

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1861.



AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1861.

FORTIETH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 1.

MEMORIAL

Of the Maine State Agricultural Society, for a renewal of their Annual Stipend.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in
Legislature assembled, January, 1861:*

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned, a Committee chosen by the Maine State Agricultural Society, are directed to appear before your honorable body in their behalf, and to respectfully represent that in 1856 the Society aforesaid was chartered by the Legislature and made thereby a body corporate; that by said act it was endowed with an annual stipend from the State of one thousand dollars, which stipend was to be continued for five successive years from the date of said act. They would further represent that the annual receipt of this amount has been of very material benefit in enabling the Society to carry on its operations, not only as one of its elements of fiscal strength, but as a State sanction and encouragement in its endeavors to become an agent of public good. It has been of great service in aiding them to hold annual exhibitions in different sections of the State, as the law required them to do, to the great benefit and improvement, as they believe, of the agricultural interests of Maine. They would further represent that the time of the continuance and annual payment of the stipend aforesaid, as provided in the statute, has expired. We, therefore, would respectfully solicit your honors to not only renew the annual aid thus far ex-

tended to the Society, but to enlarge its amount to such sum as your honors may deem adequate to give the Society greater strength and efficiency in the important duties which devolve upon it.

We deem it unnecessary to spend time in any endeavor to impress upon gentlemen, so well informed in agricultural matters, the great importance of an active, healthy and well-encouraged agriculture to the strength and prosperity of the community.

It has been wisely said by our Chief Magistrate, that this pursuit "is the foundation of all material wealth and strength—its achievements are the measure of the external improvements and progress of a people."

The history of all civilized nations proves that moneys appropriated to the promotion of this indispensable branch of industry, are among their most productive investments; and those who have been observant of the progress of things in Maine, are well aware that the impulse given by State aid to agricultural societies has lifted the State to an eminence among our sister states, gratifying to those who have the welfare and good reputation of Maine at heart.

The money paid for the encouragement of agriculture, is, in a pecuniary point of view, a very insignificant per centage on the amount accruing to the State from taxes freely and cheerfully paid by the farmers. A reference to our State valuation will show you that only *five cents* on a *thousand dollars* will give a sum of eight thousand dollars.

From these considerations, and such others as will readily occur to your honors, we feel assured that you will readily and cheerfully grant our request, and vote us a liberal endowment, thereby placing the Maine State Agricultural Society on a strong and permanent foundation for a long series of years.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

JOHN F. ANDERSON,
E. HOLMES.

CERTIFICATE.

At the annual meeting of the Maine State Agricultural Society, held at the State House January 22, 1861, it was voted that the President, John F. Anderson, and the Secretary, E. Holmes, be chosen a Committee to solicit the Legislature to renew the annual stipend hitherto paid to the Society from the State.

E. HOLMES,

Secretary Maine State Ag. Society.

A true copy from the records—Attest:

E. HOLMES,

Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 24, 1861.

On motion of Mr. BENSON of Penobscot, laid on the table, and
350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

EZRA C. BRETT,

Secretary pro tem.