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State of Maine

Report of

State Historian

1907-8

STATE OF MAINE.

REPORT

OF THE

STATE HISTORIAN.

1907—1908.

It is the increased facility of access to the national archives that has contributed more than anything else to the deeper and more accurate knowledge of English history which the past generation has witnessed.—*John Fiske in "Old and New Ways of Treating History." Essays Historical and Literary, Vol. 2, p. 9.*

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1909

STATE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF STATE HISTORIAN, December 31, 1908.

To his Excellency William T. Cobb, Governor of Maine,

SIR:—I have the honor to present herewith my report for 1907 and 1908. In order that the work performed since the establishment of the office may be viewed as a whole, I cover both years.

Respectfully yours,

HENRY S. BURRAGE,
State Historian.

REPORT OF STATE HISTORIAN.

The following action of the Legislature received executive approval March 20, 1907:

STATE OF MAINE.

PUBLIC LAWS OF 1907.

Chapter 88.

An Act to encourage the compiling and teaching of Local History and Local Geography in the public schools.

Section 1. The governor, with the advice and consent of the council, shall appoint a state historian, who shall be a member of the Maine Historical Society and whose duty it shall be to compile historical data of the state of Maine and encourage the teaching of the same in the public schools. It shall also be his duty to encourage the compiling and publishing of town histories, combined with local geography. It shall further be his duty to examine, and when he decides that the material is suitable, approve histories of towns compiled as provided in section two of this act.

Section 2. Whenever any town shall present to the state historian material which he considers suitable for publication as a history of the town presenting the same, then he may approve of the publication of a history with the local geography which will be suitable for the use in the grammar and high school grades of the public schools.

Section 3. Whenever material for a town history with local geography has been approved by the state historian, and the same has been published by the town, and provision has been made for its regular use in the public schools of said town; then the state treasurer shall pay the town so publishing a sum not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars, provided that the state shall not pay to any town, to exceed one-half the amount paid by said town for printing and binding said histories.

Section 4. The superintending school committee, and the superintendent of schools, shall elect some citizen of the town to serve with them: and these persons shall constitute a board to compile a history and the local geography of the town in which they reside. Two or more towns may unite in compiling and publishing a history and the local

geography of the towns forming the union. It shall be the duty of the superintendent of schools to forward two copies of said history to the Maine state library and notify the superintendent of public schools of the title of said history.

Section 5. All the actual cash expenses of the said state historian incurred while in the discharge of his official duties shall be paid on the approval and order of the governor and council, and shall not exceed five hundred dollars per annum.

My appointment as State Historian followed May 7, 1907. Evidently those who were most interested in the framing and passage of this act aimed to promote the study of local and state history in the public schools of Maine. It seemed fitting, therefore, that an early inquiry should be made with reference to the place which such study now holds in the public schools of the State. Accordingly a printed circular, dated May 20, 1907, was sent to all town and city superintendents of schools in Maine, requesting an answer to the following questions:

1. To what extent is the history of the State of Maine now taught in your public schools?
2. Are local history and local geography taught?
3. What text-books, if any, are used and in what grades?

To these inquiries, addressed to about five hundred superintendents of schools in the State, one hundred and seventeen replies, chiefly from superintendents in the larger towns and cities, were received. It is probably a fair inference that the superintendents who failed to respond to the inquiries made could give only an unfavorable reply; for the answers that were received showed, with some gratifying exceptions it is true, that little attention is paid to state and local history in the public schools of Maine. State history is taught to some extent, but largely in connection with general history. Even less attention is paid to local history and local geography. As to text-books, sixty-eight of the one hundred and seventeen superintendents of schools, in replying to the circular, stated that in teaching state or local history no text-books were in use in the schools of which they had the oversight.

