

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 303

House of Representatives, Feb. 21, 1913.

*Reported by Mr. Leveille from Committee on Education, and
ordered printed under joint rules.*

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE, in favor of the University of Maine.

Whereas, education is essential to the highest and the best citizenship, and no appropriation for the maintenance of the University of Maine is available, and whereas, by reason of these facts, in the judgment of this legislature, an emergency, within the meaning of the Constitution, exists, and the passage of the measure hereinafter set forth is immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That there be and is hereby appropriated for
2 salaries of officers, instructors, clerk hire, pay of employees,
3 maintenance of property, heat, light, power, water, equip-
4 ment, supplies, and all expenses necessary or incidental to
5 the support, maintenance, continuance and extension of the
6 University of Maine, save and excepting, however, the cost

7 of erecting new buildings, the sum of one hundred and ten
8 thousand dollars for the year of one thousand nine hundred
9 and thirteen, and a like sum for each of the years of one
10 thousand nine hundred and fourteen, one thousand nine
11 hundred and fifteen, and one thousand nine hundred and
12 sixteen.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

When, in the year of 1909, the Seventy-fourth Legislature granted an appropriation to the University of Maine, the total registration of students at the institution was 884. The registration at the present time is 1011. Then, the appropriation for all purposes was fixed at \$100,000.00. Now, for maintenance and extensions, exclusive of buildings, \$110,000.00 is asked.

The University exists for the sole purpose of rendering service along educational lines, and it should furnish opportunities as modern and efficient as those given by similar institutions in other states. If this is to be accomplished, it is necessary that more money be expended than heretofore. The annual appropriation of \$110,000 for the next four years is requested that, among other things, the University may be able to do the following:

1. Provide for New Departments and Needed Extensions.

The University ought to be able to establish a department of geology, a department of hydraulic engineering, and to extend and perfect the work of highway engineering. These three subjects are of very vital interest to all the people of Maine. It ought not to be necessary to go outside of the State to prepare for work in any of these fields. Further than that, the establishment of departments in these subjects would be of great economic value to the State, and would certainly justify the expense.

2. Laboratory Equipment.

The growth in attendance at the University in the last few years has made it necessary to practice the most rigid economy in the equipment of laboratories. As a result of this, all the laboratories need a considerable amount of new apparatus. The advances that have been made in science in recent years have rendered much of the older apparatus out of date. A student preparing for his life work has a right to instruction with the very best and most modern apparatus. If the University is to maintain the high standard that the State has a right to demand, she must have larger amounts of money to spend for apparatus.

3. Purchase of Books for Library.

Today, more than at any other time, books are important factors in education. The student who is to make good in after life, must learn in college what books to consult and how to use them. Every institution of merit is increasing its emphasis upon the use of the library. It is right that this should be done. Maine asks that she may have money enough to keep her library growing so as to make it more effective as an educational instrument.

4. Up-keep of Buildings and Grounds.

The property of a State should be in every respect an example to her citizens. Every one takes a proper pride in the appearance of the property that belongs to all. The campus of the University of Maine is naturally an attractive place. With the expenditure of more money for the construction of good walks and roadways, and the beautifying of the grounds by proper landscape work, the campus may be made to be one of the most beautiful in the country. Money should also be expended for the painting and repairing of the buildings so that they may be kept in a neat and attractive condition.

5. Extension.

Already considerable work has been done by the extension department of the College of Agriculture. This work is highly appreciated by the people who have received its benefits. The University would like to be able to do extension work more fully in agriculture and to start the work in various other fields. It is believed that the people who want extension work on good roads and road building, on matters of educational interest, on civic improvement, or upon any other subject, have a right to look to the University to get it. With the increase in the allowance for maintenance asked for, the University will be able to begin work in at least some of the lines indicated.

6. Increase the Teaching Force.

The teaching force must be enlarged in order to meet the needs of the increase in attendance. When a student enters a university he has a right to good instruction in classes small enough to insure the best results. It is needless to offer arguments in favor of classes of moderate size. Every student of education knows that good work cannot be done in large classes. It will be necessary for the University to add five or six new instructors for the coming year.