

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 22.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Houlton Academy is situated in the large and thriving village of Houlton, the shire town of Aroostook county, and is surrounded by a thickly settled country, and is the largest and most important school east of Bucksport Seminary.

It is the only school in the county above the grade of the common school save an academy at Presque Isle, and a High School at Fort Fairfield, situated forty and sixty miles respectively to the north of Houlton.

Houlton Academy was chartered by the State in 1847, and a half township of land granted to it, which was sold, and from the proceeds, together with donations made up by the people of Houlton, the old academy was built, and the remaining funds to the amount of \$4,000, was invested in town bonds. In 1864 the sum of \$2,000 was appropriated to this academy, the interest only of which was to be paid annually to the trustees.

Houlton Academy has always supported four terms in a year since it was first put into operation, drawing its students from every part of the county as well as from the adjoining counties and New Brunswick, averaging more than one hundred students a term.

It has been doing the work of a Normal School for that region ever since its organization, and must still continue to do so, as the cost of travel alone, from Aroostook to the Normal Schools at Castine and Farmington, amounts to more than the entire cost of board, tuition and text-books for a whole term at the academy at Houlton, and the mass of teachers of Aroostook county cannot

afford to go out to those schools because of the great distance and expense; hence the common schools of that county demand that there shall be a school there to fit the teachers for them.

Hon. Warren Johnson, State Superintendent of Schools, told the Committee on Education, that Houlton was "an educational center," and that Houlton Academy was doing a great work for the cause of education in that region, and deserved the hearty support of the State.

This institution has so increased in the numbers attending, within a few years past, that the old building—now more than twenty years old—was entirely too small to accommodate the number of students attending from term to term, therefore the trustees seeing the necessity of having a larger building and more ample accommodations, have had a most excellent and well arranged school edifice contracted for and erected, at a cost of \$8,000; but their funds, all of which they have put into it, were not sufficient to complete such a building as was necessary for the wants of the school. More funds are needed to make the final payments and obtain the building from the hands of the contractor and put the school in operation.

Aroostook county contains nearly one-fourth of the entire area of Maine, and more than one-twentieth of the population at the present time, and is very rapidly increasing in its population because of the immigration from all quarters, and even the last legislature instituted an investigation of that region with a view of encouraging foreign population.

While the county contains so vast an area and so great and rapidly increasing population, it has received less than one-fiftieth of the appropriations for the higher schools of learning, a large proportion of which appropriations have been made from Aroostook lands; and while every inducement is held out by the State to encourage foreign immigration to that county, it is to be hoped that its educational interests may not be overlooked. Therefore, we desire the appropriation,

1. Because Houlton Academy is the only school of the kind in a very large territory.

2. Because it has done, and must still continue to do the work of a Normal School for Aroostook county.

3. Because the school, having been suspended to erect the new building which was absolutely needed, cannot be put in operation

till the funds are raised to pay the debt, as the contractor holds the building for his pay. Therefore we most earnestly pray that the sum of \$4,000, which is just sufficient to pay the debt, may be granted, and the school thus be enabled to go into operation.

Respectfully submitted,

C. H. FERNALD,
Principal of Houlton Academy.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of Houlton Academy.

Resolved, That there be paid out of any money in the
2 treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the trustees of
3 Houlton Academy, the sum of four thousand dollars,
4 for the use and benefit of said academy.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 16, 1870.

Reported from the Committee on Education, by Mr. BUFFUM
of Penobscot, and on his motion laid on the table and ordered to
be printed, with the Statement of Facts.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*