

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1844.

AUGUSTA:
WM. R. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS.

1844.

REPORT
OF THE
TREASURER OF MAINE,
ON THE
STATE OF THE TREASURY,
DECEMBER 30, 1843.

AUGUSTA:

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

1844.



STATE OF MAINE.

TREASURER'S OFFICE, }
Augusta, December 30, 1843. }

*To the President of the Senate,
and Speaker of the House of Representatives :*

The statement of the receipts and expenditures of all public moneys, and an account exhibiting the present resources and liabilities of the State, required to be published and laid before the two houses of the Legislature at their annual session, are respectfully submitted in the following

REPORT :

Balance of cash in the Treasury, Dec. 31, 1842,	\$7,967 92
Amount received during the year 1843,	731,548 50
	<hr/>
	739,516 42
There has been paid out by the Treasurer during the year 1843,	350,920 54
	<hr/>
Leaving a balance in the Treasury Dec. 30, 1843, of	<u>\$388,595 88</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT.

STATE OF MAINE *in account with* JAMES WHITE, *Treas'r.**Dr.*

To paid for—	
Clerks,	\$2,675 00
Military purposes,	1,757 90
Militia Pensions,	1,748 00
Costs in Criminal Prosecutions,	15,104 34
Contingent Fund of Gov. and Council,	4,629 91
School Fund, No. 7,	13 15
" No. 8,	12 17
" No. 9,	606 97
" No. 10,	28,483 17
Roll of Accounts, No. 22,	5 62
" No. 23,	154 10
" No. 24,	27,627 08
Bank Commissioners,	139 69
Deaf, Dumb and Blind,	3,891 68
Public Debt,	61,931 45
Miscellaneous Items,	3,203 24
Penobscot Indian Fund,	3,997 44
Stationery,	1,500 00
Binding and Stitching,	800 00
Fuel and Lights,	1,000 00
Agricultural Societies,	1,391 00
Furniture and Repairs,	500 00
Indexes,	250 00
Contingent Fund of Secretary,	100 00
Council,	2,476 00
Senate,	6,474 00
House,	25,607 40
Literary Institutions,	300 00
Porter and Messenger,	111 00
N. E. Boundary Commissioners,	800 00
Postage,	705 49
State Prison,	2,325 34
Insane Hospital,	1,787 07
Books and Maps,	500 00
Contingent Fund of Treasurer,	1,000 00
Maine Reports,	1,914 25

TREASURER'S REPORT.

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STATE OF MAINE *in account with* JAMES WHITE, *Treas'r.*

Dr.

(CONTINUED.)

To paid for—		
Library,		350 00
Printing,		2,048 25
Canada Road,		600 00
Salaries,		29,207 86
Interest,		100,344 24
Indian Annuity,		1,441 13
County Taxes,		11,406 60
Cash in Treasury to balance,		388,595 88
		\$739,516 42

STATE OF MAINE *in account with* JAMES WHITE, *Treas'r.*

Cr.

By cash in Treasury, Jan. 2, 1843,		\$7,967 92
“ from Land Agent,		34,097 59
“ from Permanent School Fund,		21,539 06
“ from duty on Commissions,		1,495 00
“ from miscellaneous items,		1,259 38
“ from Bank Dividends,		750 00
“ from School Fund, No. 11,		27,823 56
“ from Interest,		567 46
“ from County taxes,		5,099 84
“ from State tax, 1840,		207 61
“ from “ 1841,		2,121 82
“ from “ 1842,		195,335 06
“ from “ 1843,		6,123 79
“ from Penobscot Indian Fund,		1,115 00
“ on account N. E. Boundary,		433,721 52
“ “ Library,		1 00
“ “ Books and Maps,		1 34
“ “ Fuel and Lights,		289 47
		\$739,516 42

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RESOURCES OF THE STATE.

