

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1846.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820, February 26, 1840,
and March 16, 1842.

Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON,.....PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1846.

RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1846.

ERRATA:

**The following leaf is
inserted because one or more pages
in this chapter have errors
noticed and corrected here.**

STATE OF MAINE.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Augusta, December 31, 1846. }

I hereby certify, that the acts and resolves contained in this pamphlet, have been compared with the originals deposited in this office, and that they appear to be correctly printed, with the exceptions mentioned in the *errata* hereunto annexed.

EZRA B. FRENCH, *Secretary of State.*

ERRATA.

PRIVATE AND SPECIAL LAWS.

Chapter 325, sect. 1, fourth line, for "addition" read "additional"

342, in the approval, for "June" read "July"

391, sect. 4, first line, for "have reimbursed" read "have been reimbursed"

398, sect. 1, ninth line, for "shall be" read "shall not be"

402, page 505, seventh line from the bottom, for "Hasty" read "Hartly"

RESOLVES.

Chapter 477, first line, for "appointed" read "appropriated"

CHAP. 476. forty-eight to be estimated as it was in eighteen hundred and forty-three, when conveyed by the state.

[*Approved August 7, 1846.*]

STATE OF MAINE.

REPORT of the Joint Standing Committee on the Insane Hospital, A. D. 1846.

The committee on the Insane Hospital to whom was referred so much of the governor's message as relates to the Insane Hospital, together with the reports of the trustees, treasurer, steward and superintendent of said hospital, have had the same under consideration and ask leave to submit the following

REPORT.

Your committee, in accordance with the usual custom, have made their annual visit to the hospital and have examined with much care the treatment of the patients and the various accommodations of the institution for their comfort and recovery.

The Hospital under the superintendence of Dr. Ray had attained to some distinction amongst similar institutions in our country. His popularity as a gentleman and a scholar had become associated with the hospital, and it was with feelings of regret that the friends of the institution heard of his resignation as superintendent. Yet your committee are satisfied that the hospital under the direction of the present superintendent, Dr. James Bates, fully sustains the character it had acquired under the government of Dr. Ray.

Family devotions have been established in the hospital, and many of the poor afflicted patients bow around the family altar and offer their evening and morning devotions to the great and good Parent who deigns to hear the supplications of his afflicted insane children. Religious instruction on Sabbath evenings is enjoyed by the patients, and hymns of thanksgiving are heard instead of the wailings of insanity.

The law of love and kindness appears to be the governing power in the hospital, and your committee can with much pleasure assure the legislature and the citizens of this state that they cordially approve of the parental system of government adopted by the officers of this institution, so well calculated to gain the affections of the patients, to soothe their sufferings, and restore them to the enjoyment of reason—the richest of heaven's blessings.

The trustees have purchased an elegant carriage for the accommodation of the patients, which is drawn by a span of fine horses belonging to the hospital. And the patients are frequently seen riding forth in pleasant weather, enjoying with a high zest the pure air of the morning and the rich scenery of Augusta, where the beautiful white cot-

tages are scattered over the landscape, glittering in the sunlight like snow-drops amidst the dark foliage of the shrubbery.

The patients have been furnished through the kindness of friends with many valuable papers and periodicals during the past year, and the library of the hospital has been increased over one hundred and fifty volumes, from the interest on a donation made by the Hon. Bryce McLellan, late of Bloomfield.

The superintendent, in his able report, has presented the public with much valuable statistical information, showing the necessity of sending patients to the hospital in the early stages of the disease. Of those patients admitted to the hospital within three months after being deranged, 62.9 per cent. were cured in one hundred and thirty days; over three months and under twelve months after being deranged, 38 per cent. were cured in one hundred and sixty-four days; over twelve months, only 14 per cent. were cured in two hundred and eighty days. With these facts before us founded on actual experience and observation, we think the public must be convinced of the great importance of an early resort to the hospital to insure speedy restoration to health and to reason.

Your committee also learn that one hundred and seventy-five patients have enjoyed for a season the advantages of this institution during the past year, one hundred of whom were males and seventy-five females, ninety-nine of whom have been admitted during the year. Ninety patients have been discharged, thirty-eight of whom were recovered, twenty-two improved, twenty-three unimproved, and seven of whom died.

Your committee learn from the reports of the trustees, treasurer and steward of the hospital, that there has been an improvement in its financial concerns the past year, by an increase of funds amounting to the sum of three hundred eighty-one dollars and fifteen cents due from towns and from the state for the support of state paupers.

We also learn that although Providence has not smiled as heretofore on the labors of the husbandman, yet the estimated value of the crops raised on the hospital farm during the past year, amounts to the sum of nine hundred nineteen dollars and fifty-two cents, and that all the labor has been performed on the farm by the patients, with the exception of the service of one man at twelve dollars per month; and after deducting board, horse labor, &c., a balance remains in favor of the farm of four hundred and fifty-four dollars.

The trustees have made a reduction in the board of patients the past year, so that the board of males including washing and mending in no case exceeds two dollars and fifty cents, and the board of females not exceeding two dollars per week; in common cases one dollar and fifty cents per week for males, and one dollar and twenty-five cents for females. The result of making the reduction has proved its utility—the number of patients has been increased—the blessings of the institution have been enjoyed by the poor and needy as well as by the more wealthy. The trustees request an appropriation of six hundred two

CHAP. 477. dollars and fifty-eight cents, to cover the expenses incurred in supporting patients directly chargeable to the state, and also the sum of six hundred dollars to aid in defraying the expenses of the hospital the present year, and your committee have included that sum in the resolve which is herewith submitted.

