

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 66.

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## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

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The Swedish immigration to Maine in 1871, was unexpectedly large; five hundred immigrants were expected — nearly one thousand came.

The appropriation liberal for five hundred, proved insufficient for twice that number, and all supplies were exhausted long before even the first colonists had reaped their first harvest.

To supply the Swedes with food until the earth yielded its increase was an imperative necessity, that admitted of no delay, otherwise they must have starved, or been compelled to desert the new homes they had made in the forests of Maine.

In this exigency the Commissioner consulted with the Board of Immigration, and was advised by Governor Perham, Chairman of the Board, “to advance to those in the colony who are unable to support themselves, such necessary supplies as will prevent destitution and suffering until the Legislature shall have an opportunity to act in the premises.”

In accordance with this recommendation, the Commissioner purchased supplies sufficient for the immediate prosecution of the enterprise, and for maintaining the new colonists, who could get no crop, through the present winter.

On December first there were stored in New Sweden, 250 barrels flour, 125 barrels buckwheat meal, 125 barrels herring, 30 barrels pork, 9 hogsheads molasses, and 500 bushels potatoes, worth in the aggregate, including cost of transportation, over \$5,000. It is upon these provisions that our new colonists have subsisted all winter. They are subsisting upon them *to-day*; and there is a sufficient quantity still on hand for their support till the opening

of Spring. These supplies, and all others, disbursed to the Swedish colonists, are not *given* away, but *sold* to them, and payment taken in labor at \$1.00 per day on State highways.

It is for the purpose of reimbursing the Commissioner of Immigration the amounts paid out by him for the supplies above enumerated, and the amounts also paid out in excess of the appropriation of 1871, for provisions and tools furnished the colony last Summer and Fall, that the accompanying resolve is presented.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the commissioner of immigration 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 eleven thousand nine  
3 hundred and sixty-eight dollars and fifty-five cents  
4 to reimburse the commissioner of immigration for ex-  
5 penses incurred by him on account of the Swedish  
6 colony ; *provided*, that all the accounts of the com-  
7 missioner for said expenses be first audited by the  
8 governor and council.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 21, 1872.

Submitted by Mr. SMITH, and laid over to be printed under  
the Rules.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*