

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1836.

AUGUSTA:
SMITH & ROBINSON,.....PRINTERS.

1836.

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 18.

SENATE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I herewith lay before you the Report and Account of the Agent, appointed to superintend and manage, the sale and settlement of the Public Lands.

ROBERT P. DUNLAP.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }
JANUARY 27, 1836. }

LAND AGENT'S REPORT.



STATE OF MAINE.

LAND OFFICE, }
AUGUSTA, DEC. 31, 1835. }

To the Honorable, the Governor and Council:

GENTLEMEN—In addition to the ordinary transactions of this Department, which the past year have been unusually large, new duties have been assigned, the discharge of which has proved exceedingly onerous.

By the **Resolve** of the seventeenth of **March** “in favor of certain **Officers and Soldiers** of the **Revolutionary War**, and the widows of deceased officers and soldiers,” it became the duty of the **Land Agent**, to decide upon the claim of all applicants for land under the provisions of said **Resolve**.

He was also authorized to procure at the expense of the **State**, from the **Land Agent** and **Secretary** of the **Commonwealth of Massachusetts** and from the **Pension Office** at **Washington**, certified copies of all such **Documents** and **Records** as he might deem necessary or useful in carrying into effect the provisions of this **Resolve**.

In pursuance of this authority, I proceeded to Massachusetts the last of April, to examine the Records of Revolutionary service, where, by the kindness of the Agent, I was furnished with copies of the rolls of the first three years' enlistments, and a list of those who had received land or money for said service from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These were the only copies that could be advantageously procured there, for general purposes. Although there was much evidence in the Secretary's Office of enlistments for a few months, at different periods, and for various services, other than for three years or during the war. The rolls of the second three years' enlistments were at Washington, but so imperfect that not much reliance could be placed upon them. It became necessary therefore to appoint a Clerk to make and transmit such extracts from the original declarations for pensions under the law of 1818, and the evidence accompanying them in the Pension Office at Washington as should be required in the individual cases as they arose. Capt. Benjamin L. Beale, of the City of Washington, has performed the service, for which he has been paid the price established in the Pension Office for copying and examining Records. In addition to the evidence thus obtained, William Woart, Jr. Esq. who has had charge of this business at Augusta, where the copies and declarations have all been kept, personally examined the Rec-

ords in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in about one hundred cases. Although I have been unwilling to subject applicants to unnecessary trouble and expense, their declarations, and the testimony adduced to support them, were so often incorrect I did not feel safe to issue certificates, until I had found them supported by public Records, or, at least, until all the Records within my reach had been consulted. By pursuing this course instead of admitting all claims where a prima facie case had been made out, there will be a saving to the State of more than twenty times the amount of the expense attending the examinations. The applicants and their witnesses are at an age so advanced they cannot be expected to fix with any degree of accuracy the dates of transactions, which occurred more than half a century ago.

The several enlistments in Massachusetts appear to have been made in the following manner:—In April, 1775, enlistments commenced for eight months' service, and in January, 1776, for one year's service. Immediately after the termination of these enlistments men were enlisted for three years and during the war. In 1779, nine months' men were raised, and in July, 1780, troops were raised from the several towns to fill up the army for six months. In December, 1780, the General Court required each town to raise a given number of men "for three years or during the war," but the service under

that **Resolve** in many instances did not commence until late in the year 1781, and some towns did not furnish their full quota until 1782.

The reduction of the army commenced immediately after the **Treaty of Peace**, early in the autumn of 1783; and by **December** the soldiers of the **Massachusetts** line were mostly discharged, although the **American Regiment** remained in service a part of the year 1784. But as the **Resolve** provides for those only who served three years, nearly all the second three years men are necessarily excluded, as are also some who entered the army under the first three years' enlistments and were discharged after serving thirty four or five months, when the army was retiring to winter quarters and their services were no longer required. This last class of soldiers appear equitably entitled to the benefits of the **Resolve** of the seventeenth **March**, but as no discretionary power was vested in this **Department** they were necessarily rejected. And indeed those who came under the second enlistment and served faithfully to the close of the war, but fell short of three years by one or two months offer very plausible arguments in favor of their claims.

