

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 134.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Maine State Pomological Society.

Resolved, That the sum of one thousand dollars be and
2 hereby is appropriated from any moneys in the treasury
3 not otherwise appropriated, to be paid to the Maine State
4 Pomological Society for the years 1893 and 1894.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Maine State Pomological Society was organized in 1873, and the Maine legislature passed an act of incorporation March 27th of that year. Under this act the society was to receive from year to year the sum of \$500. Under the by-laws of the society a fee of \$10 was called for for life membership, which constitutes a permanent fund—the income from year to year to be applied to the running expenses of the society.

The work of the society has gradually extended in various directions, the officers all the time desiring to have the largest amount of work done that was possible with the funds available. The demands for work along various lines has been constantly increasing, and the matter being brought before the society it was voted to ask the State legislature to increase the stipend to \$1,000. The last legislature was accordingly asked to amend the act of incorporation, which it did by increasing the amount to \$1,000.

The matter rested here, except that more work was announced and planned for, until application was made for the stipend. It was then learned that through the omission of some one, although the act of incorporation had been amended by the legislature without a dissenting vote, the increased stipend was not included in the appropriation bills so that there was only the same sum as in former years, \$500. The governor and others with whom the officers consulted advised them so far as possible to carry out the new plan of work, and ask the present legislature to make good the deficiency. There was a small sum in the treasury for some purpose that was not to be used and with the advice of Secretary McKean that amount was accordingly paid to the society, so that the society has received from the State the last two years the sum of \$1,077 52.

The society's sources of revenue are as follows:

and for this purpose the permanent fund has been drawn on or used as collateral for hiring money. To this should be added \$600, hired in November, 1894, and between \$100 and \$200 in bills beyond cash on hand.

During the past two years considerable new work has been done, and for the next year new work has been outlined, and is being worked up.

The secretary has a small salary and the treasurer a nominal salary. The other officers have received only their necessary travelling expenses.

We have on deposit with the State Binders unbound sheets of our annual transactions for the years since 1878. These have been saved for library use, but our funds have not permitted to have them bound up for distribution among the public and town libraries of the state. The cost will be between two and three hundred dollars for an estimate. It is also the purpose of the society to hold one or two more public meetings this next year. In fact there is a call for more work, and so far as it is possible, it should be the duty of the society to meet this demand. As yet the society has not been in sufficient funds to hold a winter meeting in Aroostook county. There is a demand for a knowledge of fruit-growing there, and if the members of the legislature were in possession of the knowledge, the officers of the society have upon this subject, there would be no question as to the wisdom of our society's undertaking to give it.

The society has been hampered the past two years by the lack of funds, but the officers have believed the last legislature was honest in granting the additional stipend, and they rely upon the present legislature to make good the intention of the last by granting the aid it was their intention to give the society.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 15, 1895. }

Reported by Mr. HOUGHTON of Fort Fairfield, from Committee on
Financial Affairs, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*