

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 20

In House of Representatives, Jan. 28, 1915.

Ordered, That five hundred copies be printed, and that the same be referred to the Committee on Claims.

Committee on Reference.

Presented by Mr. McCarty of Lewiston.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE in Favor of DeForest Keyes.

Resolved, That the State Treasurer be and hereby is authorized and directed to pay to DeForest Keyes the sum of \$26,188.66, which said sum is made up as follows, to wit: \$17,695.04 paid by said Keyes for worthless tax titles in the year 1902, and interest thereon at the rate of 4% for twelve years, amounting to \$8,493.62.

Also the sum of \$678.23, which said sum is made up as follows, to wit: \$470.99, paid to the State by said Keyes for worthless tax titles in the year 1903, and interest thereon at the rate of 4% for eleven years, amounting to \$207.24.

Also the sum of \$455.04, which said sum is made up as follows, to wit; \$316.00 paid by said Keyes to the State for worthless tax title deeds for the years 1902 and 1903, with

14 interest thereon at the rate of 4% for eleven years, amount-
15 ing to \$139.04.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

DeForest Keyes, in September of 1902 and the following year bid in a large amount of tax titles on wild lands in this State which had been advertised for sale by the State Treasurer as forfeited to the State by reason of non-payment of taxes. The State Treasurer issued and delivered to Mr. Keyes deeds of conveyance of the supposed right, title and interest of the State in the land in question.

As a matter of fact, the deeds conveyed no title to him, whatsoever; the descriptions being so indefinite that no land could possibly be located or conveyed under them, a defect which our Supreme Court has repeatedly held, rendered the deeds absolutely void. Besides, in a great many instances, no land could be found which in any way responded to the attempted descriptions in the deeds and the deeds themselves in form were absolutely void.

The amounts paid for worthless tax titles and interest thereon, with the amount paid for worthless tax deeds with interest thereon at 4% per annum, amounts to the aggregate sum of \$27,321.93.