Several questions have arisen from the different constructions put upon the **Resolve**, and as some have been dissatisfied with my decisions, it is but just that these points of difference should be stated, that those aggrieved may obtain redress through the interposition of the **Legislature**.

Can any other service than that performed under enlistments for three years or during the war, be allowed in making up the three years' service contemplated by the **Resolve** ?

Is a soldier, who served his three years, but afterwards deserted under the same enlistment in which the three years' service was completed, entitled to the benefits of this **Resolve** ?

Are citizens of **Massachusetts** who served three years in a regiment raised in another **State**, entitled to the benefits of this **Resolve** ?

Can a soldier who enlisted for three years in the **Massachusetts** line avail himself of other services in the regiments of other **States** to make up his three years ?

When a soldier died after the 17th of **March**, **A. D.** 1835, and before making his declaration, is the widow entitled to the benefits of this **Resolve** ?

When a soldier makes his declaration and dies before the certificate is issued, and his widow then makes another declaration in her own name, on which should the certificate issue ?

The language of the **Resolve**, is, "each non-commissioned officer and soldier of the **Revolutionary Army**, who enlisted to serve during the war, or for a term not less than three years in said army, who at the time of his enlistment was an inhabitant of **Massachusetts** proper or the **District of Maine**," &c. The letter of the **Resolve** would warrant me in admitting to its benefits, both deserters, and those who

served with the troops of other States. I could not however suppose that such was the intention of the Legislature, and these two classes of applicants have been rejected. The grant is made in discharge of a debt due for services rendered Massachusetts, and not as a mere gratuity. The circumstance, therefore, if this position be right, of a soldier's having been a citizen of Massachusetts does not strengthen his claim to the benefits of this Resolve, unless the service performed was with the Massachusetts troops. It must however be admitted, if we take this view of the case, that citizens of other States who served three years in the Massachusetts line, would seem to be equitably entitled to the benefit of the Resolve. There was also some doubt whether it was the intention of the Legislature that the service should all be performed under one enlistment. As the letter of the Resolve did not require it, and as I was unable to perceive any difference in the justice of the claims of those who served three full years under the first three years' enlistments, and those who enlisted for three years in 1781, and were discharged after thirty months' service at the close of the war, but had served six or twelve months under some former enlistment, I came to the conclusion that it was not the intention of the Resolve to set up any such distinction. All service therefore, performed under either of the before mentioned enlistments, was allowed in making up three years, the time required by the Resolve, provided

always that they had once enlisted for three years or during the war.

The case of the widow who became such after the seventeenth of March, is manifestly just, and yet there is no provision for those who shall become widows after the passage of the Resolve.

This objection may be regarded as puerile and frivolous, but the admission of such a claim would have established a principle that could not have been carried out. By the Resolve the soldiers and the widows of the soldiers who had received a grant of land, or money in lieu thereof, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are not entitled to its benefits. But a grant of land from Maine is not mentioned in the Resolve as barring any further claims. If we admit, therefore, that a widow who becomes such after the 17th March, A. D. 1835, is entitled to the benefits of this Resolve at all, she is equally so whether her deceased husband had or had not received his certificate. This class of claims therefore I have been compelled to reject, and this decision necessarily excludes the claims of the widow in the case where a declaration has been made by the husband prior to his decease; so that the only remaining question to be settled is whether a certificate can in any case issue upon a declaration after the death of the individual who made it. In cases of this kind I have not been fully satisfied, whether all further proceedings should or should not be stayed.

The course adopted after mature deliberation, is to consider the certificate as issuing the same day the declaration and sufficient evidence to make out a prima facie case, are filed, although it should not be delivered until sufficient examination had been made, to ascertain that neither mistakes had been made, nor fraud practised.

When applicants have been dangerously sick, their agents were exceedingly importunate, and as every thing had been done on their part, it was but just that I should make a speedy decision, or establish some regulation having the same practical effect, and it was thought safer to adopt this rule than to make hasty decisions upon partial examinations.

The declarations filed under this Resolve amount in all to six hundred and twenty-two, of which three hundred and twenty-eight have been admitted, two hundred and thirty-nine rejected, and fifty-five remain for further examination.

The two townships appropriated will not be sufficient to supply all, whose claims have already been admitted. The number of certificates, however, issued and delivered is no greater than the number of lots contained in these townships according to the survey and return of the same to this Office, and it will now remain for the Legislature to determine what further appropriation shall be made to satisfy the additional claims, which have been already, or may hereafter be admitted.