A conference with the State Superintendent of Schools disclosed the difficulties that those in charge of our public school interests encounter in any endeavor to secure added attention to local and state history. The courses of study in the public

schools have been increased in number in recent years to such an extent that the curriculum is already overcrowded. Probably only those who have kept in closest touch with the public schools are aware of this increase, which is largely due to demands of the new education made necessary by reason of the marvelous developments in the various material sciences during the past half century. The teaching in the public schools must not only take these demands into consideration, but it must endeavor to meet them. Courses of study that would satisfy our fathers will not satisfy us as our children take their places in the public schools. Our best teachers and educators are endeavoring to meet the requirements of the age in which we live, and by the best methods. It is a time of readjustment, therefore. The problem with those who are engaged in this readjustment is how to find a place for the new courses of study which are demanded in this educational advance. All who are interested in historical studies, and are asking for increased attention to these studies in the public schools, should recognize the difficulties that are encountered in this readjustment occasioned by the addition of studies connected with the material sciences. Without insisting, therefore, upon a very large division of time for the teaching of history in the public schools, it seems possible to have local history and local geography taught orally in the lower grammar grades, and to have the history of the State taught in the higher grades by the use of a text-book of moderate size, largely used as a reader, yet studied to such an extent that the prominent facts shall be considered and retained. The State Historian, by co-operating with the State Superintendent of Schools, will use his influence in all possible ways in the endeavor to bring about a result so desirable.

By the act of the Legislature to which attention has already been called, it is also made the duty of the State Historian "to encourage the compiling and publishing of town histories." If local history is to be taught, there must be local histories to which the teachers in the public schools can go for the facts concerning which they are to give instruction. It is also made the duty of the State Historian to examine newly compiled town histories, and to approve such "as he considers suitable for publication." Several inquiries have been received with reference to the compilation and publication of town histories,

and encouragement has been extended to those having such histories in contemplation or preparation. No completed work along this line, however, has as yet been submitted to the State Historian.

Still another task assigned to the State Historian has received attention, namely the compilation of "historical data of the State of Maine." The erection and dedication, in the Park at Valley Forge, of a marker provided by the State in honor of the officers and soldiers from Maine, who were with Washington in the memorable winter of 1777-8, was made the occasion of an investigation with reference to the number of men Maine had in the eleven Massachusetts regiments at Valley Forge. From the Revolutionary records in the office of the Secretary of State in Boston, I succeeded in obtaining, through the chief of the department of Revolutionary rolls, the names and residence of more than one thousand officers and men who were in Washington's army at that time. The roll thus secured is now in the office of the Adjutant General of the State. The Maine Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has published this roll in an attractive pamphlet containing an account of the services in connection with the unveiling of the Maine marker October 17, 1907.

Considerable attention has also been given to the work of securing as complete a roll as is now possible of the officers and men from Maine who were with Gen. Pepperrell at the capture of Louisburg in 1745. Maine had three regiments in that expedition. Parkman says that a full third of the Massachusetts contingent, or more than a thousand men, is reported to have come from the hardy population of Maine, whose entire fighting force was then but 2855. But no official rolls of Pepperrell's army are known to have been preserved. Not finding them in the Massachusetts State archives, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Col. William M. Olin, was instructed by a resolve of the General Court in 1897 to ascertain and report whether or not there are in existence in England rolls "of all the colonial forces engaged in the Louisburg expedition." The Honorable John Hay was then the American Ambassador to England, and as this inquiry was made through him, he referred it to Mr. B. F. Stevens, the United States despatch agent at London, a well-known expert in such matters. For these rolls diligent but

