

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

BEING THE

REPORTS



PUBLIC OFFICERS
DEPARTMENTS AND
INSTITUTIONS

FOR THE EIGHTEEN MONTHS

JANUARY 1, 1921-JUNE 30, 1922

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

of

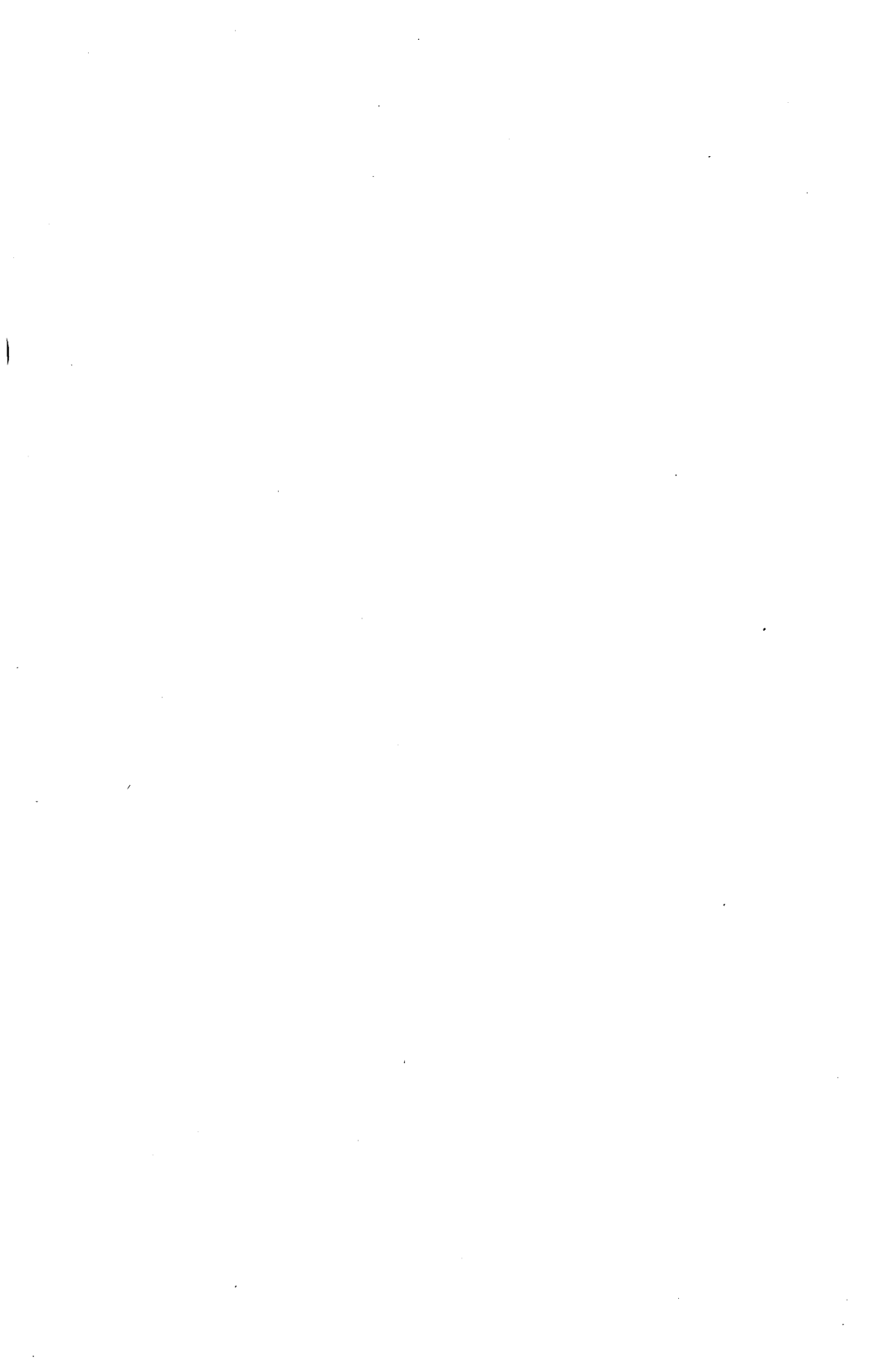
Governor Frederic Hale Parkhurst

to

The Eightieth Legislature

State of Maine

January 6, 1921



Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of
Representatives:

By solemn oath we have accepted the responsibility of performing the duties imposed upon us by the electorate of Maine.

This obligation is personal. Its fulfillment requires from each of us earnest, individual effort. Our conduct should be actuated by the single purpose of serving well the State of Maine.