The sales of land the past year amount to two hundred and thirty thousand one hundred and forty-six acres, at an average of one dollar and forty-five cents per acre, making a sum total received from this source in cash and notes and obligations of three hundred and thirty-five thousand four hundred and seventy-eight dollars and sixty-two cents. The obligations to perform settling duties or pay an equivalent, and which are in most cases incorporated into the deeds, but in some instances contained in separate instruments, amounting in all to about fifteen thousand dollars, are not contained in this estimate; and I would here distinctly state to prevent any future misunderstanding, that where settling duties have been required, the land has on that account been sold for a less price, and unless performed within the time stipulated the penalty should be rigorously exacted, and no extension should in any case be given. A large part of the sales of the past year was made up of the refuse lands in settling towns that had been in the market from three to ten years, and of gores or other lands that had not before been saleable. One township only belonged to Maine, and two of the undivided, of a good quality have been disposed of, and it is believed that the average quality of the lands sold the past year is inferior to the sales of any year since the separation. The average price, therefore, cannot be taken as a

fair criterion by which to judge of the relative prices of this and former years.

The several tracts of land which I was authorized to offer at public auction by the Resolve of the 24th of March, A. D. 1835, have all been sold except number three, in the ninth Range, west from the east line of the State, upon which no one bid one dollar, the minimum affixed. I have since been offered that price, which is undoubtedly, as much as it can be reasonably expected to sell for, but did not consider myself authorized to dispose of it, although once exposed at public auction, in any other way than by another advertisement and public sale. The authority to sell at the minimum after lands have been advertised and exposed to public competition extends only to such as have been lotted under the "Act additional to promote the sale and settlement of the public lands," passed the 24th of March, A. D. 1835.

It may be expected that in this communication, I should make some general remarks upon the character and value of the public lands, and the causes which led to the late unprecedented advances in their price. Up to the time of the separation of Maine from Massachusetts, this district, although entitled to a representation in the Legislature, was regarded rather as a colony than a component part of the Commonwealth.

The consequence was that little interest was tak-

en in the opening of public roads, the clearing of rivers or the settlement of the forest. In addition to this great obstacle to the developement of the natural resources of our State, a succession of calamities deterred emigrants from casting their lot among us, and even induced many of our own citizens to seek a happier destiny in the far West. Embargo, non-intercourse and war, each contributed in its turn to retard the growth of Maine, and the succession of cold seasons immediately following created a prejudice against the East, not easily removed. So late as the year eighteen hundred and twenty the whole county of Penobscot, a territory as large as several of the States, hardly contained a population of twelve thousand. Surrounded by the public domain as they were, and duly appreciating its intrinsic value, they were not only destitute of the means of purchasing to any considerable extent, but even of rendering what they already possessed, available. And so utterly worthless was this part of the State considered by capitalists abroad, that few could be induced to make investments, notwithstanding the low price at which lands were then sold. Immediately after the separation, the project of a State Road up the Penobscot was set on foot, which at first progressed very slow, but as the prejudices of the western counties gradually wore away, more liberal appropriations were made for its construction. In eighteen hundred twenty eight, our

border difficulties induced the General Government to establish a military post at Houlton, and a military road connecting the State road with the Province of New Brunswick. To the opening of this channel of communication the sudden impetus to the settlement and prosperity of the East is mainly attributable. The State followed up the policy so wisely begun, and State roads have been opened from the tide waters of the St. Croix to Houlton, from the military road to the river Restook, and up the valley of the Kennebec to the head waters of the Du Loup in Canada. Along these leading roads and the hundred branches diverging from them in every direction, the settlements have followed, and the facilities thus afforded have reduced the price of lumbering nearly or quite one half.

Those who have originally made investments in timber lands were beginning to realize large profits in the sale of the timber, and the spirit of speculation so proverbial in New England brought in capitalists from every quarter to share in the distribution of fortune's favors.