Cash in the Treasury, January 1, 1844,	\$388,595 88
Balance due on State tax, for 1840,	268 61
“ “ “ 1841,	942 25
“ “ “ 1842,	3,659 09
“ “ “ 1843,	195,479 55

BALANCE OF COUNTY TAXES.

County of Hancock, 1841,	3 25
“ Washington, 1842, and 1843,	3,369 75
“ Kennebec, 1842,	12 34
“ Oxford, 1840, '41, '42 and '43,	1,512 05
“ Somerset, 1840, '41, '42 and '43,	1,494 62
“ Penobscot, 1826, '40, '41, '42 & '43,	535 00
“ Piscataquis, 1840, '41, '42 and '43,	566 52
“ Franklin, 1842, and '43,	110 97
“ Aroostook, 1841, '42 and '43,	7,367 59
Securities in the Land Office,	136,515 88
Notes receivable in the Treasury Office,	19,986 77
	<hr/>
	\$760,420 12

100 shares in Augusta Bank, Augusta.

60 shares in Mercantile Bank, Bangor.

50 shares in Maine Bank, Portland.

One third part of the Massachusetts' claim against the United States for disbursements made during the last war.

Balance of claims against the United States for expenses incurred in protecting the disputed territory, and other claims under the late Treaty in relation to the boundary line of the State.

Proceeds of the sales of timber on the public lands.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

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LIABILITIES OF THE STATE.

PUBLIC FUNDED DEBT.

There is now due and uncalled for,	\$400 00
There will become due in 1845,	267,146 22
“ “ “ 1846,	1,500 00
“ “ “ 1847,	55,800 00
“ “ “ 1848,	260,400 00
“ “ “ 1850,	22,000 00
“ “ “ 1851,	438,685 00
“ “ “ 1852,	134,000 00
“ “ “ 1854,	10,000 00
“ “ “ 1855,	277,000 00
“ “ “ 1856,	133,000 00
“ “ “ 1860,	63,500 00

Amount of funded debt,	\$1,663,431 22
Penobscot Indian Fund,	60,187 48
Permanent School Fund,	42,321 98
Balance due on Rolls of Accounts, Nos. 15 to 24, inclusive,	326 19
Balance due on School Funds,	1,558 82
Interest due, uncalled for,	4,232 31
Warrants unpaid,	7,336 74

AMOUNT DUE FOR COUNTY TAXES.

County of Washington, for roads,	500 00
“ “ for roads,	620 00
“ “ for ordinary expenses,	377 90
“ Oxford, for ordinary expenses,	63 79
“ Somerset, for roads,	1,011 77
“ “ for ordinary expenses,	283 32
“ Penobscot, for ordinary expenses,	356 18

TREASURER'S REPORT.

County of Piscataquis, for ordinary expenses,	370 33
“ “ for ordinary exp's., 1842,	345 17
“ Franklin, for ordinary expenses,	94 72
“ Aroostook, for ordinary expenses,	945 00
“ “ for roads,	5,006 76
Total liabilities of the State, Dec. 30, 1843,	<u>\$1,789,369 68</u>

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 1844.

Council,	. . .	\$2,500 00
Senate,	. . .	6,000 00
House,	. . .	24,000 00
Interest,	. . .	103,000 00
County Taxes,	. . .	9,974 94
Salaries,	. . .	28,000 00
Clerks,	. . .	2,600 00
Contingent Fund of Governor and Council,		5,000 00
Penobscot Indian Fund,	. . .	3,600 00
Fuel and Lights,	. . .	800 00
Furniture and repairs of Public Buildings,		1,500 00
Agricultural Societies,	. . .	1,500 00
Stationery,	. . .	1,000 00
Contingent Fund of Treasurer,	. . .	1,000 00
Printing,	. . .	5,000 00
Deaf, Dumb and Blind,	. . .	3,500 00
Contingent Fund of Secretary,	. . .	100 00
Postage,	. . .	900 00
Bank Commissioners,	. . .	600 00
Indian Annuities,	. . .	1,500 00
Balance due on School Funds,	. . .	1,558 82
Balance due on Rolls of Accounts,	. . .	326 19
School Fund, No. 11,	. . .	27,823 56

TREASURER'S REPORT.

