

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Public Documents of Maine:

BEING THE

## ANNUAL REPORTS

OF VARIOUS

## PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INSTITUTIONS

FOR THE YEAR

1869-70.

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AUGUSTA :

SPRAGUE, OWEN & NASH, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1870

# REPORT

OF THE

Commissioners on the Settlement

OF THE

# PUBLIC LANDS

OF

# MAINE.



AUGUSTA :

SPRAGUE OWEN & NASH, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1870.

STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 15, 1870. }

*Ordered,* That fifteen hundred copies of the Report of the Commissioners on the Settlement of the Public Lands of Maine, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

Read and passed. Sent down for concurrence.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*

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IN SENATE, February 16, 1870.

Read and passed in concurrence.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*

A true copy—

Attest:

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE designed to promote the settlement of the public and other lands in the State.

*Resolved,* That the governor be and hereby is authorized, with the advice and consent of the council, to appoint three suitable persons, whose duty it shall be to ascertain what measures, if any, should be adopted by the state to induce settlements upon its unpeopled townships; where aid should be given in constructing necessary roads; what provision should be made for the education of the children of settlers at the expense of the state or otherwise, and report to the legislature, with such other suggestions and recommendations as they may deem suitable to give effect to the purpose contemplated by this resolve. And the governor and council shall audit the claims of the commissioners for their services; and the sums thus allowed are to be paid out of the state treasury on the governor's warrant, provided the whole sum paid to said commissioners shall not exceed three hundred dollars.

[Approved March 12, 1869.]

# REPORT.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of  
Representatives of Maine, in Legislature assembled :*

## INTRODUCTORY.

In order to arrive at correct conclusions and give intelligent counsel on questions so vital to the progress of our State, as are embodied within the foregoing resolve, your commission deemed it imperatively necessary to make a tour of observation through the county of Aroostook, where nearly all the unpeopled townships of Maine are situated.

Accordingly, early in October, your commissioners met at Fort Fairfield, and having agreed upon a route and adopted a plan of observation and enquiry, set out on their journey.

For the lack of a road running North from Fort Fairfield through the Eastern tier of townships, we were forced at first to make a detour into the Province of New Brunswick. Reëntering the State at its extreme North-Eastern corner, we followed the South bank of the river St. John as far as Fort Kent, passing through Hamlin and Van Buren plantations and the newly incorporated towns of Grant Isle, Madawaska, Dickeyville and Fort Kent.

From the latter town we turned South, and traveling along the West Aroostook road, drove through the plantations of Eagle Lake, Wallagrass and Portage Lake to Dalton, and thence turned Eastward to Presque Isle and Fort Fairfield.

A portion of your commission also passed through Deerfield, Westfield, Mars Hill, Bridgewater, Monticello and Littleton to Houlton, and thence South-Westerly through Linneus to Molunkus on the Southern boundary of Aroostook county.

The road from Houlton to Presque Isle and Fort Fairfield is good ; better than the average of county roads in the State—the country well cleared and well settled, and the soil exceedingly fertile. Broad fields smile with abundant harvests on every hand,

and huge barns give even surer evidence of the prosperity of the settlers than the neat houses in which they dwell.

From Hamlin plantation to Fort Kent—a distance of some sixty miles—the road follows the windings of the river St. John, which here forms the Northern boundary of our State.

A broad, navigable river is the upper St. John, and the day is not distant when its banks will echo the whistle of the steamboat. Even now flat-boats are tracked along its shores for over a hundred miles.

For all purposes of transportation, the upper St. John is a canal; and there is but one portage—at Grand Falls—between remotest Madawaska and the ocean. If these falls were locked, a steamer could pass from the salt sea into the very heart of Aroostook.

Rich, alluvial lands, miles in breadth, fall with an easy slope, or descend in natural terraces to the river. No rocks or stones break the gentle undulation of the valley. Here grows the thickest, greenest grass. The soil is easily worked and produces heavy crops of wheat, buckwheat, oats, rye, barley and potatoes. Even Indian corn ripens well at the most Northern point we visited.

Some time since, the cultivation of wheat nearly ceased in Aroostook on account of the ravages of the weevil. Two years ago an experimental crop of wheat was grown. It turned out well. Last year double the quantity was sowed with like good result; and this season sufficient wheat has been harvested to feed the entire county. Populate Aroostook, and it will raise wheat enough to feed the whole State.

The dwellers in the fertile valley of the St. John—refugees from Acadia—are ignorant and peculiar, but still an interesting people. Driven from their homes by the conquering Briton, they were wise enough to select for the place of their exile the very “garden of Maine.”

