

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 112.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in aid of building a bridge across the  
Saint John river at Van Buren.

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*Resolved,* That there be and hereby is appro-  
2 priated, a sum not exceeding eight thousand dol-  
3 lars, in aid of building a bridge across the St. John  
4 river, opposite the Violette Brook village (so-called)  
5 in Van Buren; said sum to be paid to the New  
6 Brunswick Railway Company or to the government  
7 of the Province of New Brunswick, or to any cor-  
8 poration, company, person or persons, who may  
9 build a bridge across said river, at said point, to  
10 the acceptance and approval of the governor of  
11 Maine and land agent thereof, or by an engineer to  
12 be appointed by them, the cost of which bridge  
13 shall not be less than sixteen thousand dollars;  
14 said sum not to be paid until the acceptance and  
15 approval of said bridge as aforesaid; and the

16 governor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant  
17 upon the state treasury for said sum when said  
18 bridge shall have been accepted.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

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By means of a large appropriation of lands made by the Legislature of New Brunswick, viz. : 10,000 acres for every mile of railroad to be built by the New Brunswick Railway Company, said company has been enabled to build some 180 miles of railroad along the St. John river, by means of which the citizens of Northern Aroostook have been given railroad connection with other sections of the State, said railroad connecting with the New Brunswick and Canada Railway at Woodstock, and thereby with the European and North American Railway, and the entire railway system of the State.

The principal business centre for towns and plantations on the St. John river is Van Buren, where the people of the towns of Madawaska and Grand Isle, and of the plantations of Hamlin, Cyr, Pleasant Ridge and Connor, and also of several places on the New Brunswick side of the river purchase their goods, and do their trading. There is a railway station directly opposite the village of Violette Brook, ( so called ) in Van Buren, from which are shipped large quantities of starch, potatoes, hay, oats, shingles, ship-timber, clap-boards, and produce of various kinds, but during the time when it is most desirable to transport these products across the St. John to the station, or to bring goods therefrom, viz : in the Spring and in the Fall, the river is for some weeks in each season impassable.

Now, the New Brunswick Government and the New Brunswick Railway Company offer to bear one-half of the expense of bridging the St. John river at Van Buren, if the State will

bear the other one-half. A close estimate of the cost of a bridge at this point makes it at least \$16,000, requiring an appropriation of \$8,000 on the part of the State.

Most of the goods sold at Van Buren are bought from Portland and Bangor wholesale merchants, and a petition from the principal Portland firms has been presented, asking this appropriation. Most of the shingles manufactured in this section of the State, and most of the short lumber is shipped from Calais, and a number of its leading citizens have likewise petitioned in aid of this proposition. Considering the fact that New Brunswick has built this entire railroad at immense expense, and now offers to build one-half of this bridge for the accommodation of our citizens and the advancement of the commercial interests of the State, it is believed that no wiser expenditure could be made than this, which will secure at so small a cost railway facilities to a large and rapidly increasing population, who have heretofore been shut out from commercial intercourse with the rest of the State.

Per order of Committee,

JOHN B. FARRELL.

## STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 12, 1879. }

Reported from the Committee on State Lands and State Roads,  
by Mr. FARRELL of Van Buren, and ordered printed, with State-  
ment of Facts, under Joint Rule.

B. L. STAPLES, *Clerk.*