unsuccessful search had been made in the Public Records office in London by historical investigators and public officials. Mr. Stevens continued the search among the documents of the Colonial, the Admiralty and the War Offices, also of the Audit Office, but without success. In the Colonial Office, however, he found a register of the commissions in Pepperrell's army. That register, which included the names of the officers of the forces sent to Louisburg by Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Connecticut, was copied and sent to the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Legislature of Massachusetts in 1898 passed another resolve with reference to the rolls of the forces at Louisburg in 1745; and the Secretary of the Commonwealth was "authorized and instructed to ascertain and report to the General Court whether or not there are in existence in Halifax, Nova Scotia, rolls of the Massachusetts colonial forces" in the Louisburg expedition under Gen. Pepperrell. The Secretary visited Halifax, where every facility was extended to him for an examination of the archives in the Provincial Building. He found several volumes of manuscripts relating to the expedition, but they were copies of letters and papers of which the originals are in the Records Office in London. He examined five letters from Gen. Pepperrell to the Duke of Newcastle, two letters from Gen. Pepperrell and Commodore Warren to the Duke of Newcastle, twelve letters from Gov. Shirley to the Duke of Newcastle, one from Gov. Shirley to Mayor Aldridge, and one letter from Gen. Pepperrell to Gov. Shirley. In one of Pepperrell's letters to the Duke of Newcastle, dated Louisburg, June 28, 1745, this statement was found: "I have now the honor to enclose to Your Grace an account of what troops were raised in each of his Majesty's government in New England which were aiding in this expedition, and the present state of them." But added search for the "account," to which reference was made in the letter, did not bring the missing document to light. Nor has subsequent search by others been any more successful. From several sources, however, I have been able to add to the list of officers of the three Maine regiments, contained in the commissions list found in London, lists of as many of the Maine companies at Louisburg in 1745 as could be obtained from town records, or from the records of companies obtained in one way

or another by persons interested in the Louisburg expedition, and which are found in the volume of Pepperrell Papers published by the Massachusetts Historical Society, the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, etc. The rolls of our Maine men at Louisburg thus obtained are probably as complete as can now be made in the absence of the official rolls.

I have also compiled for use in our Maine public schools a brief historical review of the more prominent facts in our Maine history from the appearance of the early voyagers on our coast to the present time.

The work of the State Historian as outlined in the Legislative act authorizing the appointment interested me because of my historical researches and studies, but it did not touch upon conditions with which I had been made familiar in some earlier investigations among our state archives. July 6, 1905, the Maine Historical Society celebrated at Thomaston and at St. George's Island Harbor the three hundredth anniversary of the voyage of George Weymouth to the coast of Maine. While the members of the Society were on their way down the St. George's river on that day, members of the local committee pointed out objects of historical interest. Among these was the home in Cushing of a sea captain on whose vessel a fugitive slave concealed himself at Savannah, Georgia, in the summer of 1837. The slave was not discovered until the vessel had been several days at sea, and was far on its way northward. The owner of the slave, rightly inferring that the negro had escaped in this vessel on which he had assisted in some repairs, followed the Maine schooner up the coast to its destination at Thomaston, where he succeeded in finding his slave, whom he was allowed to take back to Savannah. The owner was not satisfied, however, with recovering the slave, but brought against the captain and mate of the vessel on which the slave escaped a charge of stealing the slave and carrying him away. The charge was officially made, and the Governor of Georgia was asked to call on the Governor of Maine for the arrest of these "fugitives from justices" as they were called, and for their delivery to Georgia officials in order that they might be brought to trial in the State of Georgia. Three successive governors of Maine declined to grant this request, and the case was before the governor and Legislature of Maine several years.

Only a fragment of this fugitive slave case was told to me on the occasion to which reference has been made; but enough was said to awaken a desire to know more, and not long after, at the State House in Augusta, I made inquiries concerning the documents in the case. In the office of the Secretary of State I asked for the Legislative files for the years 1837-1841, but in these not a single reference to the case could be found. I then repaired to the State library. Mr. Carver, the State Librarian, said he had an indistinct recollection of having seen a reference to the case in some printed State document, he thought; and he offered to search for it. When I next visited the library he informed me that in one of the printed legislative documents, in a governor's message, he had found a mention of the case to which I had referred. With this as a guide I turned to other printed legislative documents, and by further researches among them I was enabled at length to bring together the principal facts in this fugitive slave case. One important document, however, I still lacked. In my search I had learned that the Legislature of Alabama interested itself in the matter, and passed a series of resolutions with reference to it. But these resolutions had no place in the printed legislative documents referring to the case, nor was the original manuscript copy to be found in the office of the Secretary of State. A copy of these resolutions was at length obtained at the State House at Montgomery in Alabama.

