

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 89

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Maine State Sanatorium Association.

Resolved, That there be and are hereby appropriated to
2 be paid to the Maine State Sanatorium Association the fol-
3 lowing sums and for the following purposes, namely:

For the year nineteen hundred and nine, for assistance
5 to needy patients, to be used in the discretion of the trustees
6 of said association for charitable purposes in the treatment
7 of patients at said institution, the sum of seven thousand
8 five hundred dollars; to be used towards the payment of
9 the debts of said institution the sum of twenty thousand
10 dollars; to be used in the construction and equipment of
11 new cottage, ten thousand dollars; for obtaining and install-
12 ing a water supply system, ten thousand dollars.

For the year nineteen hundred and ten, for assistance to
14 needy patients, to be used in the discretion of the trustees
15 of said association for charitable purposes in the treatment
16 of patients at said institution, the sum of seven thousand five
17 hundred dollars; to be used in the construction and equip-
18 ment of new cottage, five thousand dollars.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

RELATIVE TO THE MAINE STATE SANATORIUM ASSOCIATION AND
THE MAINE STATE SANATORIUM. JANUARY, 1909.

The objects of the Maine State Sanatorium Association shall be, as its constitution declares, "to establish and maintain an institution or institutions for the isolation, treatment, and cure of persons affected with pulmonary tuberculosis and to exert its influence toward lessening the prevalence of tuberculosis."

Beginning in a small way, it has, since the incorporation of the Association, received a total of \$88,087 in donations. Of these, \$1166.50 was given in sums less than ten dollars each, \$1003 came from persons who gave ten dollars, or less than fifty dollars each, thus making them honorary members; and \$85,917.50 has been contributed by persons in sums of fifty dollars or more, constituting them honorary life members.

Of the contributions, \$17,897 has been given by persons residing within the State, and \$70,189 by persons residing outside the State. Of the latter sum, \$65,000 was given by one man for the building of the new Administration Building, which is a memorial in remembrance of his son who died of tuberculosis.

The means for the constructive work thus far done, the running expenses, and the aid to needy patients have come from these donations, payments from patients, the farm revenue, and the moderate appropriations from the Legislature.

The work already done is the purchase of two adjoining farms, constituting a tract of 320 acres of land, the building of the new barn and stocking the farm for the production of milk, cream and eggs needed by the patients, the erection of the first administration building costing about \$15,000, which was subsequently reconstructed so as to fit it for the use of patients exclusively; the construction and furnishing of the new, permanent administration building costing \$65,000; the

power house costing \$24,200, and designed for pumping water, heating, and furnishing electric lighting for the whole plant when completed; the building of a new cottage costing about \$15,300, for the accommodation of twenty-four additional patients, completed two years ago; the construction of the water works and the sewerage; and the moving and reconstruction of the farm cottage. With the completion of the New Administration Building and the power house the most expensive part of the constructive work, by far, for the whole plant was done.

The whole plant as originally planned will be completed when two more buildings costing about \$16,000 each have been erected. The capacity of the institution will then enable it to care for 100 patients at a time.

At present at the Sanatorium there are accommodations for the treatment of fifty-five patients, but the management is often obliged to crowd in 60 or even 65 at times. Nevertheless a sanatorium for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis should never be crowded.

The urgent need of increasing the present facilities of the Sanatorium for saving the lives of those who are dying of tuberculosis, is easily shown by a few figures taken from the official reports of the Department of Vital Statistics.

In the years 1892-1907 inclusive, 8,344 deaths were caused in this State by typhoid fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, and smallpox, or an annual average of 521. On the other hand, tuberculosis caused 20,404 deaths in the same years, or an average of 1275 yearly. So long as a thousand or more persons are dying every year in our State, it is thought to be a conservative estimate to reckon that there will be, at any time, and all of the time, at least five thousand persons afflicted with tuberculosis.

Human lives and human happiness and prosperity constitute the most valuable assets of the State. The value of a human life is what? One thousand dollars may well be considered a low enough valuation. Irving Fisher, professor of political economy in Yale University, values a human life at \$5,000. In the year 1907, 1214 persons died from tuberculosis in the State of Maine. The money value of their lives, if they could have been saved, would have been \$1,214,000. If we add to

this the loss due to prolonged partial and total disability before death, the loss of the labor of relatives and friends, the cost of medical attendance, nurses, and medicines, and the cost of travel and other expenses in seeking climatic cures away from home, and the loss resulting from the illness of persons who finally recover from tuberculosis, it would undoubtedly be a conservative estimate to say that we are losing \$2,000,000 or more a year due to the prevalence of tuberculosis in this State.

And the 20,404 lives lost from tuberculosis since our State began its registration of deaths in 1892 represents a handicap to our prosperity of over \$40,000,000.

And the pathetic sequels—sorrow, destitution, mothers struggling to the limit of endurance or beyond for their orphaned children, children with food insufficient for favorable development of mind and body, children pressed prematurely by dire necessity into the ranks of industrialism handicapped with incomplete mental and physical development, children deprived of the saving influence of home and school and drawn or impelled into lives which lead to shame, pauperism, and crime—the handicap of these upon a state cannot be estimated.

Tuberculosis is not a hereditary disease. It is infectious, and as such is preventable and curable. The preventive value of the sanatorium by its educative influence and the limitation of the number of infected houses is of hardly less value than its curative work.

A large percentage of the cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in the early stage to whom sanatorium treatment is available, are curable. For cases in the early stage, the experience of well-equipped sanatoriums in various parts of the world has shown that at least 75% may be sent home apparently cured or greatly improved—well on the road to recovery.

It is believed that no better results can be shown for any sanatorium in any climate than those which have been obtained in the treatment of patients in *The Maine Sanatorium*. There were 106 patients treated in the year ending June, 1908.

Of these only six were incipient cases. In all of these the disease was arrested, or in other words, they appeared to be cured.

In 66 others the disease was moderately advanced. Of these, 59 remained under treatment five weeks or more. The disease

was arrested (apparently cured) in 40 of these 59, and the other 19 were much improved.

Of 34 far advanced cases, 22 remained 5 weeks or longer. Of these only one had the disease arrested, 9 were much improved, and in 12 the disease continued to progress. The results in these three classes of cases show plainly the desirability of admission at an early stage of the disease.

The average gain in weight was, 22 lbs. 3 ozs., for the incipient class; 20 lbs. 2 ozs., for the moderately advanced; 10 lbs. 3 ozs., for the far advanced.

The methods of treatment in this institution are in line with those which are carried out in all the sanatoriums in America and abroad which are well equipped for this special line of work. Under this treatment the patient has the advantage of the constant care of the physician; the possibilities of the fullest outdoor life under congenial and safe conditions; an especially nutritious diet; exercise or rest regulated to the special needs of each patient; baths for their curative influence; medical treatment, local or systemic, with drugs or special apparatus as needed.

In view of the fact that the Maine State Sanatorium Association has advanced thus far in providing what has well been pronounced a model institution designed to do a most beneficent work for the people of all classes in every part of this State; and in view of the further fact that so large a part of the contributions in aid of this sanatorium have come from outside our own State, the trustees and officers of the Maine State Sanatorium Association feel that it is their duty to request and to urge the Legislature to enable the Association to enlarge its sphere of usefulness and to extend aid to a greater number of young men and young women in all parts of the State who must have a helping hand to save them and bring them back to their former place of efficiency as citizens and as workers in and for the State.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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Vice President

HIRAM W. RICKER, South Poland

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STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE,

January 29, 1909.

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

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.