

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 70

S. P. 160.

In Senate, Jan. 31, 1929.

Referred to Committee on State Lands and Forest Preservation and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Mitchell of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, Appropriating Money for the Study and Control
of the Birch Saw-Fly Leaf Miner and Birch Case Bearer.

Resolved: That there be and hereby is appropriated the
2 sum of eight thousand dollars for each of the fiscal years
3 1930 and 1931 for the study and control of the birch saw-
4 fly leaf miner and birch case bearer, to be expended under
5 the direction of the forest commissioner.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The epidemic of the Birch Sawfly Leaf Miner which has threatened our white birch during the last three years has reached alarming proportions and if any action is to be taken to save the white birch in the State it should be started immediately. Field studies carried on this past fall and winter show that the white birch, throughout the greater part of its range, is already slowing up in growth. The State has already had seventy per cent of its balsam fir, thirty per cent of its spruce, practically all of its larch and large amounts of other species destroyed by insects, and can ill afford to lose its stands of white birch. Many towns in the State depend almost entirely on white birch for their existence. It is estimated that over five million dollars are invested in the white birch using industries, and the annual payroll is close to one and one-half million dollars. The situation is made doubly serious by the presence of still another new insect found for the first time this past summer in the vicinity of Bar Harbor where it is defoliating white birch and has already spread on to the mainland.