

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 183

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE, in favor of aid in building a highway bridge across
the East Branch of the Penobscot River in the town of Med-
way.

Resolved: That the sum of twenty thousand dollars to be
2 paid, ten thousand dollars in the year nineteen hundred and
3 nine, ten thousand dollars in the year nineteen hundred and
4 ten, to be and hereby is appropriated from any unexpended
5 moneys in the treasury, to aid in building a highway bridge
6 across the East Branch of the Penobscot River in the town
7 of Medway, in Penobscot County, on the highway from
8 Medway to East Millinocket.

Provided, a sum of money be raised by the county, the
10 towns of Millinocket, East Millinocket and Medway, or
11 otherwise, which, together with the amount herein appro-

12 priated, shall be sufficient to complete said bridge, within
13 two years from the date of the approval of this resolve, with-
14 out further aid from the State.

Provided also, that the location and erection of said bridge
16 shall be under the supervision of the county commissioners
17 of Penobscot County and the State Commissioner of High-
18 ways, and be built of steel or iron not less than eighteen
19 feet wide upon masonry piers and abutments, upon plans of
20 a competent bridge engineer, to be approved by the State
21 Commissioner of Highways, and that said bridge shall be
22 completed, opened to the public and accepted by the gover-
23 nor and council before the last installment, above provided
24 for, shall be paid. All moneys under this resolve shall be
25 paid upon vouchers satisfactory to the governor and council.

The towns of Millinocket, East Millinocket and Medway
27 are hereby authorized to raise money by loan, taxation or
28 otherwise, to aid in the building of said bridge, and the
29 County of Penobscot is hereby authorized through its com-
30 missioners to aid in the building of said bridge to such
31 amount as said commissioners may deem expedient and to
32 raise money by loan or taxation for said purpose.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The proposed location of the bridge, asked for in the accompanying resolve, is at the East Branch Ferry on the County Road, leading from Mattawamkeag to Millinocket, which crosses the East Branch of the Penobscot River in the town of Medway. This town is situated on the Penobscot River about twelve miles northwest of Mattawamkeag and two and one-half miles southeast of East Millinocket, at a point where the East Branch and West Branch unite to form the main Penobscot River. The only means of crossing the East Branch at present, is by an old cable ferry boat in the summer months and on the ice in the winter, at all times slow, dangerous, uncertain and utterly inadequate to meet the demands of public convenience and necessity and is closed to travel nearly two months yearly in the spring and fall. In years past many teams have been drowned at this point.

The width of the river at most available location for the proposed bridge is 290 feet. The estimated cost of a bridge of sufficient capacity and strength to meet the demands of a heavy and constantly increasing traffic is \$25,000.00.

The town of Medway, with a population, according to the last census, of two hundred and seventy-nine, and a valuation in 1907 of \$68,619.00, number of polls, 129; rate of taxation \$.027; is unable to build this bridge or to contribute any large sum to aid in the construction of the same, however much it is needed, its principal industries being farming and lumbering, and its only market Millinocket and East Millinocket, which can only be had by crossing the East Branch Ferry at much inconvenience and expense.

The towns of Mattawamkeag, Winn, Woodville, Chester, Lincoln, Lee, Springfield, Carroll, Prentiss, Kingfield, Drew, Molunkus and Webster Plantations in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties would be greatly benefitted by the construction of the proposed bridge, as they are for the most part farming commu-

nities and Millinocket and East Millinocket afford them an excellent market for farm and garden produce, and can only be reached by crossing the East Branch Ferry at Medway.

The town of Millinocket is situated eighty-three miles north of Bangor and sixty-one miles southwest of Houlton, on the main line of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad and twenty-four miles northwest of Mattawamkeag, having a population of about forty-five hundred.

East Millinocket with a population of about two thousand, is a town located ten and one-third miles southeast of Millinocket, on the west Branch of the Penobscot River, at the terminus of the Schoodic Stream Railroad, a branch line of the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad. These towns have no farms and the population is entirely supported by the Paper and Pulp Mills with their allied industries. They have no means of communication with the "outside world" except by the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, and the County Road extending from Mattawamkeag to Millinocket,, which crosses the East Branch Ferry, a relic of the "old Sourdnhunk tote road days," at Medway.

A large percentage of the milk, garden vegetables and farm products consumed in Millinocket, Dolby Rips and East Millinocket are supplied by Medway and towns nearby in the southern part of Aroostook County and the northeastern part of Penobscot County and the present antiquated and inadequate method of crossing the East Branch of the Penobscot River has entailed an added cost to both producer and consumer.

The building of a bridge across the East Branch at Medway will add materially to the welfare and prosperity of these towns and will aid in the development of a vast area in the northern part of Piscataquis and Penobscot Counties.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE,

February 15, 1909.

Reported by Mr. THERIAULT from Committee on Ways and Bridges and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.