

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Seventieth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 304

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the town of Brookton.

Resolved, That the sum of two hundred and twenty-nine
2 dollars and sixty-two cents be and hereby is appropriated
3 from the treasury to be paid to the town of Brookton to
4 reimburse said town on account of excessive State tax.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Brookton is one of several small "tannery towns" built up by the F. Shaw Brothers. This tannery used from 8,000 to 10,000 cords of hemlock bark a year, employing some sixty or seventy men in and about the tannery, two to three hundred men in bark peeling time and one hundred men and two hundred horses to haul the bark to the tannery in winter. But the company failed and the tannery was run under trustee for a while, but the business did not pay and in 1898 they stopped business, and in 1899 the machinery was taken out and sent away, even moveable lumber and some of the best buildings was taken down and moved away, leaving the older ones to decay and tumble down. So the valuation of the town has decreased over one-half in the past four years. The valuation of the town in 1896 was \$104,712, of which \$51,075 was taxed to the tannery company, while in 1900 the town valuation was only \$50,446, of which \$1,000 was taxed to the tannery company. Whereas the town in past four years has paid State taxes on the aggregate valuation of \$428,354, while the town valuation has only been \$281,139, or an excess of \$147,115 amounting to \$404. Now the town asks for the return of sum paid to the State in excess of its just proportion of the State tax.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

AUGUSTA, March 6, 1901.

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

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*