

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 427

House of Representatives, Feb. 27, 1915.

*Reported by Mr. Woodman from Committee on Claims and
ordered printed under joint rules.*

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE in favor of reimbursing the town of Norridgewock
for money paid out to support Eugene P. Hopkins and
family.

Resolved, That the sum of one hundred ninety-two dollars
2 and thirty-three cents (\$192.33) be and hereby is appro-
3 priated for the year 1915, to be paid to the town of Nor-
4 ridgewock to reimburse said town for pauper supplies fur-
5 nished in 1913 and 1914 to Eugene P. Hopkins and family.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Eugene P. Hopkins came to Norridgewock in September, 1911, with his family, consisting of his wife, Annie B., and children Perley L., aged 10; Arthur E., aged 8; Charles A., aged 6½; Mertie E., aged 4, and Annie M., aged 2 years. They had never resided—either of them—before then, in Norridgewock.

About the fifth of September, 1913, Eugene P. Hopkins and four of the children—Perley, Arthur, Charlie and Mertie, had typhoid fever. They requested legally and received from Norridgewock, pauper supplies to the amount of \$192.33, being medicine, medical attendance, nursing and care and groceries.

The overseers of the poor of Norridgewock seasonably investigated the facts, interrogating said Eugene P. Hopkins, whose statements indicated that the settlement of the pauper was in Washington, Jefferson or Somerville. The statements of Hopkins left the question in some doubt, however, so the Norridgewock overseers of the poor gave notice to Washington, Jefferson, Somerville and also presented a claim to the state on the ground that Hopkins might prove to be a state pauper.

After a careful and thorough investigation of the matter by the overseers of the poor of the several towns notified and by the committee on state beneficiaries, the evidence seems to show a possibility of Eugene P. Hopkins' settlement being still in Whitefield, following the settlement of his mother. Also it appears that the children of Eugene P. Hopkins may possibly have a settlement in Jefferson, following settlement of their mother.

As nothing in the evidence which was adduced in the early stages of the investigation indicated Whitefield as a possible place of settlement of this pauper, three months were passed by, before it was realized how matters stood, and it was then too late to notify Whitefield.

The liability of the town of Whitefield being somewhat uncertain anyway and as the matter, on the whole, does not seem sufficiently clear to warrant the committee on state beneficiaries in allowing the claim and as the town of Norridgewock is plain-

ly not liable, and the amount and circumstances do not warrant a suit at law with either or all of the towns of Washington, Jefferson or Somerville, the town of Norridgewock asks the state to make good what has been paid out, as being the nearest to a just settlement to be had out of this tangled and extremely involved situation. In fact, the town of Norridgewock is acting upon the suggestion of the committee on state beneficiaries, in presenting this resolve.