

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1855.

AUGUSTA:

STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1855.

REPORT

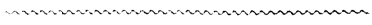
OF THE

TREASURER OF MAINE,

ON THE

STATE OF THE TREASURY,

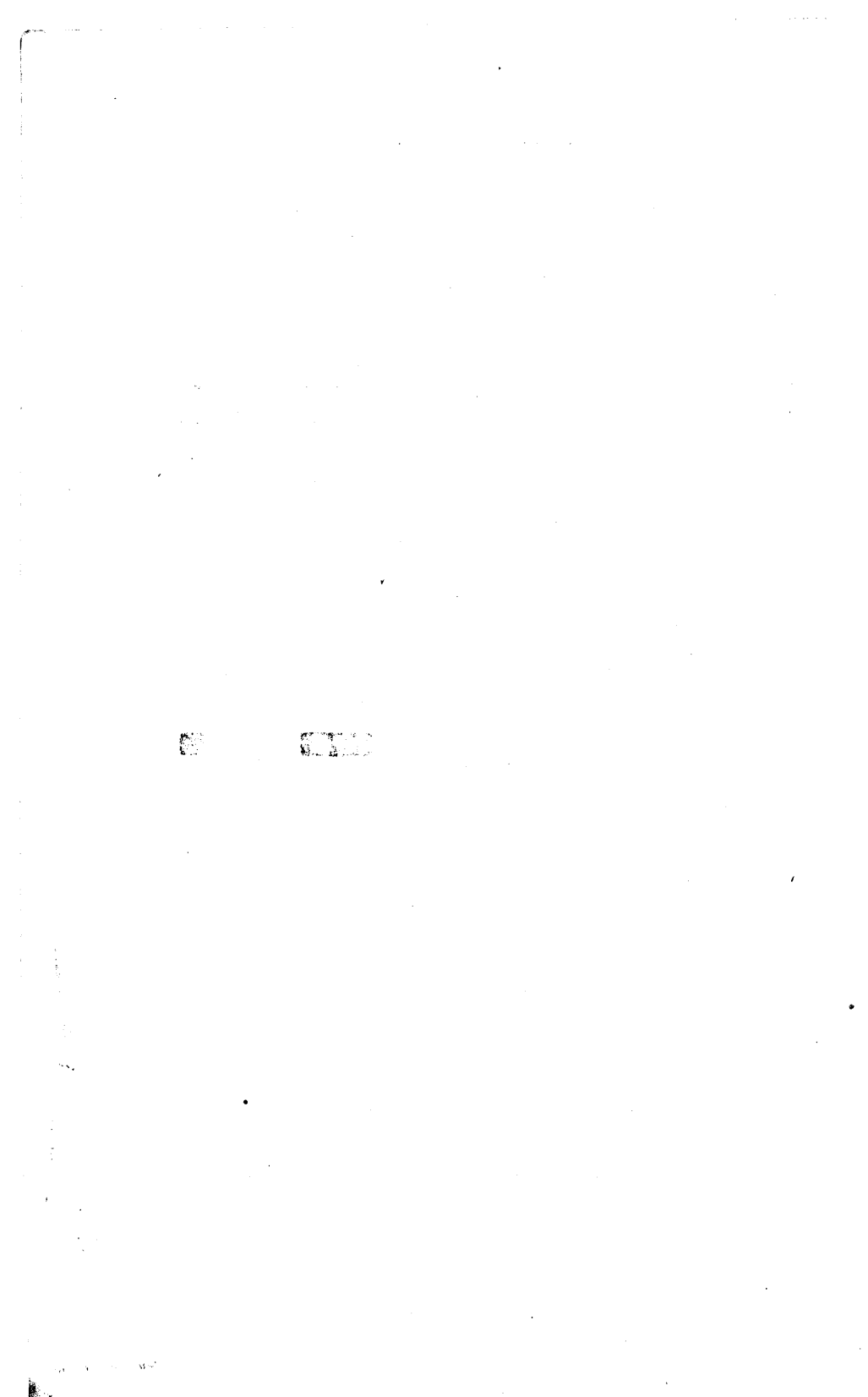
DECEMBER 30, 1854.



Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1855.



REPORT.

TREASURY OFFICE, }
Augusta, January 1, 1855. }

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

IN compliance with the law, I have the honor herewith to transmit a detailed account of the transactions of this department, for the year ending December 30, 1854.

The receipts have been as follows:

From taxes,	\$212,014 54
“ land agent on general account,	41,831 73
“ land agent on account of permanent school fund,	8,317 24
“ land agent on account of sales of timber and grass on lands reserved for public uses in unincorporated townships,	24,733 38
“ bank tax,	56,689 72
“ from proceeds of sale of timber on township belonging to Passamaquoddy Indians,	3,355 51
“ duties on commissions,	2,615 00
“ bank dividends,	800 00
“ miscellaneous sources,	9,063 62
Cash on hand January 1, 1854,	92,504 71
Amounting in all to the sum of	
	\$451,925 45

The disbursements for the same period amount to \$343,818.04—showing a balance on hand at this date of \$108,107.41.

To this balance should be charged the following amounts for which the Treasury is subject to immediate call for outstanding appropriations, or which are held in trust for specific purposes, viz :

Warrants drawn and unpaid,	\$10,583 05
Balance of school funds heretofore apportioned but not yet called for,	23,594 96
Balance due on roll of accounts,	475 05
Installment of bank tax paid in October and constituting part of annual school fund for 1855,	29,468 74
Interest due and uncalled for,	1,990 00
County taxes on unincorporated lands, collected and held in trust for the several counties,	5,336 66
In all \$71,448.46—leaving \$36,658.95 to be applied as the accruing necessities of the government may require.	

The payments of the State tax by the collectors of the cities and towns have been as promptly made as heretofore.

In relation to the taxes on lands situate in unincorporated places, many of which had become forfeited since 1849, the Treasurer was enabled to collect by means of the law enacted by the last Legislature directing him to sell the same. In conformity therewith, on the 27th day of September last, he offered the same at auction, and each tract offered was sold for the taxes and interest due on the same up to, and including the year 1853.

I am well satisfied that the system is a good one in its practical operation for enforcing payment of taxes on unincorporated lands, that its continuance will prevent the accumulation of arrears of taxes to be carried forward from year to year on the books of the Treasurer and unavailable to the State.

The tax ledgers have not been so clean for years in this respect as they are at this time, and the interest of the State demands that this system should be preserved.

I would call attention to the fact that there are some tracts improperly contained in the valuation of 1850 and the subsequent tax acts, the same not being liable to taxation in conse-

quence of the former ownership of Massachusetts, but at this time of this State. All such tracts should be stricken out for the future and any taxes heretofore assessed thereon abated—one or two such were apparently forfeited, but the Treasurer did not offer them for sale.

By the last report from this department there appeared to be balances due for State taxes for the several years from 1840 to 1848 both inclusive, the sum of \$1,856.51, chiefly chargeable to unincorporated lands. By the same document there was due the Treasury \$22,079.56 on account of balances of county taxes assessed on unincorporated places which had been advanced from the State Treasury from 1840 to 1848 inclusive, as follows:

To the county of Hancock, 1847 to 1848, inclusive,	\$3 68
“ “ Washington, 1842 to 1848, “	2,502 09
“ “ Oxford, 1840 to 1848, “	676 27
“ “ Somerset, 1840 to 1848, “	2,567 04
“ “ Penobscot, 1840 to 1848, “	2,708 28
“ “ Piscataquis, 1841 to 1848, “	125 00
“ “ Franklin, 1842 to 1848, “	1,774 43
“ “ Aroostook, 1841 to 1848, “	11,722 77

The large amounts were principally for road taxes. The State had a lien upon the tracts assessed for its indemnity.

