

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 351.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE to secure the proper enforcement of the Inland Fish and Game Laws, and to aid in the propagation of Inland Fish and Game.

Resolved, That the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars 2 is hereby appropriated to be expended by the commission- 3 ers of inland fisheries and game under the direction of the 4 governor and council, for the year eighteen hundred and 5 ninety-five, and also twenty-five thousand dollars for the 6 year eighteen hundred and ninety-six, for the purpose of 7 the proper enforcement of the inland fish and game laws, 8 and to aid in the propagation of inland fish and game. 9 Provided, also that the commissioners of inland fisheries

10 and game may purchase or lease real estate, in the name
11 of the state, for the purpose of maintaining hatcheries for
12 fish culture, and may also assist in maintaining hatcheries
13 for fish culture owned and under the management of fish
14 and game associations; and provided also that the com-
15 missioners shall make a detailed statement in their report
16 of all expenditures of money expended under this resolve.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

It is well understood by the people of the State, that the present system of enforcing the fish and game laws of the State, is not only inadequate to secure a proper enforcement of the laws, but is in itself obnoxious and provokes hostility to our laws. The importance of the preservation of our fish and game interests, and increasing the supply has become the well settled policy of the State, and with the increasing influx of sportsmen from out of the State, and together with the increase of hunting and fishing on the part of the citizens in our State, some methods additional, which will help maintain and increase the amount of fish and game must be adopted. The Maine Sportsmen's Fish and Game Association has for two years made an impartial study of the situation with a view of presenting to the legislature some suggestions bearing upon this point. We cannot see how this great interest can be protected and made of continual value, without changing our warden system, and expending more money to increase the food fish in waters now unstocked, and providing against the decrease of the same in waters where they now exist. If any attempt is made to change the present pernicious methods of enforcing the law, sufficient appropriation will have to be made, with which reliable and efficient paid officers can be employed by the fish and game commissioners to patrol certain well defined localities for the purpose of preventing the illegal killing of fish and game and prosecute such as wantonly violate our laws, and to further supply our waters with food fish.

When it is realized that the State has something like ten thousand square miles of forests well inhabited with fish and game it will be seen that the amount asked for is as small an amount as could well be used to make a fair trial of new methods.

We do not think that the association is recommending a larger appropriation than the interests involved, will warrant

when it cannot be denied that this amount is only one per cent of the amount now annually received from sportsmen from out of the State, without considering the benefit to resident sportsmen, the numbers of which are annually increasing.

F. E. TIMBERLAKE,

A. M. SPEAR,

J. F. SPRAGUE,

E. C. FARRINGTON,

L. T. CARLETON,

Committee on legislation of the Maine Sportsmen's Fish
and Game Association.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 13, 1895. }

Reported by Mr. PACKARD of Blanchard, from Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*