Maine, recovering from the stress and turmoil of war, faces with confidence a future pregnant with bright possibilities that may be made certainties by the united action of her patriotic citizens.

Inspired by a consciousness of the greatness of their State and devoted to a common purpose, the people of Maine are developing her resources. The tide of emigration that for seventy years past has set so strong away from Maine, is now, I believe, turning toward Maine, and justifies the expectation of a marked increase in population in the present decade.

Believing in the future of Maine and prepared to evidence that belief by faithful service, we may, while solving the difficult problems incident to reconstruction, find the open road to growth and development.

Some of Our Problems

More than seventy-five percent of the power now used in the United States is produced from coal; more than seventy percent of all coal mined is used

in making power, and coal furnishes more than a third of the freight tonnage carried on our railroads. The economic difficulties, experienced in obtaining and transporting coal and of producing from it low cost power, constitutes a serious handicap that is being overcome to a great degree in Maine by hydro-electric development of our water powers. Such development by private capital under State regulation, should be encouraged by conservative legislation protecting capital in its investment as to principal and interest, but always subject to the provision that power developed must be used in Maine, for power must be made available before we can attract manufacturing and agricultural growth to utilize it. The difficulties mentioned are forcing large users of power in manufacturing or in transportation to seek hydro-electric power, and Maine's ability to furnish this power will bring many industries into the State and assure the growth of existing industries provided we can guarantee manufacturing and agricultural interests transportation of needed raw materials and of their finished products.

Transportation Difficulties

The problems of railroad operation resulting from the disruptive management during federal control are serious everywhere, but, owing to local conditions, doubly so in Maine. During the period when the owners of Maine railroads were denied control of their property the expenses of operation were increased more than were the returns from advances in passenger and freight rates. The Government controlled, absolutely, wages, operating costs and earnings. On the termination of

governmental control, last August, the owners of Maine railroads received from the Government crippled roads operating under fixed charges, that equalled and in some instances exceeded revenues, and are today without power to reduce their fixed charges or increase their revenue.

Although the electric railroads of Maine were not under government control they have suffered indirectly.

It is our duty to investigate carefully the conditions surrounding the operation of railroads in Maine, and to provide such relief as the existing circumstances demand. It is vital to the development of our State that the present transportation facilities be made more effective and that they be so increased that we may have in Maine our adequate share of this controlling factor in modern commercial life.

Agriculture and Roads

For the service of short haul transportation, particularly of the bulky agricultural products, and of pleasure travel into and throughout the State, good roads are an absolute necessity. Measuring present road conditions by those which obtained fourteen years ago, when the first constructive good roads legislation was adopted, great advancement has been made in construction, and a vastly increased mileage of good roads provided. The development of the system of good roads already initiated will very greatly stimulate the future growth of Maine. We should observe a liberal attitude toward new road construction, make adequate provisions for the upkeep of the roads that have been constructed, enact laws regu-

lating and controlling the operation of motor vehicles, and make due provision for the enforcement of such laws.

Our agricultural, manufacturing and business interests are suffering keenly from shrinking values and unemployment, due to the world-wide depression growing out of after-war conditions, and we face serious problems of reconstruction and the obligation of seeking a safe and sane level upon which we may rebuild industry, and give profitable employment to labor and fair return to invested capital. Modern industry is more and more dependent upon skilled operators. This need in agriculture is now being served by the State Agricultural Department and through the various bureaus at the University of Maine, and to afford additional aid to those who are occupied in agricultural pursuits I trust you will study the conditions of farm life, production, transportation, marketing, and enact legislation which may seem to you helpful to the farmer. In manufacturing, the supply of skilled operators should be met by the establishment, on broad lines, of a technical vocational school, where thorough practical training could be given and an intimate study made of the problems involved in the conduct of industries now located in, or suitable for, establishment in Maine.

Our fisheries give employment to many thousands of persons. The resulting product totals many millions of dollars. Our tidal coastline, which is nearly as great in mileage as the combined tidal coastline of all the other Atlantic states, is the natural base from which to develop the fishing industry. In order to take full advantage of these natural opportunities a school of fisheries should be

established. Such a school now exists in Seattle, at the State University of Washington, where courses are given in the canning and curing of fish, in the study of the habits and diseases of fish, in the protection and propagation of fish life, in navigation, in the operation of gas engines, and in other related subjects. I urge careful inquiry into the advantage to be gained from the location of such a school in Maine.

