

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

No. 546

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of improvements in Kennebec County
Buildings.

Resolved, That the treasurer of the county of Kennebec is
2 authorized to procure by loan, on the faith and responsibility
3 of said county, a sum not exceeding fifteen thousand dollars,
4 exclusive of and in addition to loans authorized by section
5 sixteen of chapter eighty of the Revised Statutes, as the
6 same has been or may be amended by the seventy-third legis-
7 lature, to be expended by and under the direction of the
8 county commissioners of said county for the purpose of pro-
9 viding a heating and lighting plant or plants for the court
10 house and jail and such other improvements to the county
11 buildings as can be done with said amount, and the said
12 treasurer is hereby authorized to issue bonds of said county
13 with interest coupons attached, to the amount of such loan;

14 said bonds to bear interest, payable semi-annually, at a rate
15 not exceeding four per cent per annum, the principal to be
16 payable at such times, not later than thirty years from the
17 date thereof, as said commissioners may fix; said bonds to
18 be signed by the treasurer and countersigned by the county
19 commissioners of said county, and the coupons to be signed
20 by the said treasurer.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The present accommodations afforded by the county buildings in Kennebec are unsuitable and inadequate. They are relatively inferior to that of any other county in the state with one exception.

Each year a session of the law court, for the entire state is held at Augusta. A superior court has been maintained here since 1878. By reason of its central location, its equity business is greater in extent and importance than that of any other county, with the possible exception of Cumberland. It has but one court room for the sessions of both the supreme and superior courts, and when one court is in session there are no accommodations for the other. The room in the addition of 1891, now occupied for a library, was originally designed for an auxiliary court room, for equity hearings, and can no longer be used for both purposes.

An addition to the court house for a suitable library with modern equipments is therefore a practical necessity.

The heating plant for the court house is insufficient and there is practically no ventilation. The method of heating the jail by stoves is antiquated and expensive. A common heating plant, located under the addition, for the purpose of heating both the court house and the jail would be more economical and efficient and is conceded to be a necessity.

Since the law of 1881 requiring the supreme court to be always open for proceedings in equity, the justices have been compelled to occupy all the available rooms in the court house, and there are now no consultation rooms for parties, witnesses and counsel. The lower story of the extension would be so utilized, that consultation rooms could be provided in the present building.

These improvements can be completed for \$50,000; and with a loan extended over a period of 25 years, upon a valuation of \$32,000,000, this would involve a tax of $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents on a valuation of \$1,000, to pay the annual interest at $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ and a tax of $15\frac{1}{2}$ cents on a valuation of \$1,000 to pay \$5,000 of the principal each year, commencing in 1923.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, March 13, 1907.

Reported by a minority of the Kennebec County Delegation, and
ordered printed on motion of Mr. ALLEN of Mt. Vernon.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk.*