

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1860.

SIEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1860.

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 24.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATE LIBRARY.

The Joint Standing Committee on the State Library, having attended to the duty assigned them, respectfully submit the following

REPORT:

The Maine State Library, composed of works belonging to the State, was established under an act of March 22d, 1839. Prior to that time appropriations had been made and expended for the purchase of a Library for the Legislature, amounting to three thousand six hundred dollars. The annual appropriations for the Library, from and including 1839 to and including 1859, amount in the aggregate to the sum of eight thousand and fifteen dollars.

There was also purchased for the Library, in 1858, a complete set of the English Statutes at large, comprising ninety-six volumes, at a cost of two hundred and sixty dollars fifty-two cents, which was paid out of the contingent fund of the Governor and Council. The annual appropriations have been expended in the purchase of law and miscellaneous books, making an annual addition to the Library of about one hundred and eighty-one volumes. In addition to the foregoing, there are annually received into the Library about four hundred and thirty-two volumes of the laws and reports of the several States and Territories, in exchange for our own.

The following is a recapitulation of the annual appropriations for the Library, from and including 1839, together with the several amounts which had been expended for the Library prior to that year, and also those which have been expended since, and not included in the annual appropriations:

Prior to 1839, \$3,600; in 1839, \$1,500; in 1840, \$75; in 1841, \$200; in 1842, \$300; in 1843, \$300; in 1844, \$300; in 1845, \$300; in 1846, \$300; in 1847, \$300; in 1848, \$600; in 1849, \$340; in 1850, \$300; in 1851, \$300; in 1852, \$300; in 1853, \$300; in

1854, \$300; in 1855, \$500; in 1856, \$300; in 1857, \$300; in 1858, \$500; in 1859, \$400; in 1858, from the contingent fund, \$260 52, amounting to eleven thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars fifty-two cents.

Whole number of volumes in the Library at the present time is twenty-two thousand one hundred and eighty-one, classified as follows:

Miscellaneous,	9793
Arts and Sciences,	1305
History, Biography, &c.,	3156
Novels, Poetry, &c.,	327
Political, Geographical, &c.,	1486
Theological, Moral, &c.,	549
Elementary and Miscellaneous law,	665
Judicial Reports, Digest and Statute law,	2341
Documents of Congress,	1327
Documents of States,	573
Engravings and Maps,	97

FRENCH WORKS.

Agriculture,	132
Miscellaneous,	155
Political,	349
Prisons, Hospitals, &c.,	23
Maps, Charts, &c.,	14
Received from Canada,	174

Your Committee, in view of the value and importance of the Library to all the departments of the government, and the necessity of a more responsible management of its affairs, have unanimously arrived at the conclusion that it should be put under the care of a Librarian clothed with suitable powers and defined duties. The following is the language of C. R. Ayer, Secretary of State in 1857: "The necessity of creating the office of Librarian, clothed with suitable powers and defined duties, long since, by many, deemed nearly indispensable, grows more apparent every year, and the facts disclosed in this report, (Mr. Ayer's Report) demonstrate, I think, that the interest of the State requires such an officer." The present Secretary of State fully coincides in the views of Mr. Ayer, and is decidedly in favor of the change, and the Committee herewith submit a bill.

By order of the Committee,

JOSEPH BARRON, }
N. A. FOSTER, } *Chairmen.*

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 14, 1860.

This report, from the Committee on the State Library, was read, and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

JAMES M. LINCOLN, *Secretary.*