

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 21

House of Representatives, Jan. 24, 1917.

Tabled pending printing under the rules by Mr. Hutchins of Mexico. Five hundred copies ordered printed.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Hutchins of Mexico.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

RESOLVE appropriating money to aid the town of Mexico in purchasing the toll bridge over the Androscoggin River, connecting the towns of Mexico and Rumford.

Resolved, That the sum of fifteen thousand dollars be, and 2 hereby is, appropriated to aid the town of Mexico in the 3 county of Oxford in purchasing the toll bridge of the Rum- 4 ford & Mexico bridge district for the purpose of making the 5 same a free bridge. The said sum shall be paid by the 6 treasurer of state to the treasurer of the town of Mexico and 7 so much thereof as may be necessary shall be expended by 8 the selectmen of said town for the purchase of said bridge

9 from said bridge district and if there is any balance left over
10 it shall be spent in repairing said bridge. Provided that
11 within six months after the purchase of said bridge the
12 towns of Mexico and Rumford shall have put said bridge in
13 such a state of repair as shall be approved by the State
14 Highway Commission and thereafter keep said bridge in
15 such repair as may be, from time to time, ordered by said
16 commission and maintain the same as a free bridge.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

In 1893, under special charter from the Legislature, the Mexico Bridge Company was formed and built by the late Parker Spoffard, who owned practically all the stock of the company, no one else in the locality being interested in the matter financially. This toll bridge connected the town of Mexico and the town of Rumford and is on the main traveled road leading into Rumford from the east.

It has been a sore spot in the community for the last ten years and since 1907 a considerable portion of the people in this vicinity have been advocating the freeing of this bridge. Owing to the fact that the town of Mexico was in debt up to the debt limit there has been no way in which the bridge could be freed, although several bills have been introduced into the Legislature towards that end.

In 1915 a bridge district was formed by special charter of the Legislature known as the Rumford & Mexico Bridge District, but Rumford refused to approve the act and so Mexico alone formed the district and under this act the bridge was appraised, finally, by Chief Justice A. R. Savage, Hon. William T. Cobb and Hon. Paul D. Sargent at \$16,200. The costs of the hearing brought the price paid for the bridge up to \$17,600. The bridge district took possession of the bridge January 1, 1917.

In this resolve we asked the state to appropriate \$15,000 towards freeing this bridge. The bridge is very much out of repair and the towns of Rumford and Mexico will have to spend a considerable sum of money to repair it and the town of Mexico and the people interested in the matter will have to furnish any deficit which the income does not make up in order to free the bridge if this resolve is passed.