

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 40.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in aid of the town of Byron in Oxford
county.

Resolved, That the sum of five hundred dollars be
2 and is hereby appropriated, to aid in building dams
3 and embankments in the town of Byron, Oxford
4 county, for the purpose of preventing the water of
5 Swift river from damaging the public highway and
6 farms in said town; *provided,* said town or persons
7 interested, shall complete the building of said dams
8 and embankments in such manner as to fully pro-
9 tect said highways and farms; and on receipt of a
10 certificate from the county commissioners of said
11 county, stating that the work has been completed
12 in manner aforesaid, the governor shall draw his
13 warrant on the treasurer of state in favor of said
14 town for said sum.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

To the Legislature of Maine:

The town of Byron, Oxford county, in 1878 had a valuation of \$40,259.00. At the present time it would fall below that sum,—it probably would not exceed \$30,000. This shrinkage has been caused by the action of the water in Swift river in said town, breaking through the banks of said river, washing the highways and damaging the farms.

The great freshet in 1869 nearly ruined the town, and in December, 1878, very great damage occurred.

Said town has between thirty and forty miles of roads to support, and a great portion of the same is very expensive to maintain. The damage to roads and bridges in December, 1878, was not less than \$1,500. The roads cannot be permanently repaired until the water from said river is confined to its natural channel, as it now is running in the public highway. Said water cannot be confined in its channel without an outlay of not less than \$800.

The town is unable to build said side dams and repair their roads and bridges, as they are now in debt over \$3,000, have only forty-five taxable polls in town, and only thirty-three families, hence they ask the State to aid them a small amount.

Every land owner in town on whose lands said dams would be located, has signed the petition asking for the proposed legislation. I have personally visited the town since the freshet in December last, and am satisfied that it is reasonable and proper that aid be furnished said town.

GEORGE D. BISBEE,

Attorney for the Petitioners.

TOWN OF BYRON.

Upon due investigation, we hereby certify that the following is a true statement of the liabilities of the town of Byron, and damages sustained by reason of freshets the past fall and winter, and costs of repairing roads and bridges, and building dams to restrain the waters in said town hereafter, as nearly as can be estimated by us, viz :

Indebtedness over assets.....	\$3,081 48
Valuation of town	40,259 00
Number of polls taxed.....	45
Number of voters.....	56
Pauper bill for the year.....	260 00
Number of families in town.....	33
To repair and build suitable dams to restrain the waters of the streams from overflowing and damaging roads	800 00
To repair highways and bridges	1,500 00

STEPHEN TAYLOR, } *Selectmen*
 JOTHAM SHAW, } *of*
 A. S. YOUNG, } *Byron.*

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 31, 1879. }

Reported from the Committee on Interior Waters, by Mr. DICKEY of Fort Kent, and ordered printed, with Statement of Facts, under the Joint Rule.

B. L. STAPLES, *Clerk.*