Road. In reply to your second question—"what is the number of Townships belonging to the State, in the vicinity of said Lake, that will be increased in value by said Road?"—I would say, that there are six Townships of divided land, and the amount of twenty or thirty Townships of the undivided, that would be raised in value by the construction of said Road. In reply to the third question—"What portion of the State's Land above alluded to, is suitable for settling?"—I cannot give a satisfactory answer, as these tracts have not been much explored. It would, perhaps, be proper for me, here to say, that not more than five Townships of said Land, are within ten miles of the Lake, and no one of them borders upon the Lake. Any person, by taking the plan and examining the amount of land in this section of the State, can form as correct an opinion of the increased value, in consequence of the Road above mentioned, as myself, and I wish it to be distinctly understood, that it is not my intention to express any opinion as to the propriety or impropriety of making an appropriation for the construction of said Road.

JOHN HODGDON.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE for making a Road from Weeks' Mills in Brighton, to Moose Head Lake.

Resolved, That there be allowed and granted, for the purpose of opening and making a Road from Weeks' Mills in Brighton, in the County of Somerset, to the foot of Moose Head Lake, laid out by Silas Barnard, the sum of three thousand dollars, provided the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, shall allow and grant the like sum of three thousand dollars, and individuals shall pay or secure to the Agent of the State of Maine, to be appointed as hereinafter provided, the like sum of three thousand dollars, for the purpose aforesaid; to be paid in three equal annual payments.

Resolved, That the Governor, with advice of Council, be and he hereby is, authorized and empowered to appoint an Agent, to superintend the opening and building of said Road, who shall give bond to the Treasurer, in the sum of thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his

duties and trust in said office, shall receive all securities given, and sums paid by individuals for the purpose aforesaid; shall keep a true account thereof, shall faithfully expend all sums by him received in his said capacity, or so much thereof, as may be necessary to open and make said Road, and render to, and settle his accounts with the Governor and Council, whenever thereto required.

Resolved, That whenever satisfactory evidence shall be furnished to the Governor and Council, that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has allowed and granted the sum of three thousand dollars, and individuals have paid or secured the like sum of three thousand dollars, to the Agent of the State, as provided in the first Resolve, the Governor is hereby authorized and empowered to draw his warrant on the Treasurer for the first third of said three thousand dollars, to be paid to the said Agent, agreeably to the provision of the first Resolve, and for each remaining third, as the same shall become due.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 24, 1835. }

ORDERED, That four hundred copies of the foregoing Resolve, Statement of Facts, and Certificate of Land Agent, be printed for the use of the Members.

(Extract from Journal.)

Attest,

JAMES L. CHILD, CLERK.

WM. J. CONDON....PRINTER TO THE STATE.
