

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Fifty-Seventh Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 105.

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*To the Legislature of Maine:*

The Industrial School for Girls; shall it be sustained, or shall it be closed?

The undersigned, Executive Committee of the Managers of the school, present their urgent appeal to you

This Institution was founded by the munificent donation of \$10,000 by Mrs. Flagg of Hallowell, together with liberal gifts by Hon. A. Coburn and others, and an appropriation of \$12,500 by the State. Mrs. Dummer conveyed to the Managers a lot for the School, on the condition that when it ceased to be used for the purpose it should revert to her and her heirs.

The buildings were erected and furnished, and the School opened in January, 1875. During the three years it has been in operation, it has received 71 girls, taken from the most unfavorable surroundings, some of them convicted of crime, and others in manifest peril, all having been committed to the school by magistrates. Of these, 21 have been placed in homes believed to be permanent, five have been returned to their friends, three dismissed, two deceased, and six otherwise disposed of, leaving 34 at the present time, namely: 5 from Augusta, Bath 3, Boothbay 2, Bucksport 2, Cape Elizabeth 1, Dresden 1, Ellsworth 1, Gouldsborough 1, Mount Desert 1, Portland 1, Rockland 7, Saco 6, Sidney 1, West Waterville 1, Windsor 1.

The School is considered by the Managers to be under excellent supervision, and enjoying remarkable success. The Superintendent, and the ladies in charge, are deemed to be admirably fitted for their respective positions. The girls are taught house-work, sewing, and the common school studies. By kind usage and moral influence, they are trained, as far as practicable, to exercise self-control, and to endeavor to become useful and respectable mem-

bers of society. As fast as may be, with due regard to the welfare of the girls, they are placed in suitable homes.

It is the aim of the Managers and officers to practice the utmost economy. In order to make an early report to the Legislature, the account for the past year was made up for eleven months only. The estimated expenses for the remaining month of the year, will make up the whole cost for the year a little over \$6,000. Unless the Legislature will appropriate \$6,000, we are unable to discover how the school can be carried through the year.

Heretofore a less appropriation has sufficed because there was a balance on hand. This balance is now reduced to \$748.77, scarcely sufficient to defray the expenses until a new appropriation can be made available.

The Executive Committee, and we doubt not all the Managers, and the officers of the school will gladly resign their places, and permit others to assume the management, and try to carry on the school at less expense.

But, as we view it, the question is one of life or death to the school. Unless an appropriation of \$6,000 is made, the school will have to be closed before the end of the year, the land will revert to Mrs. Dummer, the State will lose the benefit of what it has appropriated for the buildings and furniture, the girls now in the school must be sent back to their former condition of peril, and other friendless ones, who in almost every town are in circumstances of imminent danger, must be left to the evil influences which surround them, with no kind hand to rescue them from ruin.

The Executive Committee, in making this appeal, have done no more than their duty. They could do no less, as representatives of the Managers of the School. The Committee and the Managers have no more interest in its welfare and continuance than every good citizen should feel. The question of the longer continuance of this noble and benevolent institution, we can only leave to the decision of the Legislature.

H. K. BAKER, }  
 E. ROWELL, } *Executive*  
 CHAS. E. NASH, } *Committee.*

February 5, 1878.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 5, 1878. }

Presented by Mr. BODWELL of Hallowell, and on his motion  
ordered printed.

ORAMANDAL SMITH, *Clerk.*