

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Fourth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 76.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the town of New Limerick.

Resolved, That there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of five hundred dollars, to be expended under the direction of the county commissioners of the county of Aroostook in rebuilding the Cochran Bridge in the town of New Limerick, in the county of Aroostook.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

John R. Weed, Esq., House of Representatives, Augusta, Maine.

DEAR SIR—I send you herewith, a petition of the inhabitants of New Limerick, asking for State aid, in the matter of rebuilding the Cochran bridge, so called; said bridge being located in the north west corner of this town, on the main stage route from Houlton to Patten. I have often been informed, that about the time this bridge was first constructed, parties were then about building a dam and saw mill, which at the present day, stands very close to said bridge; and they then made this offer to the municipal officers of the town, viz:—That for the sum of five hundred dollars, they would build a stone dam, of sufficient width and height to answer as a road-way, as also all purposes in connection with the water power at that point. This sum in *those days* was considered a *very large amount of money*, and while it would of course have been a heavy burden upon the inhabitants to have raised the same, it was, on the other hand, a very unwise step which the “fathers of the town” took, in rejecting the offer, and locating the bridge, as they did, a few rods above, thus increasing the length of the same; and what has proved to be yet more expensive, building it almost entirely of slab-wood, piled in there cord after cord, say anywhere from six to seventeen feet high.

This is the kind of bridge that covers a stretch of water, two hundred and ninety odd feet in length; over which there is a large amount of travel; many teams loaded heavily with lumber supplies passing that way; and it has been a continual bill of expense to us, as also well nigh impossible, from its manner of construction, to keep it in such repair, as would enable teams to travel over it; and notwithstanding the condition of our people here, is such that a further increase of taxes, would prove an *excessive* burden to them, the money must be forth-coming from some source, with which to re-

build the said bridge, or they will be called upon to pay a greater sum, in the way of heavy damages, which are liable to arise at any time. It is perhaps unnecessary for me to state here, that the greater part of the population of New Limerick, is composed of farmers, many of whom are Irish, having large families, and in poor circumstances, financially; the balance of the inhabitants, comprising those who are in the employ of C. & W. I. Shaw, and while this latter class, are enabled to support themselves, they contribute but little to the valuation of said town, or in the matter of taxes. I trust that you may feel disposed to put this petition through, doing your best to obtain for us, a liberal appropriation from the State..

Yours very respectfully,

W. I. SHAW,
Chairman of Selectmen.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. }
February 1, 1889. }

Reported from Committee on Ways and Bridges by Mr. WEED of
Littleton; ordered printed under joint rule.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Clerk.*