The impression received in the course of these researches confirmed an earlier impression with reference to the condition of our State archives. Not long after the death of Governor Washburn, I wished to prepare a paper for the Maine Historical Society calling attention to Governor Washburn's distinguished services as governor of Maine during a part of the Civil War. Much of course could be learned from the Governor's correspondence. The war correspondence of Governor Andrew of Massachusetts is preserved in the State House in Boston in manuscript volumes carefully indexed. By inquiry at the State House in Augusta, I could not find that a single letter written by Governor Washburn during that great crisis in the nation's history had been preserved; and for lack of material I was obliged to abandon the purpose of recording with some fulness

of detail the valuable services performed by our great war-governor.

The condition of things as to our State archives hinted at by these references is doubtless to be attributed very largely to the fact that suitable provision has not as yet been made for the care and preservation of the public records and other valuable papers accumulating year by year at the State Capitol. At times, evidently, there has been a resort to a weeding-out process in order to secure space for the storage of what was regarded as more valuable material. At times also, for the same reason, there has been a removal of the material to the basement, attic, or any place found available, in the over-crowding made by the accumulations of many years in the various offices. A few letters of Governor Washburn were recently found in the basement of the capitol by the Maine adjunct member of the Public Archives Commission. Certainly nothing is clearer than that the public archives cannot be preserved and made accessible for examination and use unless adequate quarters are provided for their reception.

In connection with the above report of my work as State Historian, therefore, I beg leave to call attention to the importance of enlarging the duties of the State Historian so as to have them include the care and preservation of our State archives and the collection of the materials of our history before Maine became a state. The importance, indeed the absolute necessity, of immediate attention to the care and preservation of our public records in the State House has been made very plain by the Maine adjunct member of the Public Archives Commission, Professor Allen Johnson of Bowdoin College, who at the request of the Commission, which was appointed by the American Historical Association, has made a careful examination of the condition of the State archives, and is about to submit a report thereon based upon that examination. By the courtesy of Professor Johnson an early copy of that report has been placed in my hands.

This mention of the Public Archives Commission suggests a reference to the work accomplished by that Commission in recent years in connection with the work of the American Historical Association. Not long after my appointment as State Historian, I visited Washington, and had an interview with Dr.

J. Franklin Jameson, director of the Department of Historical Research in the Carnegie Institution. He reviewed with me the work of the Public Archives Commission, and out of his great familiarity with it made most valuable suggestions as to plans and methods with reference to the care and preservation of public archives. He also gave me a list of the names of the men in different states who have become especially prominent by their work in connection with the public archives of the states in which they reside, and with whom as experts he advised me to come in close touch in my investigations. In this way, by correspondence with men engaged in the work of collecting and preserving public archives, and in the study of published reports forwarded by them, I obtained in a comparatively short period of time a large amount of valuable information.

It was ascertained that the condition of our public archives in Maine was by no means peculiar. A like condition of things has been found to exist in other states, though Maine, which according to its motto should lead, is here found lagging somewhat behind. An early noteworthy attempt in this direction was made for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts between 1836 and 1846 by the Rev. J. B. Felt, who in those years, from various parts of the State House, brought together valuable historical material in two hundred and forty-one volumes. In 1884, by direction of the Legislature, an advance step was taken with reference to the care and preservation of the archives of Massachusetts by the appointment of a commission "to investigate the condition of the records, files, papers, and documents in the State department." The members of this commission, most carefully selected, devoted an entire year to the task assigned to them. In a report covering forty-two printed pages they disclosed a state of things far from desirable. They investigated a place in the upper part of the State House known on account of its remoteness as "Oregon" which was the depository of a large mass of loose and unarranged papers "little cared for" and "open to depredations neither small nor unfrequent;" also a place known as "The Dungeon," a dark room in the basement containing another large collection of papers mostly of that century. It is of interest to us that in their investigations here and there the commissioners found a considerable accumulation of papers relating to land grants in Maine, and to the

separation of the District from the State. In concluding their report the Commissioners said:

“When certain classes of documents have already been made to constitute a series, it seems desirable that from among the papers, loose in themselves or loosely bound, these same series should be continued in bound volumes. All other papers, loose or loosely bound, comporting in character with the papers which Mr. Felt included in the so-called Massachusetts Archives, should by a supplemental arrangement be bound in volumes and constitute a continuation of that series. A rough computation, including all previous to 1800, indicates that this recommendation would add not far from one hundred volumes to the series.”