Improve Labor Standards

Continued effort should be made to improve the standards of labor conditions in Maine and to better factory conditions. I recommend consideration of the enactment of a forty-eight hour law for women and for minors under sixteen, and the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act so as to increase the weekly allowance and to reduce the period of non-payment.

Forest Reserve and Water Flow

By sound principles of public policy, reinforced by party pledge, we are committed to the establishment of a State park and forest reserve, to the conservation of our forests, to a program of reforestation of cut-over and burned land, and to the development of waterpower resources within the State.

The successful economic development of hydroelectric power is in a great degree controlled by the regularity of water flow. The creation, under State regulation, of storage reservoirs at the headwaters of our rivers is a necessity. A careful inquiry should be made into all related questions, and a study made of the effect of the Federal Water-

power Act upon the development and control of Maine's waterpowers.

The continued flow of water in our streams and rivers depends upon the existence of our forests. Fire is at all times a grave menace. The protection provided by the Maine Forestry District Act should be continued and extended, and increased protection given to the lesser forest areas in the incorporated towns now outside the forestry district.

Our School System

The continued development and improvement of our common school system is of vital importance; educational problems should be met in a broad and comprehensive spirit, for the common school system has been a controlling factor in the development of New England character, as New England character has been an influencing factor throughout the Nation. A liberal policy should be adopted toward all institutions of learning.

Shifting Burdens from Town to State

During the past twenty-five years, giving effect to the policy adopted by earlier legislatures, Maine has assumed an increasing portion of the burden incident to the support, restraint and professional care of the different classes of unfortunates who are public charges. The continuance of this program is sanctioned by sound public policy, because the taking over of this obligation by the State does not necessarily increase the burden, but shifts it from the individual or the town, to the State, where it can be more economically handled and where expert professional treatment provides an

opportunity for cure. Our penal and charitable institutions, and the State aid given to dependent mothers and to neglected and dependent children, should be administered with the avowed purpose of bringing these unfortunates to a physical and mental condition that will equip them for a useful life, and these measures relieving suffering should be extended as far as the resources of the State will allow.

I urge careful study of all related problems and suitable appropriations for continuing and increasing this policy of State aid.

Maine's Patriotic Response

The record of Maine's patriotic response to the call for service in the World War illumines one of the brightest pages in the history of our State. In the spring of 1917 when the regular army, but little greater in number than the police force of metropolitan New York, needed voluntary enlistments, a call was issued for 180,000 men, and existing National Guard units were inducted into Federal service. In Maine enlistments were greater in proportion to population than in any other state in the Union, excepting only Oregon. To every call for contribution, whether for the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Y. M. C. A., K. of C., or for subscriptions to the Liberty Loan, Maine went over the top. The quality of service given by the sons and daughters of Maine on the battlefields of Europe make a glorious page in the State's record. Wherever stationed the men and women of Maine were ever in the front ranks and always completely responsive to the call of duty. Recognition has already been made by legislative action. We should

at every opportunity render full justice to all who were in service, doing this as a voluntary recognition of sacrifice made in behalf of our country. A movement has been started for placing monuments in the different battle areas of Europe, where bodies of Maine troops were engaged. A suggestion has been made that the New England states, whose levies made up the splendid Yankee Division, should join in erecting these monuments. I urge you to act in these matters, cooperating fully with the other New England states and with the Federal Government.

Salary Adjustments

The State is entitled to have, and should require, full efficiency in service from every employee, and, in return for that service, should pay a salary fairly commensurate with the responsibility of the employment, so that men and women of adequate ability to perform the duties of the positions may be secured. Measured by this standard the sum paid by the State to its employees is in many instances inadequate, and I urge careful inquiry to the end that this injustice may be corrected by a readjustment of salaries.

The utmost care should be exercised in all expenditures for governmental purposes, and every detail of service should be made to function with the same efficiency that characterizes the well-managed private business, and in this connection I recommend to you a reorganization and consolidation of the various administrative and executive departments, boards, and commissions, and a codification and grouping of the various enactments relating to these subjects.

We should develop the budget system recently made operative by legislative enactment, so that it may adequately accomplish its proper function of preventing duplication of appropriations and of furnishing full and reliable information to the Legislature—the body which under our Constitution possesses the sole power to impose taxes and to make appropriations—to the end that each Legislature, having full information of past receipts and expenditures, and of present requirements and resources, may make intelligent and suitable appropriation of the sums available.

Measure Our Needs and Funds

It is indeed unfortunate that Maine's resources will not allow the immediate accomplishment of all worthy projects, but we must measure our appropriations by available funds. The State itself has no money. It possesses the power to take money by taxation, but the power to so take must be exercised sparingly, without discrimination and with a complete realization that a tax levy is justified only when absolutely necessary for the requirements of a well-ordered government. Excessive taxation will arrest development and may amount to confiscation of property. It is your duty to balance the scales and determine when to give and when to refuse appropriations.