In the mean time the lumber in the other New England States was exhausted, and the price of pine timber, or stumpage, as it is usually called, had risen from one to four or five dollars a thousand. The opening of roads, the settlement of the country, the influx of capital and the failure of lumber in other places, have all aided in bringing about this

result, and the necessary consequence has been, that timber lands have risen with a rapidity not anticipated, even by those best acquainted with their value, although they have never supposed the time far distant, when they would rise much above their present prices. Lands have passed rapidly from hand to hand—fortunes have been acquired as if by magic, though some in their eagerness have doubtless greatly mistaken the quality of the land they have purchased. Many tracts of land sold at high prices will be found upon examination to contain very little timber. This has been already ascertained in several instances, and with those unacquainted with the subject will create a prejudice against this kind of investment.

It will invariably follow, that for a time, there will be a distrust in the public mind unfavorable to large sales, and I should not think it advisable to offer much if any of the public lands until next autumn, when a sufficient time will have elapsed for all interested to give the subject a full investigation. There can be little doubt that the prices of good timber land will gradually advance; for the greater the number of townships already sold, that shall prove to be destitute of timber, the greater the value of those which are well timbered.

The two townships appropriated for the soldiers of the Revolutionary war have been surveyed agreeably to the provisions of the Resolve of the 17th of

March, and the plans and field notes returned to this Office.

Townships number three in the fourth range west from Bingham's Kennebec Purchase; number six in the first range north of Bingham's Kennebec Purchase, and number four in the fifth range west from the east line of the State, three of the townships appropriated for the benefit of common schools, have been surveyed, in compliance with an Order in Council, of the 26th of June, A. D. 1835, and agreeably to the provisions of the "Act additional (of the 24th of March) to promote the sale and settlement of the public land." The Islands belonging to the Penobscot Indians and lying in the Penobscot River below Mattawamkeag point, have also been surveyed according to the directions of "An Act additional to the several Acts for the better regulation and management of the Penobscot Tribe of Indians," passed the 10th of March, A. D. 1835. And two townships of the undivided land, numbers four in the twelfth and thirteenth ranges, west from the east line of the State, have been divided into mile sections. In all of these surveys great care has been taken to obtain accurate estimates of the quality and quantity of timber, which may be seen by reference to the field notes returned to this Office.

The expenditures the past year in making Roads have been small. The authority given me by the

Legislature to build a road up the east side of the Penobscot across Indian township number one, when the County Commissioners shall have established a county road from the military road to the Forks of the Penobscot, has not been exercised, as no such road has yet been laid out. This subject will doubtless receive the attention of the Commissioners early in the spring, and that portion of the road passing over lands of the State, will in that event be put under contract forthwith.

A road has been laid out from Houlton to the Restook road, under the direction of the two Agents, by Dominicus Parker, Esq. and the country through which it runs appears from his report to be well adapted to the purposes of roading. Thirteen hundred dollars have been expended upon the Restook road under the same authority by Ira Fish, Esq. whose report is annexed. This will probably be adopted as a county road early in the spring, when the ten per cent. on the amount of sales which by a joint Resolve of the two States, the Agents are authorized to expend, will be more than sufficient to turnpike that portion of the road, where the fee still remains in either of the States. Most of the land on this road has been sold, although the fee of so much as is not yet paid for, is still in the States, but large settlements have been made, with the understanding, as they say, that the Government would make them a road.

In the months of September and October, I accompanied the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature of Massachusetts, to investigate the subject of the public lands, and George W. Coffin, Esq. Land Agent of said Commonwealth, by the way of the Moose Head, Chesuncook and Allegash Lakes to the St. John, and down that river through the Madawaska settlement. The two leading objects of this tour were to ascertain the comparative elevations of the Allegash lakes and the head waters of the East branch of the Penobscot, and to learn the present condition and future prospects of the settlements upon the disputed territory.

The result of our examination between the waters of the Allegash and the Penobscot was highly satisfactory. The distance from Lake Pelos, the end of the Allegash chain, to Webster's pond, on the East branch of the Penobscot, is a little more than half a mile. The greatest elevation of the tract intervening, above the high water mark of lake Telos, is about two feet and six inches, but in less than one hundred rods the land again falls below the level of the lake. The surface of the lake when we were there early in October, was three feet and a half below high water mark, as indicated by the trees upon the margin. At that time, therefore, the greatest depth of a cut to connect this lake with the waters of the Penobscot, would have been six feet, and the length one hundred rods.

