

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 995

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H. P. 627 House of Representatives, March 25, 1931

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

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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RESOLVE, Providing for the Purchase of Two Hundred  
Copies of Maine Province and Court Records, Vol II.

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Maine Province and court records, Vol. II, to purchase  
copies of. Resolved: That the state librarian be, and hereby  
is, authorized, empowered and directed to purchase two hun-  
dred copies of the book entitled Province and Court Records  
of Maine, 1638-1668, from the Maine Historical Society, at  
ten dollars a copy, and that the sum of two thousand dollars  
is hereby appropriated therefor.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Province and Court Records are the earliest public documents covering what is now the State of Maine. The manuscript copies which were placed in the State House and in the Maine Historical Society libraries were made by someone who had great difficulty in reading the seventeenth century handwriting and as a result they are so filled with error that their value for historical purposes is greatly diminished. Since the copies were made, unfortunately some of the original records at Alfred have disappeared and what remains are, of course, subject to fire risk in spite of the fact that they are under better protection than at any previous time. It is of great historical advantage that they be preserved in print.

It cost the Maine Historical Society for copying, editing and printing Volume I of these Records, \$3,465.34. The State purchased 100 copies at \$10.00 per copy, but even with this assistance the Historical Society has lost to date \$1,385.34 on its publication. It is obvious that the Historical Society, with its small resources, cannot afford to continue printing Maine public records on this basis, and it seems only fair that the State should take a larger share of the loss. A sale of Volume II commensurate with that of Volume I only can be counted upon, as unfortunately books such as this are purchased almost exclusively by libraries and not by private individuals.

Some indication of the value of the book can be had from the fact that Volume I was reviewed by every important historical review in America and also in England, and copies were ordered by French and German libraries.