

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 8.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Bangor Children's Home.

Resolved, That the sum of one thousand dollars per
2 annum for the years of eighteen hundred and ninety-five
3 and eighteen hundred and ninety-six be, and is hereby ap-
4 propriated in aid of the Bangor Children's Home, to be
5 paid by the State Treasurer from any funds not otherwise
6 appropriated.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The undersigned trustees of the Bangor Children's Home of Bangor respectfully represent that in addition to the usual ordinary expenses of said institution during the past year, a large additional expense has been unavoidably incurred by proper repairs upon the institution building, to meet which it has been necessary to encroach upon the fund which had been set aside as a permanent investment.

That the institution is in a flourishing and prosperous condition in its work of benevolence, the number of children under its care being constantly large and its work successful, wherefor for want of the proper funds necessary to meet the wants of the institution, the undersigned pray that the usual *annual* appropriation of \$1,000 by the legislature may be granted as has been the case for several years past to meet the wants aforesaid.

John L. Crosby, }
G. W. Merrill, } Trustees.
S. B. Morison, }

Bangor, January 2, 1895.

CHILDREN'S HOME.

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE
CORPORATION—SOME CHANGES.

The annual meeting of the Children's Home corporation was held yesterday afternoon in the rooms of the Board of Trade in city hall with a large attendance. The President, Mrs. Moses Giddings, presided and the following reports were submitted:

To the Board of Managers of the Bangor Children's Home:

LADIES—Our secretary, about to break her staff of office, commits to my care the task of gathering together the facts of the past year's experience for our annual report. These facts are plain ones and boast no special novelty, but they represent the earnest endeavor of more than a score of women and have concerned the happiness and well-being of fifty-seven little children and hence merits a few moments attention.

At the beginning of the year there were thirty-four children in the Home, nineteen boys and fifteen girls. During the year twenty-three have entered and eighteen have left. Homes have been provided for two and others have been taken by parents or guardians so that our family numbers at present thirty-nine children, as happy a little flock as one could wish to find in an institution of this kind. In all cases where children have been taken into families gratifying reports have been received both of the happiness of the children themselves and the satisfaction of men and women who have undertaken this great responsibility. Although it is no longer our custom to appoint a guardian for each child taken from the home it is the intention of the managers never to lose sight of him, and they stand ready to correct any vital error in the arrangements made.

The older boys, five in number, attend public schools. The children from four to seven years old were admitted last April, to the Kindergarten by invitation of the managers of

the Kindergarten Association, a privilege we warmly appreciate, believing with them that at no period of a child's education, is intelligent, skillful guidance so important as during these years of its most rapid intellectual growth.

The possession of a trained kindergarten at the home, is a luxury exceeding its highest ambition, and knowing well that the delicate methods of the system demand the trained mind, lest its purpose be not only thwarted, but turned to positive injury, the managers most gratefully took advantage of the opportunity thus unexpectedly offered. No such good fortune as has come to the older boys and the kindergarten children seems to await the older girls, and it is becoming a serious question—most amicably discussed—whether equal advantages should not be secured to them at any cost. The participants in this discussion urge, on the one side, that the school at the home is, under existing conditions, best for them, even though this gives, on five days in the week, only one session of two and a half hours, during which the numerous reading and spelling classes inevitable in an ungraded school have little time for mental discipline. This opinion is based upon the undeniable truth that these girls must be taught to work as well as to think and is strengthened by the equally undeniable fact that their assistance is indispensable in carrying on the work of the household, and that, moreover, a large portion of the teacher's time must be devoted to the household mending, whose interminable nature, any mother of a family of growing boys and girls can readily estimate.

The debators on the other side of the question, argue the indisputably greater advantages of a graded school, and the pleasure as well as mental stimulus possible to these little orphans from association on common ground with children whose lives are so different from their own. And while they believe that each child needs and should have some work to do every day, they boldly declare their conviction, that a well disciplined mind will do more than the hours of actual labor towards fitting her for the intelligent performance of whatever task fate has in store for her, whether it be sweep-

ing a room or managing affairs of state. Unfortunately, there is no argument with which to refute the actual fact of the daily work of this large household, and not until some good angel makes it possible for us to hire a pair of strong hands to grapple with this fact, dare they express their feeling that it is wrong to deny to our children, the privileges open to the poorest child in the city.