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Reports of Judicial Decisions,	2,000 00
Miscellaneous Items,	2,500 00
Roads,	2,000 00
Costs in Criminal Prosecutions,	16,000 00
Warrants unpaid,	7,336 74
Binding and Stitching,	800 00
Bounty on Animals,	1,400 00
Bounty on Silk,	100 00
Military purposes,	2,000 00
Military Pensions,	2,000 00
Rations and Powder,	16,000 00
Sheriffs and Coroners,	700 00
Pay of officers,	1,800 00
Courts Martial,	1,200 00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$287,620 25</u>

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS FOR 1844.

Cash in the Treasury,	\$388,595 88
State tax (balances) for 1840, 1841, 1842 and 1843,	200,349 50
County taxes (balances) for 1836, 1840, 1841, 1842 and 1843,	14,972 09
Land Office,	40,000 00
Bank tax,	25,590 00
Duty on Commissions,	1,500 00
Bank dividends,	600 00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$671,607 47</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT.

AMOUNT PAID FOR CLAIMS PRIOR TO 1843.

Military purposes,	163 12
Clerks,	75 00
Militia pensions,	550 00
Costs in Criminal Prosecutions,	3,200 98
Contingent fund of Governor and Council,	660 31
School funds, No. 7, 8 and 9,	632 29
Roll of Accounts, No. 22 and 23,	159 72
Bank Commissioners,	139 69
Miscellaneous items,	2,508 52
Northeastern Boundary Commissioners,	800 00
Salaries,	3,756 76
County taxes,	11,390 40
Deaf, Dumb and Blind,	1,100 00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$25,136 79</u>

On referring to the statement of the receipts of the Treasury, it will be seen that the sum of \$433,721 52 has been credited on account of the Northeastern Boundary claim. There is included in that sum, \$150,000, the moiety belonging to Maine as provided for in the 5th article of the "Treaty of Washington," \$76,786 73, in part of the "military posse" expenses, and \$206,934 79, in part of the "civil posse" expenses.

It has been universally conceded that the best interest of the State would be promoted by applying the proceeds of the claims of this State upon the United States on account of expenditures in relation to the Northeastern Boundary, and under the Treaty, towards extinguishing the funded debt of the State; and a wise and discreet fi-

nancial policy would indicate that, as the only proper disposition of it.

The Legislature at their last session, anticipating the receipt of a portion of the claim on the General Government, by a Resolve of the 24th of March, authorized an investment of a part of the proceeds in the purchase of certificates of stock of this State. The authority however was limited, and owing to an unexpected change and unprecedented state of the money market, the restriction which the Resolve contained defeated its purpose, and only a small part of the sum appropriated has been invested. The Resolve likewise provided that the sum of \$50,000 of the proceeds should be retained in the Treasury "for common and ordinary expenses,"—but it is gratifying to say that it has not been required for such purposes, and that the wants of the Treasury for all "common and ordinary" demands upon it, have been supplied from other sources. And it is believed that if the financial affairs of the State should continue as prosperous in future, as they have been through the year now brought to a close, the whole amount received from the General Government, and all that may hereafter be received from that source, may be applied to the extinguishment of the public debt.

There is no Legislative duty more difficult and perplexing in its performance, than that which pertains to the finances of government. To provide and replenish the Treasury with means by a just and equal distribution of the burdens, is an intricate and embarrassing task. The frequent transfer of the duty from one Legislative body to its successor, by the changes which are necessarily incident to a popular government, is not one of the least of the difficulties which attend the execution of the trust. New and untried projects, and favorite schemes, are too often cherished in the minds of those on whom the duty

devolves; and intent on the future, they overlook and forget the past. As in private, so in public affairs, after the lapse of certain periods of time, a careful review of the doings of the past, may be both interesting and useful.

