

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Sixty-Ninth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 123.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of Westbrook Seminary.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated to be
2 paid Westbrook Seminary for the use and benefit of that
3 institution, for each of the years eighteen hundred and
4 ninety-nine and nineteen hundred the sum of two thousand
5 dollars.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Westbrook Seminary was established under an act of the legislature of Maine, entitled "An Act to establish a Literary Institution in Westbrook" approved March 4th, 1831.

The institution has been constantly open affording facilities for the education of both sexes in the higher branches of learning. Its constant aim has been to provide boarding facilities and instruction at the very lowest possible expense, to bring its benefits within the reach of aspiring young men and women of scanty means, who could not otherwise obtain a liberal education.

By an act of the legislature approved March eleventh, 1863, the trustees were authorized to prescribe a course of study for young ladies equivalent to that of any female college in New England, and to confer the collegiate honors and degrees that are granted by female colleges. Since that time a collegiate department for young ladies has been maintained and degrees have been regularly conferred.

Since special training for those designing to teach has been required, a normal department for those designing to teach has been established and maintained, giving, in addition to the other courses, particular instruction in that department.

The institution is located two and one-half miles from Portland city hall, on the line of the electric and near Westbrook Junction. It has real estate consisting of about five acres of land, a seminary building and two large dormitories, all substantially built of brick and granite, and a gymnasium, all estimated to be worth, for school purposes, about \$75,000. It has a fund of only about \$19,000, a large part of which was donated upon the condition that the income only should be used. It has a floating debt of about \$7,000, incurred mainly from the fact that the additional facilities absolutely required for proper instruction in the various departments and repairs of buildings rendered an extra outlay absolutely necessary. The seminary building has been thoroughly repaired and a chemical laboratory provided, both dormitories have been repaired and steam heat provided, at a total cost of about \$10,000. To aid the seminary in making these repairs the last legislature donated \$4,000.

This is the only aid that the seminary has received from the State since 1850.

From a careful estimate from such data as are now accessible, the books and records having been destroyed in the great fire of 1866, there has been received and disbursed for educational purposes at this institution since its establishment \$750,000. This, of course, includes amounts received for board and tuition, the balance having been contributed by the friends of the institution, who since 1872 have contributed in round numbers \$30,000.

In the act establishing this institution, power is reserved to the legislature to alter, restrain or enlarge at any time, any of powers conferred, as the public good may require. Considering that all times the institution is under legislature control, and considering the great benefit it has conferred upon the people of the State, and the very small assistance it has received from the State, its call for assistance in an emergency cannot be regarded as unreasonable.

ALFRED WOODMAN,
President of the Trustees.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Augusta, February 16, 1899.

Reported by Mr. BURNS of Westbrook, from Committee on Education,
and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*