

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 39.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE for the purchase of the Maine State Year
Book and Legislative Manual.

Resolved, That the secretary of state be authorized
2 to contract for six hundred copies of the Maine
3 state year book and legislative manual, at a cost
4 not to exceed eight hundred dollars, namely: one
5 hundred copies octavo, suitable for binding with
6 the documents, one copy to be delivered by the
7 secretary of state on or before the first day of
8 May, to each officer and member of the legislature
9 of eighteen hundred and eighty, and the balance
10 to be delivered to the secretary of state, of which
11 balance one copy shall by said secretary be deliv-
12 ered to each officer and member of the legislature
13 of eighteen hundred and eighty-one, and the re-
14 mainder to be delivered to the heads of the depart-
15 ments for their use.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Such as appeared correct to the Committee.

The Maine State Year Book was commenced in 1870 at the earnest request, and under the encouragement of gentlemen then connected with the State government. It was compiled with especial reference to the demands of the State, but in the hope and expectation that the demands of business would lessen its cost, both to the State and to the individual.

While the legislative edition of this book contains forty pages more than the business edition, this latter edition contains much matter that is inserted with special reference to the State government, and which, therefore, cannot be charged into the retail price of the book, to business men, but on the contrary, must, if published, be paid for by the State.

By the appended statement, it will be seen that the composition and press work, on the basis of an edition of 800 copies, costs at the lowest possible price at which such work can be figured, \$900 00

Add paper 12½ cents per copy,	100 00
“ binding, 15 “ “ “ (700)	105 00
“ map, 20 “ “ “ (700)	140 00
“ extra cost of octavo edition,	60 00

Total cost of mechanical work on 800 copies, \$1,305 00

To the foregoing statement must be added the cost of collecting the statistics for calendar, U. S. government, county organizations, associations of all kinds, and for a complete directory of the State, in all its interests. As this work cannot be done within less than the aggregate of a year's time, there should be added not less than \$1000.00 for such labor. The cost of compiling the statistics, superintending the process of manufacture, reading author's proof and attending to the matters of sale through agents, cannot be put down reasonably at a less figure than \$1,000.00 additional. It will thus be seen that the State, through the privilege that it gives to the publishers, of effecting sales of the books that can be multiplied from the type already set, gets, by

paying \$1,000, the Maine State Year Book at less than *one-third* of its actual cost of manufacture.

The sales of the book, outside of the copies taken by the State, thus far, have been limited to about 1,800 copies, and this sale has only been effected by the payment of heavy commissions to agents, for carrying the book to the actual customer. The necessity of employing agents for this work of selling, will be seen in the fact the State of Massachusetts reserves for sale but 100 of a similar book that she publishes each year.

It may be seen on examination of the files of the Year Book, that, without any requirement to that effect, the publishers have more than doubled the quantity of matter that this book contains, while the price remains substantially the same, both to the State and to individuals. It may also be seen by an examination of the Massachusetts Manual for 1880, and the accompanying letter from the Secretary of State, that the above named Commonwealth pays 65 cents per vol. for a book that contains no map, no calendar, no U. S. statistics, no town statistics, and hence is free from the *expense* of collecting the same, the corresponding matter of which is contained upon about 188 pages of the Maine Manual, and that upon the basis of an edition almost four times as large as that of the Maine State Year Book.

The publishers wish to state that the compilation and manufacture of the Year Book in the completeness with which it is done, practically requires the work of the entire year, and that, consequently, they have always come before similar committees, as they do before the present committee, with a large part of their investment already made, and that thus they have always been at a disadvantage in making negotiations, and especially so in their negotiations for the last edition of the work. They wish also to say that even at the sacrifice of such investments, they would last year probably have abandoned this work, had not the friends of the enterprise made personal sacrifices in its behalf, which they ought not and cannot be called upon to make again.

ANDREW R. G. SMITH.
EDWIN D. LAMSON.
NELSON THOMPSON.
GEORGE F. HILL.
JOSEPH DUNNELL.
GEORGE H. ROBBINS.
JOHN G. BROOKS.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 27, 1880.

Reported by Mr. SMITH, from Committee on Maine State Year Book, and tabled to print with Statement of Facts, under Joint Rule.

C. W. TILDEN, *Secretary.*