

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Seventy-first Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 341

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Maine Industrial School for Girls.

Resolved, That the sum of eleven thousand six hundred fifty
2 dollars be and hereby is appropriated for the use of the Maine
3 Industrial School for Girls for the years nineteen hundred
4 three and nineteen hundred four, for the following purposes:
5 For the year nineteen hundred three; to provide for the deficit
6 in erecting Erskine Hall, three thousand dollars; to fill the
7 cellar and remove the debris of the former Erskine Hall which
8 was burned and to grade the grounds, one thousand dollars;
9 for farm buildings, four thousand five hundred dollars; for
10 additional stock, farming tools and equipment, one thousand
11 dollars; for an electric alarm system, two hundred fifty dol-
12 lars; to wire the buildings and furnish fixtures for electric
13 lighting, nine hundred dollars; for power for electric lighting,
14 five hundred dollars.

For the year nineteen hundred four; for power for electric
16 lighting, five hundred dollars.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The original Erskine Hall was totally destroyed by fire May 24, 1900. Insurance to the amount of \$11,675 was received. The legislature of 1901 appropriated \$4,325. This made \$16,000 available for the new building. The trustees had plans which called for \$22,000. These plans were modified so far as economy and regard for the needs of the school and the interests of the State would permit, and a building has been erected which has cost, with its furnishings, \$18,905.83, and one bill of \$500 is still unpaid. The trustees have borrowed three thousand dollars.

The former Erskine Hall was poorly located. The new building has been placed to the north and west. It is better sheltered from the wind and better situated for the sun. By the change the grounds are put in far better condition for future use. The committee on public buildings of the governor's council approved the new location. This location requires that the old walls, and the knoll upon which the old building stood shall be removed, and a piece of low ground near the new building shall be filled. One thousand dollars are asked for for this purpose.

The farm buildings standing upon the property have been condemned by the State board of health as unsanitary. They should be demolished. It is not suitable for the steward and farmer to live in the buildings occupied by the school and yet there should always be a man upon the grounds, not only in case of fire and other emergencies, but also for the regular necessities of the school. A house must be provided. The barn, also, is small and old, entirely unfit for neat stock. The need of a new one is imperative. Four thousand five hundred dollars will provide these buildings.

The institution has now one horse and four cows. It should have a pair of work horses and a driving horse. The work horses are needed for the farm. The driving horse is needed for the principal that she may visit the homes in which 79 of the 148 girls in the custody of the school are placed. These homes should be visited at least quarterly. The number of cows should be at least doubled. Four cows cannot furnish sufficient milk for 69 girls and twelve officers. There are needed one single

carriage, one single sleigh, robes, one double harness, one single harness, a horse rake, a two-horse dump cart, and small farming tools. One thousand dollars is asked for for these articles.

The doors to the rooms in which the girls sleep are hooked at night on the outside. In case of fire the girls would perish, should an officer forget the hooks, or be prevented by the flames from reaching them. An alarm system is desired which would permit the door to be unfastened, and yet would give a signal in case an inmate attempted to open her door. Such a system would have a favorable moral effect upon the girls, far better than hooks and bolts. The sum of \$250 is asked for for this purpose.

The perils from the use of kerosene in an institution like the Industrial School are too obvious to need description. Twice within a few months the supports of the large lamps which light the school rooms have broken and set fire to the furnishings, once destroying a piano. By prompt action on the part of the officers a serious conflagration in each case was prevented. A system of electric lighting will obviate these perils. An appropriation of five hundred dollars to install the wiring and fixtures and an annual appropriation of five hundred dollars for maintenance are asked for.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

AUGUSTA, March 12, 1903.

Reported by Mr. BODWELL of Hallowell, from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk*.