

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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# SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

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SENATE.

No. 15

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the York Hospital.

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*Resolved,* That there be and hereby is appropriated for the  
2 York Hospital the sum of one thousand five hundred dollars  
3 for the year nineteen hundred seven, and one thousand five  
4 hundred dollars for the year nineteen hundred eight.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS.

If ever a hospital was born of need it is that of York. Its first three months proved usefulness beyond any anticipation of the little coterie of physicians and friends who had worked so earnestly and devotedly for its inception.

When the project was first talked of in 1902 the mere suggestion of a hospital seemed hopeless and almost beyond fondest dreams.

But the visionary period passed when persistency of purpose finally gained ascendancy in a fixed idea during the summer of

1903. Experience then became more than abundant to demonstrate that the public health of York required above all considerations an isolation hospital.

Forces were drawn inward to this starting point, a beginning was made, modest, yet—a beginning.

At the annual meeting of the town of York in March, 1904, a request for land for an isolation hospital was granted—three acres near the town's home for the poor. Money privately subscribed and from public entertainments procured a small portable building with three rooms. Thus in the two hundred fifty-third year of its history York became provided with means, though humble and inadequate, for isolation and care of patients with contagious diseases.

This slight encouragement inspired further effort towards greater achievement. York with its twelve thousand summer population presented hospital urgency too vital to be longer ignored. Portsmouth held the nearest hospital—small, and in another state. All York county offered no institution available to people of this locality. Portland was less conveniently accessible than Boston.

Prompt action was necessary. With action came hope—hope which sprang from sheer helplessness. Worthy of note is the fact that this entire movement took life from a determined purpose of just a few individuals. The future held no assurance beyond their own private and meagre resources. It was under these almost despairing circumstances that organization was effected, and later incorporation obtained under state laws.

The summer of 1905 proved a memorable one in the history of the hospital project. An active campaign for funds was inaugurated. The results at first were pitifully unpromising. But a new incentive presented itself. At a most opportune moment the beautiful Davidson estate at York village suddenly became available for purchase. The public began to get interested. The location of this property and its many advantages spurred desire and zeal to greater efforts. It was a critical period. But nothing now could daunt a purpose so dear.

It so happened too at just this juncture that the Russian-Japanese peace conference was being held in Portsmouth. A Japanese fete planned by ladies of the summer colony in York had among its honored guests the two prominent Japanese envoys, Baron Komura and Count Takahira.

A few days afterwards the hospital received from each of these gentlemen a check for \$500, and from Count Witte, the Russian envoy, \$200. These generous gifts with the proceeds of the fete and contributions from various sources formed a neat little nucleus of about \$6,000. This was deemed sufficient to warrant the purchase of the Davidson property the cost of which was \$15,000.

At the time of publication of this little booklet the total amount of donations received were about \$9,000. The results have been encouraging, but it needs no explanation to emphasize the need of additional contributions.

Among the generous gifts received, all of which have been publicly acknowledged, is an endowment. Its annual interest value is \$800, and it is specifically designated to pay the salary of a district nurse. The hospital for its part is pledged to maintain this department which will prove of great benefit to the community.

Large expenditures have been necessary in making repairs and obtaining sufficient furnishings and accessories to bring the hospital into action and for its current maintenance. A nurses' cottage has been erected at a cost of about \$2,500. In countless ways expenses must be incurred which though partly unforeseen are unavoidable in an institution of this character. A large per cent of the patients that have been treated at this institution are charity patients. The situation is apparent for its great need of more funds, not only to assist payment of large indebtedness already incurred but to add to the hospital's present inadequate facilities in every department.

Contributions are earnestly solicited from any who are disposed to assist a cause which requires no persuasion of its true nobility of purpose. The hospital has no visible source of income whatever, and its future rests entirely in the hands of its friends.

Dedicated to the service of mankind in its never ending struggle with disease and death, to alleviate injuries and defend private and public health the York Hospital invokes the favor of men and the blessing of God.

Right in the heart of this village of York this hospital occupies a high knoll commanding magnificent views for miles around. In south and east lies the blue horizon of ocean. Far reaching forests and the distant hills and mountain ranges of New Hamp-

shire melt away to softest purples in the glow of sunset skies. The foreground is filled with infinite variety of beautiful landscape in undulating meadows of velvety green, thriving orchards, and quaint old farmhouses nestling among their elms and fields of waving grain. Through it all sweeps with ceaseless winding tides the beautiful river of York, flashing its sunlit silvery whiteness against the rich darkness of the opposite wooded shores.

There are ten picturesque acres of land sloping gently down to the river shore and fringed with sentinel birches and graceful willows. The hospital is within a minute's walk of trolley, post-office, stores, bank, churches, yet is so situated as to be ideal for its seclusion, restfulness, quiet, exclusiveness.

The building, formerly a pretentious residence, is of good size and of most substantial construction. It is attractive inside and out, and the views from its wide and lofty piazzas and windows is incomparably grand, inspiring, restful. The altitude and openness of situation never fails to catch the faintest breath of breezes, and the health-giving purity of air is invigorating beyond belief. The water supply comes from that purest of sources—Lake Chase among the hills five miles away. The plumbing is sanitary and the drainage is perfect. The house has hot water system of heating and fire-places in many rooms. There is every modern convenience including electric lighting. The nurses' home is a separate building.

The York Hospital opened its doors to the public in a very modest way on July 22, 1906. Preparations were wholly incomplete at the time and accommodations and facilities were much limited. Yet the need was too great to admit delay, and in face of all obstacles its emergency showing for the first two months was certainly creditable, and emphasizes above everything the usefulness of its mission and the many benefits it continues to bestow upon those who seek relief within its portals.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, January 18, 1907.

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

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary.*