

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 258

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*In Senate, March 1, 1917.*

*Reported by Mr. Bartlett from Committee on Appropriations  
and Financial Affairs and ordered printed under joint rules.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

*Presented by Mr. Higgins of Penobscot.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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RESOLVE, providing for the payment for steel filing equip-  
ment in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

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*Resolved:* That there be and hereby is appropriated the  
2 sum of five hundred and thirty-one dollars and ninety-one  
3 cents, to be paid to George W. Merrill of Augusta for four  
4 steel filing cases and twelve steel card cases furnished the  
5 office of the Secretary of the Senate and that there be and  
6 hereby is further appropriated the sum of thirty-nine dollars  
7 and eighty-two cents to be paid to the American Express  
8 Company for the transportation of the same.



## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Every Legislature since 1820 has rejected certain proposed legislation and has ordered filed, petitions and other papers casting important light on the laws in our statutes. These papers were fairly well cared for until the State Capitol was remodelled in 1909-10, when they were dumped into wooden packing cases and stored in an abandoned factory. When the alterations to the building were completed, the boxes were returned and piled, with other papers, rubbish and discarded material, in a room under the dome. There they remained, inaccessible and of practically no use, until the fall of 1916, when, the room being needed for other things, they were piled on the floor of the Secretary of the Senate's office.

When this Legislature convened these papers were piled, like stove-wood, on the floor; a constant fire menace in themselves and further, in great danger of destruction from many causes. In addition they were such a nuisance that it was almost impossible to conduct the business of the Secretary.

On Jan. 19th, the Senate passed the following order:

'Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to procure sufficient steel filing equipment to protect the documents in his office, which are now without protection of any kind; and that the Secretary properly index the same.'

In accordance with this order Geo. W. Merrill of this city was commissioned to furnish the cases at the earliest possible moment. He did so.

Respectfully submitted,

W. E. LAWRY,  
*Secretary of the Senate.*