Lake Telos, Telasinis and Chamberlain lake, an extent of more than twenty miles, are nearly upon a level, and may at a slight expense, be made entirely so by erecting a low dam at the outlet of the last mentioned lake. Thus, at a moderate cost, the timber from fifteen to twenty of the best towns in the State, may be brought down the Penobscot. The distance to market will be shortened more than two hundred miles, and the value of these lands must be enhanced by opening this communication, nearly half a million of dollars. But the increased price is of small importance, when compared with the employment thus offered to our own capital and labor, by turning the products of this rich territory through our own State.

The condition of the French settlements, extending from the Grand Falls more than seventy miles up the river, is truly deplorable. With the sovereignty of the territory in obedience they are deprived of most of the advantages of civil government, while they are subjected to all its burdens and restraints.

The Province of New Brunswick assumes, by virtue of an arrangement between the governments of the United States and Great Britain, to exercise jurisdiction. It is however but a limited one, and all important improvements are restrained upon the ground that they are in violation of the arrangement between the two governments. They have

no roads, but the Agents of the State and Commonwealth, in making one in that direction were met at the Restook with the objection that they were violating this arrangement. Shut out from the world, claimed by two nations and governed by none, without roads or schools, or mechanics, and deprived of most of the comforts of civilized life, they have so long looked forward in vain, to the time when they would have a country and a home, that they place little reliance upon renewed promises of a speedy adjustment of the boundary.

The time has now arrived, when but for this unfortunate controversy the interest of the State would require, that roads and settlements should be pushed through this territory. Five years would give us flourishing towns, and in ten, whole counties would spring up. Each year's delay in the settlement of the boundary necessarily brings with it an increased accumulation of evils. In addition to those already mentioned, is that of trespassing, which it is nearly or quite impossible to prevent. In spite of the arrangement with the Province mentioned in my last annual report, a large amount of timber went down the St. John last spring from the disputed territory. As the inhabitants have no roads but the river, they have never been in the habit of carrying any thing to market but lumber, and to interdict that is to deprive them of all means of procuring the smallest and simplest necessaries of

life. They are all directly interested in trespassing, and will attempt it at all hazards. However vigilant the government may be, it is impossible to prevent it in any other way, than to go upon the ground and seize both teams and men. The limited jurisdiction exercised over this territory presents many obstacles to so summary a process, but unless this question shall soon be settled, it may become necessary to adopt it. In my last annual report I informed the Executive that the authorities of New Brunswick and the Agents of Massachusetts and Maine had posted up notices, forbidding all trespassing upon the disputed territory, and expressed the fullest confidence in the co-operation of the Land Department of the Province, to put an end to this practice, so ruinous to the morals of the people and so prejudicial to the interests of both governments. It was expected that all timber coming down the Restook, and from above the Grand Falls upon the St. John, would be seized by Capt. McLauchlan, the Warden of the territory, and sold for the benefit of the party to which it should finally be awarded. I was however informed early in the summer, that timber was taken from this region to market with little or no interruption, and immediately proceeded to the Crown Land Office at Fredericton, to learn the particulars. It was there stated that no lumber cut last winter, had been permitted to come from the Restook, under

any pretext whatever, nor from above the Grand Falls, except where it had been cut upon old grants or within the jurisdiction of Canada. They did not feel authorized to seize timber cut within the limits of another Province, nor was it competent for them to question the validity of grants from the Crown. This opened a door for numerous abuses, and when a raft was accompanied with the certificate of a Magistrate, that the owner or others had made oath that it was cut upon a particular grant by the rules adopted, there was no alternative but to permit it to pass, or to order a survey of the grant, and an examination of the stumps. In some instances where there were strong suspicions of fraud, these examinations were made, but they were attended with too much trouble and expense to be generally adopted. There were also some instances of rafts being smuggled past officers stationed to watch them, in the night; and others of their being cut away and turned adrift, after they had been seized. Thus in various ways from all the information I have been able to obtain upon the subject, I am of opinion, that not less than four thousand tons have been taken from this territory the past year. But I am fully satisfied that the Provincial authorities have acted in good faith, and done every thing in their power, short of the arrest and imprisonment of those engaged in trespassing, to prevent it. Indeed I have been

credibly informed, that the Warden has recently visited the lumbering camps upon the Restook, cautioned them against trespassing, the ensuing winter, and assured them that their lumber would be burnt upon the banks. In consequence of this determination, some of the parties were immediately broken up, and it is hoped that all upon reflection will follow the example.