It is twenty four years since the organization of the State of Maine, a period of sufficient length, to furnish facts of a practical nature in relation to its financial system.

From the organization of the State to the present time, the revenues of the Treasury have principally consisted of the following sums :

A State Tax, from which there has been collected	\$1,256,250 11
Land Department,	581,801 12
Bank Tax,	589,834 47
Duty paid by officers of government on Commissions,	54,223 00
Fees paid by Clerks of the Judicial Courts, or Court fees,	71,403 01
Fees paid by Attorneys and Counsellors for admission,	4,995 00
Duty paid by Retailers and Pedlers for licenses,	10,911 61
Money paid by military exempts,	574 90
Dividends on Bank stock,	14,138 00
From Massachusetts on account of expenses during last war, &c.,	189,435 98
	\$2,773,567 20

The law requiring the payment of Court or Justices' fees, was repealed in 1835, and the law in relation to the fees paid by Attorneys and Counsellors, the duty paid by Retailers and Pedlers, and moneys paid by military exempts, were repealed or modified at different times, and never yielded any material income.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

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The expenditures have been somewhat numerous; only a few, and those the principal of them, can be noticed here. They will be sufficient however for the present purpose, as it is not with a view to adjust balances, that they are introduced, but to illustrate the policy which has prevailed in relation to the public moneys.

The following list shows the purposes to which the principal part of the revenues have been applied, and the several different classes of appropriations:

Pay Roll of Council,	\$57,845 90
" of Senate,	108,509 00
" of House,	637,422 60
Salaries of public officers,	384,528 66
Printing,	106,814 16
Clerks,	41,289 54
Stationery and Binding,	32,618 33
Postage,	11,746 90
Militia and military purposes,	305,899 48
Costs in Criminal Prosecutions,	197,804 59
Making and repairing roads,	94,179 80
Literary Institutions,	85,060 95
Public Buildings, Repairs, Furniture, &c.,	152,676 35
Insane Hospital,	107,497 80
State Prison,	175,780 16
Wheat and Corn Bounty,	231,500 75
Annual School Fund,	349,558 97
Bounty on Animals,	22,845 07
Agricultural Societies,	9,298 56
Laws, and Law Reports,	23,534 30
Deaf, Dumb and Blind,	25,429 01
Interest,	500,124 20
	<hr/>
	\$3,661,965 08

As has been before remarked, it is not to adjust the balances that the foregoing items are presented, but for another and different purpose.

The selection exhibits the fact, that much larger appropriations have been made from time to time than the resources of the Treasury were adequate to meet; it also shows the nature of the appropriations, from which their expediency or in expediency may be inferred.

It would be tedious to examine all the items in detail. Some, it will be seen, are absolutely necessary, others are commended for their benevolent character, and others again for their expediency. Some have ceased to be a charge on the Treasury, while others which have been created since the organization of the government, are still continued. The annual School Fund belongs to the latter class. A semi-annual tax on Banks has contributed to the funds of the Treasury, \$589,834 47, a mere trifle less than a moiety of the amount derived from the State tax. For ten years past, that tax, amounting to \$349,558 97, has been distributed to the cities, towns and plantations, for the use of primary schools, the State being at the same time obliged to obtain funds to meet its common and ordinary expenses by public loans.

The charges on the Treasury on account of the Militia, from 1820 to 1834, inclusive, were \$103,398 55. A law was then enacted authorizing the commanding officer of a company to make a requisition upon the selectmen of towns and the assessors of plantations, for the payment of fifty cents in lieu of rations, to each officer and member of his company, which greatly increased that item of expense.

