

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 8.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Committee on Education, to whom was referred the petition of the Trustees of the Oak Grove Seminary, praying for an appropriation of money for said Seminary, herewith submit a "statement of facts" to accompany the resolve reported in their favor.

The Oak Grove Seminary was incorporated in 1852, on the petition of the Society of "Friends" in Maine, and very soon after buildings were erected and the school put in operation. Since that time, under the fostering care of that excellent order of christians, it has been kept in successful operation, and maintained a respectable rank among the other institutions of that grade in the State.

It now has a class of buildings and lot valued at over fifteen thousand dollars, capable of accommodating about one hundred and fifty students. These buildings have recently been repaired and put in good condition at a considerable expense, all of which has been paid out of the funds of the institution.

The Trustees now own their Seminary property free from incumbrance, but owe a debt of about five hundred dollars, incurred in making said repairs.

The school has educated about one hundred students per year since it went into operation, and the average attendance has been seventy-five. Its graduates, as a rule, have taken a high rank, while many of them have become distinguished both in the learned professions and as teachers. Its course of instruction embraces all the studies preparatory to a college course, and the usual branches taught in seminaries of this grade. Its discipline has been excellent, and special pains has been taken by its teachers to guard the morals of its students.

The Seminary has no invested fund to pay its running expenses, but has been obliged to depend mainly in the past, on the tuition of its scholars to pay its teachers. A few thousand dollars that had accumulated, had to be taken last year to pay for repairs on the buildings.

The Trustees for the first time, now appeal to the Legislature for aid. Shall it be granted? The Friends or Quakers are a very honest, upright, industrious class of christians. They support their own poor entirely, and not a dollar has ever been paid by the people of the State, outside of their own order, for the maintenance of this unfortunate class of persons.

The Society of Friends have a respectable rank in the State in intelligence, property; numbers, patriotism and integrity.

All other religious orders in the State have received aid from its treasury for their Literary Institutions; and the Friends have always cheerfully contributed their proportion of means to meet these demands.

They simply ask to be treated as others have been, and we know of no good reasons why unjust discriminations should be made against this old and respectable order of christians.

We have drawn the Resolve with care, and impose conditions which we think cannot fail to insure a wise and prudent disbursement of the appropriation recommended.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Per order,

JOHN J. PERRY, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of Oak Grove Seminary.

Resolved, That the sum of six hundred dollars is
2 hereby annually appropriated, out of any money in the
3 treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the term of
4 ten years, to "Oak Grove Seminary," an institution
5 of learning, located in the town of Vassalborough, in
6 the county of Kennebec; *provided however*, that this
7 appropriation is made on the express condition, that
8 the trustees of said seminary shall maintain and keep
9 in operation a school, equal in rank and grade of
10 teaching, with a first class academy; and also main-
11 tain a normal department, equal in grade to that
12 required by law of the state normal schools; *and pro-*
13 *vided further*, that the governor and council, and
14 superintendent of common schools shall have a right
15 at any and all times, to visit said school, when the
16 same shall be in operation; and if in the opinion of
17 the governor and council, said seminary at any time
18 hereafter shall fail to fulfil the conditions contained in
19 this resolve, they may in their discretion withhold the
20 appropriation herein granted.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 23, 1872. }

Reported from the Committee on Education, by Mr. PERRY of
Oxford, read once, and ordered printed, with statement of facts,
and Wednesday of next week assigned.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*