

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Fifth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 48.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED
AND NINETY-ONE.

RESOLVE in favor of Oak Grove Seminary.

Resolved, That the sum of eight hundred dollars
2 is hereby annually appropriated out of the State
3 treasury, for the term of ten years, to Oak Grove
4 Seminary, an institution of learning, located in the
5 town of Vassalboro in the county of Kennebec,
6 provided however that this appropriation is made
7 on the express conditions that the trustees of said
8 institution shall maintain and keep in operation a
9 school equal in rank and grade of teaching with a
10 first class academy; and provided further, that
11 the Governor and Council and Superintendent of

12 Common Schools shall have a right at all times
13 to visit said school when the same shall be in oper-
14 ation, and if in the opinion of the Governor and
15 Council, or if in the opinion of the Superintendent
16 of Common Schools, said institution at any time
17 hereafter shall use any part of the amount hereby
18 appropriated for any other purpose except to pay
19 for instruction, or shall fail to fulfill the conditions
20 contained in this resolve they may, in their discre-
21 tion withhold the appropriation herein granted.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 5, 1891. }

Reported by Mr. SHAW of Bath from Committee on Education,
and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*

STATEMENT OF FACTS TO ACCOMPANY HOUSE
DOCUMENT No. 48.

Oak Grove Seminary, situated on the Kennebec river, twelve miles above Augusta, has been doing its educational work for more than forty years. It was founded by the kindness and liberality of a few generous spirited men. The early years of the school were years of struggle owing to lack of money, but the school has been constantly growing in usefulness and was never doing more or better work than it to-day is doing. The State has given the seminary aid almost continually for the last twenty years.

In 1880 the academy building was destroyed, leaving only a boarding house. The friends of the institution subscribed enough money to rebuild even better than before. In 1887 owing to no carelessness on the part of the managers, but by the maliciousness of an incendiary, the complete structure was consumed by fire, this time including everything on the grounds. Not daunted, its friends again put their hands in their pockets and reared the present large and commodious building at a cost of \$23,000. The school now numbers 100 scholars coming from nearly all parts of the State, and from other states. The tuition is very low indeed and it is necessarily so to meet the condition of a large part of our students. The total amount of tuition is far from enough to pay the seven teachers, who are necessary for the work. Scholars from a distance are boarded in the institution at a very low rate. Our income from board and tuition is very far short of our necessary expenses. Our coal bill alone this year amounts to \$740. The insurance bill is large, with all the additional expenses necessary for such an institution. We are in absolute need of the money which we have asked for to make this school do its required work.

There is no high school in this place, this institution having supplied its place, so that no high school money has been expended here.

We are in the centre of a large agricultural region, the youth in large measure depending on us for all their education.

Lastly, this seminary, while in fact a Friends school is in no sense a sectarian school, no creed is taught here, but the broad principles of morals and truth.