

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

Seventieth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 220

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of aid in building a highway bridge across the Kennebec river between the towns of Bingham and Concord.

Resolved, That the sum of twelve thousand dollars to be
2 paid, six thousand dollars in the year nineteen hundred and
3 one, six thousand dollars in the year nineteen hundred and
4 two, be and hereby is appropriated from any unexpended
5 moneys in the treasury, to aid in building a highway bridge
6 across the Kennebec river between the towns of Bingham
7 and Concord in the county of Somerset.

Provided, a sum of money be raised by the county, towns or
9 otherwise, which, together with the amount herein appro-
10 priated, shall be sufficient to complete said bridge, within two

11 years from the date of the approval of this resolve, without
12 further aid from the state.

Provided also, that the location and erection of said bridge
14 shall be under the supervision of the county commissioners
15 of Somerset county and one commissioner to be appointed by
16 the governor and council to serve without pay, and be built
17 of steel or iron not less than sixteen feet wide upon stone
18 piers and abutments, upon plans of a competent bridge engi-
19 neer, to be approved by the governor and council, and that
20 said bridge shall be completed, opened to the public and
21 accepted by the governor and council before the last install-
22 ment, above provided for, shall be paid. All moneys under
23 this resolve shall be paid upon vouchers satisfactory to the
24 governor and council.

Provided further, that said bridge shall be kept in repair at
26 the expense of the towns of Bingham and Concord in propor-
27 tion to their respective valuations as fixed, from time to time,
28 by the state assessors.

Provided also, that said bridge shall be built on the basis of
30 a cost of thirty thousand dollars, and that the amount paid by
31 the state under this resolve shall be about one-half the cost.

Provided also, that the owners of the ferry boat and cable
33 shall be paid their just value, said value to be determined by
34 the county commissioners of said county.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The proposed bridge will be about 700 feet long.

Will require two abutments, and two, or more, piers of granite.

Recent estimates, made by engineers of the Berlin Bridge Company, and the King Bridge Company, place the cost at about \$30,000.

The bridge proposed to be built in the foregoing resolve will span the Kennebec river between the towns of Bingham, on the east bank, and Concord, on the west. Bingham is the terminus of the Somerset Railroad and now a thrifty and growing town which has made a substantial increase in population in the last decade. The length of the bridge will be about 700 feet, and it has been estimated by capable engineers to cost \$30,000. The foregoing resolve appropriates the sum of \$12,000, the balance to be paid for by taxation, and by private subscription. The river at this point is now crossed by a ferry boat, which is a very unsatisfactory service both to the people in that locality and to a great many others who are called into this section of the state by business or by recreation. Many days, during the spring, summer and fall, it is absolutely impossible to run the boat on account of the ice, logs, and high water, so that communication between one side of the river and the other is almost wholly cut off. Much of the time, from early spring when the ice goes out until the rear drive of the Kennebec river gets by, sometimes as late as the middle of July, it is unsafe to cross the river in the boat, and the ferryman frequently refuses to run, so that public convenience and necessity are not substantially subserved by this ancient method of crossing the river.

There are no villages, or stores, in the town of Concord or in the plantations above on the west side of the river, and the people depend entirely for their supplies upon Bingham. They, of course, frequently have to call physicians, and if the ferry boat cannot run the doctor frequently has to go down the river sixteen miles to the nearest bridge, and sixteen miles back, to get a few miles from home. This country is now very sparsely settled, but it is firmly believed that by opening continuous communication with the town of Bingham it will increase in wealth and population, because the soil is rich and fertile and nearly as

good as any that lies in the Kennebec valley. If these farms can be opened up to ready market they will be rapidly settled and increase materially in value.

It is utterly impossible for the towns of Bingham and Concord to build this proposed bridge without material assistance from some source, and as this route is traveled very extensively by the people from all over the state, both for the purpose of business and for getting into the splendid hunting and fishing grounds above, it seems to be only fair that the state contribute the sum called for in the resolve, which is considerable less than one-half of the total amount that will be required. If constructed this will be the only highway bridge across the Kennebec river from the town of Anson to the Forks of the Kennebec, a distance of forty miles. The valuation of the town of Bingham is \$251,368. Its debt is \$8,164.00, leaving its borrowing capacity at the present time, \$4,404. The valuation of the town of Concord is \$59,946. The debt of the town of Concord is \$1,198.00, leaving the borrowing capacity of that town \$799. So that the total borrowing capacity of these two towns is \$5,203. It will readily be seen from these figures the utter impossibility of these two towns being able to construct, for years, if ever, a substantial and satisfactory bridge across the Kennebec river.

This bridge will be the great thoroughfare for all the people in northern Franklin, and middle and northern Somerset, in going from east to west, and return. It would also open up a line traveled across from the foot of Moosehead lake, by way of Abbott, to Bingham, thence across the river to Concord, New Portland, Kingfield, Farmington and the Rangeley lakes, a route that would be much used, if they were sure they could get across the river, by lumbermen and sportsmen and the general traveling public.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

AUGUSTA, February 22, 1901.

Reported by Mr. MORIN of Embden, from Committee on Ways and Bridges, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*