

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 529

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*House of Representatives, March 4, 1915*  
*Reported by Mr. Peterson from Committee on Agriculture,*  
*and ordered printed under joint rules.*

*C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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RESOLVE, for the Completion of the Purchase of the Farm  
and the Erection of Buildings thereon of the Farm Purchased  
Under the Provisions of Chapter 190 of the Private and  
Special Laws of 1913 for the purpose of Scientific Investi-  
gations in Agriculture in Aroostook County.

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*Resolved*, that there be and hereby is appropriated thirteen  
2 thousand dollars for the completion of the purchase of the  
3 farm and the erection of buildings thereon of the farm pur-  
4 chased under the Provisions of Chapter 190 of the Private  
5 and Special Laws of 1913, for the purpose of scientific in-  
6 vestigations in agriculture in Aroostook County.



## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

*Resolve*, for the Completion of the Purchase of the Farm and the erection of buildings thereon of the Farm purchased under the Provisions of Chapter 190 of the Private and Special Laws of 1913 for the purpose of Scientific Investigations in Agriculture in Aroostook County.

By Chapter 190 of the Public Laws of 1913 the legislature of Maine provided for scientific investigation in agriculture in Aroostook County as follows:

By said Act a farm was to be purchased for certain investigations, which has been done by the committee selected for that purpose. After a full investigation and examination the committee bought a farm in Presque Isle, well adapted to the purpose of said Act, and said farm contained a large barn, but no other buildings. Suitable buildings have since been erected since purchase of farm, and the amount of appropriation by said Act has been paid, and there is now due on the purchase price of said farm and the erection of buildings the amount of \$13,000, and the State ought to own said farm free from all claims and incumbrances, and said appropriation ought to be made to complete the purchase of said farm, buildings, etc.

STATEMENT OF FACT TO ACCOMPANY RESOLVE  
FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE PURCHASE OF  
THE FARM AND THE ERECTION OF BUILDINGS  
THEREON OF THE FARM PURCHASED UNDER  
THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 190 OF THE PRI-  
VATE AND SPECIAL LAWS OF 1913 FOR THE PUR-  
POSE OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS IN AGRICULTURE IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY.

The Legislature of 1913 (Chapter 190 of the Private and Special Laws of 1913) appropriated \$10,000 for the purchase, equipment, and maintenance for the years 1913 and 1914 of an experimental farm in Aroostook County, said farm to be under the management of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station. This action was brought about by a bill introduced at the instance of the Aroostook County Pomona Grange asking for \$20,000 for the purchase of a farm and \$10,000 a year in favor of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station for conducting scientific investigations thereon suited to the conditions and needs of the agriculture of Aroostook County. A committee of seven were named in the act to serve as a committee on purchase with power to decide how the \$10,000 should be expended.

At the first meeting of the committee, held with representatives of the Aroostook Pomona Grange and other citizens of the county interested in its agriculture present, it became evident that: Such a farm as the needs of the county demanded must be located so as to be readily accessible to the citizens; it must have a soil representing the typical soils of the county; it must be of sufficient size so that when new varieties of plants were produced there would be sufficient acreage to produce these quickly in large amounts; and that it must have acreage sufficient to furnish land needed by the United States Department of Agriculture in the studies upon potatoes it is conducting and proposes to conduct in years to come in Aroostook county. This meant a farm of 100 to 150 acres of cleared land with good potato soil, so near to a railroad that it could be readily reached.

After extended correspondence with citizens of the county, it was evident to the committee at its second meeting that the

sum appropriated was inadequate to purchase a suitable farm, even if nothing were set aside for improvement and maintenance. The committee were about to prepare a report to the Governor that they could not carry out the provisions of the act, when they were approached by representative citizens of Presque Isle who said that if the farm were purchased within the limits of the town of Presque Isle that they stood ready to provide for the funds necessary to supplement the act and that they would free the committee from the responsibility of taking the matter to the next legislature for further action. This proposition was discussed in full by the committee at its third meeting. When brought to vote by roll call five members of the committee voted to act in accordance with the offer of the citizens committee and two voted against. The two in the minority accepted the will of the majority and acted with them in all subsequent actions taken by the committee. After careful investigation, the Greenwood farm (now called Aroostook Farm) situated on the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad, with a nearby siding, and on the highway from Presque Isle to Houlton, about one and one-half miles from Presque Isle village, was selected and purchased. The farm contains 275 acres, about half of which is cleared and the remainder in timber. It has upon it a quite new barn, 50 by 100 feet, with a high basement containing potato storage. The barn was built at a cost of about \$5,000. The house had been burned and the citizens committee agreed to provide the funds for the erection of a suitable house at a cost of \$3,000. The price paid for the farm was \$20,000. During the winter of 1914 the rough lumber for the house was cut upon the farm. During the summer a house was erected at a contract price of \$3,000, which was paid by the citizens committee. The total cost of the property is without interest \$23,000. Of this, \$10,000 was paid by the State and a deed for an undivided half was given to the State of the farm and buildings and the property was turned over to the management of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station as provided in the act. The object of the resolve of which this is the statement of fact is to appropriate the \$13,000 needed to complete the purchase and have the whole farm deeded to the State.