

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE NO. 700

House of Representatives, March 13, 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 William F. Mason of Wiscasset, Maine.

Resolved, That the sum of five hundred nineteen dollars
2 and ninety-seven cents be and hereby is appropriated to be
3 paid to William F. Mason of Wiscasset, Maine, to reimburse
4 him for loss occasioned by quarantine on Christmas trees.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

William F. Mason, a long-time resident of Wiscasset, Maine, having previously cut and shipped Christmas trees to market which were inspected by direction of our commissioner of agriculture in compliance with chapter 35, public laws of 1909, wrote to the department of agriculture for the state of Maine, inquiring as to the shipment of Christmas trees out of this state, and on October 25, 1912, received reply that "In sections where the gypsy moth is known to be, either the United States men, or our state men, make an inspection of all trees shipped from those sections." Relying on these instructions, Mr. Mason with his men and teams made an outlay of \$519.97 in cutting and hauling 9400 trees, when, on November 23, 1912, he received word from the commissioner of agriculture for the state of Maine in reply to his request dated November 23, 1912, for an inspection of his trees: "We have no authority to make inspections; they must be made by the United States department. And as this quarantine takes place the 25th, you would not have much time to ship out your trees." Mr. Mason immediately notified the federal authorities and began getting his trees to the railroad station as quickly as possible and when there sought shipment to their destination but was prevented by the United States department, which did not permit, after November 25, 1912, shipment of any trees from his section to their destination. He was, therefore, obliged to remove the trees from the railroad yard at a total loss to him. This loss was occasioned by Mr. Mason's reliance on the advice received from our department of agriculture in the letter dated October 25, 1912, as above stated, and as he can ill afford to stand the loss makes appeal to this legislature to cause him to be reimbursed.