It gives me great pleasure to state that with the foregoing exceptions there has been no trespassing upon the public lands the past year that has come to the knowledge of this Department. Every exposed point was examined in the months of February and March, and it is confidently believed, that if timber to any amount had been cut, it would have been discovered.

A large portion of the old demands for timber and timber lands have been paid the past year, but a few still remain uncancelled. I have been unwilling to commence suits against delinquents, when it was possible to collect without, but as public notice was long since given of my settled determination to enforce the payment of this class of demands, the natural inference is that those still indebted are determined not to pay until compelled by a legal process. The receipts at this Office the past year have amounted to one hundred and fifty-seven thousand three hundred and seventy-six dollars and fifty-seven cents. Of this sum fifty-five

thousand four hundred and twenty-one dollars and twenty-two cents, were received upon demands in the Office December 31st, A. D. 1833; and sixty six thousand two hundred and seventy-seven dollars and thirty-two cents have been received from the sales of the present year. The annexed account will show the sum paid into the Treasury and the manner in which the balance was expended. It will be perceived that I have taken up several small receipts, signed by my predecessor, acknowledging the payment of money to be endorsed upon notes in this Office. It is presumed that these sums were accounted for in the annual settlements of the years in which they respectively bear date, and even if they were not, I felt myself bound to admit them.

Herewith I transmit schedules of the sales of land since my last annual Report, of all receipts of money, together with the names of the persons from whom, and the times at which, it was received, and of all the securities of every description in this Office.

Schedules of securities have also been furnished the Treasurer, agreeable to the provision of the Act of the 24th of March, A. D. 1835.

JOHN HODGDON, Land Agent.

**Dr. State of Maine in account with John
Hodgdon, Land Agent, for the year end-
ing December 31, 1835.**

For the amount paid for postage of letters, Per sheet No. 1.	13 52	
For the amount paid for incidental expens- es, including books, stationery, fuel, lights, stage fares, auctioneers' bills, ad- vertising, furniture, &c. Per sheet No. 2.	534 77	
For the amount paid for rent of Land Of- fice at Bangor, from Sept. 10, 1834, to Sept. 10, 1835, Per sheet No. 3.	81 25	
For the amount paid for expenses in ex- ploring the public land north of the Monument line, in company with the Land Agent of Massachusetts, Per sheet No. 4.	141 22	
For the amount paid for assistance in the Land Office, including pay for services and assistance in the Offices at Bangor and Augusta, Per sheet No. 5.	1,208 00	
		1,978 76
For the amount paid for surveying timber cut on the public land of Maine, Per sheet No. 6.	315 13	
For half the amount paid for surveying timber cut on the undivided land, Per sheet No. 7.	74 63	
For the amount paid for examining for trespassers and for protecting the pub- lic land from depredations, Per sheet No. 8.	188 67	
For the amount paid the Surveyor Gen- eral towards defraying the expense of surveying the public land, Per sheet No. 9.	5,250 00	
For half the amount paid for surveying the undivided land, Per sheet No. 10.	1,213 25	

For half the amount paid for sundry charges against the States of Maine and Massachusetts for advertising, auctioneers' bills, &c. Per sheet No. 11.	73 89	
For half the amount expended on the Restook road, Per sheet No. 12.	650 00	9,094 33
For half the amount paid for the expense of exploring and surveying a route for a road from Houlton to the Restook road north of the Monument line, Per sheet No. 13.	81 69	731 69
For the amount abated and endorsed on certain notes due to the State by virtue of a "Resolve in favor of Isaac Curtis," approved Feb. 15th, 1834, Per sheet No. 14.	86 60	
For the amount paid for several outstanding claims against former Land Agents, including certain receipts of the Treasurer and of the Land Agent in 1833, for money to be endorsed on notes in the Land Office, and for consideration paid to former Land Agents for land conveyed since Jan. 1, 1834. Per sheet No. 15.	3,956 58	9,826 02
For the amount paid for procuring copies of Public Documents and Records from Boston and Washington, and other expenses attending the claims of Revolutionary soldiers to land under the Resolve of March 17th, 1835. Per sheet No. 16.	1,420 96	
For the amount paid for bills of cost remaining yet uncollected, Per sheet No. 17.	99 54	
For the amount of the Land Agent's salary two years, ending Dec. 31, 1835, Per sheet No. 18.	2,000 00	7,563 68
For the amount of cash paid into the State Treasury, Per sheet No. 19.	133,567 55	133,567 55

