

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1843.

AUGUSTA:

WM. R. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.



1843.

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

No. 11.]

[HOUSE.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF EXAMINATION

OF THE

PENOBSCOT BOOM.

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

REPORT.

THE Commissioners appointed by the Governor and Council, under the provisions of the second section of the act entitled "an act in addition to an act to incorporate the Penobscot Boom Corporation," passed March 17, 1842, having given thirty days notice, by publication in two papers in Bangor, of the time and place of meeting, for the hearing of the parties, and having in pursuance of said notice, assembled at Bangor, and examined and made a careful and particular survey of the erections and property of said corporation, and the lands necessary for the use of the same, and having heard all parties interested, and the testimony which they have produced,

REPORT.

This corporation was erected in 1832, by an act of the Legislature of that year, entitled "an act to incorporate the Penobscot Boom Corporation." The structures and works of the corporation were commenced by the then proprietors, in 1832. In 1833, the present proprietor, having prior to that period, owned one half of the corporate rights and property, purchased the other moiety of Mr. Dwinal, the original corporator, for which he paid the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

The rights, powers and duties of the corporation have been materially altered and restricted by the subsequent acts of the Legislature, passed in 1838 and 1842.

Since 1833 the present proprietor has erected the chief works and buildings, and procured the lands and privileges, and purchased the boats and implements, that now compose the property of the corporation, and constitute its strength, security and convenience.

The boom rests upon thirty-seven piers of cribbed work, with seventy-two sunken piers and rocks, having buoys attached; the piers being loaded with stone. In the piers are nine hundred and twenty thousand one hundred and eighty-two feet of timber, (board measure) and in the boom sticks and yokes, three hundred and twenty-one thousand four hundred and forty-six feet. The boom sticks are secured to the piers, and connected with each other with shackles, straps and links of iron. The weight of iron upon the boom, is one hundred thousand nine hundred and twenty-six pounds. The stone filling of the piers comprises sixteen hundred and five and three-fourth cords. For the use of the main boom, there is a house and office, and for the use of the boom at Argyle, a dwelling-house and barn. The length of the boom as now used, is sixteen thousand four hundred and seventy-five feet; four thousand nine hundred and forty-one feet of which compose the main boom on the right bank of the Stillwater branch of the Penobscot, at Old Town; and eleven thousand five hundred and thirty-four feet, the boom at Sunkhave and Argyle.

The quantity of timber received into and rafted from the boom within the last ten years, is as follows:

In 1832,	.	.	.	24,831,040 feet.
" 1833,	.	.	.	27,404,396 "
" 1834,	.	.	.	9,180,101 "
" 1835,	.	.	.	82,172,387 "
" 1836,	.	.	.	14,620,195 "

In 1837,	.	.	.	54,785,591	feet.
“ 1838,	.	.	.	57,198,728	“
“ 1839,	.	.	.	51,171,445	“
“ 1840,	.	.	.	36,907,238	“
“ 1841,	.	.	.	49,209,413	“

Average quantity for ten years, 43,748,053 feet.

There were secured in the boom, and delivered under rigging, the present season, 74,331,000 feet. The last season was favorable for lumbering operations in the woods, and the spring of 1842, very much so for running logs on the Penobscot and its branches, and the extensive operations of this year, have probably produced a larger quantity, than may be expected again in any one year. The quantity to come, may not be estimated at more than forty-four million, that will pass through this boom annually, for the coming ten years.

It is in contemplation, and it will be necessary to erect additional piers and booms, as well for the safety of the present works, as the security of the property of the public, and some additional lands and rights of occupation, will be required for the same purposes. These additions and works will involve an expenditure of not less than five thousand dollars.

From the evidence adduced, and personal observation, the commissioners estimate the actual cost of the erections and property of this corporation, up to the present time, fifty thousand nine hundred and sixty-two dollars, eighty-three cents.

This is exclusive of some of the works erected by Mr. Dwinal, under the first charter, and sold to General Veazie, but now abandoned; which abandoned works are estimated to have cost eight thousand dollars.

The depreciation in value of the erections and property of the corporation, over and above the annual

repairs, is three thousand dollars—leaving the present value of these works and property, forty-seven thousand nine hundred and sixty-two dollars, eighty-three cents.

The annual expenditures for repairs, and including sums paid for rights of occupation, are one thousand dollars; and the annual expense for rafting and running logs, including warp, is twenty-one cents per thousand, to wit: on forty-four millions feet, nine thousand two hundred and forty dollars.

The annual risk is two per cent. to wit: on forty-seven thousand nine hundred and sixty-two dollars, nine hundred and forty-nine dollars, twenty-four cents.

The annual losses from depreciation, decay and other incidents, not reimbursed by annual charges for repairs, three per cent. to wit: fourteen hundred thirty-eight dollars eighty-six cents.

The annual receipts are thirty-eight cents per thousand, to wit: on forty-four millions feet, sixteen thousand seven hundred and twenty dollars.

The cost of erections, similar and equal to the present works and property of the corporation, at the present time, the commissioners believe would be forty-seven thousand nine hundred and sixty-two dollars eighty-three cents.

The Commissioners add an estimate and statement of the probable further receipts and expenditures of this corporation.

Present estimated value of the works and property of the corporation,	48,000 00
Add for new and additional works, &c. which are necessary,	5,000 00
Capital invested,	<u>\$53,000 00</u>

Annual receipts, estimated at thirty-eight cents per thousand, on forty-four millions feet,	\$16,720 00
Annual expenses for repairs and right of occupation, &c.	1,000 00
Insurance or risk two per cent. on capital,	1,060 00
Annual losses from decay, damages and incidents not covered by annual charges for repairs, three per cent. on capital,	1,590 00
Annual cost and expenses of rafting and running logs, including warp, at twenty-one cents per thousand on forty-four millions,	9,240 00
	<u>\$12,890 00</u>

Annual receipts,	16,720 00
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Annual expenses,	12,890 00
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Excess of receipts,	<u>3,830 00</u>
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equal to seven and three-tenths per cent. per annum.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH SEWALL,

JN'o LEE,

CHARLES E. BARTLETT,

} *Commissioners.*

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 23, 1843. }

Laid upon the table, and 200 copies ordered to be printed for
the use of the House.

WM. T. JOHNSON, *Clerk.*