

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 61.

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The Joint Standing Committee on Public Buildings to whom was referred the communication of the Governor relative to the heating of the State House by steam, and calling the attention of the Legislature to much needed repairs upon the building, also of joint order respecting the same, and directing to inquire into the propriety of removing the capital to some other part of the State, likewise joint order as to the necessity of additional room for State Library, and the feasibility of constructing fire-proof rooms for the preservation of valuable state papers, having given the subject matter thereof due consideration, and having examined into the practicability and feasibility of accomplishing what is asked for in order to preserve and protect the property of the State, beg leave to

## REPORT:

That comfort, convenience, security and economy require that measures be taken by the Governor and Council, as soon as practicable, to introduce steam into the State House for heating purposes. We are fully of the opinion that no more desirable change could be made affecting the *present* arrangement of the building, as thirty less fires would be required than what are now in constant operation during the session of the Legislature. The improvement would be so marked in every respect that we forbear to make further comment.

We deem it impracticable at present to construct fire-proof rooms for either the state or treasury departments, as to do this it would be necessary to let down the intervening story now used for committee rooms, and which cannot be spared till additional ones can be provided by enlargement of the building; and if the recommendation already made be adopted, we feel assured that the greater security secured thereby, together with the continued watchfulness of those having so much valuable property belonging to the State in charge, may justify us in deferring for the present this desirable and additional security.

We recommend, however, that the Governor and Council be authorized, if it be deemed advisable, to procure and place in the

office of the Secretary of State a suitable iron safe wherein to deposit such papers as may be determined by them to possess the highest value.

Additional room for the library may be obtained by an extension of room No. 2, which can be accomplished by a change of the stairs leading to the cupola, a plan of which is deposited with the Librarian, and as this can be done at a comparatively moderate cost, your Committee recommend it.

The roof over the library leaks badly, and must of necessity be repaired. This will require a reslating of the roof over the portico, as also the east side of the south wing, perhaps the entire roof of this wing. Every driving storm damages more or less of the books in the library, or necessitates their removal from the shelves. This matter should be attended to without delay—if possible before the spring rains set in.

An order was referred to as to the expediency of allowing the city of Augusta to make and maintain streets on the south and west of the State House. This we deem inadvisable, but recommend that the Superintendent of Public Buildings, under the direction of the Governor and Council, make all needed improvements as to such streets, and completing the same according to the original plan, a copy of which is likewise deposited with the Librarian.

Your Committee are decidedly of the opinion that it is inadvisable to recommend a removal of the capital and the abandonment of this building, as to do so would involve an outlay of not less than one million dollars in the construction and furnishing of a new one, and removal and setting up of the State deposits therein, while an expenditure of one hundred thousand dollars by way of enlargement and alteration of this building would make it all that is desirable for convenience and accommodation.

This oft recurring question of removal should be put to rest in some way and the State take immediate action looking to *permanent* fixtures for the keeping of its records and the transaction of its business. To this end a Commissioner might be properly appointed by the Governor and Council to examine all questions and proposals relating thereto, together with such plans and estimates as would be necessary to carry out the same, and report to a future Legislature, but this the Committee do not advise, preferring to leave it to the direction of the Governor and Council as the Legislature may direct. They ask leave to report the accompanying Resolve.

E. R. FRENCH, }  
ROBT. CROCKETT, } *Chairmen.*

## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE making appropriations for repairs of state house.

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*Resolved*, That the superintendent of public buildings, under the direction of the governor and council, is hereby authorized to receive proposals from, and contract with some responsible parties for setting up and putting in operation within the state house a suitable steam apparatus, together with all necessary fixtures, for heating the same; such proposals and contract to be first submitted to the governor and council for their approval. He shall in like manner procure a suitable iron safe to be placed in the office of secretary of state; shall cause to be made such repairs of the roof as will insure the same against leakage; shall provide additional room for the library by an extension of room number two as designated on a plan of the alteration in the library, and make such other incidental changes as may be necessary to carry out the design. He shall further, if deemed advisable, make such repairs and grading of streets around the

19 capitol yards as are requisite to make the approaches  
20 thereto safe and convenient, and according to the  
21 original plans for laying out the same, and there is  
22 hereby placed at the disposal of the governor and  
23 council for the purposes above named, the sum of ten  
24 thousand dollars, the whole or such part thereof to be  
25 by them appropriated as the improvements herein  
26 specified, in their judgment may require.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 15, 1870.

Reported from the Committee on Public Buildings, by Mr.  
FRENCH of Franklin, and on his motion laid on the table and  
ordered to be printed, together with accompanying Report.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*