

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Charles F. Rice
DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1840.

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1840.

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE.

NO. 29.

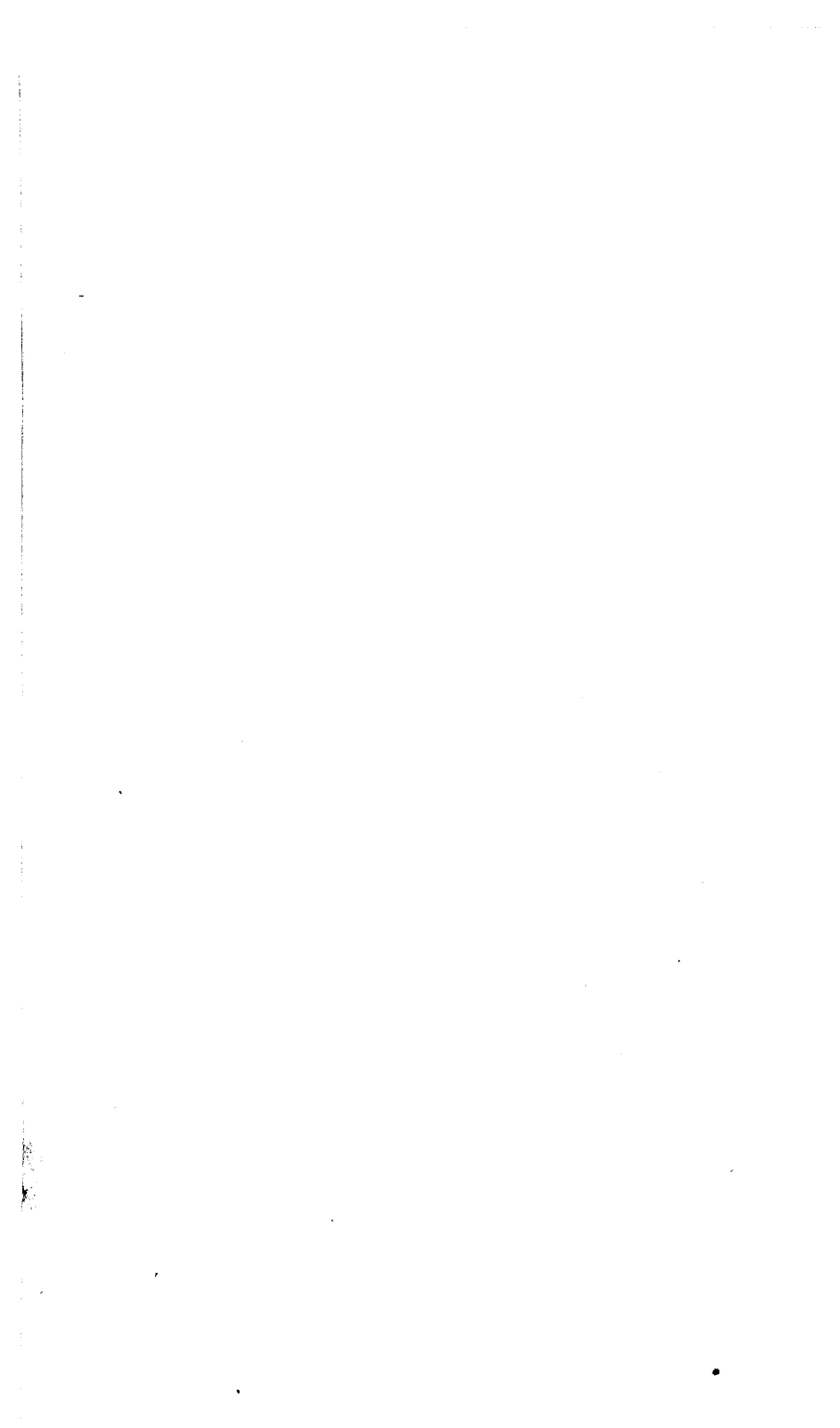
HOUSE.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON STATE LANDS.

[Wm. R. SMITH & Co.....Printers to the State.]



REPORT.

