

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

FIFTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1875.

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Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,  
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1875.

## GOVERNOR DINGLEY'S MESSAGES.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }  
Augusta, January 19, 1875. }

*To the Senate and House of Representatives :*

I have the honor to lay before you a detailed statement of the expenditures of the State during the year 1874, in order that you may have a full understanding of the nature and extent of the disbursements for every public object, and thereby be able to reduce the appropriations wherever, in your judgment, it may be done without injury to the public interests. Inasmuch as this State has never had an Auditor or Comptroller charged with the special duty of auditing bills and claims, and keeping a thorough system of accounts with a view of reporting to the Legislature the expenditures in detail, it has been found difficult to analyze the disbursements entirely satisfactorily.

It will be seen, as indicated in my recent address to the Legislature, that the expenditures of the State are controlled by considerations of economy to an extent rarely observed in public affairs, and that the opportunities for retrenchment are comparatively few. So far as there may be a reduction of expenditures in any direction without injury to the public interests, I earnestly recommend legislative action to that end.

It will be seen from the accompanying statement that the aggregate expenditures of the State during the last year, after deducting sums which simply passed through the treasury, was \$1,529,259. Of this amount \$1,142,073 was on account of debt, and for educational purposes, and \$60,394 for special and exceptional appropriations, leaving about \$326,792 as the current ordinary expenses of the State.

I have already indicated my judgment that the annual expenditures on account of the public debt, should be reduced from about \$670,000 to \$450,000, and I need not repeat my views here. Justice to the brave men who perilled their lives in defence of the country, requires a continuance of aid to soldiers' families. I suggest that whatever appropriations may be hereafter made to the Bath Home and the Bangor, or any other Orphan Asylum, shall be a fixed sum for each orphan of a soldier admitted to either institution on recommendation of the Governor and Council. In

this manner, the aid extended will be confined to the soldiers' orphans, as intended. I suggest that the resolves providing for miscellaneous pensions, which have been passed from time to time be carefully examined for the purpose of ascertaining if some of them should not be repealed.

Of the expenditures for educational purposes, nearly \$400,000 is divided among the several towns and cities, and reduces municipal appropriations for public schools to that extent. In my judgment, the attendance upon teachers' institutes has been so small for the past few years, that the State is not justified in further continuing the appropriation of \$4,000 for this purpose. I suggest that, instead of this, the State Superintendent visit each county, hold meetings of school committees, confer with friends of education, address the people at various points on educational topics, and by every means in his power endeavor to awaken new interest in our public schools. A small appropriation for expenses will be all that is necessary to carry out this plan.

I simply direct your attention to the expenses of the Legislature, and doubt not that you will give them the attention they deserve. I suggest that the full compensation of the subordinate officers of the Senate and House be established by law, in the same manner as that of the members and of the presiding officers. I suggest, also, that the amount of stationery to be annually distributed to each member of the Legislature by the Secretary of State, be determined by law, and not be left to a doubtful custom which calls for an annual expenditure of about \$3,700 for that purpose.

As the laws are promulgated by means of "extras" distributed by all the newspapers of the State, soon after the close of each session, there would seem to be no necessity for longer continuing in force the resolve which requires them to be advertised also in the State paper.

For several years the Messenger of the Council has also served as Private Secretary of the Governor, in addition to performing other miscellaneous duties. I recommend that a Messenger be hereafter employed only when the Council is in session, and that the appropriation for this purpose be reduced accordingly. I also recommend that the compensation of Councillors, both when acting in Council and when acting on committees in recess, be made definite by law, instead of being made to depend upon the construction which has so long been given by custom.

If County Attorneys are to continue beyond the control of the State authorities, there would seem to be a propriety in having their salaries paid by counties instead of the State. I suggest that the expense of arresting fugitives from justice ought not to be borne by the State, but by the counties, as in the State of New York. I also direct your attention to the practical workings of

the law authorizing justices of the Supreme Court to allow compensation from the State Treasury to counsel for prisoners.

Attention is directed to the expenditures of the several departments. Undoubtedly, care will be taken to restrict the appropriations for deputies, clerks, postage, printing, binding, &c., within the narrowest limits consistent with the public interests. I am assured that the heads of the several departments, and the State Librarian and Superintendent of the Public Buildings, will heartily cooperate with the Legislature in every measure to this end.