Making the whole amount of payments and disbursements from the Land Office for the year 1835,	150,957 25	
Leaving a balance of Cash and securities in the hands of the Land Agent on the 31st day of Dec. 1835, of \$371,031 93, as per Schedule I, to wit:		150,957 25
NOTES—including the sum of \$36,509 39 in the hands of attorneys for collection,	274,420 89	
EXECUTIONS—including the sum of \$2,113 26 in the hands of attorneys for collection,	4,385 36	
BONDS and OBLIGATIONS—including the sum of \$11,868 52 in the hands of attorneys for collection,	85,232 02	
CASH—in the hands of Shepard Carey, Deputy Land Agent,	75 80	
Do.—in the hands of G. W. Coffin, Land Agent of Massachusetts,	759 96	
Do.—retained for making a road in township No. 1, Indian Purchase, being the proceeds of land appropriated for that purpose by Resolve of March 24, 1835,	1,228 75	
Do.—in the hands of the Land Agent,	4,929, 15	
		371,031 93
		<u>\$521,989 18</u>

Cr. State of Maine in account with John Hodgdon, Land Agent for the year ending December 31, 1835.

By amount of securities and cash remaining in the hands of the Land Agent, Dec. 31, 1834, per Schedule on that day returned to the Governor and Council, to wit:		
NOTES,	143,364 38	
EXECUTIONS,	5,320 97	
BONDS,	14,979 59	
CASH, due from G. W. Coffin,	740 93	
By amount received in cash and securities for sales of land,	220,065 52	164,405 87
Per Schedule A.		
By half the amount received in cash and securities for sales of undivided land,	115,413 10	
Per Schedule B.		335,478 62
By the amount of timber cut under permits from the Land Agent of Maine,	7,179 33	
Per Schedule C.		
By half the amount of timber cut under permits on the undivided land,	920 47	
Per Schedule D.		
By amount received for trespasses committed on the public land prior to Jan. 1, 1834.	194 04	
Per Schedule E.		8,293 84
By amount received for grass on the public land,	500 00	
Per Schedule F.		
By amount of interest collected on demands due the State,	13,245 38	
Per Schedule G.		
By amount received from various sources—for copies of papers—sales of camping materials, &c. including \$20 received of E. L. Hamlin in part for a demand in his hand not credited to the State.	65 47	
Per Schedule H.		13,810 85
		<u>\$521,989 18</u>

JOHN HODGDON, Land Agent.

LAND OFFICE, DEC. 31, 1835.

**To George W. Coffin and John Hodgdon,
Land Agents of Massachusetts and Maine.**

THE subscriber appointed by you on the 27th day of June, A. D. 1835, to superintend the repairs on the Aroostook road would respectfully submit the following Report :

Immediately after receiving your instructions I proceeded to examine the state of the road. I found it much out of repair. The great freshet but a short time before had swept away every bridge of any consideration on the road except one across the little Molunkas stream. This was so out of repair it has since been broken down. Some of these bridges were expensive to rebuild. The one across the mill pond in township number four, is four hundred and fifty feet long. I concluded it would be useless to try to repair the road any further than settlements had been made, without more money than had been appropriated and what there was a prospect of raising by subscription. The settlements extend nearly to the north line of number four township, about twenty-nine miles from the military road.

