

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 547

STATEMENT OF FACTS TO ACCOMPANY HOUSE
RESOLVE NO. 288, IN FAVOR OF GARDINER AND
RANDOLPH.

STATE OF MAINE

An Act to incorporate the Proprietors of the Gardiner and Pittston Bridge, was passed by the Legislature in 1852, as a private corporation with power to take tolls for profit, they were empowered to hold real estate to the value of fifty thousand dollars.

The bridge was built under said Act in 1853 and opened for traffic that year.

In 1869 the Legislature passed an act authorizing the city of Gardiner and town of Pittston or either of them to raise money for and to purchase the Gardiner and Pittston bridge.

The original bridge company operated the bridge until January 1st, 1887, when it was turned over to the city of Gardiner and the town of Randolph, and the price paid, including costs, was \$23,271. It was at that time made a free bridge. Gardiner paid 78% and Randolph 22% of the purchase money and they are holden in that proportion for repairs.

In 1896 the middle portions of the bridge were carried away by freshet of that year and this necessitated the repairing of the piers and the purchase of two steel spans. The cost of the construction and repairs was \$30,773 and bonds were issued for that amount.

The bridge is about 900 feet in length, 415 feet in the steel spans, 319 feet in the covered ends and 166 feet in the draw, besides the approaches.

A new draw was put in at an expense of \$10,000 in the year 1906.

The total expense for maintaining and repairing the bridge for the period of ten years up to 1909 was about \$25,000 or an average of \$2,500 a year, and for the years 1909 and 1910 the expense has averaged about \$2,200 a year.

The bridge is obliged to maintain a draw, which requires the employment of a man all the time the river is open to navigation. The bridge serves a large section of Lincoln county, and is the only means of crossing the Kennebec River between Gardiner and its mouth, except a ferry at Richmond, which is patronized very little. The Legislatures of 1907 and 1909 after a hearing on the merits of the case, both granted a resolve carrying a like amount to the one presented herewith.