The farms of these settlers run in narrow strips from river to road, and to the hills beyond. In this way a farm a mile long is frequently but a few rods in width. The dwellings are chiefly built on the main road, and your commission drove for fifty miles from the Eastern boundary of the State through an almost continuous village.

The houses are nearly all wooden and of a uniform pattern, low-studded, with concave roof and projecting eaves. In doors, the spinning-wheel and loom occupy an honorable position, and here



the mixed wool of white and black flocks is made into homespun gray clothing. A hole burrowed into the nearest hill-side serves for cellar—a structure of small stones and mud in the door-yard is their oven, and water is heated in a large pot slung over a pole by the brook side.

The language of the Madawaskans is French—their mother tongue. Of the men, a very few speak English well—many can hold a broken conversation in our tongue—but most of them, together with the women and children, speak almost exclusively French. In some localities scarce an English word is uttered or understood. Even the town records are often kept in French. At Grant Isle, while your commission were examining the books of the town clerk, it was impossible to prevent a smile, in ascertaining there had been voted the past year for school purposes, the sum of “*deux cent piastre*,”—certainly an unusual kind of money with which to educate children in Yankee-land.

Travelling South from Fort Kent, along the West Aroostook road, houses and clearings become less and less frequent; and after the plantations of Wallagrass and Eagle Lake are passed it is an almost unbroken solitude till the settlement about Portage Lake is reached.

In fact, nearly all the settled part of Aroostook is along the Eastern and Northern boundary of the State, and is in shape like a scythe laid upon the ground, the Eastern tier of townships is the handle, and the valley of the St. John the blade. Inside this imaginary scythe is a vast unpeopled country, larger than the State of Massachusetts, whose virgin soil awaits the real scythe and plow of the settler.

#### IMMIGRATION.

“*What measures, if any, should be adopted by the State to induce settlements upon its unpeopled townships.*”

In journeying through Aroostook, this line from the old Latin Reader was constantly recurring to us; “*Romulus had built the FORM OF A CITY, rather than a city, INHABITANTS WERE WANTING*”; and the want of old Rome, is the one great want of youthful Maine to-day. Men are the wealth of a State; and with natural facilities unsurpassed, Maine is poor for the lack of men.

Our sea-coast, notched all over with harbors, invites the commerce of the world. Our rivers offer sufficient power to run the factories of a nation. Yet our streams flow idly to the sea, and

most of our grand harbors serve but to shelter a few fishermen and coasters, because we lack the brains and arms to develop our magnificent natural advantages; advantages which when put to use, will make Maine one of the richest of States, and give her a commanding position in the Union.

But is it not best to let the State increase by a spontaneous, unassisted growth? We have tried this long enough. For the last thirty years Maine has increased but very little in population, outside the cities and larger towns; some districts have actually retrograded, and the diminishing number of our representatives in the halls of Congress shows that, in comparison with the whole Nation, we are relatively growing smaller and of less importance.

We must augment our population then, by immigration from outside our borders; and this immigration must come from one of two sources—from the other States, or from foreign countries.

The prospect from the first source is not encouraging. The Westward fever is not yet allayed, and “Westward, ho!” is the cry of nearly every one who breaks up his homestead in the East. Besides, Maine lies North of all the populous States, and men do not willingly leave a mild climate for a colder one.

To Europe, then, we must turn for immigrants. Which Nation will furnish us with the best class of citizens? We have paupers enough already. It is men we seek.

The testimony of historians and travellers concurs in this:—that no people are more honest, industrious, truthful and economical than the Scandinavians; and by this term we mean to include the Swedes, Norwegians and Danes. These characteristics they bear with them into this country, and, wherever they settle, they are noted for honest thrift.

In Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa, where they have immigrated largely, they make the best of citizens, and are universally esteemed for their sterling worth. In religion they are Protestant.

Is Maine adapted to the Scandinavians?

It is an interesting and remarkable fact, that, with a few exceptions, like the French in Canada, immigrants from Europe take up the same relative position in America they occupied at home. Indeed, there seems to be some great isothermal law guiding the nations of the Old World to their homes in the New.

Thus the Germans from the centre of Europe have located themselves in Pennsylvania, Ohio and the other Middle States; the Spanish and French, from the South of Europe, have settled in

Florida, Louisiana, Cuba and Mexico, while the Scandinavians, from the extreme North of Europe, have cleared their farms, and built their cottages in the very Northern tier of States. Maine forms one of this tier. Scandinavian emigration naturally flows to us.

The climate of Maine, especially of Aroostook, is much like that of Sweden and Norway, except that our climate is milder and our Winters much shorter.