THE Committee on State Lands, to whom was referred an Order of the 23d of January, directing them to “inquire into the Land Agent’s accounts as connected with the Civil Posse under his command—how much money he has paid out, to whom it has been paid, for what purposes, and by what authority,”

REPORT,

That they have examined the said accounts, and have arranged the same, so far as the various, expenditures would admit of distinct classification. In regard to that portion of the Order which requires information as “to whom” monies have been paid, your Committee have deemed it a suitable compliance with the *spirit* of its requirements to note the names of those individuals only who have received any considerable amount, without going into an elaborate detail of the names of those who have received minor sums, chiefly for personal services;—the labor would be very considerable, and we believe the result would not be adequate.

In reply to the first and third queries of the Order, your Committee find that the total amount of the expenditures on account of the Civil posse, together with the continuation of the Aroostook road, a service which the Land Agent, after the passage of the Resolve of March 8th, 1839, authorizing the same—deemed judicious to connect with the operation, of the posse—is, according to the books in the Land Office, one hundred and nineteen thousand two hundred and fifty-three dollars and seventy-six cents, as follows:

For services of men	509	days at	50	cts.
“	“ 1753 $\frac{1}{2}$	“	60	
“	“ 61	“	74	
“	“ 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	“	75	
“	“ 35,073 $\frac{1}{4}$	“	1 00	
“	“ 10	“	1 20	
“	“ 12	“	1 30	
“	“ 580	“	1 25	
“	“ 11	“	1 33	
“	“ 28	“	1 37	
“	“ 58	“	1 40	
“	“ 1,128	“	1 50	
“	“ 316	“	1 60	
“	“ 332	“	1 75	
“	“ 1,735	“	2 00	
“	“ 411 $\frac{1}{2}$	“	2 50	
“	“ 148	“	3 00	
“	“ 91	“	5 00	

For transportation of men, guns, gun carriages, provisions, forage, &c. }	\$14,947	96
For subsistence of men, and forage,	27,005	24
For extra expense enlisting men,	145	55
For tools, materials, &c.,	6,221	86
For blankets, buffalo robes, use of blankets, washing blankets, &c. }	321	80
For Stationery,	132	22
“ Soap,	17	48
“ Ammunition and military equipage,	617	01
“ Patent fuse (for blowing rocks)	10	25
“ Medicine and medical attendance,	48	63
“ Storage,	2	50
“ Interest paid Eastern Bank,	2	50
“ Printing,	19	78
“ Expenses of G. W. Buckmore, twice on express from Aroos- took to Augusta, }	116	34
“ Amount paid for three horses and one pair oxen, }	370	00
“ Stable rent paid Amasa Jones,	25	00
“ Blacksmith and Coppersmith bills,	19	09
“ Two Canoes and two Batteaux,	35	00
“ One patent Balance,	8	00
“ One pocket Compass,	2	50
“ Snow Shoes and Moccasins,	113	50
	<u>\$95,666</u>	<u>96</u>
Add advances made on accounts remaining unsettled, }	23,586	80
	<u>\$119,253</u>	<u>76</u>

A few explanations of some portion of the foregoing classification may be proper. Under the head of *subsistence* is included the amount of Tavern bills and expenses incurred on the road, going to and returning from said services. Under the head of *transportation*, is embraced the amount paid for services of Horse and Ox teams, and their drivers, in drawing materials for building Booms, Block-houses, and for making Roads and Bridges. Under the head of *tools* and *materials*, is included stock for manufacturing tools, Boom irons, and Sleds and Harnesses. Under the head of *ammunition* and *military equipage*, is included Gunpowder for the use of Muskets and Cannon, and for blowing rocks—and a lot of Cannon balls and Cannister shot, which are now on hand. The Oxen and Horses purchased are now in use at Fish river and Fort Fairfield.

In addition to the foregoing amount there has been some expenditures at Fort Fairfield, the exact amount and nature of which disbursements your Committee did not ascertain, not considering the knowledge sufficiently important to authorize them to require the Land Agent to produce the books and accounts at very considerable trouble to him, and expense to the State. In addition to the foregoing account of expenditures, it is supposed there may be due on the unsettled accounts to sundry persons for balance of personal service, provisions,

