

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 72.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE appropriating two thousand dollars on Mattawamkeag bridge, at Mattawamkeag, in the county of Penobscot.

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*Resolved,* That the legislature appropriate the sum of  
2 two thousand dollars to be expended by the land agent  
3 on the bridge over the Mattawamkeag river in the town  
4 of Mattawamkeag, on military road.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

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BANGOR, February 8, 1875.

Hon. P. P. BURLEIGH, Land Agent, Augusta,

Dear Sir—In compliance with your request per letter of the 4th inst., I proceeded to Mattawamkeag, and in company with Mr. Stratton, Representative to the Legislature from that town, examined the bridge across the Mattawamkeag river at that place. I found the timbers of the bridge generally sound, but showing marks at their joints and bearings of heavy strains; with the spans, especially the middle one, considerably sagged or depressed in the middle, instead of crowning as it should be. The middle span—120 feet long—shakes badly under a load, several passing while I was upon the bridge; and while it might last for a number of years without accident, I yet do not consider it safe for the heavy traffic that passes over it, and in my judgment important repairs are demanded at an early day—as below.

All three spans need to be brought to a sufficient crown, by means of screws set on streets or horses from the bottom of the river, and held there by placing an arched chord on the inside of the posts and braces, the feet of said arched chords resting against skew-backs over the bearings upon the pins and abutments; this arched chord should be, say, four inches thick by about nine inches deep, and bolted to the posts and braces. A set also upon the outside of the posts and braces would equalize the strains and give a much firmer support to the bridge, but would be very much more expensive, as the sides of the bridge would have to be uncovered in order to place them. A long clamp is also needed on several of the joints of the lower chords. New flooring and floor timbers are needed nearly if not quite throughout. The middle girder of the lower section is defective in many places and needs replacing to a considerable extent, and in a less degree in the upper section. Many of the sway braces are gone entirely, allowing the bridge to acquire a sidewise motion under a load or a high wind, and

MATTAWAMKEAG BRIDGE.

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should be replaced. The posts and braces should be keyed and wedged after the bridge is brought to a crown or camber, and a series of braces instituted from the arched chords to hold the bridge in place.

It is exceedingly difficult to frame an estimate for repairs upon such a structure as this, as you encounter water to work in, and may develop undiscovered weaknesses that are not now visible. The stage of water will greatly affect the cost of placing horses or piles upon which to set the screws for raising the bridge to a crown. I have, however, made an estimate, rough at best, but as close as I could, of the probable cost of repairs essential, and consolidated them upon another page.

Very respectfully, Your ob't servant,

L. H. EATON.

Estimate of probable cost for repairing the Mattawamkeag bridge:

10,000 feet best pine, at \$30.....	\$300.00
2,000 lbs. bolts, nuts and washers, at 7½ cts.....	150.00
100 feet B. M. oak for skew-backs.....	6.00
Expense of setting horse and screws, and screwing up,	400.00
Labor and superintendance .....	700.00
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	\$1,556.00

Or, if arched chords are also put in outside of posts, say \$2,000.

Length of covered bridge 320 feet, width 17 feet. Length of open bridge 32 feet, width 21 feet.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 13, 1875. }

Reported from Committee on State Lands and State Roads, by  
Mr. BARKER of Weston, and ordered printed with Statement of  
Facts.

S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Clerk.*