Our products are also the same, with the addition of wheat, which can only be raised in the Southern Provinces of Scandinavia; and Indian corn, which cannot be raised there at all, in any season or under any circumstances. Aroostook is enough like Scandinavia to make the Swede and Norwegian feel at once at home, and enough milder and richer to keep him contented.

In the higher latitudes of the Scandinavian Peninsula the Winter is frequently *nine months long*, and even in mid-summer the soil is wet, cold and sodden.

The tender boughs of the birch are always cut and dried as winter fodder for the sheep; and *straw and the inner bark of trees are frequently ground up to help out the rye or oats which make the Norseman's bread*. The wages of the laborer in the rural districts average about *eighteen cents a day*.

Aroostook, with its Winter, which we think long and cold, will be a Southern paradise to the Swedish settler.

Neither are we compelled to start the current of Scandinavian immigration. It flows already in copious streams to our shores.

In 1861, the number of Swedes emigrating to the United States was about 2,000. Now it is over 20,000 a year. Indeed, in the single quarter ending June 30, 1869, there arrived in our country 20,169 Scandinavian immigrants. The emigration from Ireland—that great reservoir of emigration—for the same period being but 26,138, or less than 6,000 greater. The stream then is already flowing. We have but to tap it.

It is estimated that every able-bodied immigrant, who settles and remains among us, is worth \$1,000 to the State. If this be true, we are standing with hands folded while \$20,000,000 of wealth is flowing by us in a quarter of a year, to enrich other States. And not only *by* but *through* us; for a respectable proportion of Scandinavians are brought by European steamships to Portland and pass *through* our State to the West.

Last Spring some hundreds of Swedes and Norwegians arrived

at Portland by a single steamer. One of your commission met them strolling about the streets in little squads. Entering into conversation with them in their native tongue, he found they were willing to remain in Portland if they could obtain work, otherwise they were going West, *because their friends were there*. Your commissioner gave them what information was at his command, and some promised to remain two days at Portland, seeking employment.

A little over a month ago, in November, your commissioner was surprised at seeing two of these very immigrants enter his office. It appeared that they had obtained odd jobs of work during the Summer, and had engaged to work all Winter in loading and discharging English steamships. They had also heard of this commission and its objects, and called on your commissioner to ascertain on what terms they could take up farms in Aroostook, next Spring. They expressed themselves much gratified with the liberal terms of the State, and declared their intention to proceed to Aroostook and settle as soon as their Winter's work was done.

The Scandinavians are an agricultural people; they want farms of their own, and a chief reason why they all go West is because the Western States, for a long time, have persistently advertised, in every way, that good farms could be had there for a mere song.

The Western States send their special agents to Europe; they distribute pamphlets, extolling the beauty and fertility of their States, broadcast throughout the Old World; and they send additional agents to our great seaports, to meet the immigrants on landing.

Minnesota invests \$10,000 a year, in this way, and the harvest brings forth an hundred fold.

Iowa expends \$3,000 a year in the publication and distribution of immigration documents, and keeps agents at Milwaukee and Chicago. From the reports of these agents it appears that from May to October, 1868, the arrivals at Milwaukee for settlement in Iowa were—

Scandinavians.....	6,922
Germans.....	6,311
Arrivals via Chicago, also for settlement in Iowa, were :	
Scandinavians.....	6,266
Germans.....	2,090

The Southern States are also becoming alive to the importance of immigration to their development.

At the Commercial Convention of the South, held at Louisville, on the 14th of October, 1869, a report from the Committee on immigration was adopted. In this report it is stated, among much else, that every immigrant who settles in this country, adds \$1,500 to the national wealth, and it is proposed that "this Convention appoint a General Agent of Immigration; that the States be requested to appropriate a sum to be placed in the hands of the General Agent, to be used in preparing, publishing, translating, and circulating gratuitously among the immigrating classes, a report showing the physical geography of the States adopting this plan, their industrial resources, the special advantages which they offer the immigrant, and other necessary information."

To the North of us, the Dominion of Canada has had in operation for several years an extensive system of immigration and colonization.

Canada maintains a chief immigration office at London, and minor ones at Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Halifax, St. John and Miramichi; and also supports a travelling agent in Europe.

In 1867 the gross expenditures of the different agencies amounted to \$35,727.58 in coin. Number of immigrants arriving, 71,448, being 13,000 more than the year previous,—the first year of the operation of this system for promoting immigration.

While the South, the West and the North, are actively at work securing the wealth of immigration for themselves, it seems almost suicidal for Maine to continue longer idle.

