

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTIETH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 9.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 23, 1871. }

Ordered, That the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court be requested to furnish the House with their opinions upon the following questions :

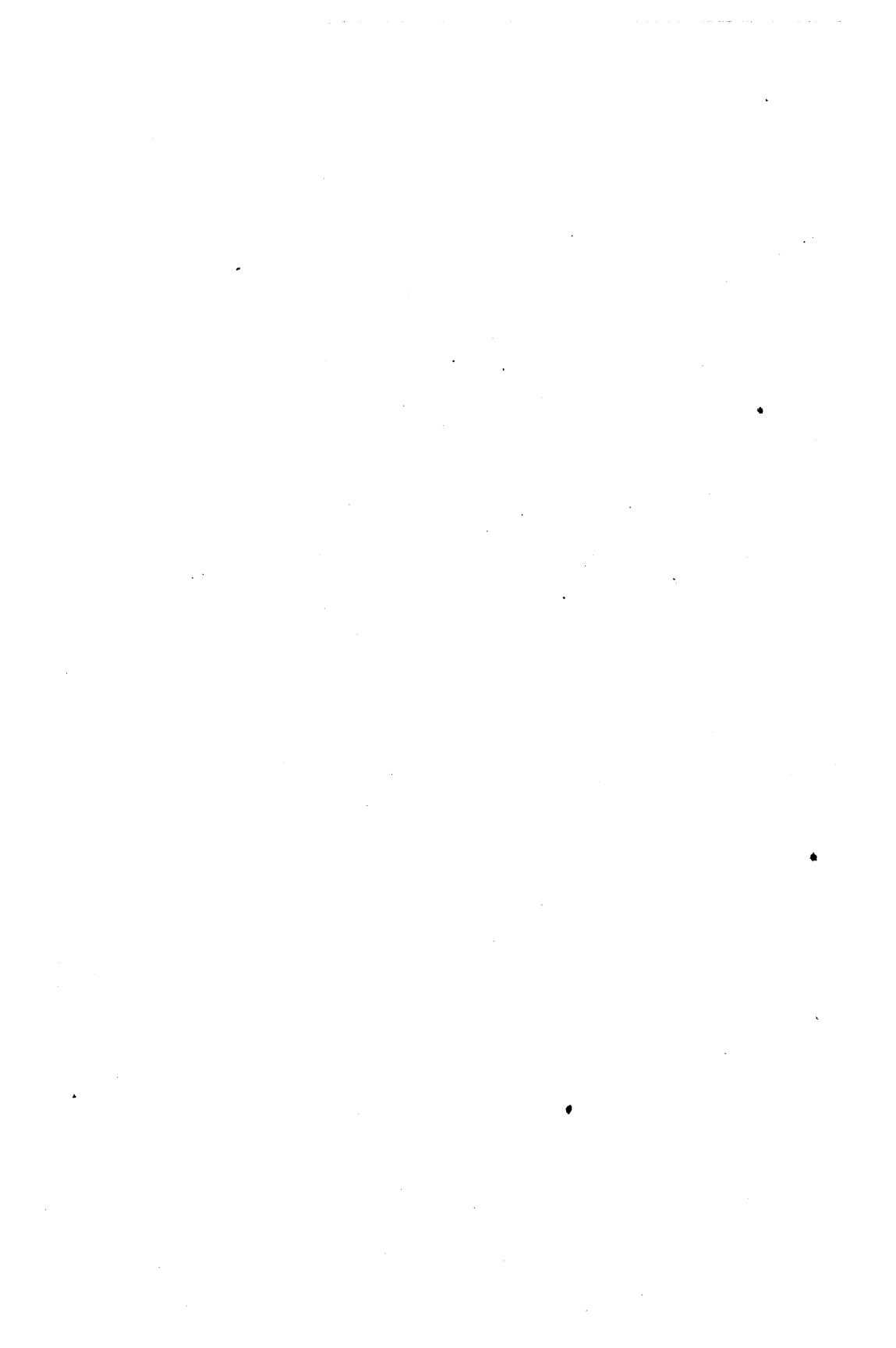
1. Has the Legislature authority under the Constitution to pass laws enabling the towns, by gifts of money or loans of bonds, to assist individuals or corporations in establishing or carrying on manufacturing of various kinds within or without the limits of said towns ?

2. If so, can the towns act by major vote of such voters as may be present at a special meeting called for that purpose, or must a larger number act affirmatively ?

3. If there be a manufactory established and in operation in a town in this State, can the voters of that town be authorized by the Legislature to establish a rival manufactory which shall tend to injure that in operation and oblige the proprietors of the same to pay for their own detriment by taxing them to support the new rival factory ?

4. If a town may be authorized by the Legislature to assist corporations to establish manufactories, may it also be authorized to go further and establish such manufactories entirely on its own account and run them either by the ordinary town officers or by agents to be designated in the ordinary primary party conventions selected in town meetings ?

5. If the authority specified in the first question exists, is there any limit to the proportion of the valuation of the town that may be put into manufacturing enterprises, or may a sum equal to the whole property of the town be so pledged ?



STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 23, 1871. }

Laid on the table by Mr. PIKE of Calais, and ordered printed.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*