

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 18.

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## STATEMENT OF FACTS

Relative to the application of the "Maine Wesleyan Seminary and Female College" for Legislative aid.

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This Institution was incorporated in 1821, and went into operation in 1823. It was founded by Mr. Luther Sampson, who gave about \$10,000 in real and personal estate for that purpose.

A manual labor department was soon attached to the school, giving opportunity to about seventy students to pay their board in labor on the farm and in the mechanics' shops.

It struggled in the continuance of these operations until 1835—about twelve years—when it found its means quite exhausted. For some six years following it was alternating between life and death. It finally succeeded in adjusting its affairs, and started the school on a new scale.

In 1859, through the efforts of its friends, the present attractive and commodious college edifice was erected at a cost of about \$40,000.

Its charter was subsequently amended and the institution was established as "Maine Wesleyan Seminary and Female College," the first in this State. It graduated at its commencement in 1868, thirteen young ladies. The college course of study seems judicious and thorough, comprising a period of four years.

Its catalogue shows an annual attendance of more than four hundred scholars, for several years past. In order to meet the necessary wants of the large number of scholars who now seek its high privileges, a new chapel building is in process of construction, at a cost of quite thirty-five thousand dollars. About two-thirds of this sum necessary to its completion has been raised, and the balance can hardly fail to be had.

It is now out of debt, and has in funds and assured investments nearly \$90,000. In order to liquidate its old debts, its teachers have had little better than nominal consideration for their services, and have been mainly dependent on the tuitions for the small sums they get.

The institution has educated about *thirteen thousand students*—of whom about six thousand have gone out as teachers,—five hundred each in the three leading professions. Its friends have contributed about \$80,000, all told.

About five hundred of its students and alumni served in the war during the late national disorder, more than fifty of whom vindicated its teachings, and attested their loyalty with their lives.

In 1827, the State donated to the institution one half township of land, which was sold for \$2,500, and from thence to 1833, received about \$3,600. These several sums were absorbed in the embarrassments of the institution, occasioned by the expenses of the manual labor department.

In 1859, the State donated \$5,000, which is the only sum received from the State for the last thirty years. Within that time, Westbrook Seminary has received \$19,000, and Bates College (incorporated in 1855), has received \$35,000.

In 1864, the State donated three townships of land and timber as follows :

To Bates College two townships of land.

To Westbrook Seminary one half township of timber, and to this Institution one half township of timber, with certain conditions as to scholarships, all of which have been complied with—four scholarships in the institution and the fifth at the pleasure of the Governor and Council.

In April, 1865, the timber was advertised to be sold by the Land Agent. The highest reliable bid was \$3,300, which could not be accepted, as the Land Agent was limited to the minimum price of fifty cents per acre. So it was withdrawn from the market, and remains unsold.

In 1867 the Legislature passed a “resolve for the purpose of carrying into effect chapter 334 of resolves of 1864, in favor of Westbrook Seminary,” in these words :

*Resolved*, That the land agent, under the direction of the governor and council be, and he is hereby directed, to sell as soon as may be the timber and lumber set apart by the resolve approved

March twenty-third, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, in favor of Westbrook Seminary, being chapter three hundred and thirty-four of the resolves of that year; the said sale to be made in the manner and on the terms therein set forth, except the advertisement for proposals may be for sixty days instead of six months as therein required, and if the proceeds of such sale shall be insufficient to supply the amount contemplated in said resolve in favor of Westbrook Seminary, passed in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, the deficiency shall be made up from any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the whole to be applied for the benefit of the said seminary in the manner specifically set forth in the said resolve, and the governor and council are hereby authorized to draw their warrant on the state treasurer for the same.

See chapter 134, laws 1867. A similar resolve was also passed relative to Bates College.

It will be perceived that the resolve in favor of Westbrook Seminary is *precisely* like the one now under consideration, in its substance; and under it \$6,400 was paid from the state treasury to make up the contemplated \$10,000, the timber selling for about \$3,600. To Bates College was paid from the state treasury about \$2,500, to make up the contemplated \$20,000. See chapters 284, 330 and 334 of the laws of 1864.

From this brief statement it would appear that the legislature of 1864 intended to make grants to these several institutions of what would be equivalent to the following sums:

Westbrook Seminary, \$10,000; Bates College, \$20,000; Maine Wesleyan Seminary and Female College, \$10,000. The two first named have received the amounts above specified; the latter now asks that it may be treated with the same justice.

The following abstract from a letter of the late Land Agent may serve the purpose of explaining this matter to some extent.

BANGOR, January 18, 1870.

DEAR SIR:—In relation to the timber and sale thereof for the benefit of the Maine Wesleyan Seminary and Female College, an attempt was made by myself as Land Agent in 1864 to sell the timber and lumber upon a half township agreeably with the conditions of the resolve in favor of said college, but no sum approximating anywhere near the amount contemplated to be, was proposed; and as I then understood it, the friends, Messrs. Bearce and Allen, made a proposal (I think) double that proposed by any

others, expecting that would be realized for the college within a reasonable time.

Their intention, if I remember rightly, was to use every effort to realize without further expense to the State.

The land selected being situated upon St. John waters, and the growth thereon chiefly spruce, there has been no season when the prices at St. John would warrant an operation sufficiently remunerative to encourage parties to purchase stumpage or buy out the right to operate for the term contemplated for removing the lumber.

I do not anticipate any encouragement for larger prices or more ready sale in the future; and this case being analagous to that where the State donated the timber and lumber upon a half township in aid of the Westbrook Seminary, and where the friends were similarly embarrassed to realize the requisite sum, and where the State made up the deficiency; it remains for the Committee on Education to consider the reasonableness of the proposition of recommending the same treatment to the Maine Wesleyan as was done for the Westbrook Seminary.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. R. CLARK.

Respectfully submitted,

A. B. FARWELL,

*For the Committee on Education.*

AUGUSTA, January 20, 1870.

## STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
January 31, 1870. }

Laid on the table by Mr. FARWELL of Augusta, and ordered printed.

Z. A. SMITH, *Clerk pro tem.*