A wider movement in this direction was started in 1899 at the meeting of the American Historical Association in Boston by the appointment of a Public Archives Commission “to investigate and report, from the point of view of historical study, upon the character, contents and functions of our public repositories of manuscript records, and having power to appoint local agents in each State, through whom their inquiries may be in part conducted.” The work of the Commission began with a preliminary examination of State records. In this inquiry information was sought as to whether the public records had been lost or destroyed, or were to be found elsewhere than in the departments where inquiry was made; also as to the condition of the records whether securely housed and protected, whether bound or unbound, whether conveniently arranged for consultation or the contrary. At the meeting of the Association in 1900, reports were received from the following States: Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Reports from other states have been received in each succeeding year, and the reports show that the Public Archives Commission has carried its work into most of the States with the result that not only has there been a noteworthy increase of interest in the care and preservation of public archives, but in many of the States this newly awakened interest has led to helpful legislation.

An examination of these reports concerning the present condition of the public archives in the States from which informa-

tion has been received reveals three different methods in use with reference to the care and preservation of public archives.

1. In some cases the office of the Secretary of State is made the repository of the more important records, the other State offices retaining the records not thus transferred.

2. In other cases a department of State records is established within the State Library, in which are placed those records that are considered to have the most historical value, the remaining records being left in the offices in which they originated.

3. In still other cases a separate Department of Archives and History is organized, in which the records of all the State offices are preserved, together with the documents and material of all kinds that can be brought together bearing upon the historical interests of the State.

The first of these methods is that in use in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. From early times the Secretary of the Commonwealth has been the custodian of all the papers and documents of an official character having the largest historical value. In recent years a division of archives has been established in the Secretary's office, and here, in steel cases, are found the colonial and provincial records, bound and indexed, also all the legislative records, while the other State officers retain their papers, filed and accessible for examination. Rhode Island keeps its public records in the office of the Secretary of State, but the State has a Public Records Commissioner. New Hampshire provides a vault for its state records in the office of the Secretary of State. South Carolina is developing this method very fully, but cares for all its state records in the office of the Secretary, under the charge of an archivist.

The second method, that of giving the State Library the custody of the more important papers and records, is in use in several States. Pennsylvania has established within the State Library a department of public records in which are placed the legislative papers, those of the Secretary of State, and the records of the State offices to 1750. Already, however, there is a call for a later date. In Connecticut only the documents that are supposed to have the most historical value, and which on this account have been selected from the papers in the office of the Secretary of State, are kept in the State Library. In New York the colonial records are in the State Library. Such

documents as are turned over to the Library from other State departments are arranged, mounted and calendared; but as yet no systematic effort has been made to collect and preserve the State archives in one central depository. In Virginia the legislative records are kept in the State Library, which has been reorganized and a Manuscript Division established. In Wisconsin and Maryland, the State stands in very close relations to the State historical societies. Kansas also allows state and county officials to turn over a certain class of records to the State Historical Society.

The third method, which establishes a separate Department of Archives and History, is a recent attempt to solve the problem concerning the care and preservation of public records and other materials of State history wherever found. It seeks also to encourage historical study and to awaken and deepen a wide interest in historical matters. It is a method that has been adopted by the States of Alabama, Mississippi and West Virginia, and has received the endorsement and commendation of the American Historical Association. By this method all the records, documents, files, etc., not in current use in the various executive offices, are brought together and placed under careful direction and supervision. The advantages of such a method are obvious. It places the work of collecting and preserving the materials of State history and of maintaining all historical interests at the highest possible standard. Moreover, no new principle of administration is introduced by the establishment of such a department. The principle has long been recognized by providing such new departments in State administration as have been found necessary in order to secure prompt and efficient service, as the department of Military Affairs, of Public Instruction, of Agriculture, of Public Health, etc. A Department of Archives and History, organized on a definite and permanent basis, and in harmonious relations with the other administrative departments, also with historical societies, state and national, at home and abroad, offers the best possible guarantee that the end proposed in the establishment of such a department will certainly be reached.

