

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1863.

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1863.

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# FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 8.

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## REPORT.

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The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the Memorial of the Androscoggin County Agricultural Society, praying for the endowment of a Department of Agriculture in the Maine State Seminary, together with sundry petitions in aid thereof, ask leave to report that said memorialists and petitioners have leave to withdraw.

The Committee ask further leave to report a Resolve making a conditional grant to the Maine State Seminary, which Resolve is herewith submitted.

The movement to establish a Department of Agriculture in the Seminary was initiated in 1859, and has been before each legislature since that year. By the passage of the act of Congress for the endowment of agricultural colleges, the question has assumed a new aspect, and in the judgment of the committee it is not expedient to divide the bounty and energies of the State in establishing departments of agriculture in various institutions, but rather to concentrate the entire resources at command for that purpose on a single point.

The Seminary at Lewiston, withdrawing through its official head all claim or desire to be made the Agricultural College of Maine, presented to the committee a new proposition, of such a noble and generous character that it at once secured unanimous support. The capitalists of Boston who are expending such vast sums in manufacturing enterprises in Lewiston, thus largely adding to the wealth and population of our State, are desirous of enhancing, as far as may be, the educational advantages of that young and prosperous city.

They propose therefore, to give to the Maine State Seminary, FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CASH, *provided* an equal amount shall be raised by the immediate friends of the institution. It is the confident belief of those friends that they will be able to secure, by private subscription, a considerable portion of the required sum, and to assist in reaching the total amount they ask the Legislature to make a donation of lands to the extent of three half townships.

In the judgment of the Committee it is highly expedient to make the grant—expedient, because by so doing a large amount of money will be secured to aid in building up one of the most useful of our Educational Institutions—expedient, because the Legislature of Maine should not fail to do any thing fairly within its power, to testify its appreciation of the enterprising liberality of gentlemen, (residents of another State,) who are determined to make of Lewiston the first manufacturing city of New England.

At the most favorable valuation that can be placed on the lands proposed to be given, it leaves upon the Seminary the burden of raising three times the amount in money; and we do not hesitate to declare that in the whole history of legislative grants in this State, no proposition of equal liberality on the part of individuals, and of equal public advantage, has been presented for consideration.

The Boston subscribers to the fund of fifty thousand dollars, are confident in the belief that the Legislature will meet their proposition in a spirit of becoming liberality. To do so is to secure not only the munificent gift now tendered, but the future valuable aid and cooperation of those enlightened capitalists, who, in advancing the material interests of the city of Lewiston, are not forgetful of the demands made by its educational wants.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Per order.

C. B. ABBOT.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE making a conditional grant to the Maine  
State Seminary.

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*Resolved*, That for the establishment of a department  
2 of natural science in the Maine State Seminary at  
3 Lewiston, the land agent is hereby directed to convey  
4 to the trustees of said seminary three half townships  
5 of land of average value; *provided* that said convey-  
6 ance shall be null and void and the title to said land  
7 revert to the state, unless within three years from the  
8 first day of May next the trustees of said seminary  
9 shall raise by subscription the sum of fifty thousand  
10 dollars in cash, and have the same actually paid into  
11 the treasury of said seminary to the satisfaction and  
12 approval of the governor and council.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
March 4, 1863. }

Presented by Mr. ABBOT of Glenburn, and on motion of Mr. LOTHROP of Leeds, laid upon the table and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

CHARLES A. MILLER, *Clerk.*