The governor in his message and the trustees of the hospital in their report, have called the attention of the legislature to the importance of enlarging the Insane Hospital, and your committee, after having fully investigated the subject, came to the conclusion that the honor of the state and the good of community require that an appropriation be made for building an additional wing to the hospital. At this time there are eleven more male patients than there are rooms for their accommodation, and the number is daily increasing, and unless the hospital is enlarged those of our fellow citizens who may hereafter need the benefits of this institution must of necessity be excluded for want of accommodations, and forced to seek an asylum in other states after having contributed either by tax or donation to the building and sustaining of the hospital in their own state. From partial returns made in 1844, it appears that at that time there was not less than six hundred insane persons in this state, and that number has probably increased with the increase of population, and that consequently not more than one in six now enjoy the advantages of this institution, nor indeed can they unless the proposed additional wing be built for their accommodation.

At the request of your committee the trustees have furnished a plan for an additional wing to the hospital, together with an estimate of the cost of building the same, made by Mr. Keene of Augusta.

The estimated cost of building said wing amounts to the sum of twenty-one thousand four hundred dollars, and it will accommodate seventy-three patients. It will not be necessary to expend more than eight or ten thousand dollars the present year, for the purchase of bricks, lumber, stone, &c. Your committee have therefore included in the resolve that is herewith submitted the sum of twenty-one thousand four hundred dollars, to be appropriated to building an additional wing to the Insane Hospital, under the superintendence and direction of the trustees of said hospital with authority to expend a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars the present year, and the balance next year.

The plan adopted by the trustees meets the approbation of your committee. The wing is to be built of granite and to be three stories high above the basement. There is to be a kitchen and washroom in the basement story. The other three stories are to be with a gallery in each with a tier of single bed-rooms on one side, and a tier of double bed-rooms on the other which are to be used for the accommodation of the sick patients who may require the constant attendance of a nurse, or for patients who may safely sleep together.

There will be a parlor, dormitory and suitable washrooms in each story, and a verandah, or room with open lattice work, to each gallery,

for a promenade for patients whose health will not permit of greater exposure. There will be eighteen cells at the eastern extremity of the wing for the use of that class of patients that from necessity must be confined.

From the governor's message we learn that an opportunity presents itself for purchasing an addition to the hospital farm. A lot of twenty-six acres of good pasturage adjoining said farm can be purchased for the sum of one thousand and fifty dollars. Your committee are of the opinion that the money would be well invested in the purchase of said lot, and that it would make a very important addition to the farm. Should the lot be purchased, an addition could be made to the stock of cows belonging to the farm, and a sufficient supply of milk, butter and cheese thereby obtained to meet the wants of the patients. Milk is an important item of food; it is cheap, wholesome and nutritious; and your committee are of the opinion that the sum paid for the lot would be saved to the state in a few years in a reduction of the price of board. With this view of the subject your committee recommend that an appropriation be made for the purchase of said lot, and to this end they have included the sum of one thousand and fifty dollars in the resolve that is herewith submitted.

The governor in his message, and the trustees in their report, urge the importance of taking the census of the insane persons in this state. Your committee agree with them on this subject and consequently have reported a resolve for that purpose, which is herewith submitted.

Your committee would remark that it is of the utmost importance that the appropriation should be made to insure the success and prosperity of this institution—an institution worthy the commendation and patronage of every friend of humanity.

Governments are instituted for the protection and happiness of their citizens. And while the legislature of Maine are fostering the great interests of the state, encouraging the development of its resources, aiding the enterprise of its citizens and disseminating the blessings of our republican institutions among the busy multitude, let them remember the afflicted and downtrodden; let them visit the poor prisoner in the prison-house; let them give hearing to the deaf, eyes to the blind, and restore reason to the insane; then shall the welcome plaudit of "well done good and faithful servants," be theirs.

JOSEPH BARRETT, *Chairman.*

Chapter 477.

Resolve making an appropriation for the Insane Hospital.

Resolved, That there be appointed and paid out of the state treasury for the use and benefit of the Insane Hospital, the sum of twenty-three thousand six hundred and fifty dollars to be expended under the superintendence and direction of the trustees of said hospital as follows, to wit; twenty-one thousand and four hundred

Appropriation for
the insane hos-
pital, \$23,650.

CHAP. 478. dollars to be expended in building an additional wing to said hospital, of which, a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars to be expended the present year for the purchase of materials for said building, and the balance to be paid out and expended next year for finishing said building; one thousand and two hundred dollars of the sum hereby appropriated, to be applied to the payment of the expenses of supporting state paupers in said hospital, and for the expenses of the hospital the present year; one thousand and fifty dollars of the sum appropriated by this resolve to be applied to the purchase of twenty-six acres of land adjoining the hospital farm for the use and benefit of said hospital.

[*Approved August 7, 1846.*]

Chapter 478.

Resolve in relation to expenditures of money by the state on roads.

Relative to the expenditure of money by the state on roads.

Resolved, That all moneys appropriated by the legislature at its present session, for the repair of roads may be expended at such time within one year from the date of this resolve, as the person or persons, authorized to expend the same, may judge expedient and proper.

[*Approved August 7, 1846.*]

Chapter 479.

Resolves in relation to taking the census of insane persons and idiots in this state.

Relative to taking the census of insane persons and idiots.

Resolved, That the aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations in this state, are hereby empowered and directed to make a return to the secretary of state, on or before the first day of November next, of the number, sex and age of insane persons, and the number and sex of idiots, having their residence in their respective cities, towns and plantations, on the first day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-six; designating the number and sex of such persons in the Insane Hospital in this state and in other states; the number and sex supported by the public, and the number and sex of such insane persons and idiots (if any) supported in county jails, houses of correction or almshouses.