

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 95.

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## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

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The town of Byron has a population of about three hundred. Number of polls fifty-seven. Valuation was \$56,390 on April 1st, 1869. The damage done by freshet October 4th, 1869, to real estate, according to an appraisal of a disinterested committee composed of Hon. Timothy Walker of Rumford, William W. Wait of Dixfield, and D. F. Brown of Mexico, was \$28,195. Swift River runs through the centre of the town. The farms upon both sides of the river are by the freshet literally covered by sand, gravel, stone, logs and trees, that were brought down from the lands and woods situated above, and from the farms and woods along the stream in the town. The town had six good and substantial bridges over the river, and all were swept away. Every mill excepting one clapboard mill. Nearly all of the bridges along the highways in the town were destroyed. The roads for miles were entirely destroyed, the earth being washed away down to the bed rock, in some places ten to fifteen feet. In many places the roads are so badly washed that a new location will become necessary. It will be safe to say that ten thousand dollars will be required to rebuild the roads and bridges to have them no better than before destroyed. There are several farms that are cut up by running streams made by the freshet, some by two, some by three, and some by five streams. These streams are filled with running water from the main river whenever it has a rise of water to one half its capacity. The farms on the river are fenceless. The inhabitants are unable to rebuild the roads and bridges without aid. The debt of the town is about five thousand dollars. It has about fifty tax payers, one third of whom only pay a poll tax. This town has

never before asked aid of the State. The resolve recommends the appropriation of \$2,000, provided the town shall raise \$1,000 for like purpose, the whole to be expended within one year from next July.

WM. W. BOLSTER,

J. K. MARTIN.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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### RESOLVE in favor of the town of Byron.

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*Resolved*, That the sum of two thousand dollars be  
2 and the same is hereby appropriated to aid in build-  
3 ing bridges and repairing of highways in the town of  
4 Byron, to be expended under the direction of the  
5 county commissioners of Oxford county; *provided*,  
6 that said town raise and expend for like purposes, the  
7 sum of one thousand dollars, by the first day of July,  
8 eighteen hundred and seventy-one.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 26, 1870. }

Reported from the Committee on State Lands and State Roads,  
by Mr. MARTIN.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*