But in Maine, by a constitutional provision (Article V. Sections 2 and 4) "the records of the State" are kept in the office of the Secretary. As to the precise meaning of the phrase

"records of the State" there will doubtless be a difference of opinion. It is quite clear, however, that in the office of the Secretary there must be many papers of more or less historical interest and value, which cannot by any just construction be called "records of the State," and it would seem that there ought to be no difficulty on the part of the Legislature in creating a Department of Archives and History, and in this way of making provision for the proper care and preservation of our public records, the importance of which is now so widely recognized and urged.

But Maine did not become a State until 1820. In fact Maine occupies an unique position in the history of the colonization of New England. The Pilgrims landed at Plymouth in 1620. The history of Maine antedates that memorable event. Martin Pring, an English explorer, was on the coast of Maine in 1603. De Monts, a Frenchman, landed with colonists on the island of St. Croix, below Calais, in 1604. Waymouth, with a band of English explorers, was at St. George's Island Harbor and ascended the St. George's river in 1605. Pring was here again in 1606. The Popham colonists established themselves at the mouth of the Kennebec in 1607. There were Jesuit colonists on the Penobscot in 1611 and at Mount Desert in 1613. English fishermen and traders were then on the coast from year to year. Capt. John Smith was at Monhegan in 1614. Long after the landing of the Pilgrims, Maine held an independent position. The grant of the Province of Maine to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Captain John Mason, by the Great Council for New England, was made in 1622. Christopher Levett secured from the same source in 1623 a grant of six thousand acres in Casco Bay. In 1629, the Pilgrims at Plymouth secured a grant of land on both sides of the Kennebec, which enabled them to control the Indian trade of the river, and which later, having been sold by them, was known as the "Kennebec Purchase." A grant of land on the north side of the Saco river, including the site of the present city of Saco, was made by the Great Council in 1630 to Thomas Lewis and Richard Bonington. Also, in the same year, land on the south side of the Saco, including the site of the present city of Biddeford, was granted to John Oldham and Richard Vines. That also was the date of the

Muscongus Patent, granting lands at Muscongus to John Beauchamp and Thomas Leverett, a grant later known as the Waldo Patent. The Lygonia Patent, covering a tract of land forty miles square, extending from Cape Porpoise to the Androscoggin river, bears the same date. The Black Point Grant to Thomas Cammock, a nephew of the Earl of Warwick, was made in 1631. So also in the same year a grant of land on the Pejepscot river was made to Richard Bradshaw; another of land on Cape Elizabeth to Robert Trelawny and Moses Goodyear; another on the east side of the Agamenticus river to Ferdinando Gorges, a grandson of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, Walter Norton and others; also two thousand acres at Cape Porpoise to John Stratton; also land at Pemaquid to Robert Aldworth and Gyles Elbridge. In 1632, grants of land on the Pejepscot river were made to George Way and Thomas Purchase. In 1634, in the final division of the Patent for New England by the great Council, number seven, including the territory between the Piscataqua and the Kennebec, was assigned to Sir Ferdinando Gorges. In 1636, Gorges leased to George Cleeve and Richard Tucker "a neck of land called Machegonne," now Portland. The royal charter of the Province of Maine to Sir Ferdinando Gorges by Charles II, designed to confirm the allotment made to Gorges in the division of the Patent for New England, was granted in 1639. During the decade and more that followed, affairs were in a disturbed state in the province because of the conflict between the King and Parliament. As the power of the royalist party in England was weakened, George Cleeve in 1643, in opposition to the Gorges interest, enlisted the aid of Colonel Alexander Rigby in resuscitating the Lygonia Patent of 1630, and received a commission as Deputy President of the Province of Lygonia. Other interests were pressing. In this unsettled state of affairs civil government of necessity languished, and in 1651 the General Court of the Province of Maine appealed to Parliament for protection.

