

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1858.



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1858.

THIRTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.]

[No. 1.

STATE OF MAINE.

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, }  
Augusta, January 12, 1858. }

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

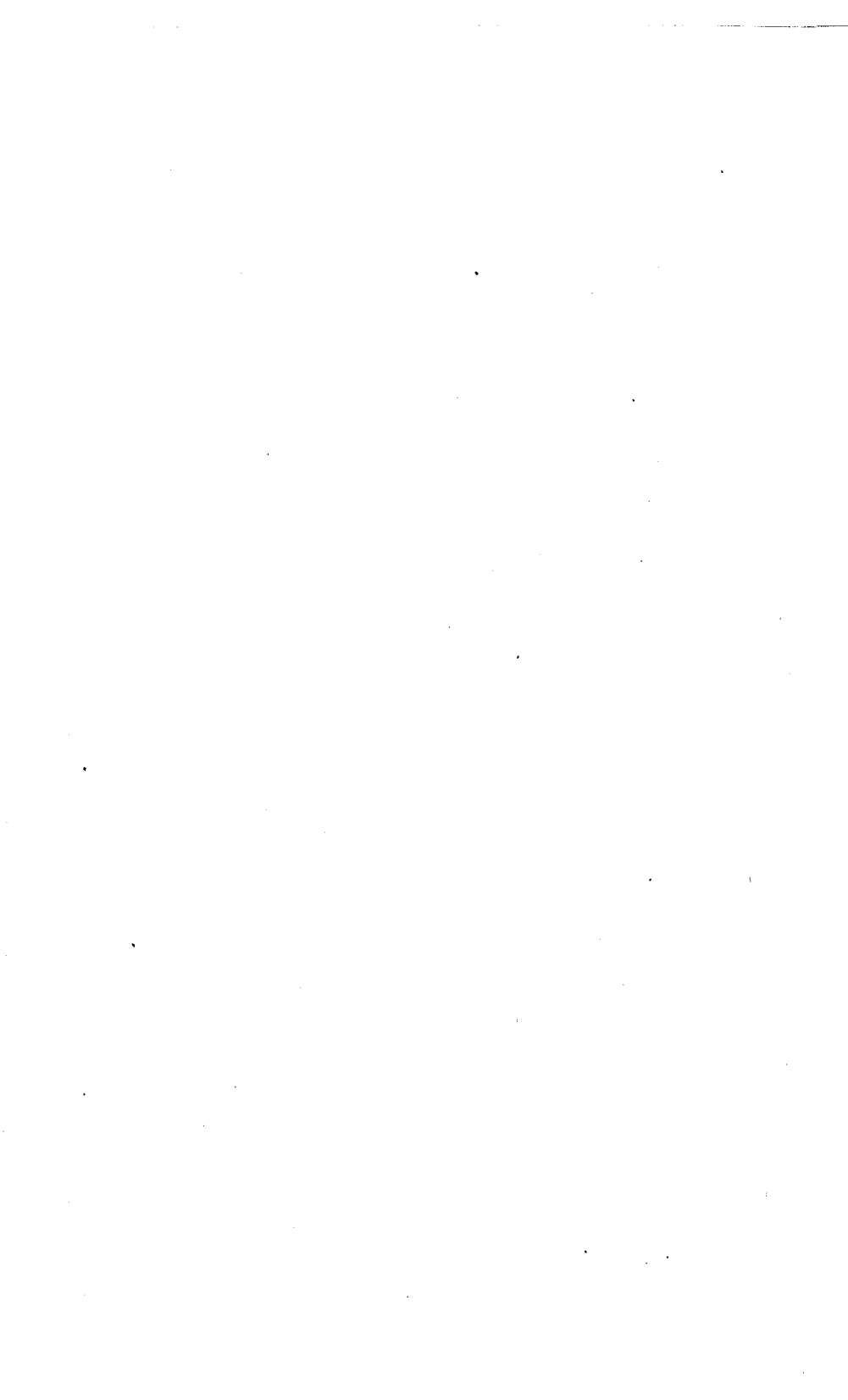
I have the honor herewith to lay before the Legislature, a return of the Superintending School Committee of the town of Oldtown, agreeably to the provisions of a resolve, entitled a "Resolve to promote the education of the Penobscot Indians," approved March 4, 1856.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

NOAH SMITH, JR.,

*Secretary of State.*



# REPORT.

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To ALDEN JACKSON, *Secretary of State* :

Pursuant to a resolve, entitled "A Resolve to promote the education of the Penobscot Indians," approved March 6, 1857, we, the undersigned Superintending School Committee of Oldtown, present the following

## REPORT.

During the past year there have been 17 weeks school for said Indians, taught by a male, and 20 weeks taught by female teachers. The school taught by male, and 11 weeks school by a female teacher, were on Oldtown Island—9 weeks by female on Mattanawcook Island.