We have seen that the Scandinavians are the best class of immigrants; that they are naturally adapted to our soil and climate; that the stream of Scandinavian immigration is flowing by and through us, and that it is only necessary for us to tap it. How shall this be done? Simply by making known to the Scandinavians, in the most effective way, the advantages we offer them.

What Swede or Norwegian landing on our shores has not heard of the rich prairies of the West? But who among them knows that he may obtain a farm of 200 acres of fertile land in Aroostook for fifty cents per acre; and that this fifty cents per acre can be paid within three years by work on the road leading past his own door?

To make this widely known is to secure immigration. How shall this be made known. There are many ways; the following we deem the best:

*First.*—Print a circular in Swedish and Norwegian, setting forth the simple facts in regard to our State, principal reference being made to Aroostook, its geology, mineral wealth, fertility of soil, and abundant crops; its advantages for stock growing; its timber lands, lumbering operations, and the market for hay and produce among the lumbermen; its manufacturing and commercial facilities; its schools, cost of necessaries, price of labor, and expense of clearing a farm, together with the liberal terms offered by the State to settlers; not forgetting to mention the healthfulness of the country, its freedom from fever and acute diseases, and the longevity of its inhabitants.

Measures like this have been tried with great success in the Western States.

In 1854, Minnesota offered prizes for the best two essays “setting forth the advantages which this State offers to immigrants, and giving useful information with regard to the State,” and in 1866 these essays were published and circulated far and wide.

*Second.*—Employ an Agent at Portland, to meet the immigrants on the arrival of every steamer; distribute among them all necessary documents; tell them of the advantages of Aroostook; point out the way thither; see them rightly started, or perhaps accompany them to the State lands.

*Third.*—Send an agent to Scandinavia, to disseminate information there, and bring over the nucleus of a colony.

Any or all of these methods could be tried, and would be followed with a success proportionate to the effort.

But the measures which your commission would recommend the State to adopt are a combination of these three.

It will always be difficult to induce individual Scandinavians to settle in Aroostook, as long as none of their race and tongue are there before them.

We would meet this difficulty by planting a colony of some twenty-five families of Scandinavians in Aroostook at the outset.

To accomplish this, the State should send an agent to Sweden or Norway early next Spring. This agent should there select twenty-five stalwart young men with thrifty wives and families, and, by proper representation, induce them to return with him to Aroostook. This will be an easy task for any suitable agent, who understands the Scandinavians, their habits of thought and desires.

A Protestant minister of their own faith and tongue should accompany the immigrants.

This colony of carefully picked families should be brought to Aroostook before the end of August next, and as the Swedes and the Norwegians are all used to the axe, every family could have a comfortable shelter before Winter sets in. The agent should accompany them to Aroostook and not leave them till every family is comfortably housed.

Does the State possess lands suitable for such a colony?

The State of Maine has reserved for settling purposes about forty townships, containing thirty-six square miles each. Many of these are already partially settled; some, however, are comparatively unoccupied. Of the latter, township No. 14, in the 3d Range, combines the most advantages for the new colony. It is fertile, well watered, healthy, and here the rising colony would have ample opportunity to expand into townships Nos. 13 and 15 in the 3d, and No. 14 in the 4th Range, all which are reserved by the State for settlement, and join No. 14 in the 3d Range.

Would not the colonists leave and go West? What reasons would they have for so doing?

Nothing but the loose talk about the great West, which would hardly reach their secure retreat. On the other hand, every man would own a good farm on which he could easily raise much more than enough to support his family, and lumbering operations would give him a good market at his own door for all his surplus products. The ties of family and kindred would bind every one to his home; and the Scandinavian pastor would add the mighty power of religion to the bonds of race, language and interest, which would cause the colonists to cling to each other, and to the spot where they lived.

What would be the expense of bringing over and establishing such a colony? Simply the salary and expenses of the agent sent out to bring it over.

Your commission would in no event recommend the State to advance a single cent of the passage money of the immigrants, either as gift or loan. The man, even in Sweden, who has not laid by enough to pay his passage across the ocean, has a pretty strong *prima facie* case against him, and nine times out of ten will make an inferior citizen to the man who can pay his own way.

Your commission have no doubt that a suitable agent could procure a sufficient number of picked colonists, who would be able and willing to pay their own transportation to Aroostook, and would only require to be shown the way thither.

Were the State to advance \$20 a head, passage money, to the colonists to be repaid in any way or at any time, each colonist would have just twenty dollars' inducement to run away from Maine and settle some where else. In fact, nearly all the abortive immigration schemes owe their failure to the injudicious advancement of the cost of transportation to the immigrant. By so doing a bounty, equal to the money advanced, is virtually offered the immigrant to abscond; and who can be surprised if he takes the necessary and simple means to secure the bounty.

