

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 62

In Senate, Feb. 10, 1915.

*Reported by Sen. Conant from Committee on Ways and
Bridges, and ordered printed under joint rules.*

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE, in favor of the town of Canton to purchase its
toll bridge.

Resolved, That the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)
2 be appropriated to aid the town of Canton in Oxford county
3 to purchase the toll bridge of the Canton Bridge Co., to
4 make the same a free bridge and to make such repairs and
5 alterations on said bridge, as shall be necessary to ensure
6 its permanency and safety. The said sum shall be paid by
7 the treasurer of state to the treasurer of the town of Can-
8 ton and so much thereof as may be necessary shall be ex-
9 pended by the selectmen of said town for the purchase of
10 said bridge from said bridge company. Provided that with-
11 in six months after the purchase of said bridge, said town
12 of Canton shall put the same into such a state of repair as
13 shall be approved by the state highway commission; provide

14 it with steel stringers of a character to be approved by said
15 commission; shall forever thereafter keep said bridge in
16 such repair as may be from time to time ordered by said
17 commission and shall maintain the same as a free bridge.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The toll bridge at Canton crosses the Androscoggin river at Gilbertville, so called. It is owned by the Canton Bridge Company and was built some twenty-five years ago at a cost of about thirty thousand dollars. It is 448 feet in length, 18 feet roadway, and built of steel with wooden stringers and flooring. It has one pier and abutments constructed of stone and cement. The Androscoggin river divides the town of Canton in about equal parts, with the business section, in which is located the railroad station, stores, schools, etc., on one side and a large and prosperous farming section on the other.

The bridge is necessary to accommodate the inhabitants of the town as well as people from other towns. The tolls have become burdensome and the people believe that the bridge should be free. The town is unable to purchase the bridge as it has a valuation of only \$326,390 and a tax-rate the present year of three per cent. This bridge is located on the main traveled way between Dixfield, Mexico and Rumford to Lewiston and Auburn and Oxford county towns lying east, and also between Oxford county towns and Jay, Wilton, Farmington and other Franklin county towns. The revenues from the bridge are not sufficient to satisfy the bridge company and they have determined to remove it to some more favorable location unless some arrangement is made for its purchase.