In 1849 this system of advancing to counties was changed, and the forfeited lands ordered to be sold by the Land Agent at auction.

The past year a final disposition of the lands holden for the payment of the above taxes, has been made. The result is, that there has been received the sum of \$3,943.16 in full for the above sums, leaving the State a loser to the extent of about \$19,900.

Authority should be given to the Treasurer to strike these items from the books of the office, the State having disposed of the lands.

Owing to the severe stringency in the money market the past season, aggravated by a drought, intense and protracted,

particularly in the eastern section of the State, the receipts from the Land Office on account of debts due to that department have been less than was anticipated.

The first note given for timber and grass upon the township belonging to the Passamaquoddy Indians, falling due August 20-23, 1854, was seasonably forwarded from this office to the Calais Bank for collection. Thirty-three hundred fifty-five $\frac{1}{10}$ dollars were paid, leaving unpaid a balance of \$2,269.49 of the principal and the annual interest on that and two other notes of a similar amount. I am informed that these notes are most undoubtedly good, and the failure to pay the whole amount maturing, is to be attributed to causes before alluded to.

The disbursements of the past year for what may be designated extraordinary expenditures were \$18,000 for the new wing of the Insane Hospital, and \$30,000 on account of the public debt, ten thousand of which had matured, and twenty thousand paid in anticipation of maturity, on the 7th of March, 1855.

The ordinary expenditures may therefore be set down at \$295,818.04 for the year, and there is no reason to expect that they will be less in the future. Of this amount, however, it should be borne in mind that so much of the expenditure as is paid out for the annual school fund, which is derived from the Bank tax, (and being last year \$48,843.72,) imposes no burden upon the body of the tax payers—so that the whole of the ordinary expenses chargeable to the revenue derived from taxes and other sources is but \$246,974.32.

The amount of the annual school fund for 1854, composed of Bank tax and interest on the permanent school fund, was \$55,860.53, and will be larger next year, owing to the increase of banking capital.

The most important consideration connected with the finances of the State, and which will demand the very earliest attention of the Legislature, is the provision which must be made for paying that portion of the public debt which matures March 7, 1855. At the commencement of the past fiscal year, the amount

of that loan was \$260,000, of which has been paid \$20,000, leaving \$240,000 to be provided for on that account, and \$8,000 additional to pay one bond for that amount, which matured in September, 1852, but has not yet been presented for payment. The cash on hand applicable to that purpose may be put down at \$30,000, leaving a balance of \$218,000.

There is also held by the State one hundred shares of the capital stock in the Augusta Bank of the par value of eighty dollars a share, which can probably be converted at any time. The dividends on that stock have very much more than paid the interest on the par value of the stock, and it is questionable whether the Treasury would be the gainer by selling it at this time.

As before remarked, the receipts from the Land Office have been very light, and there is nothing in that quarter to be relied on as an immediate resource to pay the debt.

The only mode then left to meet this liability is a new loan. Whether this shall be temporary or permanent is for the Legislature to determine. A temporary loan can be obtained only from the banks, and it is to be doubted whether the Legislature would, except in case of actual necessity, absorb a portion of that capital which is already insufficient to meet the necessities of the business community. Besides this consideration, it is not apparent where the funds are to be obtained out of the ordinary revenues or resources, to refund a temporary loan in any reasonable time, for any probable surplus which may be in the Treasury at the end of the coming year, will be needed early in the following year to pay off the loan then falling due.

The Legislature has the undoubted power to make this requisition upon the banks of the State, but the expediency of its exercise is another affair, to be determined by itself upon a due consideration of attending circumstances.

Fortunately the credit of Maine stands so high that the undersigned does not entertain the slightest doubt that a loan can be effected to the extent of the necessities of the Treasury,

at a rate of interest not exceeding six per cent. in season to pay off the debt of March 7, 1855.

