

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1865.

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1865.

FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 48.

The Committee on Insane Hospital, having considered the recommendations of the Trustees and Superintendent for an enlargement of the accommodations of the hospital, ask leave to submit the following report and accompanying resolve :

It is clearly evident from the testimony submitted to the committee that the present capacity of the hospital buildings are inadequate to the wants of the people of Maine. The personal examination of the committee sustained the testimony of the Trustees and Superintendent. The hospital was established to afford equal opportunities to all the citizens of the State who desire their unfortunate friends should share its advantages. It is admitted to be a wise and humane institution, worthy of the fostering care of the State. At the present time it is impossible to accommodate the public wants, and it is manifest that such will continue to be the fact in the future unless more hospital room is provided. It is a well attested truth that the number of insane persons have increased in consequence of the war. There can be no possible advantage to the State in delaying the proposed enlargement. The Superintendent in his report says :

“The same need for further hospital accommodations, which has existed for several years past, alluded to in former reports, still continues ; and we cannot, in justice to the suffering insane of the State, refrain from calling your attention to the subject once again. We are glad to know that the last Legislature seriously considered the matter, and took some initiatory steps towards the erection of a new wing for female patients.

“The Trustees were authorized to procure plans and specifications for such a wing, and report to the next Legislature. It is hoped when that report is laid before the honorable body, it will receive

such attention as the importance of the subject demands, and that an appropriation will be made to commence operations at once. If the work should be commenced early the ensuing spring, some two years would necessarily elapse before the wing could be ready for occupation; therefore, the earlier the movement is made, the sooner the want will be relieved."

The language of the Trustees is equally direct and explicit. They give their opinion as follows:

"The present accommodations of the Hospital are suited for 250 patients only; but much of the time during the last two years a greater number have been provided for, by placing additional beds in several of the more spacious dormitories, and having them occupied by patients of the more quiet and orderly class. This arrangement is, however, considered to be only temporary, in the hope that the Legislature will provide for further accommodations at an early day.

"In conformity to a resolve passed by the last Legislature, the Trustees have procured the services of an architect to form a plan for an additional wing to the Hospital edifice, and to furnish an estimate of its cost. The architect, Mr. F. H. Fassett, has attended to that service, and his proposed plan and estimate of expense (\$36,000) we append to this Report.

"We feel some embarrassment as to urging the immediate erection of this addition to the building, because of the large drafts on the Treasury of the State in consequence of the war; but still, we cannot well avoid re-affirming our conviction of the almost indispensable need of such an enlargement. This subject was considered at some length in the Report of the Superintendent in 1859, on page 17, and also in the Report of the Trustees in 1860, on pages 8 and 9, in which was urged, amongst other considerations, the great desirableness of a further classification of patients than present accommodations render possible. The suggestions then made need not be here repeated, but we trust the Legislature will give them their due weight."

In order that the proposed enlargement may be made with sound economy it is necessary that the builders should have two years for its completion. Should the work be hastened it could not be so well performed and would cost more. Should the commencement of the work be postponed another year, three years at least

would elapse before the people of the State could have the increased hospital accommodations which are imperiously needed. The estimated cost of the proposed enlargement is thirty-six thousand dollars. In order to perform the work to the best advantage to the State, to procure the stone, obtain the lumber, provide the necessary building material, secure the foundation, erect the walls, cover the roof, &c., the committee recommend the appropriation named in the accompanying Resolve.

Per order of the Committee.

N. P. MONROE, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the insane hospital.

Resolved, That the sum of twenty thousand dollars
2 be appropriated and paid out of the treasury, out of
3 any money not otherwise appropriated, for the erection
4 of a new wing to the insane hospital, agreeably to the
5 plan and specifications of F. H. Fassett, now in the
6 office of secretary of state, to be expended under the
7 direction of the trustees of the hospital.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 17, 1865. }

Reported by Mr. MONROE, from the Committee on Insane
Hospital.

HORACE STILSON, *Clerk.*