

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 96.

STATE OF MAINE.

STATEMENT OF FACTS ACCOMPANYING "ACT TO FIX THE
SALARY OF THE TREASURER OF STATE AND THE COMPEN-
SATION OF CLERKS IN THE TREASURY OFFICE.

To the Committee on Finance of the Legislature of Maine.

The undersigned, members of committees appointed by the Governor to examine the accounts of the State Treasurer, some for a greater, and some for a less number of years, have, in the performance of their duties, become acquainted with the very great labor and responsibility of the Treasurer, (his official bond being \$200,000), and are of the opinion that his salary is inadequate and should be increased. In 1879, the salaries of the judges of the Supreme Judicial Court and of many other officers, including the Treasurer, were reduced, but have in most cases been restored to their former amounts, and in some instances have been increased. The salary of the Treasurer, however, remains at \$1,600 as established in 1879. The undersigned believe the salary of the Treasurer should be raised to \$2,000, as it was before the reduction in 1879.

S. C. HATCH,
RUFUS PRINCE,
F. W. RITCHIE,
HENRY INGALLS,
A. R. BIXBY.

February 24, 1887.

In addition to the foregoing, written by the Hon. Henry Ingalls, and signed by the committee appointed by the Governor and Council to examine the Treasurer's accounts for 1886, I desire to say that I was State Treasurer for the years 1874-5-6, during which time, and prior thereto, the salary of the Treasurer was fixed at two thousand dollars. Since 1876, I have many times been a member of the committee to examine the Treasurer's accounts, and can say that the work of the office has materially increased. The duties of the Treasurer are constant and exacting and require of him his whole time and attention. During my connection with the office, ^{the} bond required of the Treasurer was \$150,000. It is now, and has been, since the change from annual to biennial elections, of that officer \$200,000. In view of the labor and responsibility attached to the duties of State Treasurer, \$2,000 would not, to say the least, be an exorbitant salary for that office.

S. C. HATCH.

BANGOR, March 11th, 1887.

In 1877-8, when I served as Treasurer, the salary was \$2,000, and when we consider the amount of bond required, the weight of responsibility and the care and anxiety attending the discharge of the duties of the office, the old salary of \$2,000 was altogether too small. It should be at least \$3,000, and the Legislature ought not to hesitate a moment to restore it to \$2,000, at least. I remember the salary was reduced, but supposed it had been restored long ago, as it should have been.

E. H. BANKS.

BIDDEFORD, March 9, 1887.

I was Treasurer of State in 1879, and the Legislature of that year reduced the Treasurer's salary from two thousand

dollars to sixteen hundred dollars. I believed at the time that the reduction was unjust, and I believe so now. The salary ought, at least, to be restored to the sum paid my predecessors.

F.F.G

GARDINER, MAR. 9, 1887.

CHARLES A. WHITE.

Having served as State Treasurer for five years, 1880 to 1884 inclusive, I am free to say that it would be wise to restore the salary of the State Treasurer, paid prior to 1879. The sum now paid is not adequate for the labor performed. The Treasurer must neglect his private business to an extent not required of any other officer of the State, and the office is the most responsible in the State.

S. A. HOLBROOK.

FREEPORT, March 9, 1887.

The undersigned, members of the Committee on Financial Affairs, unanimously endorse the foregoing certificate relating to the Treasurer's salary, from prominent citizens of the State, who have heretofore been familiar with the important and exacting duties required of the State Treasurer. In our judgment, the Treasurer ought to receive a salary of at least two thousand dollars, and would receive a much higher salary were he transacting the same amount of business for a private corporation or individual. The act herewith reported restores the salary to the amount paid prior to 1879, viz: two thousand dollars. In 1879, the amount allowed for clerk hire in the office was reduced, necessitating the discharge of one clerk. Since then the business of the office has been constantly increasing, and only by the hardest kind of over-work has it been possible to transact all the business of the office efficiently and in its proper time. The Treasurer informs us that the legislation relating to his office

passed by the present Legislature, the refunding bill, the taxation of about thirty plantations as wild land, requiring each individual owner therein to pay taxes at the State Treasury, the taxation of reserved lands, the formation of trust companies, &c., will necessitate the employment of extra permanent help, and that the time has come when the work of the department cannot possibly be accomplished without an increase of the force in the office. From a somewhat intimate acquaintance with the responsible duties required of the Treasurer, during the present session of the Legislature, we believe that justice and the best interests of the State will be subserved by the passage of this act, and hope it may receive the unanimous approval of the Legislature.

SAM'L. LIBBEY,
GEO. P. WESCOTT,
HENRY W. SARGENT,
J. H. MANLEY,
E. K. O'BRIEN,
J. G. CLARK,
WM. H. GLOVER,
H. H. SHAW,
J. W. WAKEFIELD,
I. C. LIBBY.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 17, 1887.

Presented by Mr. LIBBEY, and on motion by same Senator, laid on table to be printed.

C. W. TILDEN, Secretary.