In your instructions you authorized me to take such measures as I might deem proper to level the cradle hills, clear out the bushes and stumps, and repair the causeways and bridges in the most economical manner. For this purpose you authorized me to expend one thousand dollars, together with such sums as might be contributed by owners of land on the route. From the tenor of your instructions I deemed it my duty to notify such proprietors as were known to me and request them to contribute. I accordingly notified the proprietors of township number one in the fifth range, Messrs. Fiske & Bridge and Harvey Read, who own about ten miles of land on the road; the Bishop of Boston, proprietor of the west half of township

number two, in the same range, who owns the land on seven miles of the road, and Amos Patten, proprietor of township number four in the sixth range, owner of land on about six miles of said road. Township number three has shifted hands so frequently the last season I was unable to ascertain who the present owners were. Messrs. Fiske & Bridge have contributed two hundred dollars. Harvey Read, one hundred dollars, and Amos Patten two hundred dollars. The inhabitants of township number four subscribed one hundred days' work. Number three inhabitants fifteen days' work, and the settlers in township number two fifty days' work. The labor contributed I have made no account of. The thousand dollars first appropriated and the three hundred dollars afterwards authorized, together with the five hundred contributed by proprietors, have enabled me to rebuild the bridges in a firm and durable manner, except the bridge in township number four, which remains unfinished. This bridge being within a few rods of the saw mill, and the water so deep in the pond, that log work could not be made to stand. I concluded to rebuild it with sawed timber. I have built it on tressels, with four large stringers to each band. The cross timbers are placed within about four feet of each other. The planking is three inches thick, laid lengthwise. There are about twelve feet of it planked, and logs laid on each side to serve as a railing during the winter. It will probably cost about one hundred and fifty dollars for materials and labor to finish it. The old causeways have been repaired, and new ones made where necessary, except about fifty rods on township number four and about thirty rods in township number two. The cradle hills have been partially levelled except about two and a half miles in number four and about one and a half mile in number two. These were the two points at which my crews were at work when the cold weather obliged me to quit. This road when first opened was causewayed, only through such places as were otherwise impassable in summer. Many of them were constructed with

bad timber, and laid without grubbing, which rendered the surface very uneven. It was calculated for a winter road only, and few of the rocks or stumps were removed from the travelled part of it. The object appears to have been to find a passage between the rocks and stumps by crooking about any where within the width cut out, and to do it with the least possible expense. The same portion of road we have repaired this season was put in a tolerable good state of repair for a winter road in the summer of 1833. Something less than a thousand dollars was then expended, but such was the state of it at that time that this sum was only sufficient to repair and construct new causeways, so as barely to render it passable for a summer road. All the swampland was then left without causewaying where the surface was sufficiently firm to bear up oxen and horses. As soon as the small roots, moss, &c. became rotten the constant travel upon it rendered the mud so deep as to make it difficult to pass such places. Many of these were of considerable extent. In one place I had to causeway little less than half a mile. In cutting stuff for the causeways I have endeavored to have it of proper length to cover, whenever the road shall be turnpiked. In repairing the road where it is not causewayed, and removing the stumps and rocks, and constant travel thereon, have made the travelled part of it much lower in many places, than the adjoining ground. This causes the water to accumulate in the road, and notwithstanding the precaution of cutting side drains on sideling places, the heavy rains so frequent in this region injure such places very materially, and sloughs and mud holes are continually forming. With the trifling exception I have named, the road is now good for winter as far as the north line of township number four, and there will not be much difficulty in passing it in summer at present. But as the road is used, new causeways will be continually wanted to enable the inhabitants to travel in summer until it is turnpiked.

Permit me to state a few of the reasons why the road should

be completed as early as possible. It opens an easy and direct communication with the most valuable of our public lands both for timber and farming. The land over which it passes is remarkably easy and favorable for a road, and the soil is surpassed by none in the State. A large proportion of the land for the first forty miles was purchased of Massachusetts, and for several years are yet to run before most of this can be taxed the purpose of making a road. The great amount of lumbering business carried on in the vicinity causes a very considerable travel upon it for the purpose of transporting the necessary supplies. I am informed by good authority, that during the winter season there is already as much travel on the Aroostook as on the military road. If this road were completed it would enable the teams to commence operations much earlier in the winter. These advantages, together with the facilities it would offer to settlers I hope may be considered of sufficient importance to the two States to induce you to cause this road to be completed, provided proprietors will contribute their just proportion. My account rendered, and the accompanying vouchers, show the amount I have expended and the funds received.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

IRA FISH.

LINCOLN, DECEMBER 23d, 1835.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 27, 1836.

ORDERED, That 500 copies of the foregoing Report be printed for the use of the Legislature.

[Extract from the Journal.]

Attest,

WILLIAM TRAFTON, *Secretary.*