At the time of the organization of the United States government, the right of the people to bear arms was

deemed of such vital importance, that at the first session of the first Congress an amendment of the Constitution was proposed and adopted, prohibiting that body from enacting any law which might in any respect infringe or control it. It was esteemed to be necessary to the security of personal freedom and the full and free enjoyment of personal rights, rather than to the protection of property. No government has ever yet existed which would wantonly destroy property, but the tendency of government has been to enslave the people. The establishment and organization of the militia were intended to initiate and instruct them in the arts of war, that they might the more readily and effectually protect themselves, in the enjoyment of their rights as freemen. The honor incident to the offices, was among the highest bestowed upon free citizens, and trainings were regarded as schools of instruction. The services rendered were not looked upon as a tax, or as the performance of a servile duty, but rather as a privilege, and although attended with some sacrifice, yet not of that nature which claimed a pecuniary compensation.

It has been urged with some force, that the payment of costs in criminal prosecutions from the State Treasury, was not the best and most economical plan, but that payment of them by the several counties would be preferable, and that a more stern and rigid economy would then be observed, and a saving of expense would follow. How far a change would be successful is not clearly demonstrable; there are, however, sound arguments in support of it. The fact that the present system draws largely on the Treasury cannot be denied, and if a better could be devised, it is desirable it should be adopted.

It is not, however, the separate expenditures, but the

general policy and its consequences, to which the attention of the Legislature is respectfully called. The diminishing of its revenues, and the multiplying and enlarging of its expenditures, is not the policy of a wise government. Enough should be raised to meet the expenses of an economical administration, and more than that ought not to be collected into the Treasury; and that should consist of revenues—and only on some unforeseen exigency should the credit of the State be pledged to raise funds by public loans. Such, however, it seems has not been the policy. The faith of the State has been repeatedly pledged to raise funds when no uncommon exigency existed. If an individual, who, to meet his ordinary expenditures, habitually borrows money, is in the direct road to bankruptcy, the same in like circumstances is equally true of a State.

The accruing interest on the public debt for 1844, is \$98,771 90, a sum nearly equal to the cost of administering the government. This must be provided for, or the plighted faith of the State will be tarnished. To diminish this charge, the debt on which it accrues must be paid—a debt, having its origin in measures, which, if their consequences had been foreseen, would never have been sanctioned.

There is now in the Treasury a balance to meet and cancel a portion of this debt, and it should be set apart and pledged for that purpose. A thought of otherwise appropriating it, should not be for a moment entertained. Although it may be necessary to keep it for a time, and a sacrifice of interest may be inevitable, that is not an objection to weigh against the danger which would attend an attempt to invest it in securities, and the risk of recalling it again when wanted for use. Having it at all times in readiness, public creditors may be induced to surrender

their certificates and receive payment. In any event, \$267,146 22 of the debt will become due in 1845, principally in February and March, and on the first day of April, which can then be paid and cancelled. That, with such portion of the debt as can probably be paid in anticipation of the time of its maturity, will absorb the present balance and any other funds of the Treasury, that may be spared to be so applied.

An Act of Congress of the fourth of September, 1841, provided for the distribution of the net proceeds of the sales of the public lands. Under the authority of that law the Treasurer of the United States divided among the several States and Territories, and the District of Columbia, a certain amount of the revenues, which had been collected from that source. \$17,554 90, the portion to Maine, was placed to the credit of this State. The act provides, that payment shall be made half yearly on the first day of January and July, to such person or persons as the Legislature or the Governor shall authorize and direct to receive it. No agent has been appointed, and that sum has not been included in the estimate of receipts for 1844. Should an agent be appointed, which duty devolves on the Legislature, that sum will probably be paid over immediately—that being included, the estimate of receipts should be \$689,162 37. And if it should be thought advisable to repeal the act requiring the distribution of the Bank tax, that being deducted from the estimate of expenditures, they would be but \$259,796 69, and that sum taken from the estimate of receipts, would leave a balance in favor of the Treasury at the close of the year 1844, of \$429,365 68.

There is likewise reason to expect that a further sum will be paid on the Northeastern Boundary claim, which

would probably increase the balance to \$550,000. This estimate is made on the presumption that the usual State tax of \$200,000 will be assessed, which is unquestionably the only policy that can relieve the Treasury from the debt which now presses heavily on the people.

JAMES WHITE, *Treasurer.*