

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1847.

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

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1847.

RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

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The joint standing 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 superintendent, trustees, and steward of that institution, and other matters relating to that subject, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to submit the following

REPORT :

In making their annual visit had the pleasure of meeting the trustees of the hospital at the institution, and in company with them were conducted through the different apartments, whereby your committee had an opportunity of conversing freely and familiarly with the patients, and your committee take pleasure in being able to say, that they are satisfied, from personal observation, and by making use of every means in their power to get the facts in relation to the treatment of the patients, and the manner in which the affairs of the hospital are managed, that no suffering exists there, either mental or physical, which it is possible for the institution to relieve. Your committee would further say, that in their opinion, the hospital for the insane is a monument alike honorable to the worthy citizens who made liberal donations towards defraying the expenses of erecting, and the state who have completed the building first contemplated, and have since made and are still making important additions and improvements.

It will be seen, by a reference to the report of the trustees of the insane hospital, that two or more of them have, in accordance with the law, which regulates the government of the institution, made monthly visitations, and that they announce with pleasure, its continued prosperity and usefulness, and with that announcement your committee fully and heartily concur.

The report of the superintendent shows an increased number of admissions and recoveries as undiminished public confidence in the institution, but frankly and manfully spreads the information before the world that the increased number of recoveries which have been effected the last year, compared with former years, are not owing to any peculiar management on the part of those who have the care of the institution, but attributes it entirely to the effect of the following order, passed by the board of trustees :

"ORDERED, That the superintendent be authorized to require of those offering patients for admission to the hospital, to stipulate for their continuance at the hospital for a period of six months at least, unless they be sooner restored to a sound mind, or so far recovered, as in his judgment to render it proper that an earlier discharge be granted."

Your committee have copied the above order for the purpose of giving it as wide a circulation as possible, that people, who may be under the necessity of applying for admission for friends or others, may know before leaving their homes, that a stipulation for a six months' residence

CHAP. 38.

at the hospital, will be required, in order to get admittance for an insane person, and also that it may be understood that the prospect of recovery is much better under the above order than otherwise.

The land, the purchase of which was contemplated and provided for by the last legislature, has been purchased by the state, and the deed of the same is on file in the office of the secretary of state. This land furnishes a good, sufficient, and convenient pasture for the cows and horses kept for the sustenance, health and pleasure of the inmates.

There are at present six cows kept at the hospital, which afford a sufficient quantity of milk to supply all the wants; there are also two horses kept for the benefit of those connected with the institution, by the use of which, and the carriage purchased by the state for that purpose, the officers are enabled to take the patients frequently out on an excursion of pleasure, which is found very conducive to the health as well as happiness of the patients.

The average number of patients for the first six months of the present year, is over one hundred, which is a much larger number than an average, for any six months since the erection of the hospital. The new wing is now laid up to the flooring over the basement—the materials have been furnished promptly, as needed—the weather through the spring and summer up to this time, has been, on account of the frequent storms, very unfavorable for the prosecution of the necessary work, by which the masons have been very much impeded, but the work is going forward with great despatch in all suitable building weather—competent and efficient men are employed—every necessary arrangement made for the delivery of materials when needed, and from present appearances the anticipations of the trustees in their report will be realized. Should this desirable result be obtained, the new building must be furnished in order to render it useful the coming winter, and for that purpose the sum of about two thousand dollars will be required.

The trustees have taken efficient means to remedy the defect in the apparatus for bringing the water from the great spring—forty rods of logs have been laid down near the fountain, of two and one-fourth inch bore, and other improvements made with a view to force the water through the lead pipes already laid down. The work is not yet complete, and it cannot at present be ascertained how much expense will be incurred—upwards of two hundred dollars have been expended in accomplishing what is now done. One thing is certain, abundance of water must be had, and we have no doubt the trustees will carry judiciously into effect, their resolve to obtain the needed supply. Should the whole distance require the laying a new pipe, the probable cost will be about one thousand dollars. To enable the trustees to furnish the necessary furniture, repair the aqueduct, re-paint the hospital, and in fine to discharge their duty in accordance with the requirements of the laws, and the necessary wants of the institution, your committee herewith submit a resolve, making an appropriation for the benefit of the hospital, to be expended under the direction of the trustees.

At the suggestion and assistance of the superintendent and trustees of the hospital, your committee have revised and embodied the laws regulating that institution; a bill as prepared by advice of the superintendent and trustees will be submitted hereafter to the consideration of the legislature.

THOMAS GORE, *Chairman.*

Chapter 38.

Resolve making an appropriation for the Insane Hospital.

Resolved, That there be appropriated and paid out of the state treasury, for the use and benefit of the Insane Hospital, the sum of three thousand dollars, to be expended under the superintendence and direction of the trustees of said hospital, as follows : Appropriation for Insane Hospital, \$3,000.

Said sum of three thousand dollars to be expended in procuring furniture for the new wing now in process of erection, in repainting the hospital, and for repair of aquaduct from the spring to the hospital. How to be expended.

[*Approved July 31, 1847.*]

Chapter 39.

Resolve in favor of Houlton and Patten Academies.

Resolved, That the land agent of this state is hereby authorized and directed to convey to the trustees of Patten academy, and also, to the trustees of Houlton academy to each one half township of land situated in the county of Aroostook, said land to be selected by the land agent, and to be equal in value, as near as may be to the east half of township number three, in the fourth range of townships in the county of Aroostook. The land agent, in estimating the value of the land to be granted shall have reference to the value of the above named half township at the time it was conveyed to the trustees of Lee normal school, *provided, however,* that the land agent shall not make the conveyance, herein provided for unless he shall be fully satisfied, on or before the first Monday of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, that the corporators applying for such conveyance, shall have furnished a good and convenient academical building, shall have commenced a school in said building, and shall have corporate property, at least, to the amount of one thousand dollars, over and above the debts of the corporation. Houlton and Patten academies. Proviso.

[*Approved July 31, 1847.*]