

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

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SENATE.

No. 152

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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### MINORITY REPORT.

The Committee on Education to which was referred the report of a joint special committee of the legislature of 1905 charged with the duty of ascertaining and reporting to the seventy-third legislature what are the just obligations of the State to the University of Maine, have had the same under consideration and ask leave to report that the report signed by a majority of the joint special committee appointed by the seventy-second legislature, to wit, Harry W. Davis, Frederick Hale, Lincoln H. Newcomb and George E. Thompson, be adopted.

GEORGE W. STEARNS.

ELWIN H. GLEASON.

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# SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:*

The special joint committee of the last legislature, charged with the duty of ascertaining and reporting to you what, in the judgment of the committee, are the just obligations of the state to the University of Maine, respectfully submit the following report:

This is the third time when a special study of the institution's work and curriculum has been made. In 1880 an effort was made to remove certain studies from the curriculum which would have resulted in making the institution an agricultural and mechanical school rather than college. (Page 85, Report of the Hearing.) In 1897 the Committee of the Governor's Council reported unfavorably on the continuation of the then policy of the institution. The report was to the effect that if the policy were continued the college would become a university. After receiving this report the Legislature not only voted an appropriation for a term of years, but changed the same from the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts to the University of Maine.

Your Committee convened at Orono in the spring of 1906, and visited several of the Departments of the University. We found the laboratories occupied to their fullest capacity. We found the work well done, so far as the facilities permitted. We found the chapel, which is the largest room on the campus, not large enough for the whole student body to be seated at one

time. We also found that there is but one dormitory for men, which will care for seventy-two students. As there were at that time 611 students enrolled, and we learn six months later that there are 687 students enrolled, we are decidedly of the opinion that the buildings, including laboratories and dormitories, are totally inadequate to care for the number of students now in attendance. If it were not for the fact that nine fraternities occupy houses of their own, it would be absolutely impossible to receive the students who apply for admission. We find that the Agricultural department is compelled to give instruction in six different buildings, and very few of the rooms are properly adapted to the kind of instruction to be given. It is obvious that a building to take care of the agricultural departments is in immediate need.

A subsequent meeting of the Committee was held in Portland on the 23rd of May, and there appeared before the Committee several persons interested in this investigation of the University's affairs. A full stenographic report of this meeting has been published for the benefit of the members of the Legislature.

A great deal of interest was manifested in this public hearing. A number of persons spoke favoring the University and its work. The investigation disclosed but one question upon which all parties interested in the matter differed in opinion. Aside from that there seems to be no uncertainty as to the needs of the University or the duty of the State toward it. This question was as to the continuance of the courses leading to the B. A. degree. On this point there was disclosed a decided disapproval and opposition to what was called "the University's duplicating at the expense of the State the liberal arts courses of the other Maine colleges and giving the Bachelor of Arts degree." Arguments were presented to support this view. In the opinion of the Committee they were not sufficient to show clearly that the Trustees of the University were wrong in maintaining these courses or to warrant a change. Without considering the question whether the act was wise or in accord with the best interests of the University to establish these courses in the first place, the facts, as your Committee finds them, are: that the Trustees acting fully within the scope of their authority, nine years ago committed the State to that policy and that course of instruction. Many students have in good faith entered the University for the purpose of taking these courses, and many others have entered

there with the idea of taking some of the studies in these courses. They are now established, and many students would be affected by a change. Your Committee, then, feel that it would be unwise to recommend any change in this respect.

From a study of the relations of the State University to the educational systems in other states, we are convinced that a liberal support of the State University is a benefit to other educational institutions. As the University of Maine is the State institution, by acceptance of the first Morrill Fund of 1862, and the second Morrill Act of 1890, and the legislative acts on several occasions, it is, in our opinion, entitled to proper support.

Your Committee find, then, that the "just obligations of the State toward the University of Maine" are to care properly for the students who are in attendance, to secure competent faculty, an adequate equipment of apparatus and buildings, with a reasonable view to the present and the future.

As this is a State institution it is the opinion of your Committee that it should be placed upon such a financial basis that it will not be obliged to go to the Legislature each session asking for maintenance, but should receive such an income at your hands as to place it on a financial standing equivalent to institutions of a similar character in other states, in proportion to their valuation and population.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRY W. DAVIS.

FREDERICK HALE.

LINCOLN H. NEWCOMB.

GEORGE E. THOMPSON.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 26, 1907.

Pending acceptance of report laid on table to be printed on motion by Mr. STEARNS of Penobscot, together with majority report of Joint Special Committee appointed by last legislature to ascertain the just relations of the State to University of Maine.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.