transportation, &c., an amount exceeding twenty thousand dollars—making the aggregate amount of expenditures incurred under authority of the Resolves of January 24th, February 20th, March 8th, March 19th and March 23d, 1839, over one hundred and forty thousand dollars. So far as your Committee ascertained the rates of compensation *per diem* for personal services, they were as follows: For Carpenters, 1 50 to 2 00—Receivers and forwarders, 2 00—Chain men 1 50—Surveyors, 2 00 to 3 00—Captains of crews, ordinarily, 1 50 to 2 50—Clerks and Commissaries, 1 75 to 2 50—Cooks, 1 25—Blacksmiths, 1 50—Armorers, 1 75—Boatmen, 1 00 to 2 00. It appeared that these were the highest rates allowed, so far as accounts have been settled, except that Captain Rhines received on settlement of June 28, 1839, five dollars per day for 73 days, and Gustavus G. Cushman, Esq. received for 18 days, while absent to the Aroostook and Frederickton, when captured with the Land Agent, five dollars per day and expenses. The more ordinary and the largest portion of services, as will be perceived by the foregoing schedule, have been prices varying from 50 cents to \$1 per day.

In regard to the present rates of compensation, the Land Agent says, “Capt. Rhines will expect four dollars per day; Capt. Towle’s compensation was not certainly agreed on, but he will expect two

dollars and fifty cents or three dollars a day. Dudley F. Leavitt has been Commissary and performed other analagous duties, and is a Deputy Sheriff for service of precepts of the State; no settlement has been made with him, and no compensation fixed. Franklin S. Remick is Commissary, with other analagous duties, at Fish river; he has compensation fixed at forty-five dollars per month." There are 34 men at Fort Fairfield, besides the commanding officer and Commissary; their compensation is chiefly at \$18 per month—three or four mechanics will have larger wages. "Their employment varies with the season and circumstances. The annexed Abstract will show their employment two weeks, and the changes of employment to which they are subject."

(COPY.)

WEEKLY REPORT of the Land Agent's force at Fort Fairfield, for the week ending Saturday, February 8, 1840.

How employed.	Exploring.	Guard duty at Fort.	Guard duty at Boom and Block house.	Blacksmiths.	Cooks.	Lame.	Joiners.	Hay.	Teamster.	Cutting Wood and piling.	Getting water Boy.	Total.
Number men,	5	11	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	3	1	34.

Signed,
G. W. TOWLE, *Dep'y Land Agent.*

(COPY.)

WEEKLY REPORT of the Land Agent's force at Fort Fairfield, for the week ending Saturday Feb'y 15, 1840.

How employed.	Guard duty at the Fort.	Guard duty at boom, block house.	Exploring and securing trespassers.	Tending stable.	Cooks.	Teamster.	Sick.	Lame.	Getting water, &c. boy.	Total.
Number men.	11	3	12	1	3	1	1	1	1	34

Signed,

G. W. TOWLE, *Dep'y Land Agent.*

In regard to what has been accomplished, and in relation to the present and recent employment of these men, the Land Agent further says, "early in the winter the timber was taken out of the Boom, on to the bank, to prevent its being carried off by the ice. Improvements in the buildings, clearing off the logs, &c. about the post, exploring the woods, and lines of the public lands, to discover and prevent trespassing, guarding the block-house, boom &c." He says in relation to the post at Fish river, "when Capt. Rhines," who is now in command at Fish river, "was employed in October, he was authorized to engage six or seven men skilled in building booms, and with the broad axe, at such prices as were necessary to secure the services of competent men. I engaged a blacksmith also at higher wages than common laborers. The residue are engaged at eighteen dollars per month." It

appears there are at the post on Fish river, twenty-nine men including the commanding officer, Commissary and two teamsters, who have recently gone in with supplies, and are at present employed about the boom. "They were engaged in clearing away the woods about the post, and had cut down about seventy-five acres before the river closed so that they might be at work in strengthening the Boom. They erected a new Block-house in lieu of the old one, which was deficient for defence or quarters; a smith and cook's shop and stable. Since the river closed they have been at work on the Boom at the foot of the Island, and in preparing a guide boom at the head of the Island to facilitate securing the trespass timber floating from above, and in exploring the woods and streams to detect and prevent trespassing."

It appears that most of the disbursements for supplies purchased and sent from Bangor—for wages of men settled with at Bangor, and for expenses on the road, amounting to between seventy-five and eighty thousand dollars, have been made through the agency of Hastings Strickland, Esq. Mr. Strickland has received no compensation for his services, and no rate has been agreed on; "he expects his compensation will be fixed by the Governor and Council, or the Legislature." Mr. Jarvis is not now in the service of the Land Agent, and has not been employed since he left the roads, except while

making out his report and accounts.” Mr. Jarvis’ compensation while in the employ of the Land Agent, superintending the making of Roads, was ten dollars per day, except while making out his Report and adjusting his accounts, during which time his compensation was considerably less.