During the time the undersigned has been intrusted with the charge of this department more than \$420,000 of public debt has been paid, and almost invariably parties presenting their scrip for redemption have expressed a desire to re-invest in the stocks of the State; and many parties holding stock maturing in March next are disposed to renew their loan if they are allowed to do so.

The longer the period which shall be fixed for the maturity of the proposed loan, the greater will be the eagerness of capitalists to obtain it; but in fixing the time, due regard should be had to the future liabilities and prospects of the Treasury. A portion of the proposed loan might be distributed through the years 1857, 1858 and 1859, because during those years there will be no call for the payment of any other part of the public debt, and the receipts from the land department can be safely relied on to a very considerable extent to meet the same in those years. The residue can be made payable at such periods hereafter as promise now to be most convenient for the State. Time of payment will constitute an important element in the negotiation of the proposed new loan, and very much discretion must be necessarily bestowed upon the officer who shall be intrusted with the duty of making it.

There has been paid into the Treasury by John Jewett, executor of the last will and testament of Isaac Sanford, late of Kennebec, in the county of Kennebec, the sum of seven hundred dollars, being a bequest to the Reform School. The following is a copy of the clause of the will directing the payment:

Item.—I give, bequeath and devise unto the State Reform School, recently established by the Legislature and located in the county of Cumberland, designed for the reformation of juvenile offenders, the sum of seven hundred dollars, which sum I order and direct my executor to pay, to whomsoever is authorized to receive the same sum, in six months after he shall assume his trust."

The same gentleman has also paid a further sum of six hundred dollars, being a bequest by the same testator for the benefit of indigent blind, and deaf and dumb mutes. The following is the clause of the will directing the same:

“Item.—I give, bequeath and devise unto th~~e~~ State of Maine the sum of six hundred dollars, to be expended under the direction of the Governor and Council of the State, for the benefit and to the use of such indigent blind, and deaf and dumb mutes, as may apply for aid to be educated and improved in institutions established for that object, it being understood that said blind, deaf and dumb persons shall be natives of the State of Maine, and that the Governor and Council shall have the power and right to assign such a portion of said sum to the blind and to the deaf and dumb respectively, and in such amount and at such times as they may judge best, the principal to be kept on interest, as much, and as far as may be. In case the Governor and Council should not deem it best, or there should not be occasion to expend it, so that interest cannot be obtained—the funds thus derived to be wholly under the control of the Governor and Council. And I do order and direct my executor to pay said sum of six hundred dollars unto the Treasurer of the State of Maine in one year after he shall have procured the probate of this will.”

The estimated receipts for the coming year, including cash on hand, are \$430,166.08, and the estimated expenditures, \$619,472.67.

In preparing the estimate of the expenses for the coming year, all ordinary subjects of expenditure have been included. The estimate for the Reform School has been obtained by communication with the treasurer of the board having the superintendence of that institution, and that for finishing the new wing to the Insane Hospital, has been derived from the commissioner having charge of the erection.

The ordinary State tax cannot be dispensed with the coming year.

Estimated Receipts for 1855.

Cash on hand January 1, 1855,	\$108,107 41
Balance due on State taxes to 1854, inclusive,	199,863 67
Land office,	50,000 00
Bank tax,	60,000 00
Duty on commissions,	2,500 00
Notes receivable,	8,895 00
Bank dividends,	800 00
	<hr/>
	\$430,166 08

Estimated Expenditures for the year 1855.