Wages paid male teacher, was \$40 per month.

Wages paid female teacher, was \$4 50 per week.

The winter term of the school on Oldtown Island has now been in operation 3 weeks; 45 scholars attend, of whom 3 read in the Progressive Fifth Reader, 2 in the Fourth, 6 in the Third 10 in the Second, 12 in the First, 12 in Primer; 7 have advanced in Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic to and beyond Reduction; 21 are studying the fundamental rules; 4 are studying geography from books—all receive oral instruction from outline maps. In age they range from 6 to 35. A number of the scholars reside on other islands in the river above here, but have come here for the purpose of attending school. Evening schools are held for the benefit of older Indians, who are unable to attend during the day. The usual number in attendance on those, is from 25 to 30.

At the close of the winter term, March, 1857, of the

|                                                  |                |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| appropriation of 1856 there remained unexpended, | \$12 50        |
| Appropriation of 1857, . . . . .                 | \$350 00       |
| Total, . . . . .                                 | <hr/> \$362 50 |

|                                                                                    |         |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Amount paid female teacher—Mattanawcook<br>and Oldtown schools—20 weeks, . . . . . | \$90 00 |          |
| Amount paid for use of room at Mattanawcook,<br>fitting up, &c., . . . . .         | 10 00   |          |
| Amount paid for ferry, books, repairs, &c., at<br>Oldtown, . . . . .               | 19 73   |          |
|                                                                                    | <hr/>   | \$119 73 |

Leaving a balance of . . . . . \$242 77  
to pay a few outstanding bills for repairs and books, to furnish wood  
for this term, and pay the bills of the present teacher and of the  
Sup. School Committee.

The School on Oldtown Island during the summer, was not so  
long as that term has heretofore been. This was caused by the  
prevalence of the small pox in this vicinity—the natives thinking  
this epidemic would be more severe with them than with the whites,  
became so frightened that for a long time in the summer, not a single  
Indian remained on the island. On account of this term being  
shorter, we have on hand for the winter term a larger amount than  
usual. But this term will be as much longer, so that they will lose  
nothing in the end.

The number of inhabitants on Mattanawcook Island we consid-  
ered sufficient to warrant establishing a school, to be taught by a  
female, at those times when the most of the Indians are at home,  
and the travelling is suitable for the teacher. The distance from  
Lincoln Village, through a by-path, to the island, is about two  
miles. This is the second term of school on that island. The benefit  
they have derived from these schools is quite perceptible; most of  
the smaller scholars who at the commencement did not understand  
English, now read in the First and Second Readers. Some older  
ones had previously learned to read and cypher at the Oldtown  
school.

A school at Olamon Island would be of some advantage, but  
from the limited amount of the appropriation we consider it of  
greater importance to continue the Oldtown school in operation as  
much of the year as possible, making that the principal school, than  
to shorten it and establish other and smaller schools.

The progress made in the several schools has been as good perhaps as in white schools of the same grade, and have been well attended. Many of the larger ones have attended who never had before; this is attributable in part to the change of advice of their Priest. He *now* advises them to attend school. With his co-operation we may expect to see more marked results.

In order to form a just estimate of the difficulties under which these schools labor, and the advancement made, it is necessary to keep in mind that the school is composed of those who, outside the school house, talk in their own, a different language from that there taught—that most of the smaller scholars at the commencement of their attending school do not understand one word of English—that they are of a roving disposition, and their frequent hunts, fishings and tours in basket-selling, cause great interruption in their attendance at school. Yet, notwithstanding all these difficulties, some have learned to read with ease and fluency; about one to every six in the tribe can read. A few take weekly newspapers. The first principles of geography and arithmetic they learn readily. A few have studied English Grammar.

In making our report at this season of the year, it is impossible to make a full report of the financial and other matters. The only way in which we can present the most of the facts in the case, is to mingle the accounts of the appropriation of 1856 with those of the present year. The appropriation of each year is not received or drawn upon until the following summer; hence the schools under any particular appropriation are not closed until the spring then following. We have accordingly taken the liberty to present the winter school, taught under the appropriation of 1856.