Colonists that had paid their own passage, and were not indebted to the State for it, would have no reasons of this nature, while every tree felled in their clearings would be an inducement to remain.

After the first colony is brought over and located,—and this is but one season's work for one man—it would not be advisable to continue any agency in Scandinavia or any part of Europe. A single agent might be employed for a while in Portland, to visit every European steamship on its arrival, distribute documents, and use all fair means of persuasion to induce every Scandinavian to unite his fortunes *with the colony of his countrymen already established in Aroostook.*

This one fact, that the immigrants would meet their own countrymen in Aroostook, and not be altogether strangers in a strange land, would cause many to remain with us who would otherwise seek their landsmen in the West.

The most effective measure, however, to increase the colony, will be the distribution of documents throughout Scandinavia, giving information about Aroostook, extolling its advantages, and assuring the Swedish and Norwegian immigrant that he will be welcomed into the bosom of a Scandinavian community. The very letters of the colonists to their friends in Scandinavia will be the most powerful immigration documents, and will increase the colony by a natural growth, and without expense.

But all this may fail. True. Man is fallible, and his plans as fallible as he. But it may succeed. If so, the founding of this little Scandinavian colony will mark the grandest era in the progress of our State.

It is for the legislators of Maine to weigh the cost of the undertaking against the prospect of achievement, and decide wisely.



## ROADS.

*“ Where aid should be given in constructing necessary roads.”*

One prime necessity of Aroostook County is a railroad.

Commencing at some point on the European and North American Railway and running into the heart of the county, a railroad would let the great outside world into the wilderness, cause towns and villages to spring up along its route, and nearly pay for itself by the enhanced value of real estate.

The State should certainly encourage and assist such a road by all the legitimate means in its power.

But railroads are very expensive matters, neither are they built in a day. In the meantime it is the opinion of your commission that the State should assist in constructing and keeping in suitable repair the great thoroughfares of travel in the more remote districts, leaving it to the settlers to open and repair the intersecting roads.

## ROADS TO BE OPENED.

Your Commission would recommend that State aid be granted in opening the following roads in Aroostook county :

*First.* A road from the north line of the town of Limestone, running North through township letter F, and Hamlin plantation to the St. John river. When this road is constructed the State will possess a highway running nearly due North, through the most easterly range of townships, from the Schoodic lakes to the St. John river. A glance at the map will show the great importance of this thoroughfare.

*Second.* That part of the road leading from Presque Isle by Ball's Mills in Mapleton plantation to Dalton, that crosses State lands.

*Third.* A road leading from Molunkus by Island Falls to Presque Isle.

*Fourth.*—A road leading from Caribou Village to the Fish river road.

These four roads should be laid out and built at once, and receive immediate State aid.

In time it will be doubtless necessary for the State to assist in constructing other roads; the most important of which will be a road leading from Dalton (formerly Ashland) in a westerly direction, following the valley of the Great Machias river to its

source, thence crossing the valleys of the Musquacook and Allegash to the Seven Islands in the river St. John.

From this point a road has been opened the present season to the western boundary of the State, connecting there with a road leading westerly to the river St. Lawrence.

When this connecting link from Dalton to the Seven Islands is built, there will be a continuous thoroughfare from the mouth of the Tobique on the river St. John to the St. Lawrence; traversing the entire State of Maine from East to West, running through the enterprising towns of Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle and Dalton, and opening up large tracts of settling lands, inferior to none in Aroostook.

This proposed road would follow the general route of the road laid out in 1852 by Hon. Noah Barker, under the direction of the Land Agent. The road was at that time laid out from Dalton to the Depot farm on the Allegash, and continued by private subscription to the Cary farm at Seven Islands. One thousand dollars were expended in opening it for winter travel.

Another road, which has already been opened for winter travel from Patten in a North-Westerly direction by Shin Pond, Seboois and Trout Brook farms to Heron Lake, will soon be needed the year round. When it is built, travellers will be able to drive from Woodstock, on the St. John river, Westerly across the Eastern boundary of the State of Maine, through the thriving towns of Houlton, Linneus and Oakfield, Island Falls and Crystal plantations, Patten and Mount Chase to the Allegash and upper St. John, and thence to the Western boundary of the State.

An examination of the map will convince any one of the importance of these two grand thoroughfares, crossing our entire State from East to West, and connecting the St. John with the St. Lawrence.

#### ROADS TO BE REPAIRED.

Your commission further recommend the State to grant aid in keeping in repair the following roads:

*First.*—That portion of the Maine Military road which leads across State lands, and the principal bridges on this road between the towns of Mattawamkeag and Linneus.

