

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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# Sixty-Eighth Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 33.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the Central Maine General Hospital.

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*Resolved,* That there be and hereby is appropriated the  
2 sum of five thousand dollars to be paid to the Central Maine  
3 General Hospital in Lewiston, for the use of said institution  
4 for the year eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, and five  
5 thousand dollars for the use of said institution for the year  
6 eighteen hundred and ninety-eight.

*Resolved,* That the further sum of fifteen thousand dollars  
6 be and hereby is appropriated to be paid to said Central  
7 Maine General Hospital to be used to assist in the complet-  
8 ing, furnishing and equipping of the new building now in  
9 process of erection by said institution, as follows: five  
10 thousand dollars for the year eighteen hundred and ninety-  
11 seven, and ten thousand dollars for the year eighteen hun-  
12 dred and ninety-eight.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

During the time in which the Hospital has been in active operation 1,545 patients have been admitted. The total number of days' relief furnished during the five years ending October 1, 1896, is 28,175. Of this total 9,843 days' relief were furnished to free patients and 18,332 to paying patients. The great majority of these latter pay only seven dollars a week, which is less than the expense of caring for them. Many of them are able to pay at this rate for only a portion of their stay. The number of patients admitted, and the number of days' relief furnished is constantly increasing. The amount of relief furnished to free patients as compared to that furnished to paying patients has increased from eighteen per cent in the first year to nearly sixty per cent in the last year. Patients have been treated coming from fourteen counties in this State, and eight other states during the year just closed.

In addition to the general work of the Hospital above referred to, a daily clinic for the treatment of the eye and ear has been regularly maintained. At these clinics 1,282 cases have been treated of the eye alone, and of these 302 were in the last year.

The demands upon all departments of the Hospital have been greater than ever before, but the former high standard of efficiency has been maintained, and at the same time the average cost of each patient per week reduced to \$9.43, which is a saving of a little more than one dollar over last year. For this sum patients have been furnished with board, nursing, medical or surgical attendance, all necessary supplies therefor and washing.

Four nurses have been graduated during each of the last two years from the training school for nurses connected with the Hospital.

The revenue for carrying on all this work has been derived from the yearly appropriation of \$5,000 which the State makes for the Hospital, from contributions for free beds, from general contributions and from the profits arising from the sums paid by patients for special accommodations. We ask that this

yearly appropriation be continued. Without it the Hospital would be crippled, if not totally disabled. With it, the work of the past can not only be carried on but greatly increased as soon as the new building is completed.

The Hospital has already expended about \$60,000 for land, buildings and equipment, of which sum the State contributed \$10,000. This contribution was made two years ago by the legislature for the express purpose of aiding in the construction of a new wing. About \$40,000 is needed to complete, equip and furnish this new building, the walls and roof of which were built during the last season. The Hospital asks the State to contribute \$20,000 of this sum. Such a contribution assures the completion and equipment of the new building during the coming season.

The directors feel that great prudence and economy have been used in the expenditure of the funds already contributed by the State and private individuals and associations. One of the old buildings was moved to give place to the new one, but was itself given a new location upon the lot, and put in thorough repair, so that the full capacity of the old buildings is preserved and the convenience of their location improved. The new building is built of brick, iron and stone in a most substantial manner, and when completed will contain two open wards, male and female, each occupying one floor, and also one floor devoted to private rooms, all thoroughly equipped with the improved modern appliances. In addition to this, it will contain one operating room, adapted to the urgent wants of the institution and up to date in every particular. Upon the completion of this building sixty beds will be added to the capacity of the Hospital, and its efficiency proportionately increased. Notwithstanding the large increase in the number of patients who can be admitted, and the greatly improved facilities for treating them, the amount of revenue which the Hospital must derive from contributions will not be proportionately increased, because of the large number of private rooms which are added, from which a very considerable profit is derived. Patients of means are able, willing and anxious to avail themselves of the

privileges and accommodations which these rooms will afford them at prices which leave a good margin above the cost of such work. By granting the Hospital the appropriation of \$20,000 asked, the State will enable it to get the benefit of the amount already expended on this building, and enable it not only to increase its capacity for charitable work, but at the same time furnish it the means whereby it can carry on this increased charitable work with the same yearly appropriation it has had in the past.

For the Directors,

SETH M. CARTER,

*President.*

LEWISTON, January 27, 1897.

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STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

February 3, 1897.

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

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*