

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

No. 246

STATE OF MAINE.

AUGUSTA, Feb. 20, 1907.

To the Honorable Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives:

Pursuant to the order of the House of Representatives, dated February 14, 1907, asking for certain information in relation to bridges over forty feet in length, I beg leave to report that the best information and the only information touching on the matter which this office is able to offer at this time is that contained in the report made to the Legislature of 1905 by the Board of State Assessors, copy of which is herewith presented. This report shows the number of bridges in the State fifty feet in length and over, with their location, material of which constructed and present condition. This number is stated as seven hundred and eighty-two (782), and the report shows that these bridges, fifty feet or over, are found in two hundred and twenty-seven towns. There was also, according to the report, 3,715 bridges between ten and fifty feet long, but it is impossible to say what percentage of these bridges is over forty feet long. In relation to the annual maintenance expense the report shows that one hundred and six towns (106) reported either an appropriation for the year 1903 or the total amount of appropriations

for the five years prior to March, 1904; this amount for the year 1903, using one-fifth of the total five-year appropriations in the towns which give only those figures is \$99,314 for the one hundred and six towns.

An attempt was made by this office in 1906 to collect information relative to the annual appropriation and expenditure on account of bridges with the following result which appears on page 42 of the report of this office for 1905:

ROAD ACCOUNTING.

“Our questions asked to have appropriations and expenditures classified as to roads, bridges and sidewalks. In giving this information, 343 towns gave only one amount and stated that no classification was kept of these several expenditures—that one general appropriation was made and one general account was kept which showed only to whom money had been paid. Thirty-five of the towns reported separate appropriations for each of the items; fifty-one towns showed separate appropriations for roads and bridges and nothing for sidewalks, and forty-five reported a joint appropriation for roads and bridges with a separate appropriation for sidewalks.”

The figures for maintenance of bridges as reported by the eighty-six towns reporting appropriations for that purpose have not been totaled. As our inquiries covered the years 1901-2-3-4-5, the figures would probably be very close to those reported to the State Assessors and by them to the Legislature of 1905. The detailed information called for by the order could not be collected and put in shape to be of use to this House short of from three to four months.

Very respectfully,

PAUL D. SARGENT,

Commissioner of Highways.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, February 20, 1907.

Tabled by Mr. TOLMAN of Portland, and communication and accompanying report of State Assessors ordered printed.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*