*Second.*—That portion of the road leading from Lyndon to Van Buren, which crosses the State lands and the principal bridges thereon.

*Third.*—That portion of the West Aroostook road, and the principal bridges thereon, which leads across unincorporated townships. Your commission can testify from actual experience, to the infamous condition of this road as it crosses over precipitous hills and winds among the rocks and mud of intervening valleys.

*Fourth.*—The Canada road, and the principal bridges thereon, from the North line of Moscow to the Canada line.

*Fifth.*—That portion of the road leading from Patten by Island Falls to the Military road, which crosses lands owned by the State.

*Sixth.*—The road from Abott to Moosehead Lake.

Your commission would further recommend that whoever lays out or constructs any roads in Aroostook should study well the first lesson of road engineering, "It is as far over the bail of a kettle as it is round the rim;" and bear constantly in mind that no amount of clay or loam thrown up out of road ditches can make a good road bed.

### SCHOOLS.

*"What provision should be made for the education of the children of settlers at the expense of the State or otherwise."*

The school house with the church springs up naturally in every hamlet in Maine, and the children of the settler need no other nor further State aid for their education than they already possess.

To this proposition, however, there is one exception—the Madawaska French. Education among these colonists has been aided intermittently by legislative enactment since 1844.

A brief review of such acts, and the good accomplished by them, will be of assistance in determining what aid, if any, should be granted in the future.

In 1844 a resolve was passed appropriating \$1,000 "for the establishment and maintenance of schools, for the literary instruction of youth, in the Madawaska settlement, so called, in the county of Aroostook;" "the said sum to be paid and made up from the arrearages now due to Madawaska settlement, from any bank tax and from any balance of the surplus revenue fund now remaining in the State treasury; and that some suitable person be appointed principal instructor and superintendent of said schools," &c.

In 1845, \$1,200 was appropriated "in consequence of certain surplus revenue money having been paid into the treasury; and it was resolved that some suitable person, a citizen of the United

States, be appointed principal instructor, receive \$400 a year, and teach at least six months out of the year.

In 1846 a resolve was passed re-appropriating the unexpended balance of 1845.

In 1848, it was resolved that the State treasurer pay the treasurers of Hancock, Van Buren and Madawaska plantations their several proportions of the bank tax of 1847 and 1848.

In 1849, a resolve was passed, appropriating \$199.98 for the support of schools in Madawaska plantation; this sum being a balance of school funds.

In 1850, it was resolved to pay the treasurers of Hancock and Madawaska plantations their several proportions of the Bank tax and other public school funds for 1849.

In 1853, it was resolved to pay the Rev. Henri Dionne \$88, for supporting a school in District No. 10, Madawaska plantation, *provided the inhabitants raise and expend an equal amount.*

In 1854, a resolve was passed, appropriating \$600 as follows: \$225 to Van Buren, \$225 to Madawaska, and \$150 to Hancock plantation; *provided each plantation shall raise for the support of schools within its limits a sum equal to the amount hereby apportioned to said plantation.*

In 1857, \$600 was appropriated for schools in this territory, to be divided equally between Van Buren, Madawaska and Hancock, being \$200 to each plantation, *provided the inhabitants raise an equal amount.*

In 1858, \$600 was appropriated in the same manner, *with the same proviso.*

In 1859, \$200 was appropriated for schools in Madawaska plantation, *provided the inhabitants raise an equal amount.*

In 1861, it was enacted by special law, that \$5,000 be retained in the State treasury as the share of Madawaska territory of the surplus revenue for 1837; that six per cent. of this amount, or \$300, be paid out annually for the support of schools in the territory, and that this sum of \$300 annually "shall be in full satisfaction for any and all claims which the inhabitants of said territory shall have upon the State by reason of the aforesaid surplus revenue."

All this aid, however, seems to have accomplished but little; for in 1863 a special act was passed, commencing with the following preamble:

"Whereas, There is reason to believe that the monies appropri-

ated for the support of schools, in Madawaska territory, so called, is not expended in such a manner as to promote the education of the people, many of whom are of French origin; and whereas no essential improvement in this regard can be expected so long as the present management continues; therefore"

The act then authorizes the appointment of an agent for all the schools of Madawaska territory; gives him the powers of superintending school committees and school agents; authorizes him to establish schools, portion out the school money, places the public education of the Territory entirely in his hands, and in addition empowers him to draw the school money from the State treasury, "*irrespective of the payment of any State tax*" by the Madawaska plantations.

Col. David Page, of Fort Kent, a gentleman eminently fitted for the position, was appointed agent under this act.