Public debt,	\$248,000 00
Interest,	40,000 00
Pay roll of council,	4,000 00
Pay roll of senate,	9,000 00
Pay roll of house of representatives,	37,000 00
School fund No. 22,	60,000 00
Interest on permanent school fund,	7,516 00
Salaries,	30,000 00
Costs in criminal prosecutions,	35,000 00
Balance due on school funds—8 to 21, inclusive,	23,594 96
Balance due on roll of accounts,	475 05
Subordinate officers of state prison,	5,000 00
Printing,	7,500 00
Clerks,	6,000 00
Bounties on animals,	2,500 00
Militia pensions,	2,500 00
Postage,	1,200 00
Furniture and repairs,	1,500 00
Fuel and lights,	1,500 00
Contingent fund of treasurer,	1,000 00
Reports of judicial decisions,	3,000 00
Stationery,	2,000 00
Penobscot Indian Fund,	3,400 00
Contingent fund of governor and council,	6,000 00
Deaf, dumb and blind,	6,000 00
Agricultural societies,	4,000 00
Insane state paupers,	4,000 00
Reform school,	19,800 00
Insane hospital,	21,000 00

Estimated Expenditures, (Continued.)

County taxes,	\$5,336 66
Binding and stitching,	500 00
Military purposes,	1,000 00
Library,	300 00
Bank commissioners,	1,000 00
Sheriffs and coroners,	300 00
Contingent fund of secretary,	200 00
Porter and messenger,	100 00
Indices,	150 00
Inspectors of state prison,	200 00
Trustees insane hospital,	800 00
Agricultural productions to Penobscot Indians,	1,000 00
Indian annuities,	1,900 00
Board of agriculture,	1,000 00
Interest on lands reserved for public uses,	1,000 00
Forfeited lands,	700 00
Passamaquoddy Indian fund,	1,500 00
Miscellaneous items,	10,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$619,472 67

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Resources of the State.

Cash in the treasury January 1, 1855,		\$108,107 41
Balance due on State taxes to 1854, inclusive,		199,863 67
SECURITIES IN LAND OFFICE, VIZ:		
Bills receivable,	\$288,553 74	
Bonds,	33,544 54	
		322,098 28
Notes receivable in treasury office,	-	10,220 00
100 shares in Augusta Bank,	-	8,000 00
		\$648,289 36

Liabilities of the State, January 1, 1855.

PUBLIC FUNDED DEBT.			
Due and uncalled for,		\$8,000 00	
Due in	1855,	240,000 00	
“	1856,	132,500 00	
“	1860,	51,000 00	
“	1863,	25,000 00	
“	1864,	25,000 00	
“	1865,	25,000 00	
“	1866,	25,000 00	
“ Mass. land debt. } 1867,		25,000 00	
“ } 1868,		25,000 00	
“ } 1869,		25,000 00	
“ } 1870,		25,000 00	
“ } 1871,		25,000 00	
“ } 1872,		25,000 00	
			\$681,500 00
TRUST FUNDS.			
Permanent school fund,		125,281 01	
Lands reserved for public uses,		87,657 80	
Penobscot Indian fund,		55,382 81	
Passamaquoddy Indian fund,		22,550 00	
I. Sanford's bequests,		1,300 00	
			291,171 62
Warrants unpaid,		10,583 05	
Interest due and uncalled for,		1,990 00	
Balance due on school funds,		23,594 96	
“ “ on roll of accounts,		475 05	
Bank tax, No. 22,		29,468 74	
			66,111 80
AMOUNT DUE ON COUNTY TAXES FOR 1849, '50, '51, '52, '53 AND '54.			
To county of Hancock,		336 17	
“ Washington,		792 61	
“ Kennebec,		18 17	
“ Oxford,		124 31	
“ Somerset,		496 35	
“ Penobscot,		652 16	
“ Piscataquis,		699 29	
“ Franklin,		277 80	
“ Aroostook,		1,939 80	
			5,336 66
			<u>\$1,045,120 08</u>

Amount paid for claims prior to January 1, 1854.

Salaries,	\$3,700 00
Militia pensions,	1,111 50
Costs in criminal prosecutions,	5,344 47
Contingent fund governor and council,	1,632 38
Clerks,	75 00
Lands reserved for public uses,	100 00
Trustees insane hospital,	107 00
Agricultural productions to Penobscot Indians,	750 00
Deaf, dumb and blind,	3,315 00
Agricultural societies,	40 50
Roll of accounts,	132 43
School funds,	15,132 49
County taxes,	2,704 64
Roads,	1,900 00
	\$36,045 41

TREASURER'S REPORT.