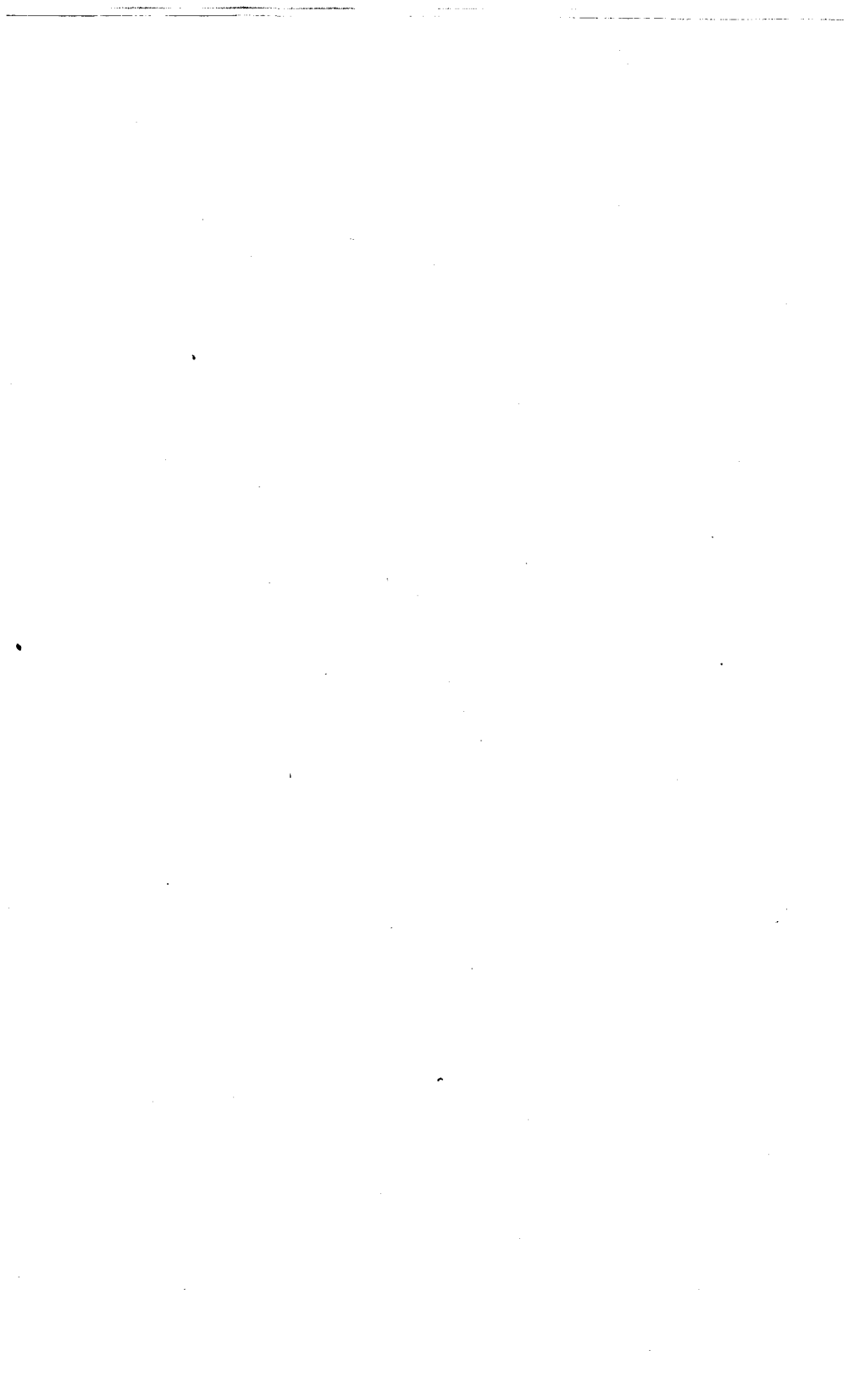
All of which is respectfully submitted.

|                  |                           |                 |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| J. C. KNOWLTON,  | } <i>Sup. School Com.</i> |                 |
| E. DOUGLASS,     |                           | <i>of</i>       |
| J. A. BLANCHARD, |                           | <i>Oldtown.</i> |

OLDTOWN, December 31, 1857.







STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, January 12, 1858.

. Laid on the table, and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

ATTEST:

JOSEPH B. HALL, *Secretary.*