

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 301

House of Representatives, Feb. 21, 1913.

*Reported by Mr. Eastman from Committee on Ways and
Bridges and ordered printed under joint rules.*

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE, in aid of repairing highway in the town of Benton,
Maine.

Resolved: That there be and hereby is appropriated the
2 sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the year 1913, and
3 two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the year 1914, to aid in re-
4 building the "Neck Road", so-called, in the town of Ben-
5 ton; provided there be appropriated by the town of Benton,
6 or otherwise, the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in
7 the year 1913 and two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in the year
8 1914, for the same purpose; both sums to be expended un-
9 der the supervision of the State Highway Department.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The town of Benton lies on the east side of the Kennebec River, opposite Waterville and Fairfield. Its principal roads are used by a large agricultural section to the east as thoroughfares to get to larger and better markets. The road designed to be repaired or reconstructed by aid of the accompanying resolve, runs east and west through a flat, hard clay country, connecting the Kennebec River road and the Sebec River road. It is a main-travelled way and over it goes most of the travel of several surrounding towns and the automobiles from the western part of the State *via* Augusta and Waterville to the eastern section and return. The road is maintained by the town in which it lies largely for the convenience of those living beyond its limits.

Benton is almost exclusively an agricultural town. Its population is 1,200 and its valuation \$500,000. Its highways aggregate about 50 miles in length. It maintains three long iron bridges. Within the last fifteen years the town has lost by flood three of its most expensive bridges, and to replace them has expended more than \$20,000. In 1907 its debt was \$22,000, almost the constitutional limit. For taxation the valuation is high and the tax rate correspondingly high, varying from 22 mills to 28 mills.

For the purposes of the resolve the town is to raise an equal amount with the State.