I suggest the propriety of discontinuing the appropriations for transportation of public documents. Towns and individuals which desire documents printed at the public expense ought not to ask the State to also pay for transporting them.

The appropriations for the State Volunteer Militia, and an Annual Military Encampment, as well as those for re-stocking our rivers with food fishes, will undoubtedly be carefully considered. A little more than half of the \$18,000 expended for objects relating to the encouragement of agriculture, is appropriated for the voluminous and valuable report of the Secretary, embodying not only the proceedings of the Board of Agriculture, but also all the papers read in full, in two volumes containing about seven hundred pages. If a smaller number of copies of a pamphlet in paper covers, of less than half the size, embodying only the proceedings and a brief abstract of the papers, could be substituted for the present report, several thousands of dollars might be saved, should the Legislature consider such a course advisable.

The expenditures on account of the Insane Hospital (including about \$8,000 on account of expenditures of Hospital in 1873,) Reform School, State Prison, support of paupers in unincorporated places, education of deaf, dumb and blind, and aid to Indians, have nearly reached \$130,000. I invite special attention to the appropriations for these objects. The expenditures of the several State institutions are made by the several Boards which have them in charge.

I have already recommended such legislation as will not only make the office of Commissioner of Insurance self-sustaining, but also will secure a revenue to the State. Inasmuch as it was intended that all expenditures on account of the Railroad Commissioners should be paid by the several railroad corporations, I suggest legislation providing that the expense of their annual report be included in the assessment.

The expenditures for printing and binding during the past year were about \$33,000; of which a little more than \$7,000 was for binding, and a little less than \$26,000 for printing. At least half the expense of printing, however, consists in the paper used. The

large expense for printing and binding is not due to excessive contract rates—for so far as the contracts apply to most of the classes of printing and binding the prices are very low,—but to the large amount of printing and binding ordered by the Legislature, or required by existing laws. The printing contract should establish a definite rate per page for each engrossed bill or resolve. It will be seen that the printing and binding of the Legislature, the Agricultural Report, and the Reports of the Superintendent of Common Schools, and of the Insurance Commissioner,—all of which may be reduced—comprise more than three-fourths of all the expenditures for these purposes. Probably you will find it expedient to so modify existing laws as to reduce the amount of printing and binding to a very considerable extent. As the expense of printing and engrossing the numerous acts of incorporation, which are for the benefit of private parties, is large, it might be wise to impose a charter fee on such private legislation, as is done in many other States.

I suggest legislation providing that all the stationery and other supplies required for the several State officers and the Legislature, be purchased by some State officer under the direction of the Governor and Council, and accounts be kept of the distribution of the same. Also that the public documents distributed to towns be placed in the hands of the Librarian or Superintendent of Public Buildings, to be forwarded by him in one package. Should it be deemed advisable, a considerable sum might be saved by distributing only those documents which will be likely to be of advantage to the public generally.

Without indicating further appropriations which may be reduced if it shall seem advisable, I submit the accompanying detailed statement of expenditures for your careful consideration.

NELSON DINGLEY, JR.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }  
Augusta, January 22, 1875. }

*To the President of the Senate:*

In response to your order requesting a statement of the receipts and expenses of the Insurance Department, I have the honor to lay before the Senate the accompanying accounts.

NELSON DINGLEY, JR.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }  
 Augusta, January 23, 1875. }

*To the Speaker of the House of Representatives:*

In reference to the order of the House, asking what action, if any, has been had by the Governor and Council and Adjutant General on certain claims referred to them by resolve of the Legislature approved February 27, 1873, I have the honor to inform you that it does not appear from the journal of the Council of 1873 that any action was taken on that subject in that year. The resolve was brought to the attention of the Council of 1874 and the character of the claims partially investigated; but in consequence of a decided difference of opinion as to their merits, and in view of the fact that their allowance would involve a much larger sum than had been supposed, for the payment of which no appropriation had been made, it was thought proper to remit the claims to the Legislature.

NELSON DINGLEY, JR.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }  
 Augusta, February 24, 1875. }

*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

I transmit herewith a list of the Acts and Resolves passed during the present session of the Legislature, and approved by me, numbering 254 Acts and 106 Resolves.

I have no further communication to make.

NELSON DINGLEY, JR.