We are now passing through a grave economic disturbance; private resources are depleted, earnings are diminished and exigencies of business conditions impose upon us the obligation of limiting our tax levies and keeping our appropriations

at the lowest possible point, and of postponing, so far as it is possible to do so, new construction to a more opportune period.

Year's Receipts and Expenditures

For your information I submit herewith a summary of the receipts and expenditures during the fiscal year of 1919 (the final figures for the year 1920 are not yet available) so classified as to give in groups that are convenient for comparison and reference the sums received from different sources and the amounts expended for different purposes.

The amounts given include the receipts from the several tax levies and the expenditures of the money so received.

I have purposely excluded sums taken into the Treasury by payment of licenses and fees, which as is the case with automobile licenses, fish and game licenses, are used in the several departments for special purposes as prescribed by law and that represent sums not raised by a tax levy.

In the Fiscal Year of 1919 the State of Maine Expended

For administration of justice.....	\$102,657 00
For legislative sessions	170,653 00
For interest and sinking fund.....	189,452 00
For Blaine House	90,675 00
For public buildings and grounds.....	55,002 00
For executive departments	417,859 00
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Total expenditures for executive and departmental purposes	\$1,026,298 00
For war purposes	\$584,447 00
For soldiers' pensions, National Guard and other items in Adjutant General's office	237,979 00
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Total expenditures growing out of war activities	822,426 00
For amount due Indians under treaty obligations	35,998 00
For charitable institutions, prisons, reform schools, hospitals, mothers' aid, neglected children, and kindred purposes.....	1,566,323 00
For encouragement of agriculture.....	\$146,647 00
For propagation of fish and game, and enforcement of game laws.....	53,679 00
For fire prevention, forest preservation...	132,109 00
For good roads, bridges, and maintenance of roads	848,937 00
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Total expenditures for State development	1,181,372 00
For all educational purposes.....	2,477,213 00
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Total expenditures for 1919.....	\$7,109,630 00

In the Fiscal Year of 1919 the State of Maine Received

From direct tax levy—State tax at rate .007½	\$4,471,539 00
From corporate franchise taxes.....	\$295,139 00
From tax on banks and trust companies..	409,893 00
From tax on insurance, express, telephone and telegraph companies, parlor and sleeping cars, steam and electric railroads, less sum returned to towns.....	1,747,325 00
From tax on collateral inheritances.....	411,890 00
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Total amount from indirect taxation.....	2,864,247 00
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Total net receipts from tax levies....	\$7,335,836 00

A New Force for Good

The year 1920 will ever be remembered as the year in which full suffrage was granted to woman, whose presence in the electorate constitutes a potent force for good government.

The obligations of citizenship require participation in elections, for elections offer the natural channel through which personal influence may be exerted upon governmental action. In order that such participation may be possible on the part of every citizen entitled to the ballot but who from illness or other reason may be unable to reach the polls, I recommend to you the wisdom of enacting a law providing for "absentee voting."

A Grave Menace

A condition universally known to exist but not easily explained, evidenced by a world-wide unrest, a breaking down of established governments, by attacks on existing political institutions, by an openly declared intention of overthrowing personal and property rights and destroying representative government, as we enjoy it, threatens the continuance of well-ordered government throughout the world. Facing this grave menace to our State and country, accepting as we must the world-wide evidence of a vicious conspiracy to delude the people and destroy the spirit of nationality, to violate human rights under constituted government and to overthrow law and order, it becomes our solemn duty as the official representatives of the people, to take adequate but well considered measures to guard against this grave danger to society.

Reread Platform Pledges

The opposing political parties at each election submit to the electorate a statement of their attitude on public questions. These declarations of party faith, accepted by party candidates, are binding upon those who are chosen, as we have been, to make effective these platform declarations, and in order that this obligation may be fully met I venture to suggest a rereading of our respective party platforms.

In your devotion to Maine and your concern for her welfare I have every confidence, and upon your cooperation I implicitly rely. From time to time, as occasion may arise, I shall give you information as to the condition of Maine, and recommend for your consideration such measures as may seem expedient.

I shall be ever mindful of the constitutional provision imposing upon me, as Governor, the solemn and responsible duty of taking care that the laws be faithfully executed.

In our efforts to faithfully discharge our respective duties let us seek that Divine guidance without which our efforts would be in vain.