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STATE OF MAINE *in account with* SAMUEL CONY, *Treasurer, Dr.*

To miscellaneous items,	\$1,957 21
To Maine Reports,	3,000 00
To contingent fund of governor and council,	3,303 30
To roll of accounts—29 to 33, inclusive,	132 43
To clerks,	5,199 00
To lands reserved for public uses,	283 40
To agricultural productions to Penobscot Indians, 1852-53,	931 85
To trustees insane hospital,	704 00
To pay roll of house of representatives,	37,490 00
To commissioners to purchase Massachusetts lands,	821 76
To duty on commissions,	5 00
To cash,	108,107 41
To deaf, dumb and blind,	8,495 00
To Penobscot Indian Fund,	3,283 14
To agricultural societies,	3,329 57
To pay roll of council,	4,385 00
To roads,	1,900 00
To county taxes,	2,704 64
To furniture and repairs,	2,500 00
To fuel and lights,	2,000 00
To military purposes,	850 00
To bank tax—No. 21,	80 62
To printing,	2,800 00
To contingent fund of treasurer,	1,000 00
To board of agriculture,	945 00
To subordinate officers of State Prison,	5,133 33
To postage,	1,397 47
To pay roll of Senate,	9,237 00
To stationery,	2,000 00
To Reform School,	12,000 00
To Passamaquoddy Indians,	1,500 00
To contingent fund of Secretary,	200 00
To Roll of accounts No. 34,	10,447 59
To State Prison,	2,000 00
To Insane State paupers,	3,633 59
To binding and stitching,	500 00
To militia pensions,	2,387 00
To library,	300 00
To school funds, No. 11 to 20, inclusive,	15,132 49
To public debt,	30,000 00
To Insane Hospital,	18,000 00
To Indian annuities,	1,900 56
To salaries,	28,654 00
To education of Penobscot Indians,	300 00
To indices,	150 00
To interest,	38,685 04
To Inspectors State Prison,	125 00
To Porter and Messenger,	100 00
To school fund No. 21,	35,084 16
To costs in criminal prosecutions,	35,549 89
To bank commissioners,	1,000 00
To teachers' conventions,	300 00
	<u>\$451,925 45</u>

STATE OF MAINE *in account with* SAMUEL CONY, *Treasurer, Cr.*

By State of Maine,	\$92,504 71
By miscellaneous items,	1,318 19
By Oxford county taxes,	124 31
By State tax, 1845,	44 32
" 1846,	1 09
" 1847,	82 28
" 1848,	212 23
" 1849,	399 62
" 1850,	531 73
" 1851,	1,851 01
" 1852,	10,554 32
" 1853,	183,024 09
" 1854,	9,724 19
By permanent school fund,	8,317 24
By land agent,	41,831 73
By lands reserved for public uses,	24,733 38
By duty on commissions,	2,615 00
By Penobscot Indian fund,	150 00
By Kennebec county taxes,	18 17
By north eastern boundary,	35 45
By bequest of Isaac Sanford,	1,300 00
By Washington county taxes,	792 61
By Bank dividends,	800 00
By county taxes,	253 00
By bank tax, No. 21,	27,220 98
By Passamaquoddy Indians,	3,355 51
By Penobscot county taxes,	652 16
By forfeited lands,	611 29
By notes receivable,	1,000 00
By Somerset county taxes,	496 35
By Aroostook county taxes,	1,939 80
By Franklin county taxes,	277 80
By Piscataquis county taxes,	699 29
By Hancock county taxes,	336 17
By bank tax, No. 22,	29,468 74
By Interest,	1,298 45
By State and county taxes, (forfeited)	3,350 24
	\$451,925 45

SAMUEL CONY, *Treasurer.*