In reply to the query of your Committee relative to the amount of service accomplished by the expenditure, the Land Agent says, “the opening and making one hundred and fourteen miles of Road through State Lands, and making seventeen Bridges, averaging one hundred and thirteen feet in length—erecting two Block-houses and several mechanic’s Shops, and a Stable, clearing and cropping about thirty acres of land, and building a Boom on the Aroostook. Also erecting Block-houses, Stable, and clearing land, and building a Boom at St. John’s and Fish river. For further particulars, see Col. Jarvis’ and Capt. Parrott’s Reports, accompanying the Land Agent’s Report.”

The following are names of persons to whom the principal part of the largest bills have been paid.

To Chase & Hewey, for Entertainment,	\$92	24
“ Gardiner Chadbourne, for	“	396 21
“ Stephen Cobb, for	“	327 84
“ John Cram, for	“	139 73
“ Jacob Fish, for	“	339 36
“ A. G. Grant, for	“	110 23
“ T. F. Hall, for	“	59 50

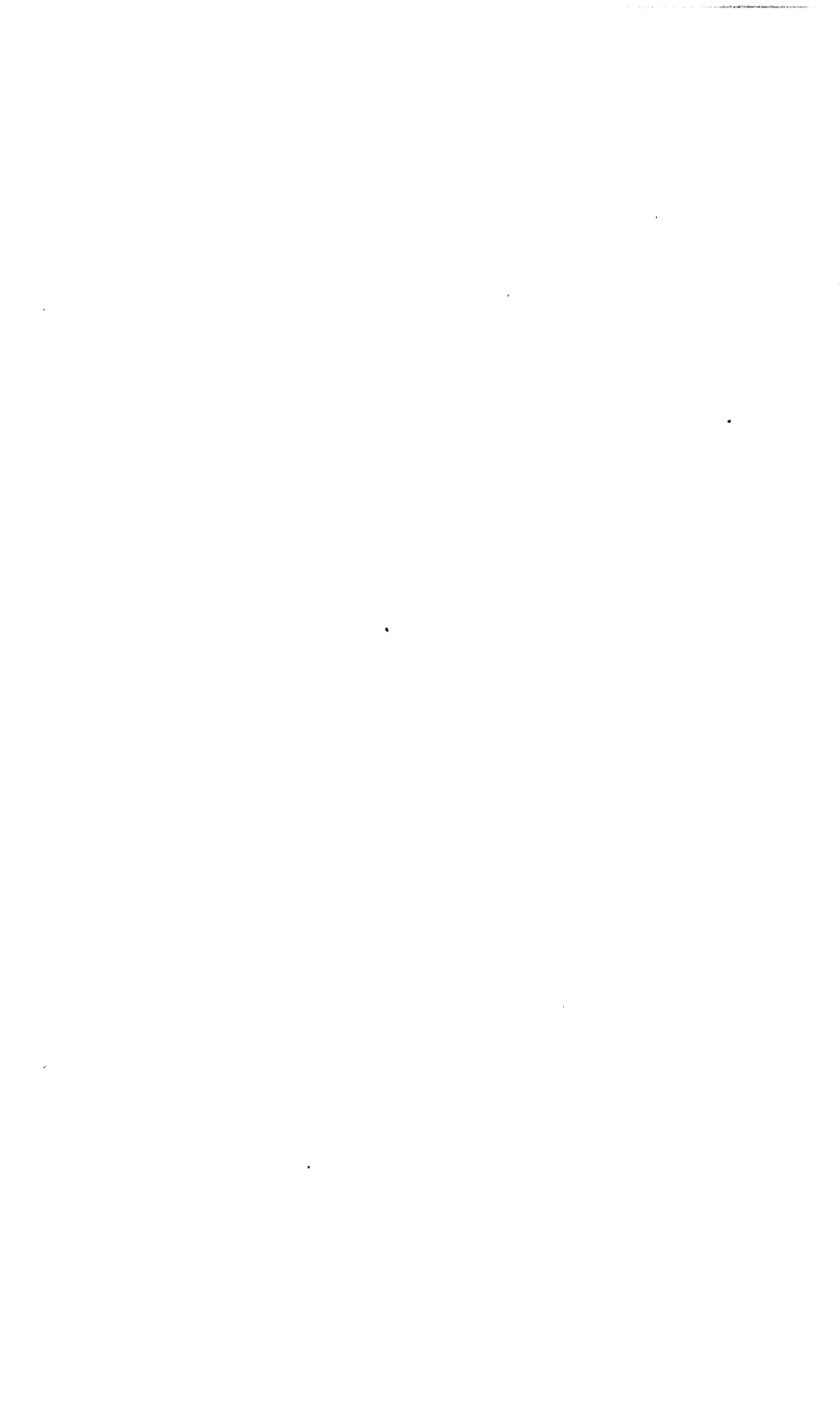
To Samuel Leslie, for Entertainment, &c.	321	18
“ John Mathison, for	“	119 28
“ John T. Nute, for	“	607 63
“ A. C. Robbins, for	“	182 37
“ William Smith, for	“	393 72
“ Asa Smith, for	“	477 29
“ Taylor and Ayres, for	“	364 43
“ John McNamarra, for	“	116 21
“ Eleazer Whitcomb, for	“	135 00
“ James Saunders, Jr, for	“	114 22
“ Ebenezer Packard, for	“ 195 68	} 483 79
“ “ for transport’n	288 11	
“ Isaac Lewis, transportation and entertainment,		849 83
“ George W. Buckmore, services, expenses, &c.		420 46
“ David Bugbee, for Stationery,		132 22
“ Silas Barnard’s bill for services, self and men,		1,299 36
“ Gustavus G. Cushman, 18 day’s services, at \$5,		90 00
“ Gustavus G. Cushman, expenses, Buffalo robe lost, &c.,		25 15
“ E. C. Fairfield, for provisions,		129 01
“ Jesse Fairbanks,		185 50
“ Ira Fish, for transportation,	\$149	00
“ “ for services and forage,	194	40
“ “ for tools and materials,	120	71—464 11

