

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E C O N D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 47

S. P. 68

In Senate, January 18, 1945.

Referred to Committee on State Prison. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Cleaves of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

RESOLVE, Providing for Purchase of Land for the Maine State Prison.

Resolved: That the commissioner of institutional service be, and hereby is, authorized to purchase for use by the Maine state prison, land and buildings situated in the towns of Warren and Cushing now owned by George E. Counce, of Warren, according to the terms expressed in an option dated January 12, 1945, and that the sum of \$12,000 hereby is appropriated from the general funds of the state for that purpose; this resolve to become effective upon approval by the governor.

STATEMENT OF FACT

On August 30, 1944, Warden John H. Welch notified the Commissioner of Institutional Service that the firewood and lumber had all been removed from the prison wood lot and that he recommended purchase of the George E. Counce property, adjacent to the prison land, for \$12,000, with the provision that Counce be permitted to occupy the dwelling house and have use of the hennery for the remainder of his life. Mr. Counce is 77.

Pursuant to this request by Warden Welch, the department obtained an appraisal of the property by the state forest service, whose ranger cruised the property and reported in part that by purchase of this land "The requirements of the prison for wood for many years would be assured, or part of the yearly supply could be secured perpetually by conservative annual cutting," and the land includes "a considerable quantity of young white birch which in another ten years would supply some millwood," and if everything except pine went into fuel, the writer believes that the tract would produce 20 cords to the acre, or 5,000 cords, and feels this is a very conservative figure.

The purchase price also includes a barn, hennery and dwelling and about 25 acres cleared land, in addition to more than 250 acres of wooded property. Warden Welch estimates the cleared land and buildings worth \$5,500.

The Forest Service ranger concludes "The writer believes that the location of the land adjoining prison property, the large amount of wood available, the possibility of utilizing all species, sizes and quality for fuel, and the residual value of the bare land for pasture if it is stripped make the purchase of this property at the price asked a wise investment."

Because Mr. Counce had other opportunities to sell this property, the department requested the Attorney General to draw an option to purchase the property which was signed by Mr. Counce January 12, 1945, and under which option the State has paid to Mr. Counce \$500, which is included in the \$12,000 purchase price.

The title has been searched and found clear and the option signed by Mr. Counce is on file with the department.

If this transaction is **not** completed before April 1, the amount of the taxes for the year will be added to the purchase price, and therefore, it is suggested that this act become effective immediately upon approval by the Governor and that the passage of this act by the Legislature be accomplished as swiftly as possible.