

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 180.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE relating to Settlers on Lands in Madawaska Territory.

WHEREAS, Originally the title to the townships
2 in what is known as the Madawaska territory was in
3 the State, and by a law of the State then existing,
4 squatters on said territory could secure title to a
5 limited quantity of land thereon by payment in la-
6 bor on roads ; and

WHEREAS, the population on said territory rap-
8 idly increased and settled on the river lots included
9 under the Ashburton treaty, leaving only wild
10 lands to be occupied by the following or succeed-
11 ing generation ; and

WHEREAS, the young men of that day entered
13 upon said wild land, and have cleared up the same

14 and made for themselves homes without securing
15 title from the State ; and

WHEREAS, the State sold and conveyed said wild
17 lands without reserving such lots so taken to such
18 squatters, many of whom have occupied said lots
19 for forty years, but now find themselves without title
20 and at the mercy of the owners thereof ; and

WHEREAS, Such settlers have been, and are now
22 being vexed by suits and otherwise by said owners,
23 and many are unable to make satisfactory terms
24 with such owners, and liable to be evicted from their
25 homes ; and

WHEREAS, these pioneers, under the foregoing
27 circumstances, are entitled to consideration by the
28 State ; therefore ;

Resolved, That the Governor and Council be and
30 they are hereby authorized to appoint a commis-
31 sioner or commissioners to investigate the condi-
32 tion of such settlers, the nature of their rights to
33 the lands claimed, their differences and disputes
34 with the land owners, ascertain if possible the terms
35 of settlement between them, and the ability of such
36 settlers to comply therewith, and report with their
37 recommendations to the Governor and Council, for
38 the information of the next Legislature, and the

39 sum of seven hundred and fifty dollars is hereby
40 appropriated to pay the expenses and services of
41 such Commission, to be paid by the State Treas-
42 urer on warrants of the Governor and Council.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 25, 1887. }

Reported from Committee on State Lands and State Roads by Mr.
BILLINGS of Brownville; ordered printed under joint rule.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, Clerk.