To Fish and Wiggin, for forage and provisions,	382 67
“ Alvin Nye, for services, provisions, &c.	735 22
“ George G. Green, for provisions,	74 60
“ Isaac P. Haynes, for “	226 64
“ George Page & Co. for “	131 20
“ Rail Road Company, for transportation,	138 92
“ Alexander Woodward, for entertainment and merchandize,	412 08
“ Theo. B. McIntire, for tools, materials, cordage, &c.,	466 80
“ Stover Rhines, for services, bill of snow shoes, transportation, expenses, &c.,	766 92
“ Joseph Shaw, for transportation,	1,351 75
“ J. & J. True, for 3 chests Tea,	74 05
“ A. B. Thompson, for 30 bbls. Pork, at \$28,	840 00
“ Shepard Carey & Co., merchandize and forage,	184 15
“ Strickland & Winslow, for provisions, tools, Iron materials for Boom, ammunition, transportation, blankets, &c.,	\$19,170, 92
For commissions on purchases included in their bill	
\$13,608 at 4 per cent.,	544 32
For services, employing and loading teams, settling with teamsters, storage, &c.,	300 00
	—————\$20,015 24

There has been about \$7,550 paid to Col. Jarvis and about \$7,900 to D. F. Leavitt, chiefly on account of disbursements made by them in behalf of the Land Agent. The accounts relative to this service which came under the inspection of your Committee, appeared to be kept systematically. Whether the equivalents named in the bills for monies paid thereon, were in all cases received in behalf of the State, by persons duly authorized; or whether services, as specified in the bills for labor, were in all cases performed, your Committee could not of course, correctly determine. From the nature of the service, it was necessary to place considerable reliance on the care and fidelity of subordinate agents. Very much depended, to prevent abuses and peculation, on the faithfulness of the agents employed in various duties, particularly on the care and vigilance of the disbursing agents who settled the demands. The bills generally appeared to be properly authenticated, although the charges are generally high; probably in many cases quite exorbitant. It is manifest that economy could not characterize the expenses of an expedition of this kind, commenced on an exigency, without preliminary arrangement, and conducted under adverse circumstances.

All which is respectfully submitted.

AARON P. EMERSON, per order.



STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 4, 1840. }

This Report having been read, was laid on the table, and three hundred copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

[Extract from the Journal.]

ELBRIDGE GERRY, *Clerk.*