

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 320

House of Representatives, Feb. 24, 1915.

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

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE, in favor of the Aroostook River Bridge in the
town of Ashland.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated the
2 sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the purpose of
3 aiding in repairing Aroostook River Bridge so-called, in the
4 town of Ashland provided there be appropriated by the
5 town of Ashland the sum of one thousand dollars for the
6 same purpose; both sums to be expended under the super-
7 vision of the State Highway Commission.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Aroostook River Bridge at Ashland, Me., is a covered bridge 330 feet in length including its approaches. It is situated on the State road running from the town of Masardis, to the line of Nashville Plantation. The bridge has three piers and two abutments.

It is used by the people of the state and county at large, and a great deal of traffic of all kinds passes over it continually. In the winter months many teams from all over the county pass over this bridge in coming into and going from the lumber camps in this locality, and a large amount of supplies, timber and pulpwood pass over the bridge each winter. In the winter season of 1913 and 1914, over 1400 cords of pulpwood passed over this bridge and during the winter of 1914 and 1915 over 2000 cords will pass over it.

In summer this bridge is used by a great multitude of people traveling back and forth in automobiles from outside the State, county and town. This continual passing of heavy loads in winter and heavy automobiles in summer, together with the running ice and logs in spring, has caused the wearing and tearing of the piers and planking of the bridge.

The Aroostook River bridge is a public convenience not to the town of Ashland alone, but to many of our people in the State and county at large.

It seems necessary that this bridge should receive repairs that will cost at least \$3500, which the town of Ashland is not able to expend, to be expended as follows, to wit:

On planking the bridge its entire length.....	\$550
In putting in new ribs to support the bridge....	2,000
In repairing piers.....	600
In repairing abutments.....	350

\$3,500

Besides this bridge the town of Ashland has two other long bridges to maintain, a bridge 160 feet long including the approaches across the Big Machias River, there being a span of 1000 feet. Also the bridge crossing the Little Machias River being 200 feet long including the approaches. It has also twenty-two other bridges in length from ten to thirty feet; and

is not able to make the necessary repairs on the Aroostook River Bridge.

The town of Ashland has a population of only 2100, part of which is floating, to aid in supporting all these bridges which are used and enjoyed by many out of the state and county people.