

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 677

H. P. 479 House of Representatives, March 18, 1929.

Reported by Mr. Lowell of Lincoln from Committee on Ways and Bridges and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Harrington of Patten.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, in Favor of the Town of Kingman.

Resolved: That there be and hereby is appropriated from
2 funds available for maintenance of bridges the sum of four
3 thousand dollars to be used in repairing the bridge over the
4 Mattawamkeag river in the town of Kingman, the work
5 to be done under the supervision of the state highway com-
6 mission.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The bridge over the Mattawamkeag river at Kingman is 298 feet 8 inches in length. It was built in 1897 at a cost of over \$13,000 besides the approaches. The state contributed \$5,000, the county \$5,000, and the town did the rest including the abutments. This bridge is now in very bad condition. It has been 20 years since it was painted and the rust is thick on all the iron work. It will have to be scraped all over before painting. The bolts are loose and coming out and the frame work is falling apart in some places. The legislature of 1925 granted the town \$750 to plank it which was done that year, but those planks are worn out and it has cost the town over \$300 to keep it patched and in condition to cross at all the last three or four months and even then it has been unsafe much of the time. There is a large amount of heavy traffic over it all the time particularly spring and fall, very little of which originates in Kingman, or is of any value to the town. It serves a large territory to the east of the town; practically all of the business of Prentiss, Drew, Carroll, Webster Plantation, Springfield and Lakeville has to cross this bridge. There will be 300 cars of potatoes hauled and trucked over it this season, thousands of cords of pulp wood and in the spring hundreds of tons of fertilizer, besides all the freight for the stores in those towns. While the condition of this bridge is bad the condition of the town is worse and it is impossible for Kingman to do anything toward repairing it. The population of Kingman is less than 500 and its valuation this year is \$176,000. The town is in debt over \$15,000 and its tax rate is $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ this year and has been 8% in other years. The reason for this condition is found in loss of industries, tannery, mills, etc. Five bad fires in fifteen years which have destroyed half of the taxable property in the town, or at least \$175,000. Nine stores all well stocked, one with \$40,000, two hotels well furnished with large stables connected, one store house with \$15,000 worth of goods stored in it, one boarding house and finally our school house which had only \$2,000 insurance and cost \$12,000 to replace. Besides this list of misfortunes, Kingman probably has more paupers than any three towns of its size in the state. In their report to the department of public welfare the selectmen reported 47 persons

assisted in 1928, in 1927 it was 50, in 1926 it was 62 and in 1925 it was 71. For the past six or seven years from ten to fifteen per cent of our population have been paupers and several of them have been very expensive ones, utterly helpless and costing a large sum for their care.

Although carrying this tremendous burden of taxation the town has shirked no civic duty. It has maintained 36 weeks of schools, hiring the best teachers available with expert superintendence. It has taken good care of its paupers and this year raised \$1500 for state aid roads.

But the citizens feel they can do no more and if this bridge is to be fixed at all it must be by the state. For every car or truck that crosses this bridge that belongs in Kingman, probably at least fifty cross it that belong elsewhere and the traffic from other places is constantly increasing. It will probably require at least \$4,000 to put it in good condition.

H. T. MILLAY,

W. E. LINSKOTT,

H. D. NOBLE.

Selectmen of Kingman.