

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Seventy-first Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 130

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of establishing a modern fish hatchery and
feeding station at Sebago Lake.

Resolved, That the sum of six thousand dollars is hereby
2 appropriated for the purpose of establishing a fish hatchery
3 and feeding station at Sebago lake, to be expended by the
4 commissioners of inland fisheries and game, under the direc-
5 tion of the governor and council.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The landlocked salmon in Sebago lake are the largest and gamiest landlocked salmon in the world. Many of the lakes and streams in the State have been stocked with fry hatched from eggs taken from salmon in that lake. It has been the custom of the fish and game commissioners to carry fifty per cent of the eggs taken from Sebago lake salmon to other hatcheries, principally those at Moosehead lake, Caribou, Lake Auburn, Enfield and Monmouth, and wherever there were hatching facilities near the lakes and streams to be stocked, and the remaining fifty per cent of the eggs were hatched at the primitive hatchery which was conducted by the commissioners upon Crooked river near Sebago lake.

The collection of salmon eggs was commenced at Sebago lake about 1881, with only crude facilities for taking the fish and hatching the eggs. At first the hatching was done in a small building built by a Mr. Dillingham. Afterwards, for a few years, the hatching was done in a room in Edes mill at Edes Falls. In 1887 or 1888, a hatchery was built on a small brook emptying into Crooked river, the water of which was insufficient in quantity for the amount of fish that could be taken from that lake for stocking purposes. This building is in bad repair, and will soon have to be abandoned as unsuitable for the business.

A suitable location for a modern hatchery, with plenty of cool, running water, which is essential for the purposes of a hatchery, and land suitable for the construction of the necessary feeding ponds, and the erection of the necessary buildings, is now available. A modern hatchery, with all the necessary equipments, including ponds, troughs, etc., can be constructed, including the purchase price of the land for six thousand dollars. Such a hatchery would enable the commissioners to take and hatch 1,500,000 eggs yearly, and to care for and feed for six months, 1,000,000 fry. The remaining eggs could be shipped to other hatcheries, thus largely increasing the facilities of the commissioners for stocking the lakes, ponds and streams of our State. There are many lakes and streams yet to be stocked, and some of the lakes already stocked need additional supplies of fry in order to make the fishing what it should be.

By increasing the supply of this magnificent fish, additional sportsmen and their families will be drawn to this State, which will enhance the values of the shores of our lakes and ponds for the building of cottages and camps, and the small expense called for by this appropriation will in a few years be returned to the State many fold.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 27, 1903.

Reported by Mr. BURNS from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*