

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Sixty-Eighth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 214.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES in favor of the Soldiers Home in Maine.

Resolved, That the sum of twelve thousand dollars be and
2 hereby is appropriated for the erection and suitable equip-
3 ment of additional buildings at Newport, Maine, in aid of the
4 Soldiers Home in Maine.

Resolved, That the sums of one thousand dollars for the
6 year eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, and two thousand
7 dollars for the year eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, be
8 and are hereby appropriated for the support and maintenance
9 of the said Soldiers Home in Maine.

Resolved, That all of said sums, or so much thereof as may
11 be deemed necessary, shall be expended by the trustees of the

12 said home, for the purposes above named, subject to the
13 approval of the Governor and Council.

Resolved, That the said trustees shall make annual reports
15 to the Governor and Council, showing all receipts and
16 expenditures; admissions to the home, all essential facts
17 relating to its management, together with recommendations
18 of such sums as may, in their judgment, be necessary for the
19 support and maintenance of the said Soldiers Home in
20 Maine.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The "Soldiers Home in Maine" was incorporated July 12, 1893, as the "Maine Relief Corps Home." The change of name was lawfully effected at Augusta, Feb. 16, 1897. The home was incorporated for the purpose of caring for Maine veterans of the war of the rebellion, either army or navy, who are unable to support or care for themselves; also their wives, children, widows, aged mothers and army nurses.

The organization was endorsed by the Department Encampment and convention of the G. A. R., Feb. 2-3, 1894, at Bangor.

From the various generous offers for location made by several towns and associations, that made by the Camp Benson G. A. R. Association for location at Newport was selected, it being nearest the center of the populated part of the State; easily accessible by rail, with a large number of G. A. R. posts and Relief Corps in the vicinity; having a sufficient supply of pure water for present purposes, and land enough for all purposes.

The Camp Benson Association donated sixty-two acres of land, a brick house containing eleven rooms, a large stable and other outbuildings, conditional "that it should revert to the State when ever it ceased to be used for a Soldiers Home."

To the above has been added by purchase, jointly, by the citizens of Newport and the (now) trustees of the Soldiers Home in Maine, ten acres of land bordering on lake Sebasticook (Newport Pond) making the value of the property now within the control of the trustees about four thousand dollars, all, conditionally reverting to the State as above.

The Relief Corps of the State have pledged two thousand dollars, one thousand of which has already been paid in; and various amounts have also been pledged by many G. A. R. posts.

Hon. William T. Haines, attorney general of the State, stands ready to supply the home with the Newport Water Co.'s water free from all expense to the home, except for piping, whenever the present supply of water is insufficient.

The present accommodations are entirely inadequate for those whose applications are now on file for admission to the home.

Plans have been made for additional buildings, which can be seen by those interested. A building with suitable accommodations for one hundred inmates could be fully occupied by the time it was completed, by deserving persons who are now either without homes or are cared for in the towns where they have legal residence.

An act of the fiftieth Congress, approved Aug. 27, 1888, provides for the payment by the United States at the rate of one hundred dollars per annum for each soldier or sailor admitted and cared for in the State or Territorial Homes for such.

(See vol. 25, U. S. Statutes at large, chap. 914.)

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
March 3, 1897.

Reported by Mr. SHAW of Saco, from Committee on Pensions, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*