

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Seventy-first Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 239

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of an Electric Lighting Plant for the
Maine State Prison.

Resolved, That the sum of three thousand one hundred dol-
2 lars be and hereby is appropriated in behalf of an electric
3 lighting plant for the Maine State Prison, to be expended
4 under the direction and supervision of the Governor and
5 Council. One thousand dollars to install the plant; one thou-
6 sand dollars to pay for wiring; five hundred dollars for fuel;
7 five hundred dollars for fuel for the year nineteen hundred
8 and four; one hundred dollars for inspection of plant; that
9 the prison inspectors superintend the purchasing and installa-
10 tion of said plant and their services be paid for from the one
11 hundred dollars this resolve carries for that purpose.

That such part of the seven thousand dollars appropriated
13 for lights for the state prison, as may be unexpended, be
14 available, if needed, to erect and carry on this plant.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Committee on State Prison acting in accordance with an order of the Legislature introduced February 6, 1903, have considered the advisability of installing an electric lighting plant in the prison, and make the following report:

The two boilers in the prison have recently been inspected and the result is shown by a letter, of which the following is a copy:

PORTLAND COMPANY.

Portland, Maine, March 12, 1903.
 "Warden of Maine State Prison,
 Thomaston, Maine.

Dear Sir: In response to your telephone message of Saturday last, we sent the assistant foreman of our boiler shop to Thomaston to examine the boilers at the prison. He reports that he found the boilers in good condition and stated that you wished us to make a report in writing and also to state whether in our judgment the boilers were suitable to carry a pressure of 80 pounds. We will say that while the bracing of the heads is not as heavy as we should use, it seems to be sufficiently strong to stand this pressure.

Yours very truly,

The Portland Company,
 Chas. F. Mantine, Supt."

The condition of the engine is shown by the following letter:

MAINE ELECTRIC COMPANY,

Portland, Maine, February 28, 1903.
 "A. R. Buck, Esq.,
 Senate Chamber,
 Augusta, Maine.

Dear Sir: After looking over the electrical system at the state prison we consider it a very simple matter installing an electrical plant. The cost of running the same in addition to your present plant would amount to 350 to 500 pounds of coal per day for the 300 odd lights you may require. All that would be necessary would be to extend your present counter-shaft four feet, furnish outboard bearing and two clutch pulleys (one to run

the power up stairs and the other to run the dynamo) having each independent of the other. It would be necessary to run 4.0 wire to the main switch board in the guard house, furnish the wire for the two arc lights that are at present run on the series system, but which would have to be changed to the multiple system.

We will be pleased to furnish you the two new arc lights; all wiring necessary; furnish generator, belts, pulleys, shafting and switch board; all set up complete on foundation furnished by you, for the net sum of one thousand dollars. The engine is ample large to run your lights in a satisfactory manner.

Very truly yours,
The Maine Electric Company.”

The foundation referred to is a cement floor on a ledge, and there is ample room in the engine room to set up a dynamo without interfering with other machinery, and at a very trifling cost.

The wiring is apparently good and is the property of the Rockland, Thomaston & Camden Street Railway. The contract for lighting the prison provides that if the State does not renew said contract it is to pay for said wiring at what it cost, less usual depreciation. Some idea of the value of this wiring may be inferred for the following estimate obtained at Boston, on February 18, 1903, from the most reliable electrical engineer in New England. This estimate comes to the committee through Thomas Hawken, who is superintendent of the company that now lights the prison:

Cost of a first-class plant to produce electric current for 400 16 C. P. lamps at the Maine State Prison, Thomaston, not including cost of stack or building.

2 boilers, 2 engines, 2 dynamos with 30 K. W.	
capacity	\$7,500 00
Wiring for 400 lights complete.....	1,400 00
	\$8,900 00

Cost of Running said Plant one Year.

106.25 T. coal at \$5.50.....	\$584 38	
Engine and cylinder oil.....	100 00	
Waste	25 00	
Renewals of lamps.....	66 00	
Labor 365 days, 12 hours per day at 30 cents per hour.....	1,314 00	
	<hr/>	\$2,089 38
Interest on cost of plant, \$8,900 at 5%,	\$445 00	
Depreciation at 10% on \$8,900.....	890 00	
	<hr/>	1,335 00
		<hr/>
		\$3,424 38

Cost per K. W. on 25,000, 13.7%.

It would seem from the above estimate that the wiring is not valuable.

The Rockland, Thomaston & Camden Street Railway will sell the wiring as per the following letter :

AUGUSTA, ME., March 12, 1903.

"Hon. A. R. Buck, Chairman :

Dear Sir: Concerning the conversation had with you, relative to lighting of the Maine State Prison, the Rockland, Thomaston & Camden Street Railway agrees to sell to the State the wiring system now owned by them in the State Prison at Thomaston for the sum of \$2,500. They will further agree to maintain their present system and service, ready at all times to be utilized by the State Prison officials at the price of 12 cents per K. W. of current actually used, being understood that the minimum amount to be paid by the State to the railway company shall not be less than \$1,250 per annum.

Each proposition above is submitted separately.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) Rockland, Thomaston & Camden St. Ry.,
By GEO. E. MACOMBER, President."

The committee does not recommend the payment of \$2,500 for the wiring.

The committee find that the prison is paying 12 cents per K. W. for current actually used, and can continue such agreement for all the current they need, provided no annual payment is less than \$1,250.

We recommend that the one thousand dollar plant (mentioned in the Maine Electric Company's letter) be installed in the prison as an interchangeable plant, connecting with the Rockland, Thomaston & Camden St. Ry., and if on trial the plant proves adequate to the demand, the arrangement with the railroad company can be discontinued.

There has been appropriated by the legislature \$3,500 for lights for the prison for the year 1903, and \$3,500 for lights for the prison for the year 1904. Under the existing arrangement the cost of lighting the prison from March 1, 1902, to February 28, 1903, was \$2,636.75. If this rate is maintained for the years 1903 and 1904 there will remain unexpended \$1,726.50 of the \$7,000 appropriated, which with the amount asked for in this resolve is ample for all the needs of the plant.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 18, 1903.

Reported by Mr. BUCK from Committee on State Prison, and on motion by same Senator, laid on table to be printed pending reference to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

KENDALL, M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.