

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 4.

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## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

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There are 1300 Swedes in Maine. They have all paid their own passage to our State, and brought with them \$60,000 in cash. Seven hundred of these immigrants are independent farmers, or furnish help as mechanics, laborers and servants in various portions of Maine, and have never received any State aid. The remaining 600 are settled at New Sweden and have been helped in getting a start in our Northern wilderness.

They have felled 2,000 acres of trees, built 30 miles of road, and erected 100 houses, 88 barns and 3 mills. They now own 17 horses, 6 oxen, 76 cows, 11 sheep and 118 swine.

It was expected by both the State and the colonists that no further aid would be required, but an extraordinarily wet season has seriously interfered with the clearing of their land, and has also rusted their grain and rotted their potatoes.

This unlooked for misfortune compels the Swedes to appeal to the State for the assistance indicated in the accompanying bill. Without this aid it will be impossible to prevent much suffering and destitution among many of our new citizens, who at our invitation have come 4,000 miles to make their home with us, and who are now brought to want through no fault of their own, but by reason of an unprecedented year of rains, which they could neither foresee nor avoid.

The amount asked is not large; it will be repaid the State in work on highways, and is deemed sufficient to render secure the future of the colony and the Swedish immigration enterprise.

# STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THREE.

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AN ACT to promote immigration and facilitate the settlement of the public lands.

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

SECTION 1. There shall be a board of immigration  
2 in this state, composed of the governor, secretary of  
3 state and land agent.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of said board to  
2 appoint a commissioner of immigration, an agent resi-  
3 dent in New Sweden, and to exercise a general super-  
4 vision over the expenditure of all moneys appropriated  
5 by this act.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of said commissioner  
2 to exercise a general care and oversight over all  
3 immigrants coming to Maine, to give them all needful  
4 information, to assist them in settling upon the public  
5 lands of the state, or obtaining employment within its  
6 borders, and to have special charge of the colony at

7 New Sweden, to the end that its development and  
8 prosperity may be promoted in every way consistent  
9 with law ; and the compensation and entire expenses  
10 of said commissioner shall not exceed the sum of one  
11 thousand ————— dollars. And it shall be the  
12 duty of said agent, resident in New Sweden, to have  
13 special charge of the state store-house, stores, tools  
14 and all other state property there, to receive and dis-  
15 burse all state supplies, and keep proper accounts and  
16 vouchers therefor ; and the compensation of said agent  
17 shall not exceed the sum of three hundred dollars.

SECT. 4. The board aforesaid may, if in its opinion  
2 the circumstances require it, expend for provisions,  
3 tools, seed and other necessary aid to be furnished the  
4 colonists, and for which payment may be taken in  
5 labor on the roads, public buildings and other public  
6 works, an amount not exceeding four thousand dollars,  
7 and for schools two hundred dollars.

SECT. 5. The board aforesaid may cause all immi-  
2 grants arriving under the provisions of this act to be  
3 settled on any of the public lands of the state not  
4 otherwise appropriated, and assign to each man over  
5 twenty-one years of age, by certificate from the land  
6 agent, a lot of one hundred acres of land ; and the  
7 land agent shall, at the expiration of five years from  
8 the date of said assignment, grant each of the persons

9 aforesaid, or his heirs at law, a deed of warranty or  
10 other valid title of the lot assigned him; *provided*,  
11 each of said persons has established his residence on  
12 the lot assigned him, has built a comfortable house  
13 thereon, and has cleared not less than fifteen acres of  
14 land within the time aforesaid, ten of which shall be  
15 laid down to grass; and all said persons shall be  
16 exempt from state taxation until January first, in the  
17 year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and  
18 seventy-six.

SECT. 6. The governor is hereby authorized to draw  
2 his warrant upon the treasury for any of the sums  
3 specified in this act.

SECT. 7. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with  
2 this act are hereby repealed, and this act shall take  
3 effect when approved.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, January 16, 1873.

Reported from the Joint Select Committee on Immigration, by  
Mr. SMITH of Penobscot, and on his motion laid on the table and  
ordered to be printed with the accompanying Statement of Facts.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*