

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 212

House of Representatives, Feb. 12, 1913.

On motion of Mr. Rolfe, House reconsidered vote whereby the bill was referred to Committee on Agriculture, and on motion of same gentleman tabled pending reference to a committee and ordered printed.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE to appropriate five thousand dollars for the enforcement of Brown-tail Moth Law and investigating same.

Resolved, That the committee on appropriations make a
2 special appropriation of five thousand dollars to the depart-
3 ment of agriculture for the maintenance of a force of com-
4 petent inspectors to enforce the brown-tail moth law and
5 investigate the condition of the pest, in the state of Maine.

STATEMENT OF FACTS RELATIVE TO THE RESOLVE FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000 TO ENFORCE THE BROWNTAIL MOTH LAW AND INVESTIGATE THE CONDITION OF THESE PESTS IN THE STATE OF MAINE.

1. The Commissioner of Agriculture sends out notices each year to the officers of towns and cities calling their attention to the law for the removal and destruction of browntail moth nests in their towns and cities; also a time limit as to when such work shall be completed, but no returns have ever been made to the department by the towns and cities as to whether they have complied with the law or not. No returns being made to the Department of Agriculture in this work by the cities and towns, it is impossible to know just how bad conditions are in this State and what sections are the worst infected.

2. The Department of Agriculture enforces the law only when it is notified that such and such a town or city is not doing the work, and not until they receive such notices do they act in the matter.

3. The towns of Waldoboro and Manchester were brought to the attention of the Commissioner of Agriculture and he immediately put crews to work in these towns to clean them up under the supervision of his department. Also the town of Bowdoinham was brought to the attention of the Commissioner by one Charles Ross of Waterville, a contractor in the moth work, who noticed the conditions of the trees in said town while riding on the train from Brunswick to Waterville. Said Ross was instructed by the Commissioner to see the town officers of Bowdoinham and make a contract with them to do the work, which was done, but the time was so short that he was unable to complete the work.

4. The shade trees in the following towns as yet have never been done, though they were infested with browntail moth

nests: Stockton, Winterport, Bucksport.

5. The state of Massachusetts has been experimenting with browntail moth fungus, which is doing good work. An area of ten square miles was planted with this fungus and caused a damage of 92%. This fungus is worth investigating and if found to be as claimed ought to be used here in Maine before we have such conditions as they have in the state of Massachusetts. It has cost the state of Massachusetts approximately one million dollars annually to fight the gypsy and browntail moth pests, and the State of Maine is not in a financial condition to take up such a burden, and now is the time to try and get these pests under control.