

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 342

House of Representatives, March 1, 1911.

Reported by Mr. Hastings from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and ordered printed under joint rules.

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE in favor of the Maine General Hospital.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated the
2 sum of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) to be paid to the
3 Maine General Hospital, for the use of said institution for
4 the year nineteen hundred and eleven, and nine thousand
5 dollars (\$9,000), to be paid to said institution for its use
6 for the year nineteen hundred and twelve, both said sums
7 for maintenance.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Maine:

The Directors of the Maine General Hospital, in presenting its request that it be aided by an appropriation from the State, would again set forth the reasons which in their judgment justly entitle it to State aid, and also briefly state the manner in which the appropriation in its favor by the last Legislature was expended.

The Maine General Hospital is a quasi State institution, four of its board of twelve Directors being appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

As its name indicates, it is a general hospital for the benefit of the entire State; it draws its patients from every county, and is in no sense a local hospital for the people of Portland or for Cumberland county.

The entire number of patients treated in the Hospital from 1874 to the close of the present hospital year was 27,041, coming from the several counties as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Androscoggin | 469 |
| Aroostook | 626 |
| Cumberland | 11,234 |
| Franklin | 728 |
| Hancock | 1,067 |
| Kennebec | 1,494 |
| Knox | 1,130 |
| Lincoln | 845 |
| Oxford | 1,429 |
| Penobscot | 886 |
| Piscataquis | 525 |
| Sagadahoc | 910 |
| Somerset | 848 |
| Waldo | 644 |
| Washington | 1,177 |
| York | 3,029 |

In the outset the number of free patients was very limited, but that number has increased continuously until last year 566

absolutely free patients were received and treated; 2,738 1-7 weeks' board were furnished at a total cost of \$34,622.73. An average of 52.51 persons received, each day, medical and surgical treatment, nursing, medicines, board, lodging and laundry, without charge.

The State appropriation of \$10,000 was applied directly to the maintenance of free patients, but did not measure the value of that service, which amounted, as before stated, to \$34,622.73. In other words, the State appropriation sufficed to meet less than one-third of the cost of the absolutely free charitable work of the Hospital, the remainder being defrayed by gifts to and the income from funds of the Hospital and receipts from paying patients.

The scope of the Hospital's free service since 1875 is indicated by the fact that it has furnished 51,623 3-7 weeks' board with all that that includes, at a total outlay of \$545,874.13.

The physical plant of the Hospital has recently been put in excellent condition, and is now, except for lack of a proper isolation ward, ample to care for about 140 patients, a number larger than it has ever received. Lack of income alone prevents the fuller utilization of the Hospital's facilities.

The Hospital's charitable service has always been in excess of its income, and the State appropriation has helped to meet a deficit which otherwise must have caused a heavy curtailment in the free service.

In view of the condition of the plant and the fact that private room patients yield a profit over the cost of their maintenance, the State appropriation can all be expended in treating worthy poor people, and any curtailment of income must proportionately diminish the amount of such service.

The last Legislature appropriated \$12,000 for extraordinary repairs and that amount has all been expended as will appear from vouchers on file in the Auditor's office. No such appropriation is now asked.

This Legislature is respectfully requested to make the same appropriation for maintenance as was made in 1909.

WILLIAM L. PUTNAM,

President of the Corporation.

THOMAS L. TALBOT,

President of the Directors.