

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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RESOLVES

OF THE

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

PASSED AT THE SESSION

Which commenced on the sixth day of January, and ended on the fifth day of April,
one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six.

PUBLISHED AGREEABLY TO THE RESOLVE OF JUNE 28, 1820.

AUGUSTA:

SMITH & ROBINSON,.....PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1836.

Chapter 54.

Resolve for the sale of land belonging to the Passamaquoddy Indians.

Approved March 19, 1836.

RESOLVED, That the Land Agent be and hereby is authorized to sell and convey, at public auction and at a price not less than two dollars per acre—under the directions of the Governor and Council, Township numbered Two in the First Range in the County of Washington, belonging to the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians, and to pay the funds arising therefrom into the State Treasury, subject to the future disposition of the Legislature, for the use and benefit of said Indians.

RESOLVED, That in the sale of said Township the Land Agent be required to conform to “An Act entitled an Act additional to promote the sale and settlement of the public lands” passed the 24th, day of March 1835, so far as it provides for the notice of the time and place of sale and the security of the purchase money.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 1st, 1836.

The Joint Select Committee, to whom was referred the message of the Governor, communicating the Report and Resolutions of the Legislatures of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Virginia on the incendiary proceedings of the Abolitionists in the non-slave holding States, Report,

That they have given the subject the consideration which it demands from its importance, as interrupting the harmony and thereby endangering the Union of these States.

The federal compact owed its origin to the spirit of deference conciliation and mutual forbearance, which pervaded the then Independent States; and was formed for the purpose briefly set forth in the preamble to the Constitution, to insure domestic tranquility and provide for the common defence.

To insure these two great and all important purposes definite powers were conceded by the States, the Constitution of the United States was formed and the federal Government created.

The powers then conceded are ample to effect the great objects of the Union; and though for defined purposes the several States form one great Nation, yet in other respects, they are to each other as sovereign and Independent Nations; each State having a Constitution of its own, and yielding obedience only, to the enactments of its own Legislature.

Any interference therefore of a State or the inhabitants of a State with the domestic concerns of another State is dangerous, as having a direct tendency to create jealousies between the States, and thereby weakening the attachment to the Union which is our only security against domestic dissensions and foreign aggressions.

Slavery is a question in which we as a State have no interest, it is unknown in Maine, and those States who recognize its existence, have the exclusive control of the subject within their borders. As one of these United States, it is not for Maine, or the citizens of Maine to interfere with the internal regulations of any other independent State; no possible good can result from such an interference with affairs over which they can exercise no control.

That these are the sentiments of the great mass of the People of Maine is evinced by the numerous public meetings, which were held in every part of the State the past season, in proof of which your committee adduce the following Resolution passed unanimously at the meeting in Portland, the largest City in Maine on the 15th, of August last.

RESOLVED, That it is the bounden and sacred duty of good citizens of every State, carefully and scrupulously to avoid all interference and attempts to interfere, and all manifestations of any intention or wish to interfere, with the peculiar interests, concerns, laws and domestic policy of every other State in the Union; and that all such acts of interference, where they tend to disturb the quiet, to alienate the feelings, to provoke the jealousies, or to jeopardize the safety of the citizens of States, made unwilling subjects of such officious intermeddling deserve, and ought to receive the reprobation of every friend to his country.

Similar Resolutions have been passed at public meetings by the inhabitants of Augusta, Bangor, Hallowell, Brunswick, Bath, Waterville and by many other Towns too numerous to be mentioned; and we may with confidence assert, that however divided on other great political questions, on this subject but one feeling pervades the State, and that the discussion of the question of Slavery has been arrested in Maine by public sentiment, more effectual in its operation than any law which could be enacted.

Under these circumstances and in consideration of the fact that no abolition paper is printed in Maine your Committee would deem any legislation on the subject as uncalled for unwise and inexpedient as tending to excite a discussion which

has subsided. They therefore report the following Resolutions, which are herewith submitted.

CHARLES JARVIS,
LEVI JOHNSON,
FREDERIC GREENE,
RUFUS McINTIRE,
ELIAKIM SCAMMON,
OBED WILSON,
SEWALL LAKE,
STEPHEN C. FOSTER,
ALFORD RICHARDSON,
NATHAN C. FLETCHER,
CHARLES GORDON.

Chapter 55.

Resolve relating to the discussion of Slavery in the State of Maine.

Approved March 22, 1836.

RESOLVED, That the United States Government is a Government of enumerated limited and defined powers all which are set forth in the Constitution; and that all powers not granted in that instrument are reserved to the States or to the People.

RESOLVED, That the power of regulating Slavery within the confines of a State was not granted, and therefore does not exist in the General Government.

RESOLVED, That excepting so far as they are united for certain and defined purposes, the States forming the confederacy of the United States, are with respect to each other distinct and sovereign States, each having a separate and independent Government the action of which under the limitations of the Constitution of the United States, and within the confines of the State, is not to be questioned by any power save the people of that State; and that any interference by a State or by the inhabitants of a State, with the domestic concerns of another State, tends to break up the compromises, and disturb the harmony of the Union and should be discountenanced by every good citizen.

RESOLVED, That in Maine the discussion of the question of the abolition of Slavery having been arrested by the decided expression of public disapprobation, and no abolition paper being printed within the borders of the State, legislation on the subject is inexpedient.

RESOLVED, That the Governor be requested to forward a copy of this Report and these Resolutions to the Executive of North Carolina South Carolina Georgia Alabama and Virginia, and to the Executive of each of the other States with a request that they be communicated to their respective Legislatures.

Chapter 56.

Resolve making appropriations for military purposes.

Approved March 22, 1836.

RESOLVED, That there be allowed and granted for the purposes hereinafter named, the following sums, to wit: Nine Hundred Dollars for the alteration and repair of Gun carriages; one hundred and fifty Dollars for the purchase of flannel, match rope, laboratory stores, and for transportation; five hundred Dollars for the purchase of musical instruments; fifty dollars for the purchase of musical instruments for the use of the fourth Regiment of the first Brigade and fourth Division; five hundred Dollars for the purchase of harnesses, tumbrils and apparatus for two new companies of Artillery in the first Brigade of the eighth Division, the several sums aforesaid to be paid, whenever in the opinion of the Governor with the advice of Council, the public service may require it. And for the expenditure thereof the Acting Quarter Master General shall be accountable.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That there be allowed and granted for the purposes hereinafter named, the following sums, to wit: two hundred dollars for the erection of a Gun house in Wiscasset, including a balance of forty three dollars, in the hands of the Adjutant General remaining of an appropriation in the year eighteen hundred and thirty five "for the repair of the Gun house in Wiscasset;" two hundred dollars for the erection of a Gun house in Bangor; seventy Dollars to complete the repairs on the Gun house in Brunswick; three thousand dollars for the purchase of a site and the erection of a State Arsenal in Bangor; two hundred dollars for the erection of a Gun house in Anson; two hundred dollars for the erection of a Gun house in Harmony; fifty dollars for the repair of the Gun house in Paris; fifty dollars for the repair of the Gun House in