

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Sixty-Ninth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 182.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Town of Canton.

Resolved, That there be appropriated the sum of one hundred
2 and sixty-five dollars to be paid the town of Canton, as an
3 abatement of the state taxes for the year eighteen hundred and
4 ninety-eight on pulp mills in said town which were destroyed by
5 fire April third, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

A pulp mill and steam saw mill were erected on a farm situated on the bank of the Androscoggin river in Canton in the years 1880 and 1881, around which at once sprung up a village known as Gilbertville, and soon there were many residents with children numbering over one hundred scholars attending school there, and boarding houses, resident's dwellings, stores, post-office, etc. In short, it became a lively village, comprising about one-fourth of the population and taxable property of the entire town of Canton. These mills were exempted by the town from taxation for a term of ten years, consequently had paid taxes but a few years, when on April 3rd, 1897, following the assessment of taxes by the state for the years 1897 and 1898, the pulp mill was burned to the ground, a total loss. The only other industry at this place, the saw mill, soon after shut down, as their interests were sadly impaired by the loss of the pulp mill, they being the purchasers under contract for a series of years, of all their waste lumber, slabs, edgings, sawdust, etc., at a remunerative price. The pulp mill was entirely the property of non-residents, and the fire insurance collected to the amount of seventy-five thousand dollars, all went out of town. The heads of forty-eight families employed in said pulp mill, and twenty-two single men were obliged to move away and seek employment in other places, and later, very many of the employees of the saw mill. The result is that all the property in said village has become, to a large extent, nearly worthless, and of little value, with no prospect of a pulp mill being erected there again.

The town of Canton with a former valuation of about four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) has a debt of about forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), and it would appear that they ought not to be compelled to pay state taxes on this property for the two fiscal years since its loss by the town, and they therefore ask reimbursement for said state taxes on the amount of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000), said taxes amounting to three hundred and thirty dollars (\$330) for said two years.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, February 24, 1899.

Reported by Mr. HILL of Belfast, from Committee on Claims, and
ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*