

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

# DOCUMENTS

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF

# THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1866.



AUGUSTA:  
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.  
1866.

---

---

# FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

---

---

SENATE.

No. 11.

---

---

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INSANE HOSPITAL.

---

The Joint Standing Committee on the Insane Hospital, to whom was referred the report of the Trustees, Treasurer and Superintendent of that institution, have considered the recommendations and suggestions for the finishing and furnishing of the new wing of the Hospital, and ask leave to submit the following

### REPORT :

All subjects of general interest in relation to the hospital are embraced in the elaborate reports of the several officers under whom the institution is placed, which renders it unnecessary for the Committee to enter into the particulars of its affairs ; still we feel it is no more than just to the Superintendent to say that the management of the hospital meets their cordial approbation. His humane and efficient labors for the best interest of his patients, the order, cleanliness and comfort apparent in every department of the institution, were highly gratifying to us all.

Your Committee, from personal observation as well as from the testimony of the trustees, are satisfied that at the present time it is impossible for the hospital to accommodate the public wants, and that such will continue to be the case until more hospital room is provided. The crowded state of the female department made more so from the fact that patients have been admitted with the expectation that soon the new edifice would be completed, when ample room would be provided for the accommodation of all who might apply, cannot long continue without great injury to the inmates of that department.

The Superintendent in his report says :—“ There never were so

many patients in the hospital at any time as during the year just closed. We have had more applications than we could receive, and consequently have been obliged to refuse the admission of some twelve or fifteen. The average number daily has been two hundred and seventy-two. The want of more room was never more urgent than now."

It is admitted that of all "the ills flesh is heir to," there are none which appeals more touchingly to the best sympathies of the human heart than that which this institution was designed to remedy. It is of the greatest importance that the disease should be vigorously met as early after its development as possible. The chances of a cure diminishes in a rapidly increasing ratio in proportion to the duration of the disease. With a view to the amelioration of this class of the unfortunate insane, we believe it to be the duty of the State to furnish such accommodations as will afford ample opportunity to such persons for medical treatment with as little delay as possible.

Much credit is due former Legislatures of this State for their enlightened philanthropy and just liberality; and we trust the present Legislature will not be wanting in its duty to this large and unfortunate class of human beings.

In the judgment of your Committee, the probable cost of completing and furnishing the new wing, and providing for the sum expended above the appropriation of last year, will equal, if not exceed, the estimate of the trustees, and the sum named in the accompanying resolve is earnestly recommended.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Per order.

A. J. BILLINGS, *Chairman.*

## STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the insane hospital.

*Resolved,* That there be appropriated and paid out of  
2 the state treasury, the sum of thirty-one thousand five  
3 hundred dollars, to be expended under the superin-  
4 tendance and direction of the trustees of the insane  
5 hospital for completing and furnishing the new wing  
6 of said hospital and for the payment of such liabilities  
7 as may have accrued in erecting the same.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 1, 1866.

- Read and accepted, and on motion of Mr. BILLINGS laid on the table, and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*