

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Ninth Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 217.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of Improving the Sanitary Condition of the  
State Camp Ground.

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*Resolved,* That the governor and council are hereby authorized  
2 to purchase on the west side of the state camp ground such  
3 land, as in their judgment may be best, to permit moving the  
4 company sinks, which though located on the extreme westerly  
5 boundary of the grounds are dangerously near the kitchens and  
6 mess rooms, the expense to be paid from the military appropria-  
7 tion.



## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Extract from notes "sanitary and otherwise" of the Secretary of the State Board of Health published in "The Sanitary Inspector" October, 1898.

"At Camp Powers in this city some of the conditions under which the surgeons and their men were placed were unfavorable. The construction of the permanent sinks was faulty, and they were much too near the kitchens and mess-rooms. Furthermore, the prevailing westerly winds favored the transit of unpleasant odors and excreta-laden flies to the kitchens and the mess-rooms. Though the discharges of the hospital patients did not reach the company sinks, there was abundant opportunity for their infection by men in the preliminary stage of typhoid fever and by 'walking cases' of that disease before these cases had come to the attention of the surgeon. It is probable that the myriads of flies had much to do with the outbreak of typhoid fever in the batteries. Spring water which has always been good was used at Camp Powers. In the city there have been but very few cases of typhoid fever not referable to the camp."

"Some much needed changes in the sanitary management of the hospital were promptly made by Adjutant-General Richards after the return of the troops from Chickamauga, but the means and the authority were wanting to make other improvements which should be made."

"This journal has repeatedly called attention to the danger of transmission of infection by flies, and has given abstracts of investigations which show that the infection of various diseases may be carried upon the bristly feet of flies or pass their intestinal tracts with unimpaired vitality. The governmental commission, therefore, which found in their report that flies were the principal agents in the transmission of the infection of typhoid fever at Chickamauga, and other military camps, had the support of some previous findings in that direction, through the investigation, hitherto, have related to the communication of other diseases,—cholera, tuberculosis, small-pox, and plague."

STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, March 1, 1899.

Reported by Mr. BROWN of Falmouth, from Committee on Military  
Affairs, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*