

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 614

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 Maine Mission for the Deaf, Belfast.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated the
2 sum of two hundred dollars to be paid to the Maine Mis-
3 sion for the Deaf, Belfast, for the year nineteen hundred
4 and thirteen, and two hundred dollars for the year nineteen
5 hundred and fourteen, for maintenance.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Maine Mission for the Deaf was organized in Belfast, Maine, in the year 1877. The Society was incorporated under the laws of the State of Maine, January 29th, 1906. The objects of the Association are as follows:

To promote the welfare of its members, and other deaf people of the State, to cultivate feelings of friendship among the members, to form a bond of union, and to afford an organization through which they may act for the common good.

The Association holds a convention annually in the month of August.

Religious work has been carried on among the deaf people of the State since the organization of the Association. The expense of this work has been met by contributions from the deaf themselves, and from the interest on the principal bequeathed to the Association by a lady who died eight years ago, this money being left to the Association only for the support of the religious work.

At the present time the Association is taking care of two infirm deaf mutes who are both crippled. They live at home and you can imagine yourself that it is much more pleasant for a person, and especially a deaf and dumb person, to live among their relatives and friends than it would be for them to be sent to the city or town homes, where they would, on account of their affliction, be practically alone without friends.

One of the two mentioned, who is under our care, lives in Auburn with his wife. He is certainly deserving of a great deal of sympathy. He lives with his wife, who has been working in shoe factories for a number of years, but who is now not working. They are getting along as best they can under the circumstances but need a great deal of help.

You will see from this that all of the appropriations which may be made are used directly for the support of these people. Not a cent of it has been used toward the expenses of our time, fares, stationery, etc. In fact, the entire amount goes to these people. We need all we have asked for. A yearly account of the expenditure of the appropriations is made and sent to the State Auditor, where you can see the same.

There is a home in Everett, Mass., for the infirm and aged deaf mutes of the New England States, but the home does not accept those who are crippled or are invalids. Besides, they ask for \$500 entrance fee, which is one good reason why we look after our own so afflicted ourselves. We do not go around begging for help from the public for these people, for we realize what a nuisance it would be to the public.

There are between 350 and 400 deaf mutes in the State of Maine, working for their living. The Legislatures of 1909 and 1911 allowed an appropriation for the support of the infirm deaf. Since the incorporation of the Association we have not heard of a single case where a deaf person has had to go to the city or town homes. The deaf ladies in some places have been working to raise money to help clothe these two people.

Please understand that the whole appropriation is not meant for these two people only. We can work a part of it for the other people who may need some help, viz., no work during the winter months and sickness.