

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Fourth Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 144.

STATE OF MAINE.

The undersigned, a majority of the Joint Select Committee which was appointed to consider the expediency of a change in the location of the seat of government of this State and of erecting a new State House which shall furnish convenient and sufficient accommodations for the legislature and State officials, and which was instructed to report with recommendations, and to which was also referred resolutions of the city of Bangor in favor of a change of the seat of government to that city, and remonstrances of Josiah Crosby and others, ask leave to report that they have considered the matters referred to them, and have reached the following conclusions :

(1) That a new State House should be built to meet the wants of the legislature and State officials, and that it is inexpedient to remodel and enlarge the present State House.

(2) That a new State House can be built without making the cost burdensome to the tax payers of the State by distributing the same over a series of years and taking advantage of the saving of interest on the bonded debt of the State about to be made, and in case the State shall receive from the general government, as is probable, the sum due on re-payment of the war taxes, that little or no resort to taxation will be necessary in its construction.

(3) That the seat of government should be changed to some city more conveniently situated for the general public and of greater resources and accommodations than the present Capital.

(4) That the city of Portland offers peculiar advantages as a site for the capital of the State, on account of its situation, size, and superior facilities of communication by water and rail.

The citizens of Portland, at the public hearing given by the Committee, tendered to the State a valuable lot of land, which, as a site for the capitol, is unexcelled by reason of its commanding position, beauty of surroundings, and accessibility. They further tendered guaranty of cash subscriptions (since actually made), towards cost of a new building, of at least one hundred thousand dollars more, making a total contribution of about two hundred thousand dollars, and thereby enabling the State to commence forthwith the erection of a new State House without any draft upon the State treasury for at least two years.

In view of the foregoing, the majority of the Committee believe that it would be expedient to accept the offer of the city of Portland, and locate the capital in that city, but in view of the importance of the subject, and of the fact that this issue was not before the people at the time that the members of the present legislature were elected, and in order to give full time for the consideration of the same, recommend that the whole matter be referred to the next legislature.

CHARLES F. LIBBY,
FREDERICK ROBIE,
J. W. WAKEFIELD,
E. L. PATTANGALL,
E. K. O'BRIEN,
GEO. M. WARREN,
JOS. B. PEAKS,
BENJ. F. CHADBOURNE.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 27. 1889.

Reported by Mr. LIBBY, from Joint Select Committee on Change Seat Government, and on motion by same senator, laid on table to be printed, and Tuesday next assigned for consideration.

C. W. TILDEN, *Secretary.*