

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 197

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the town of Newport, county of
Penobscot and State of Maine.

Resolved, That the sum of five hundred dollars be and is
2 hereby appropriated to aid the town of Newport, Maine, in
3 the construction and completion of a suitable fish screen in
4 the east branch of the Sebasticook river, in the said town of
5 Newport, near the outlet of Lake Sebasticook, to prevent the
6 passage of trout, salmon, perch, pickerel and other food fish
7 from the waters of said lake and the tributaries thereof;
8 provided that the said town of Newport shall have appro-
9 priated and expended the sum of one thousand dollars in the
10 construction of such a screen, and shall appropriate such
11 further sum as may be necessary to complete the same; the
12 said sum of five hundred dollars to be paid to the treasurer
13 of the said town of Newport when satisfactory evidence shall

14 have been presented to the governor and council of the
15 appropriation and expenditure of such sum of one thousand
16 dollars on the part of said town.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The town of Newport is financially poor and heavily in debt, compared with its valuation. Lake Sebasticook is a favorite resort for lovers of piscatorial sport and many from adjoining and even distant towns come here each season to fish from its waters and to enjoy camp or cottage life on its shores; in fact, it is becoming more and more popular each season and many more fish are taken from the lake by people from other towns than by residents of our own town. It has been determined that the fish escape in large numbers from the outlet of the lake and down the Sebasticook, and from thence into the Kennebec at Winslow; it is to prevent this wholesale exodus that a suitable fish screen is needed near this sole outlet. In the year 1905 the town of Newport appropriated and expended the sum of five hundred dollars in the commencement of the construction of such a screen; in the year 1906 a like amount was raised by the town and is now being expended for such purpose; it is found that several hundred dollars more will be required to complete the screen in a proper and efficient manner. The town is willing to pay its part, and more, in the completion of such a screen, but the citizens feel that the residents of other towns and counties should bear their proportionate share of the expense, as it is for their benefit that the work is being done. We know of no more equitable manner to have the outside public bear a share of the burden than for the state to assume it. Our town has expended large sums of money for sewers, bridges and highways within the past few years, and must continue to expend large sums in the near future; all of which is causing our town debt to grow all out of proportion to the contemporaneous increase in valuation. We need new school buildings and village sidewalks in addition to the other expenses that must be provided for. To accomplish all these things would mean such a rate per cent in taxation as would tend to discourage the raising of money for these objects. We are of the opinion that in expending the sum of one thousand dollars in the construction of a fish screen, and in the maintenance of it for all future time, our taxpayers are doing their share.

The valuation of the town of Newport in the year 1906 was \$667,860 and the debt as per the last annual report was \$25,408.70, in excess of assets. Since then we have increased our debt by more than \$2,000 hired and expended for the building of sewers in the year 1906.

Our rate of taxation each year is from 26 to 30 mills.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. MITCHELL,

F. R. COLBURN,

E. R. LEACH,

Selectmen of Newport, Me.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 6, 1907.

Reported by Mr. RICE from Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game,
and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.