

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 1.

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine, in Legislature assembled:

The undersigned, the Directors of the Maine General Hospital, in presenting this Memorial and asking for a pecuniary appropriation to be made by the State in its behalf, respectfully represent that the act of incorporation of the Hospital was obtained and accepted in 1868.

The following year, in response to a petition signed by more than two thousand of the most prominent citizens of the State, the Legislature passed a resolve, by one provision of which the State Arsenal lot, situated on Bramhall's Hill, Portland, was granted to the corporation, on the condition that there should be previously raised, by donations or responsible subscriptions, the sum of twenty thousand dollars.

It was also provided that the State should give the hospital twenty thousand dollars in money, when thirty thousand dollars had been procured from other sources and expended in the construction of the buildings.

The sum of eighty thousand dollars was regarded as the lowest amount upon which it would be practicable to initiate the enterprise.

All the conditions imposed by the resolve have been promptly and cheerfully complied with; and upon this basis of endowment work was commenced in the summer of 1871, and, excepting during the inclement months of winter, has been continued, uninterruptedly, to the present time.

In the early spring of 1873 your petitioners, after taking a careful financial outlook, deemed it inexpedient to resume opera-

tions until adequate means could be secured to cancel liabilities already incurred, and to meet necessities which would arise in further prosecution of the work.

Happily, at this juncture, the idea of a Fair was entertained and carried into execution, with the gratifying result of obtaining a sum exceeding thirty-six thousand dollars.

With resources thus acquired work was recommenced in June.

We decided to leave the central building for the time being in its unfinished state, and to use the money on hand in finishing the eastern pavilion for occupancy, and in building the kitchen, laundry and boiler house, including the steam heating apparatus, with accessory appendages and connections, agreeably to plans and specifications approved by our architect; and these are so far finished that we feel justified in saying they will be ready for use before this Memorial can be presented.

But with the Hospital thus far completed additional money must be raised to supply the various wards and apartments with appropriate furniture, to provide beds and bedding, culinary utensils and table ware, together with an adequate supply of necessary articles of food;—in short, all that may be required to place the Hospital, at the opening, in a suitable condition for the reception and treatment of patients.

It is proper to say, in this connection, that the services of the physicians and surgeons who may compose the medical and surgical staff of the Hospital, will be rendered without compensation.

Your petitioners desire to express their conviction, that when the Hospital, or such parts of it as the wants of the State may now require, shall be in actual operation, it is sure to be sustained thereafter. The history of all similar institutions, in this country certainly, bears convincing testimony to this important fact. We have reason to believe that contributions for the establishment of free beds, and benefactions and bequests for its maintenance and support will flow into its treasury, as they did into that of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and continuously, too,—ever keeping pace with an enlightened public sentiment and a progressive civilization.

Our treasury is now exhausted, but we are not in debt, and for requisite means to carry out the purposes referred to—without which what has been thus far accomplished can be of no available use—we are compelled to invoke the aid of the State; and we

respectfully ask for an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars to secure the fulfilment of these important objects.

Portland, in addition to the very valuable land adjoining the Hospital given in her corporate capacity, has contributed in cash subscriptions from her citizens, which have been collected and paid into the treasury, more than fifty thousand dollars, which, added to receipts from fairs, concerts and the like, and to donations from former residents now living in other States, will swell the amount to more than eighty thousand dollars; and this is all that can be reasonably expected of her.

It must be remembered that this is the *Maine General Hospital*. It is a *State* and not a local institution, and in the organic act adequate provision is made for an "effective share by the public authority in its oversight and direction."

The location of the Hospital originated with the Maine Medical Association, and the Legislature adopted and carried out their views in this respect, thus following the universal precedent of establishing State hospitals in places of the largest population; and recognizing, also, the important fact that the manifold benefits of such institutions, wherever established, extend to all classes and conditions of our social organization. Each one, in the language of our late and lamented associate, Phinehas Barnes, becomes a school of instruction to every physician and surgeon in the State, and a central source of learning, fidelity and skill, from which light and relief may be extended to the humblest patient in the remotest village.

We recognize with pleasure and gratitude the liberal benefactions of our State for the advancement of the common weal, and can point with proud satisfaction to the various charitable, industrial and educational interests which have received, and are receiving, from time to time, the aid their necessities require.

Your petitioners, therefore, confidently rely upon the favorable consideration of the Legislature in behalf of this noble enterprise, and earnestly pray for the pecuniary grant it so much needs, and to which its just claims for public sympathy and support pre-eminently entitle it.

It is, indeed, one of the great charities of the State, and when once in successful operation will be regarded as the greatest and wisest within its borders, whether viewed as an asylum for the relief of human suffering in its various forms, or in its important

relation to the advancement of medical and surgical science, or as an expression of the christian principles and culture of our people.

JOHN T. GILMAN,
ISRAEL WASHBURN, JR.,
ANDREW SPRING,
A. W. H. CLAPP,
HORATIO N. JOSE,
WILLIAM DEERING,
JOSEPH H. WILLIAMS,
SAMUEL F. HERSEY,
GEORGE WALKER.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 14, 1874. }

Presented by Mr. PULLEN of Portland, and on his motion laid on the table and ordered printed.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*