

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Fourth Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 135.

STATE OF MAINE.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in
Legislature assembled :*

We, the undersigned, members of the Commission appointed under a Resolve of the Legislature approved March 17, 1887, (chapter 115 Public and Special Laws of 1887) having attended to the duties assigned to us under said Resolve, have the honor to make the following report :

We find upon investigation that the annual expense of fitting up a camp and leasing land for the occupancy of the militia is, on an average, at least \$600 per annum. That if the State owned a field sufficient for the use of militia for its annual encampments, and also for such encampments and reunions as may be in the future desired and arranged by the veteran soldiers of the late civil war, all cook-houses and other necessary buildings could be erected as permanent structures at a very slight additional expense to the amount annually incurred. That in a few years the saving would amount to a large sum, and lessen the expenses in the military department, and be of great advantage to the service. That if a field suitable for such encampments should be purchased by the State, it would be rather in the nature of an investment, than an expenditure, as the property hereinafter

recommended to be purchased is so situated that it will not depreciate in value, but rather increase in value, and will also render an annual income by sale of hay grown thereon to pay a fair rate of interest on the investment.

We recommend that the field known as the Mulliken farm, and during the war occupied by troops and known as "Camp Keyes," situated between Winthrop street and Western Avenue, just west of the Capitol in the city of Augusta, containing about 75 acres, be purchased for the purposes of a permanent camp. This field can be purchased for the sum of \$3500. The expense of permanent buildings, such as cook and store-houses, would be provided for by a small increase in the cost of such structures over that heretofore annually contracted by the military department in laying out camp, and come from the military appropriation already granted. We believe that it would give great satisfaction to the officers and men in the military service of the State, and to the veteran soldiers to have such a permanent arrangement for the encampments of each. We therefore respectfully recommend the passage of the accompanying Resolve:—

AUGUSTA Me., Feb. 23, 1889.

Edwin C. Burleigh, Governor; Henry M. Sprague, Adjutant General; Henry L. Mitchell, Brigade Commander; John J. Lynch, Col. Com'd'g 1st Reg't M. V. M.; Victor Brett, Col. Com'd'g 2nd Reg't M. V. M.; H. E. McDonald, Lieut. Col.; Winfield S. Choate, Capt. Co. F. 1st Rgt.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 25, 1889.

Read, and on motion by Mr. HEATH of Kennebec, laid on table to be printed.

C. W. TILDEN, *Secretary.*