

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 609

House of Representatives, March 21, 1913.

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

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE in favor of the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated the
- 2 *sum of three thousand five hundred dollars to be paid to the*
3 *Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary for the use of said institution*
4 *for the year nineteen hundred and thirteen and three thous-*
5 *and five hundred dollars for the year nineteen hundred and*
6 *fourteen for maintenance.*

STATEMENT OF FACTS IN REGARD TO THE FOUND-
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EAR INFIRMARY AND THE CHARITABLE WORK IT
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The Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary was incorporated as provided in the Revised Statutes of Maine, February 15, 1886, which law limited its capitalization to \$100,000.

In 1897 the Legislature authorized and empowered the corporation for the purposes of its organization, to receive, take and hold, by deed, devise, bequest, or otherwise, property, personal and real, to the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

The medical and surgical charitable services of the Infirmary are rendered in two distinct departments: an out-patient and an in-patient department, which have been kept open for the reception and treatment of the poor of the State for the past twenty-seven years.

For particulars reference should be made to the annual report which will be sent to any one upon request.

The register shows that over 33,000 have been treated at the Infirmary; that the attendance in the out-patient department has been over 200,000, or an average of about twenty-five a day, and that over 10,000 operations have been performed; including over 1,000 operations for the removal of cataract and over 500 operations for the removal of an eye, besides many operations upon the ear for the direct preservation of life.

The Infirmary owns over twenty thousand feet of land on two of the corners of the principal streets of Portland, on which are located its principal commodious five story brick building and two story addition with basement for stores, and a building for a contagious ward, and the nurses' home, all of which with furnishings cost over \$200,000 and have been paid for.

There has been paid out during these twenty-seven years under the head of current expenses over half a million dollars.

The annual reports show that 72,894 days of free board and nursing have been given to the poor of our State at an actual cost to the Infirmary of \$132,000.

Those who were able to pay the rates charges for board and nursing paid only about two-thirds of its actual cost to the Infirmary, therefore, from these two sources alone the Institution has given to the poor of our State over a quarter of million dollars.

The medical and surgical services given in connection with this work, when reckoned at the minimum rate for such services, amounts to as much more, so that the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary during the past twenty-seven years has given in free board and nursing, medical and surgical services to the poor of our State over half a million dollars.

When all the contributions are taken into consideration in connection with the establishing, maintaining and carrying on this charitable work it is a low estimate to place it at a million dollars.

The State has contributed about one-tenth of this sum, namely \$101,500, or about one-fifth the actual value of the free board and nursing, medical and surgical services given directly to the poor of our State.

For every dollar the State has given the Infirmary has returned to the poor of the State in free board and nursing, medical and surgical services to the value of five dollars.

The State has never appropriated one dollar towards purchasing lands or buildings for the Infirmary.

History does not record another charity of the character and magnitude of the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary without direct aid from the city or State in the purchase of its lands and in the construction of its buildings.

There has been accumulated a permanent invested fund of about a hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, most of which was bequeathed to the Infirmary in the will of Mr. Ira Putnam Farrington, only the interest of which can be used for current expenses.

Aside from its comparatively small rental account, the in-

come of the Infirmary is derived from private donations and bequests, from accommodations furnished in its rooms for the boarding and nursing of private patients, and the annual appropriation from the State.

Although the Infirmary has been the recipient of some munificent bequests, it must continue to depend upon a charitable public for a portion of the means necessary to continue its work.

For a more extended statement of facts the Board of Trustees would respectfully refer to the Annual Report for the year ending October 1st, 1912.