

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 279

H. P. 440 House of Representatives, Feb. 25, 1927.

Reported by Mr. Gillespie from Committee on Agriculture
and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. King of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN

RESOLVE, Making Appropriation for the Support and
Maintenance of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station.

Resolved: That there be, and hereby is appropriated the
2 sum of twenty thousand dollars for the fiscal year com-
3 mencing July first, nineteen hundred and twenty-seven, and
4 twenty thousand dollars for the fiscal year beginning
5 July first, nineteen hundred and twenty-eight, to be expended
6 under the direction of the Maine Agricultural Experiment
7 Station for supplementing and making more effective the
8 work now being carried on by said station under the federal
9 grant known as the "Hatch Act." This annual appropria-
10 tion is to be applied for general maintenance and for the
11 purposes recommended in the report covering the needs of

12 said station made by a special committee of the Maine
13 Federation of Agricultural Associations on April second,
14 nineteen hundred and twenty-four, including providing
15 quarters for the members of the station staff while on duty
16 at the experimental farms during the summer.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The eighty-second legislature provided (chapter 18, resolves of 1925) an appropriation of twenty-three thousand dollars for the purpose of supplementing and making more effective the work being carried on by the Maine Experiment Station under the federal grant known as the "Hatch Act." This fund has made it possible to greatly increase the efficiency of the station. The Station Council feels that the amount now may be reduced to twenty thousand dollars without materially decreasing the value of the station's work, but it seems imperative that the annual appropriation be continued for that amount.

While most of the salaries and much of the other necessary expenses in connection with the investigation work of the station are provided for by the federal grants, there are numerous expenses in connection with general maintenance for which it is not allowable to use federal funds. Other than this, there is no regular fund for maintenance or contingencies. Ordinary depreciation is not provided for and even emergencies cannot be met. A regular repair fund to cover needs at Aroostook and Highmoor Farms, as well as at Orono, is necessary to maintain the efficiency of the institution, and such must be provided for the most economical upkeep for the plant and its equipment.

The experimental poultry plant at Orono has had only minor repairs for many years and is now in a dilapidated condition. It must be largely rebuilt in the near future, or as fast as funds are made available for this purpose. Federal funds in general cannot be used for the erection, replacement or repair of buildings.

Much of the actual experimentation must be carried on in various parts of the state, more particularly at Highmoor, 100 miles to the west or at Aroostook Farm, 170 miles to the north. This involves a considerable amount of necessary travel expense. To carry on the field work effectively it is necessary for certain members of the station staff to be located at the experimental farms during the growing seasons. The farms are in each instance located some distance from town and no adequate provision has ever been made for these members of the staff who are obliged to spend the summer there. The special committee of the Maine Federation of Agricultural Associations, in

the report referred to in the Resolve, made the following recommendation in this connection.

“In consideration of the great expense and of the time involved in traveling and the difficulty in obtaining living accommodations at either place, it would seem a wise economy to establish some simple living quarters for two or three members of the staff at each place.”