Thus far, in these beginnings of colonization, Maine had maintained an independent position. But at this juncture of affairs the colonists of Massachusetts Bay saw an opportunity to extend their dominion in this direction. The charter of the Bay colony established its northern boundary three miles north of

the Merrimac river. This was now interpreted to mean three miles north of the source of the river, and a line drawn east from this point to the sea brought the land covered by the Gorges and Cleeve interests within the jurisdiction of Massachusetts. In 1652, the General Court appointed Commissioners to determine the line, but not without protest and opposition on the part of the colonists of Maine who were in sympathy with the above interests. Gradually the government of Massachusetts was extended northward. Kittery and Gorgeana yielded submission in 1652; Wells, Cape Porpoise and Saco in 1653; and Black Point, Blue Point, Spurwink and Casco in 1658.

The materials of the history of Maine during this period of independence are to be found largely in England. Something, in gathering these materials, has already been done by the Maine Historical Society. Much has been done by the Hon. James P. Baxter. Added researches will doubtless have their reward. All possible sources of information should be carefully examined, and the materials for the history of this early period in Maine life and achievement should be made accessible to those who are interested in it.

To this newly acquired territory, Massachusetts gave the name Yorkshire, or County of York. Subsequently, after the overthrow of the Protectorate and the restoration of Charles II., the colonists in the former Province of Maine requested to be placed again under the authority of the King, or of the heir of Sir Ferdinando Gorges. But the General Court of Massachusetts also sent a petition to the King, and matters were allowed to rest until 1664, when the grandson of Gorges obtained an order from the King requiring Massachusetts to restore the Province of Maine to Gorges or his Commissioners. After various efforts on both sides, the territory meanwhile being brought under the jurisdiction of a provincial government independent of Massachusetts and the Gorges interests, the General Court of Massachusetts, May 6, 1677, purchased of Ferdinando Gorges, grandson of Sir Ferdinando, all his interest in the Province of Maine for twelve hundred and fifty pounds sterling. This purchase strengthened the hold of Massachusetts upon its former eastward possessions, and in 1680 the General Court proceeded to reorganize civil administration in Maine with Thomas Danforth as President of the

Province. But the charter of Massachusetts was annulled in 1684, and the government of the colony reverted to the crown. Charles II. died in 1685, and James II. appointed Andros Governor of New England. His career was cut short by a revolution in England, which drove James from the throne; and William and Mary, who succeeded James, issued October 7, 1691, a charter, which incorporated, under the title of the "Province of Massachusetts Bay," the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, the Colony of Plymouth, the Province of Maine and the territory of Nova Scotia. In this way the title of Massachusetts to the territory east of the Piscataqua was confirmed, though on account of its remoteness and the distracted state of the country, Nova Scotia was separated from the Province of Massachusetts Bay by the Lords of Trade in 1696, and it was made a royal province in 1713. Maine remained a part of Massachusetts until the separation in 1820.

This period in the history of Maine covers upwards of one hundred and fifty years. The historical sources of the period are to be found largely in the State House in Boston and in the various depositories of public records in London. Considerable work in gleaning information at these sources has already been done as in the earlier period; but much awaits our hands. Certainly no others can have so deep an interest in the history of Maine as the people of Maine, and postponement only makes the task pressing upon us more difficult.

The establishment of a Department of Archives and History at the State Capitol should have this additional result, therefore, namely, to call attention to the history of the State, to give to it the prominence it deserves, and finally by the lessons which that history teaches to develop and strengthen those sentiments of love and devotion that every citizen and patriot should cherish toward the State in which he was born, or in which he resides.

Of course this will mean an enlargement of the State House by an addition in which provision shall be made for the care and preservation of the public archives under the best possible conditions. One reason why the official records of the State are not today more accessible is the overcrowded condition of all the public offices. As has already been stated many of the records are stored in the basement of the capitol, or in other remote

and out-of-the-way places, where examination of them is rendered difficult, and where in many cases familiarity with them, even on the part of State officials, has been altogether lost. Little, if anything can be done in the present limited space which the capitol now affords. There must be enlargement, and that cannot be undertaken any too soon.

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