

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 135.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Old Town City Hospital.

Resolved, That there be appropriated the sum of six hundred dollars for the year 1895, and six hundred dollars for the year 1896.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The city of Old Town is located at the beginning of that section of the country north of Bangor known as the up-river section, and is pre-eminently the labor depot of the lumbering interests. Here reside many of the largest operators of the Penobscot waters; here are hired and paid a great majority of the laborers from the eastern lumbering camps; here from April to October of each year is carried on the rafting of millions of logs, that employ from five hundred to seven hundred men. Pulp mills line the river from above and below, giving employment to hundreds of men who live by such wages as they can earn from day to day, and if unfortunate through accident or sickness, they are without means of providing nursing and medicine, and therefore, in many cases, become a public charge. These facts constantly facing our lumbermen and citizens generally, the need of a general hospital, open to this class of people, became more apparent each day. Consequently in April, 1893, the Old Town City Hospital was organized, the incorporators being Ora S. Pease, M. D., J. N. Norcross, M. D., Cornelius Murphy, T. F. Hegarty, F. O. Gould, James B. Mullen and Charles W. Mullen. A piece of property well located for hospital purposes, about one-half mile from the business portion of the city was purchased at a cost of \$3,500, and several thousand dollars was paid out in arranging and suitably equipping the building. The entire cost of plant being now about \$10,000. The hospital was opened to the public April 3, 1892, and from that time to December 31, 1894, there have been admitted four hundred and eighteen patients. Of this number three hundred and forty-nine have been residents of Maine, distributed among the different counties as follows: Aroostook, 21; Hancock, 14; Penobscot, 261; Piscataquis, 42; Sagadahoc, 2; Somerset, 1; Waldo, 1; Washington, 2.

Sixty-nine were residents of other states and countries. The hospital is in no sense a local affair as a large majority

of its patients come from the country outside and north of Old Town. It is non-sectarian, and non-political. Catholic and Protestant alike endorse its work. The hospital can comfortably care for fifteen patients although there have been eighteen patients at one time, necessitating the putting up of three or four cots in the operating room. At present there are twelve patients in the hospital. The average cost of patients has been \$10.25 per week, and for this they have been furnished, board, nursing, medical and surgical treatment and all necessary medical and surgical supplies. The charge to patients who have been able to pay is \$7 per week. There is thus a loss on each week of \$3.25. Besides this a large number of charity patients have been admitted who have been able to pay a little and many more who have paid nothing, the care and treatment of this class alone being nearly \$1,000. No patient has ever been denied admission because of lack of funds; no patient has ever been dismissed because his funds had been exhausted. Of the fifteen deaths the majority were without funds and in these cases all funeral and burial expenses have been paid by the hospital.

To meet this outlay the hospital has been dependent upon the generosity of citizens; but the tax has become so heavy that without state aid the hospital cannot continue its charity work.

The hospital is greatly in need of enlarged quarters, and it is its purpose to build a wing and equip the same, thus giving greater facilities for the carrying on of its work. The drainage and sanitary conditions of the hospital are perfect. No better spot for a hospital can be found in Maine.

Its medical staff comprises many of the best physicians and surgeons of the eastern part of Maine, who have contributed their professional services without charge.

For the Directors,

JAMES B. MULLEN,

President of the Board.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 15, 1895. }

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

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*