In his valuable report, made near the close of 1863, Col. Page, while speaking encouragingly of the new system, also says:

"So far as my observation has extended, the school fund of the State, and appropriations heretofore made for the benefit of education in this settlement *have been of little value to the children*. Where there should have been some twenty-five schools the last year, there has been but one half of that number, and of very indifferent character. Much of the money has been drawn from the State, by agents in their respective plantations, and *never has been appropriated for schools.*"

And the State Superintendent, Hon. E. P. Weston, who made a personal investigation into the condition of the Madawaska schools in 1863, reports: "*Some plantations had voted to tax themselves for the support of schools, but none, I think, had ever collected any money for this purpose.*"

In 1864 it was resolved that the unexpended balance of the appropriation of 1863, amounting to \$402, be re-appropriated and expended for schools.

A special law was also passed amending the act of 1863, by striking out the words, "*irrespective of the payment of any State tax.*"

As none of the Madawaska plantations, except Fort Kent, had or would pay its taxes, the effect of this amendment was to stop all the school money of these plantations.

But such earnest appeals were made by the Madawaska School Agent, the State superintendent and others to the Legislature of 1865, that this body restored the clause stricken out in 1864, and

allowed the Madawaskans to receive their portion of the State school money, whether they paid their taxes or not.

Nevertheless, in 1867, the Madawaska agent speaks rather discouragingly of the schools, although the amount of school money drawn by him from the State treasury the year before, amounted to \$1,326.13. He also mentions the very significant fact that "*There is but one good school house in the whole Madawaska settlement; this one is at Fort Kent.*"

He recommends a change in the school system, and an appropriation.

In accordance with such recommendation, the Legislature of 1868 passed a Special Law, establishing four schools in Madawaska territory, and granting \$600 for their support, *provided Van Buren plantation raise and appropriate for schools \$200; Grant Isle, \$125; Madawaska, \$150; Dion, \$200, and Fort Kent \$200, and provided further that these plantations shall build or furnish four good and convenient school houses.*

This law appropriates \$50 to each of the following plantations for public schools, viz., Hamlin, D'Aigle, St. John, St. Francis, Wallagrass and Eagle Lake, "*provided that said plantations shall raise an equal amount for that purpose.*"

In 1868, the State expended for schools in Madawaska territory \$1,596.27, as follows:

Interest on surplus revenue fund.....	\$300 00
Special appropriation.....	900 00
School fund, apportained for 1868, to the several plantations in Madawaska territory.....	396 27
Total.....	<u>\$1,596 27</u>

This amount was paid from the State treasury to Col. David Page, agent, and expended by him.

In 1869, \$1,150 was appropriated for the Madawaska schools on nearly the same conditions as in 1868. This sum was in addition to the surplus revenue fund of \$300, and the school fund.

Of the result of this appropriation your commissioners cannot speak, as we were unable to ascertain that any portion of it had been expended up to the time of our visit to the territory, (October, 1869,) by the present genial and hospitable agent, Major William Dickey.

The appropriations of 1868, and most others, are *upon condition* that certain sums be raised by the Madawaska plantations for

school purposes; and although your commission found that the several plantations had been very liberal in voting the required sums, yet with the exception perhaps of Fort Kent, we could not find where a single cent had ever been raised and expended by the Madawaskans themselves for the support of public schools.

Indeed, Col. David Page, one of the oldest American residents in the territory, and for many years school agent, distinctly asserted, in a conversation held with your commission at Fort Kent, that not a single cent had ever actually been raised for public schools in the entire Madawaska settlement.

Your commission therefore feel compelled to report that much, at least, of the money appropriated by the State for the support of public schools in Madawaska territory, *has been expended in violation of law*; the conditions precedent to such expenditure having never been performed.

In Hamlin plantation your commission found three small school houses, for five school districts.

In Van Buren there are eight districts and but one public school house, situated in District No. 3.

In District No. 1, at Violette Brook, there is a private school, which your commission visited. This school is taught by Mlle. Modeste Cyr, one of the best teachers in the territory, and the former instructress of one of the public schools established by the Legislature of 1868.

We learned from her that no boys over twelve years of age attended the public or high school, though there were girls among her scholars as old as twenty-three. Her first class in mathematics, at the public high school, studied Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic, and had progressed as far as vulgar fractions. Her classes in English grammar were only able to master the simplest rules. There was no class in analyzing or parsing. She made an attempt to teach English composition, but was forced to abandon it, because, as she told us, she had not a scholar whom she could by any possibility teach to write an English sentence grammatically.

Mlle. Cyr spoke English with a decided French accent, and all her conversation with her scholars, even when it related to English studies, was conducted in French.

