

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Sixty-Fifth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 55.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of Gould's Academy, Bethel,
Oxford county.

Resolved, That the sum of eight hundred dollars
2 is hereby appropriated annually for the term of
3 ten years, to Gould's Academy, an institution of
4 learning located in the town of Bethel, in the
5 county of Oxford, provided however that this
6 appropriation is made on the express condition
7 that the trustees of said institution shall maintain
8 and keep in operation a school for at least three
9 terms in each year, equal in rank and grade of

10 teaching with a first class academy, and providing
11 further, that the Governor and Council and super-
12 intendent of common schools shall have a right at
13 all times to visit said school when the same shall
14 be in operation; and if, in the opinion of the Gov-
15 ernor and Council, said institution at any time
16 hereafter shall fail to fulfill the conditions of this
17 resolve, they may in their discretion withhold the
18 appropriation herein granted.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Bethel Academy incorporated by act of legislature, January 27, 1836. Act of incorporation accepted May 2, 1836. First academy building erected and ready for occupancy September, 1836, when the school opened. Institution at this time without funds and dependent entirely upon public patronage for support.

In 1842, Rev. Daniel Gould left a legacy to the Trustees conditional that the name be changed to Gould's Academy. Legacy accepted by Trustees at a meeting holden September, 1842, and at session of Legislature, February, 1843, the corporate name changed in accordance with the conditions of the bequest. The amount bequeathed was about \$1,000 and is known as the Gould fund, is perpetual and the interest only can be used toward a school.

In 1850, the State granted half a township of land to the Trustees, which was sold for \$2,500. This was called the State fund and as the grant was absolute could be used for any purpose connected with the academy.

In 1855, Dr. John Grover gave to the Trustees \$160, which was subsequently increased to \$200. This fund is also perpetual and the interest only can be used for the purchase of chemical and philosophical apparatus.

From the time of the incorporation to 1881, the income of the funds or such part thereof as was necessary was used for maintaining the school and repairs upon the school building.

In 1881 it was found necessary to make very extensive repairs upon the old building or to build new, and after getting estimates of the expense and carefully considering the matter, the Trustees deemed it advisable to build new, which was accordingly done at an expense of nearly \$6,000. Upon the completion of the building the Trustees and citizens subscribed and gave \$1,203 to purchase seats, furniture and heating apparatus for the new academy.

In 1887 there not being sufficient funds in the treasury to meet outstanding bills, the Trustees each gave \$10 to meet the deficiency.

At the present time our funds consist of the Gould fund \$1,000, (perpetual) the interest of which is insufficient to pay incidental expenses.

We have a fine academy building, pleasantly located in one of the most beautiful and healthful villages in New England, nicely furnished, a fine cabinet containing about 800 specimens, many of them valuable, a good library containing about 600 volumes, some of them very ancient and rare.

The present running expenses, in excess of tuition fees, and the income of the fund (which is only \$60) is entirely met by private subscription.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 5, 1891. }

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

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*