

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SIXTIETH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 65.

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## REPORT ON THE STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MECHANIC ARTS.

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*Respectfully submitted by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture.*

Agreeably to an order of the Legislature, the Committee on Agriculture visited the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts, at Orono, on the 27th of January.

Your Committee inspected the buildings and all the appurtenances belonging to the College, as thoroughly as it was possible for them to do at this unfavorable season of the year, and in the limited time at their command. As this visit was made during the vacation we did not have the privilege of witnessing the operation of the school.

The State has provided this institution with buildings well suited to their purposes, including a dwelling house for the president, a nice farm house and one of the finest and most expensive barns in the State. There is a farm connected with the college, of 376 acres. The productions of this large and excellent farm, excepting the hay crop, are meagre in amount and the stock is not such as should be seen upon a model farm. A farmer is employed, who, with his wife, receive a salary of \$600 per annum and board. There was paid for labor on the farm for the year ending November 30, 1880, twelve hundred and thirty-nine dollars, (\$1239). Comparing this sum with the farm productions as given upon page 54 of

the report it will be seen, to practical farmers, to be disproportionate to the amount received.

The trustees ask for an appropriation for an additional building for work shops and other specified items, aggregating twelve thousand three hundred dollars, (\$12,300), for the years 1881 and 1882.

The trustees solicit these large appropriations from year to year, and the friends of the college urge their claims with an earnestness approaching a demand, upon the ground that the State is bound by the conditions of the endowment act of Congress, to foster and sustain this college.

We have carefully examined the endowment act of Congress and we find that this claim is not well founded. The State has complied with all of the provisions of this act and now is bound only to keep the moneys derived from the sale of the lands undiminished and invested in safe stocks yielding not less than five per centum. But it is further claimed that the lands donated by Congress were sold below their value and by this transaction the college did not realize the full benefit of the grant, and therefore the State is morally bound to make up the deficiency. Your Committee, realizing the force of this argument have investigated the subject, and have found that the average price at which the lands were sold by the several States was about eighty cents per acre. The lands donated to Maine were sold at an average price of fifty-five and one-half cents per acre, ( $55\frac{1}{2}$  cts.).

We assume that no just complaint could have been made if these lands had been sold at the average price at which the several States sold, namely, eighty cents per acre. Had the 210,000 acres, donated to Maine, been sold at this average price, the amount realized by the college would have been one hundred and sixty-eight thousand dollars, (\$168,000.) The amount actually received was one hundred and sixteen thousand, three hundred and fifty-nine dollars, (\$116,359) making a difference of thirty-six thousand, one hundred and forty-one dollars (\$36,141), which amount the State, it is claimed, should make good.

The State has appropriated to this institution, from time to time, one hundred and eighty-three thousand dollars (\$183,000); a sum fifty-three thousand dollars (\$53,000) in excess of the amount realized from the grant by Congress, reimbursing the college for the deficiency claimed as above, and leaving a balance to be credited to the liberality of the State, of one hundred and forty-six thousand dollars (\$146,000).

It is the unanimous opinion of your committee, that this claim has been adjusted, and that the State should soon be released from granting aid to this institution.

Your committee find that the Legislature of 1879, enacted the following statute relating to the State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts :

“A reasonable charge shall be made for tuition, the amount of which shall be determined from time to time by the trustees, and all persons employed by them shall constantly endeavor, by the adoption of judicious and effective arrangements in all the labor departments of the college, to reduce the cost of subsistence to the students, and to render the institution, as far as possible, self-sustaining.”

The provision of this statute, requiring the trustees to charge tuition, has not been enforced, notwithstanding the language of the law is mandatory. It is the opinion of the committee, that the trustees are at fault in thus ignoring the plain and emphatic command of the Legislature.

Your committee hereby recommend that the appropriation be so limited as to induce the trustees to enforce this law, or rely, mainly, for support, upon the interest of the endowment fund, and such other resources as may be provided by the friends of the college.

Your committee, realizing the fact that the college is now in the middle of its school year, professors engaged, and arrangements made for a specified time, hereby recommend that there be appropriated for the use of the college, for the year 1881 :

For instruction .....	\$1,000
farm experiments.....	200
apparatus .....	550
library.....	200
repairs of buildings .....	300
expense of trustees .....	250
	\$2,500

For the year 1882, \$1,000, according to the accompanying resolve.

J. S. BERRY,  
 F. W. HILL,  
 C. F. SANBORN,  
 A. F. ANDREWS,  
 L. T. STAPLES,  
 H. C. HASKELL,  
 JAMES W. PARTRIDGE,  
 BENJ. TARBOX,  
 I. E. MALLET,  
 JAS. H. NORRIS.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the Maine state college of agriculture and the mechanic arts.

*Resolved,* That the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars, be and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of paying for instruction and contingent expenses of the Maine state college of agriculture and the mechanic arts, for the years eighteen hundred and eighty-one and eighteen hundred and eighty-two, as specified in the report of the joint standing committee on agriculture.



STATE OF MAINE.

In SENATE, February 23, 1881.

Reported by Mr. BERRY, from the Committee on Agriculture, laid on the table on motion of Mr. BERRY, to be printed.

C. W. TILDEN, *Secretary.*