

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Sixty-Ninth Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 39.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Maine Insane Hospital.

Resolved, That the sum of \$12,500 be and is hereby appropriated for and in behalf of the Maine Insane Hospital for the year 1899, and \$12,500 is hereby appropriated for the said hospital for the year 1900; the said appropriation to be used for the following purposes: For the heating plant and coal pocket as originally designed; for repairs and renovation of the two first stone wings of the old hospital as per plans of George M. Coombs, architect, with fire-proof floors and stairways; for the heating apparatus and plumbing of the above stone wings. Appropriation to be expended by and under the direction of the trustees of the hospital for the purposes above mentioned, as they may determine for the best interests of sanitation and economy.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Part of the appropriation asked for is to complete and carry out the original intention of the appropriation for 1897. The coal pocket as constructed is not more than half the size required and proposed in the original plan. The amount of the appropriation of the Legislature of 1897 would not warrant a further extension. In order to store and house the coal from the weather at all seasons it is necessary to have a coal pocket sufficiently large to provide for the entire consumption. There is quite a per cent of loss from the exposure to the weather. It is, therefore, proposed that the coal pocket should be twice its present dimensions and thereby provide for the coal supply. An appropriation is also asked for to renovate the two oldest wings of the institution. They have become dilapidated in consequence of nearly 60 years' wear and tear. The ward rooms have but little ventilation and no heat and absolutely require both for the comfort and proper treatment of the patients. The floors in these buildings have become thoroughly saturated and unsanitary from their long use and occupancy by uncleanly patients and should be renovated for the best interest of health and comfort of this unfortunate class. New heating and ventilating flues are absolutely necessary, not only in the interest of economy, but for the broader purpose of sanitation and health. It is impossible to crowd these wards, to do so would at once produce sickness and possibly an epidemic. The new modern wards of the institution are to-day crowded to double their intended capacity. The thoroughness and completeness of the modern system of heating and ventilation in these buildings has temporarily allowed this great crowding up, a most fortunate circumstance during the past few years in view of the exceedingly crowded condition. The economy of heating by modern system is most marked. The above buildings which are nearly of double the capacity are heated for less than twenty-five per cent of the cost of heating our old wings. The stairways in the building to be renovated are narrow and are insufficient for the purposes intended. They would afford inefficient opportunities as a fire escape in the event of fire. The recommendation is that they should be made fire proof with an especial view to their efficiency as a fire escape.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 13, 1899.

Reported by Mr. GRINDLE from Committee on Insane Hospital, and
laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.