The great problem of the year has been the financial one of making both ends meet. That this problem has been solved is due to the good management of the monthly committees and the ready co-operation of our matron in an economy more strictly applied than usual to the housekeeping expenses. The expenditures of 1893 for plumbing, new furnace and other necessary repairs made such a drain upon the treasury that the outlook for the present year was a serious one. In October a reception was given at the Home whose proceeds went far toward preventing that disastrous expedient of encroaching upon well-invested capital for living expenses. The cordial response of the public to the appeal for help in this indirect way not only brought success to the undertaking but showed an interest in the institution that promises well for its future prosperity. We wish to express our gratitude to our president for a generous check which, coming into an expectant and somewhat anxious treasury, brought to the committee the encouragement of a prophecy of success. Thanks are due the city papers for printing free of charge, to Mr. Glass for tickets, to Mr. Fox for candy and to many other friends of the home for kind assistance at this time. Among many articles made by the matron for sale at the reception was a silk quilt the plain sewing of which was the children's contribution to the affair. This quilt was purchased by the managers and their friends as a gift to Mrs. George W. Merrill, the one of their number who has served longest on the board. Our lasting gratitude is due to this good name which enabled the committee to raise the price set upon the quilt more easily and agreeably than could have been done in any other way.

I said the financial problem has been solved, and this statement is true so far as it means that we have paid for what we have had, but the secretary's monthly reports have told of many applications for admission to the Home refused because the plain figure of the treasury forbade the extension of its protection as our desires prompted. No applicant for whom other care could not be found has been refused, but it has been necessary to restrain our ambition to open the doors to all who justly seek our care.

No death has to be chronicled for the past year, and no serious illness has marred the happiness of the family. Plain nourishing food, abundant exercise in the open air and a joyous life are building up constitutions strong to resist diseases and when illness threatens, the Home-mother, where long training as a nurse well qualifies her for her care, administer the proverbial ounce of prevention, and when that is insufficient, as must happen in some cases, the counsel of physicians is ready at a call and is as wisely, as generously and freely given.

Death has taken one member from the board of managers, Mrs. S. H. Dale, whose service on the board was noticed by the following resolutions read at the meeting following her death :

"Resolved, That in the death of Mrs. Dale we have lost one of the oldest and most honored members of the board.

"Resolved, That we wish gratefully to testify to the long years in which by her genial presence and wise practical suggestions she was a promoter of the best interests of the institution.

"Resolved, That while in later years, on account of the infirmities of age, she has been prevented from attending the meetings of the board, yet by generous gifts and kindly words she has, to the end of life, manifested her sympathy in the work in which we are engaged."

The resignation of Mrs. William H. Strickland, which we deeply regret, leaves another vacancy on the board.

The pleasant part of making an annual report of an institution like this, whose name is its plea, is the opportunity thus given for receiving kindness received; the heart-breaking part is the impossibility of mentioning half of them. Certain services, from long repetition, have come to be counted upon as a natural part of the year's experience—almost as much as the State appropriations or the possession of the house itself. Such are the devotion of Mr. and Mrs. Merrill to the Sunday afternoon service and their care of the Christmas festivities, the gift of the daily papers by their publishers, Mr. Bass' unflinching Thanksgiving and Christmas turkeys and his annual gift of tickets for the Eastern State Fair, the gratuitous service of our physicians, Dr. Jefferds and Dr. Phillips. This year the Home adds its testimony to the value of a hospital in the city, and desires to express its gratitude to the Bangor General Hospital for its gratuitous treatment of Durry Coyle whom it returned to us, after six weeks, entirely cured of a violent case of St. Vitus dance.

Special mention should be made of the gift of \$100 by Mr. Sumner J. Finson in memory of his wife, Mrs. Clara F. Finson.

We wish to express our warm appreciation of the faithful service of our matron, Mrs. Holmes, and her assistants, Miss Gilman, Miss Brown and Miss Davis.

On the calendar are marked many red-letter days. In January, by invitation of Mr. Laughton, the children enjoyed a ride on the electric cars. Later, Mr. Brackett gave them a ride in the large barge. In the summer Capt. Barbour invited them on an excursion down the river. They saw the trained horses at Norombega, witnessed a play at Memorial parlors, and, in December the entertainment given at the Opera House for the benefit of the Y. M. C. A. The well-supplied tables of Thanksgiving make that day memorable and Christmas was, as usual, under the ministrations of Mr. and Mrs. Merrill and Mrs. Patten, the brightest and best day of all.