Mr. Richards, of Violette Brook, who has several daughters engaged in teaching, and who has given much attention to the subject of education in these plantations, was very emphatic in his

opinion, that the State aid was a positive hindrance instead of help.

“The Madawaskans,” he said, “will never appreciate education till they are compelled to pay for it themselves. As long as the State furnishes schools gratis, they will think they confer a great favor on the State by sending their children to school.”

In Grant Isle there are four school districts, with one school house and the frame of another.

In Madawaska are seven districts, and we think but one school house.

In Dickeyville we found nearly completed a handsome and substantial school house, 45 by 32 feet, and two stories. This is decidedly the best school house in the territory.

Fort Kent also possesses a good school house. In this, one of the high schools was being taught by Miss Williams.

Your commission visited and examined this school in company with Maj. Dickey.

The attendance was small, the pupils quite young, and their knowledge of the several branches they were studying seemed very limited.

At Eagle lake your commission met Miss Mary Ramsey, a very intelligent young lady, who has had several years experience in teaching in Madawaska. She objected strongly to the present system of high schools; first, because the teachers were not competent to teach anything above a district school, and second, because no district school teacher could attend the high schools, since the latter were taught at the very times the district schools were in operation.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Your commission have sought information in regard to the Madawaska schools from every source open to them, and after carefully weighing all the evidence, are forced to report that the State money granted to the Madawaska territory for educational purposes has been in great measure frittered away, without producing results at all commensurate with the outlay. Neither do we believe the present plan promises better than its predecessors. Yet the problem,—what is to be done with this people?—still stares us in the face and demands a solution.

A colony of over five thousand souls is within our borders, ignorant, superstitious, and foreign in language, tradition and



custom. Dwelling in the garden of the State, they are the poorest of its inhabitants. What is to be done with them? *We must Americanize them*; and this can be accomplished only through *education*.

Your commission would recommend first, that the Madawaskans be compelled by law to pay something towards the maintenance of their own schools; as we believe, with Mr. Richards, that these people will never appreciate the advantages of education until they are obliged to contribute to its support.

By an act approved March 3d, 1868, every city, town and plantation in the State is compelled to raise annually, for school purposes, not less than one dollar per inhabitant, exclusive of income from all other sources.

There is no law which *in terms* exempts the Madawaska territory from the obligations of this act, although the special laws of 1868 and 1869 relating to this Territory may be construed as repealing the general school law, as far as Madawaska is concerned.

If every other city, town and plantation in the State can raise one dollar per inhabitant, for schools, Madawaska, however poor, can certainly raise one quarter of this sum.

Your commission would therefore advise the passage of an act providing that every town and plantation in the Madawaska territory, so called, shall raise and expend annually for the support of free public schools therein, a sum of money, exclusive of income and revenue from all other sources, not less than twenty-five cents for each inhabitant of such town or plantation.

Also, that the school fund of the State, and the interest on the surplus revenue fund, payable to the Madawaska territory, so called, be distributed wholly and exclusively among those towns and plantations complying with the provisions of this act.

Your commission also recommend that one man, a thorough Yankee, and at the same time an educated, Christian gentleman, be sent to Madawaska to open a High School for the instruction of Madawaska teachers, and others, and to organize and act as general agent and superintendent of all other public schools in the territory.

Such a teacher should enter upon his duties with a true missionary spirit, should appreciate the magnitude of his task, should speak French that he may understandingly teach his scholars English, and should make his teachings so attractive, practical and useful that the people will desire them.

His instruction should not be confined to books, but include everything which will ameliorate the condition of these people.

Such a man should receive at least one thousand dollars a year; should be allowed to teach in his own way, and in one place or a dozen; should be agent and school committee for all the district schools, and have entire control of public education in the territory.

The State should exercise the greatest care in selecting just the right man for this place, and, having found him, should put every thing relating to the education of the Madawaskans into his hands.

Your commissioners believe such a man can be found, and that the present able and efficient Superintendent of Common Schools would be the right person to find him.

Your commission recommend that this teacher's salary of one thousand dollars be appropriated by the State; and that the \$300 interest on the surplus revenue fund, and the territory's proportion of the school fund be placed in his hands to divide equitably among those Madawaska towns and plantations which raise and expend for public schools a sum equal to twenty-five cents for each inhabitant.

To Americanize this French Colony of five thousand souls, is indeed a difficult task, perhaps the work of a generation; but your commissioners believe the plans proposed by them are the best means to this end, and therefore urge their adoption.

PARKER P. BURLEIGH,  
W. W. THOMAS, JR.,  
WILLIAM SMALL.

JANUARY 1, 1870.