

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTIETH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 75.

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The Joint Select Committee to which was referred the communication of the Governor concerning the expense of establishing the first Swedish Colony upon the soil of Maine, have had the same under consideration and ask leave to report :

That the act to promote immigration and facilitate the settlement of the public lands, approved March 23, 1870, contained no provisions for making roads, felling trees, building houses, or for meeting many other expenses absolutely essential to the successful establishment of the colony.

This whole matter was laid before the Governor and Council on the 14th of May, 1870, who, after a full hearing, made the following report :

“STATE OF MAINE. IN COUNCIL, May 14, 1870.

The Standing Committee of the Council to which was referred the accompanying letter of William W. Thomas, Jr., relative to preparation of lots of land for Scandinavian immigrants, report : That the land agent be required to do in the premises what he deems best for the interests of the State, leaving to the land agent in his discretion whether he should fell three acres or five acres.

Signed, J. W. PORTER, *Chairman.*”

In pursuance of the requirements of this report the land agent went to Aroostook county, selected a township of land, cut a road into it, felled five acres of trees on each twenty-five lots, erected twenty-six dwelling-houses, and one public building, purchased necessary tools and provisions, and incurred other expenses, amounting in all to twelve thousand one hundred twenty-four dollars and seventy-four cents (\$12,124.74,) as shown by the subjoined statement :

Provisions and tools furnished colonists, and to be paid for by them in labor at \$1.00 per day.....	\$4,000 00
Expense of erecting twenty-six houses on State land, and still owned by the State, at \$125 each .....	3,250 00
Expense of twenty-five stoves for the houses.....	554 63
Erecting a store-house on State land, and owned by the State .....	2,000 00
Goods on hand in store-house.....	1,000 00
Felling one hundred and twenty-five acres of trees....	781 25
Opening roads and incidental expenses .....	538 86
Total expense.....	<u>\$12,124 74</u>

It will be observed that of the above sum of \$12,124.74 there is to be reimbursed by the colonists \$4,000, and that the title to the property represented by the remaining sum, \$5,124.74, is in the State for the term of five years, and \$3,000 is absolutely in the State, being the store-house and goods in the same.

Your Committee, therefore, ask leave to report the following resolve.

Per order, M. D. L. LANE, *Chairman.*

## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the land agent, to reimburse him certain moneys paid out in behalf of the Swedish colony.

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*Resolved*, That there be appropriated and paid out of 2 the state treasury the sum of twelve thousand one 3 hundred twenty-four dollars and seventy-four cents to 4 reimburse the land agent for expenses incurred by him 5 on account of the Swedish colony ; *provided*, that all 6 the accounts of the land agent for said expenses be 7 first audited by the governor and council ; and that 8 such further sum or sums of money be paid said land 9 agent as the governor and council may decide he is 10 entitled to receive on account of his services, disburse- 11 ments, and interest on private funds advanced in be- 12 half of said colony.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 22, 1871.

Presented by Mr. LANE, and on his motion laid on the table  
and ordered to be printed.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*