That the gifts of this Christmas outnumbered those of other years is partly due to the circulation throughout the city dur-

ing the preceding week, of several hundred paper bags upon which was printed an appeal for donations. The response to this appeal was almost more than was expected, and besides gifts to delight the hearts of the little ones, it ensures a supply of food and clothing which will materially lessen the living expenses of the coming year.

On the whole the year has been a successful one, and we may be pardoned a tone of self-gratulation that could hardly be banished from a revisor of its experiences. Alas! pride goeth before a fall. A calamity awaits us. It is one against which we have struggled for many years warding off its threats with soft answers and earnest appeals, but now we are at its mercy. I refer to the determination of Mrs. Mary L. Patten to end her service of twenty-four years as our secretary. What that service has been it is difficult to express. Our children have not simply furnished items for the monthly meetings, but have had for her a personal interest so close that questions concerning one of them have seldom failed to call forth the whole history of its connection of the Home. Her work is recorded not only in the carefully kept books but in the loving memory of her associates.

It will be hard for any one to fill this deserted post. We are, therefore, the more grateful to the courageous woman who consents, at our urgent request, to undertake the responsibility. We welcome most cordially to our ranks our new secretary, Miss Brown, whom her friends declare to possess all the requisite qualities—earnestness, patience, constancy and benevolence; and if we are forced to say, "Le roi est mort," our cry "Vive le roi" is full of hope for the coming years.

M. W. Prentiss,
Corresponding Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

FROM DECEMBER 6TH, 1893, TO DECEMBER 4, 1894.

RECEIPTS.

Cash received from city of Bangor for interest on deposit.....	\$2,400 00
Cash received from interest on city of Minneapolis bonds.....	255 00
Cash received from interest on money in Bangor savings bank.....	4 54
Cash received from State appropriation.....	1,000 00
Cash received from individuals from board and clothing of children.....	455 00
Cash received from annual membership fees....	69 00
Cash received from two life membership fees...	50 00
Cash received from discount in settling bills....	40
Amount received.....	<u>4,233 94</u>
Drew from entertainment fund to balance account,	223 16
	<u>\$4,457 10</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Cash paid matron and assistants.....	\$1,704 71
for care of furnace and work on premises.....	164 70
for coal.....	470 42
wood.....	67 00
provisions and groceries.....	745 37
milk.....	487 39
flour.....	161 35
dry goods.....	228 41
boots and shoes.....	155 90
crockery.....	7 53
furniture.....	20 50
insurance.....	84 00
printing reports and stationery....	30 91
incidental expenses.....	128 91
	<u>\$4,457 10</u>

After the presentation of the reports, the officers were elected. Mrs. Mary L. Patten tendered her resignation as secretary after twenty-four years of faithful service, and Miss Susie A. Brown was elected to fill her place, and she was also made one of the board of managers.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Moses Giddings; Vice President, Mrs. A. H. Thaxter; Secretary, Miss Susie A. Brown; Treasurer, Miss Kate B. Walker; Trustees, J. S. Wheelwright, George W. Merrill, Dr. S. B. Morrison.

The board of managers was chosen as follows: Mrs. J. P. Bass, Mrs. N. E. Bragg, Mrs. W. F. Brann, Mrs. T. U. Coe, Mrs. Emerson Downs, Mrs. M. Giddings, Mrs. Ezra L. Sterns, Mrs. H. C. Goodenow, Mrs. G. P. Jefferds, Mrs. A. K. P. Leighton, Mrs. G. W. Merrill, Mrs. S. B. Morison, Mrs. Arthur Hopkins, Mrs. H. G. Pitcher, Mrs. H. E. Prentiss, Mrs. M. L. Patten, Mrs. I. Strickland, Mrs. A. H. Thaxter, Mrs. James Adams, Mrs. W. P. Wingate, Mrs. J. S. Wheelwright, Mrs. Sprague Adams, Mrs. J. H. Snow, Mrs. J. G. Blake, Mrs. S. R. Prentiss, Miss Susie A. Brown.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 16, 1895. }

Reported by Mr. COFFIN of Bangor from Committee on Financial Affairs, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*