

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 175

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE, appropriating money for the purpose of obtaining information in regard to wild lands for the purposes of taxation.

Resolved: That the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars
2 be and hereby is appropriated for the year nineteen hundred
3 and seven, and a like sum for the year nineteen hundred and
4 eight to be expended by the board of state assessors, under
5 the direction of the governor and council, for the purpose of
6 employing a competent person or persons whose duty it shall
7 be to assist said board in verifying and perfecting, as far as
8 practicable, a proper description of each parcel or tract of
9 wild land, and the individual or corporate ownership thereof,
10 in townships not incorporated, in order that such lands may

11 be properly described for taxation purposes, and for incor-
12 porating such description in deeds when lands are sold for
13 taxes; also for the employment of a competent person or
14 persons to assist said board of state assessors in making
15 special explorations in wild land townships to ascertain for
16 taxation purposes their just and fair value. Said board in
17 their regular report shall incorporate a report of the work
18 done under this resolve and a summarized statement of their
19 expenditures.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

As provided by the resolve of the seventy-second legislature, this board has attempted, under the direction of the governor and council, to secure a proper description of each parcel or tract of wild land in the unorganized townships, and has, in accordance with the provisions of the resolve, employed persons who have had many years experience in cruising timberlands to explore a portion of the wild lands for the purpose of ascertaining their present value. Very soon after entering upon the work it became evident that in order to obtain intelligent and proper descriptions it would be absolutely necessary to secure plans or maps of each unorganized township, showing the location of the individual ownerships, before the timberlands could be completely explored and the stand of timber upon each parcel or tract determined. In the past two years we have succeeded in securing, and now have in the office of the State Assessors, a complete set of maps of each unorganized or wild land township in the State. There are four hundred and thirty-five of these maps and they were made from the latest surveys obtainable and are of uniform scale. They are made upon cloth-backed paper, bound by counties in loose leaf binders, and indicate, in many instances, separate ownerships, as well as outlines of all lakes, ponds, rivers, streams or waterways, together with location of the public highways and tote roads, the knowledge of which is so essential in determining the value of timberlands.

Many of the surveyors, wild land cruisers and owners of timberlands throughout the State have kindly loaned the Board all plans and surveys in their possession, which has made it possible to make the plans from the latest explorations, and to their co-operation we owe, in a large measure, our success in the undertaking. The State now has, for the first time, a complete set of separate maps, of uniform scale, of each unorganized township, and they are undoubtedly of much value to the citizens of the State. While in many instances they are incomplete, owing to the fact that a number of unorganized townships have never been explored and plotted, they form a basis to which can be added the information gained from explorations and surveys made in the future, and therefore will increase in value to the

State as the work is extended. During the past two years we have had several townships cruised by the explorers before referred to, with the view of ascertaining the quality of the soil, the stand of timber on each township, the drivable condition of the waterways, the average distance required to haul the lumber to the landings on streams, ponds or lakes, and the acreage of the townships explored. The townships cruised were situated in Somerset, Oxford, Piscataquis and Penobscot counties, and their total acreage is 192,137 acres. The amount paid to the surveyors for making this exploration is \$1,753.87, or an average of a trifle under one cent per acre. It is only fair to state that these townships which we had explored are conveniently located and accessible, so that the expense is much less than would be the exploration of more remote townships. At this rate per acre, however, the expense to the State for making an exploration of the entire wild land area in the unincorporated townships would be approximately in round numbers \$94,000. The State valuation made by the Board this year on these townships, which was based on the information gained from the explorations, is \$909,420, of 42% in excess of the State valuation placed upon them two years ago, while the State valuation this year on the entire wild land townships has been increased 25½ per cent over the last State valuation of two years ago.

The total appropriation of \$5,000 made by the legislature to carry on this work for the years 1905-6 has been expended. A summarized statement of the expenditures for the present year will be found in the accompanying report and the account for 1905 in the annual report for that year.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 1, 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.*