

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Fifty-Seventh Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 25.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in aid of the towns of Blanchard and Shirley.

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*Resolved,* That fifteen hundred dollars be appropriated  
2 to assist the towns of Blanchard and Shirley to repair  
3 and maintain the road leading from the terminus of the  
4 Bangor and Piscataquis railroad through said towns to  
5 Greenville. The same to be expended under direction  
6 of the governor and council.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

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The population in the town of Blanchard in 1860 was 164, polls 36, valuation \$23,292. In 1870 the population was 165, polls 38, valuation \$33,142. The population in the town of Shirley in 1860 was 282, polls 59, valuation \$33,963. In 1870 the population was 206, polls 57, valuation \$56,229. The highway tax previous to the completion of the B. & P. R. R. to the town of Blanchard was two per cent. on the valuation of 1870, which must be greatly reduced in the next decade.

The road from the terminus of the B. & P. R. R., leading through the towns of Blanchard and Shirley toward Greenville, was originally built to accommodate light travel only. The travel has immensely increased, and now includes all the lumber interests of the upper Kennebec, Somerset and Moosehead Lake regions, also the west branch of the Penobscot and its tributaries, and a portion of the upper St. John. The amount of freight taken over this road this season has been between six and seven hundred tons. The number of passengers passing over this road during the excursion months alone, the past season, has been between two and three thousand.

There is two and one-half miles of said road in Blanchard, and seven miles in Shirley. The country through which it passes is hilly, rocky and ledgy, a poor soil to build and maintain a road upon. There is but one inhabitant living upon the first five miles, which is mainly through the wilderness. These towns are willing to build and maintain highways suitable to accommodate their own travel, but say they are unable to build and maintain roads suitable for the immense travel which must now pass over said road.

These towns are liable by the statutes of our State to indictment if said road is not kept passable; also, are liable for any actual damage by accident which may occur upon this road. The maintaining of said road to accommodate this immense traffic and travel upon it, is a burden imposed upon them not by acts of themselves, but by others entirely outside of their interests.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
January 23, 1878. }

Reported from the Committee on State Lands and State Roads,  
by Mr. CUTLER of Bangor, and ordered printed, with Statement  
of Facts, under the Joint Rule.

ORAMANDAL SMITH, *Clerk.*