

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Seventieth Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 6

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND ONE.

RESOLVE for the purpose of operating the fish hatcheries and feeding stations for fish, and for the proper enforcement of the inland fish and game laws.

Resolved, That the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars is
2 hereby appropriated to be expended by the commissioners of
3 inland fisheries and game, under the direction of the governor
4 and council, for the year nineteen hundred and one, and also
5 twenty-five thousand dollars for the year nineteen hundred
6 and two, for the purpose of operating the fish hatcheries and
7 feeding stations for fish in the State, and for the proper
8 enforcement of the inland fish and game laws.

Provided, also, that the commissioners of inland fisheries
10 and game may purchase or lease real estate, in the name of

11 the State, for the purpose of maintaining fish hatcheries and
12 feeding stations for fish culture, and may also assist in main-
13 taining fish hatcheries for fish culture owned and under the
14 management of fish and game associations; and provided,
15 also, that the commissioners shall make a detailed statement
16 in their report of all expenditures of money expended under
17 this resolve.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

This resolve is in the usual form of all the resolves adopted by the legislature upon this subject, and is for the same amount that has been appropriated by the last three preceding legislatures.

The work of this department continues to increase, especially along the lines of fish culture and the distribution of trout and land-locked salmon in the inland waters, hatched and fed at the four fish hatcheries and feeding stations. The call from the people for the product of our hatcheries is earnest and pressing. It has been impossible to raise anywhere near enough fish to meet these requests, nor can it be done with the amount of money appropriated by this resolve. To operate the hatcheries and feeding stations as fully as has been done during the last two years, secure spawn from the parent fish, distribute the product of the hatcheries in the various lakes and ponds of the State adapted to propagating them after being planted, with limited warden service to guard the parent fish on their spawning beds, actual travelling expenses of the commissioners to attend to the duties imposed upon them by law, publication of newspaper notices, legal services necessarily required and clerical help will require at least seventeen thousand dollars on the most economical plan; leaving but eight thousand dollars for warden service in sixteen counties, or five hundred dollars to a county. To this should be added the amount received from license fees and fines, which amounted this year to nine thousand dollars, an exceptionally large sum which will not be duplicated probably in the near future. Of this sum three thousand five hundred dollars was received for licenses for September shooting, which if taken away will reduce the amount that much.

To have anything near like adequate warden service, such as would properly protect the big game and the game birds of the State, would require much more than called for by this resolve.

The commissioners will continue to give their close personal attention to all the details of the department, devoting their time to carrying out the purposes for which this money is appropriated.

The interest of our citizens is constantly increasing in our inland fish and game, and the benefits accruing to the State are increasing from year to year.

His Excellency, Governor Hill, in his admirable address to the legislature said: "The constant increase in the number of sportsmen who come to Maine each year, to spend their vacations in hunting and fishing, conclusively demonstrates the wisdom of protecting and preserving the fish and game of our State, and is a sufficient warrant for the large sums of money which have been expended for this purpose. The past season has been the most successful one in the history of our fish and game interests, * * * * it is estimated that during the year 1900 at least \$5,000,000 was expended by more than 50,000 visitors to our forests and inland lakes."

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 18, 1901.

Reported by Mr. VICKERY from Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game, and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*