

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

# THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

**A. D. 1835.**

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*AUGUSTA:*  
WILLIAM J. CONDON,.....PRINTER.

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1835.

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## FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

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**NO. 39.**

**HOUSE.**

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The Committee to whom was referred the Petition of Sanford Howard, praying for legislative aid, to enable him to form a Company, to be called the "Maine Stock and Pattern Farm Company," have had the same under consideration, and respectfully submit the following

### REPORT.

It is the opinion of your Committee that Agriculture should be considered as holding the first rank in the scale of importance among Arts and Sciences; inasmuch as it is not only the basis of all others, but employs seven eighths of the population of almost every civilized community, and is absolutely indispensable to national prosperity.

It will be conceded that it is the duty of the Government to protect and foster every interest, and that there is no portion of the community more entitled to protection, than the tillers of the soil.

"When a storm arises in the horizon and danger awaits us from abroad, or when enraged ambition at home, drives the passions of men to madness and all its excesses, it is in the farming interest of the country that you find the

steady hand that holds the balance of political power, and by its strong arm repels the foe, or by its electoral voice, annihilates the unjust hopes of the aspiring ambition of profligate petitioners.”

Who are they who have contributed so freely to expenditures for the purpose of establishing the Literary Institutions of our State? Mainly the farmers, the yeomen of the land. And is it then unfair to ask, what has been done by the Legislature, for a class of citizens, who have been taxed so largely for the benefit of other professions?

The Committee would present the following extracts from a paper laid before them by Mr Howard, designed to show a general outline of the plan and course of management of the establishment proposed in his petition.

“In agriculture, that is strictly speaking, the cultivation of the earth, we design pursuing the most approved course of operations on all subjects, when the best course has been ascertained, and where such course has not been discovered, we intend to find it, by scientific and well conducted experiments. We intend to procure the choicest varieties of such plants as would be most profitable for this part of the country, and to cultivate them in the best manner. We intend to ascertain, by the aid of chemistry, the proper adaptation of plants to soils, and also the proper modes of applying the various manures to plants and soils, and the causes of their effects. This we expect to do, first, by a *chemical analysis of the plant*, by which its component parts, and the substances required for its growth and perfection is discovered. Second, by an *analysis of the soil*, by which we ascertain whether it contains the proper food for the plant we wish to put into it, or whether any, and what substances may be wanting to constitute the growth of such plant, so that we may know what to

apply as manure. This analysis would also determine whether there were any substances in the soil which would be deleterious to the plant whose food or component parts had been discovered."

"2d. In relation to animals, we calculate to adopt and encourage the use of such species and varieties as should be best adapted for their respective uses. Of horses, such breeds as are best calculated for travel, for heavy draught, and for the common purposes of the farmer. Of neat cattle, such as are best fitted for our soil, climate, and general purposes,—having in view, the properties of *beef*, *labor*, and *milk*. Of sheep, such as produce the several qualities of wool required in manufactures, and which would, by their flesh and fleece, afford most profit to their owners. Of swine, those breeds from which pork can be made with the least expense. We should expect to show, on physiological, anatomical, and mechanical principles, what particular structure or organization, is required to adapt animals to particular uses. If an animal is required for heavy draught, and to endure severe service, we intend to show theoretically and practically, what must be the peculiar conformation of parts to fit him for his place. If one is wanted for lighter draught and quicker motion, we shall show wherein there should be a difference of structure, temper, &c. to best adapt him to such a station. These principles should be followed out with all animals and for all purposes. And should the funds of the establishment be sufficiently large to warrant it, we intend to investigate the subject of *diseases* of animals, and ascertain the best modes of cure. Upon this subject farmers generally need information, and many valuable animals are annually lost in consequence.

3d. "In relation to horticulture, as is stated in the peti-

tion, we intend practicing those branches, and those only, which include the culture of the most *essential* varieties of fruits and vegetables suitable for our climate.

4th. In the experimental department, we design showing by carefully conducted experiments, the relative value of different plants and vegetables for feeding animals, and also the relative cost of producing the same. On this subject, some information on which we can with confidence rely, is much needed by the farmer. He does not *now* know with what kind of food he can produce a given quantity of beef or pork with the least expense. The importance of knowing this before he can prosecute the business to the best advantage, must be obvious to every one. It is a point that can be ascertained, though it will require considerable care and expense to make the experiment so as to be able to draw correct conclusions.

“We design also to prove by experiments, what rotation of crops may be most advantageously adopted on different soils. We would illustrate this in the following manner. It is laid down as an infallible rule, that every plant or vegetable imbibes from the earth and from the atmosphere during its growth, substances peculiar to itself. Hence we see that a soil may contain the food of one kind of plants and not that of others. One crop exhausts the soil of that substance or principle which enters into its composition, or which it requires as food, but may fit it for a different species of plants, that would of course, feed on somewhat different substances. We wish to find what crops may best follow each other, in order that we may obtain the greatest benefit from all the properties contained in the soil, and in the manures which are applied.”

“As to buildings, fences, implements, &c. such should be had as would be best suited for the purposes to which

they are appropriated, having regard to order, convenience, and economy; and such as might be regarded as models for the benefit of others. It is further designed to make the establishment a sort of *general repository*, for the most valuable seeds, plants, implements of husbandry, and animals, where the practical utility of each could be demonstrated, and where they might always be obtained by purchasers.

Your Committee believe that the time has arrived, when the attention of the people of this State, should be turned to agriculture, as the only permanent means of support. We must derive our nourishment from "mother earth," we must begin to call into action, the latent energies of her soil. "It is on this, and this alone, we must depend. It is in vain to point to our forests of lumber—they are rapidly disappearing, and the hour is fast approaching, as sure as the footsteps of time, when another generation will rise up and curse the prodigality of their fathers, for the havoc they have made in the wilderness. It is in vain to point to our waterfalls, while the land lies neglected and barren—and it is useless to refer to political *parties*, for strength and durability of our Institutions—they are as fickle, as changing, and as baseless as the clouds of an April sky. Upon none of these ought any dependence to be placed,—but, upon knowledge, public virtue, and a healthy, vigorous, active and stable agriculture, based upon the possession of the soil itself, nourished by the soil itself, cultivated as it should be according to the suggestions of a pure and enlightened mind, we must look as the rock upon which all that is near and dear to us is founded, and as the source of our safety, our happiness, and our greatness."

"The agriculture of a country affords the best evidence

of its prosperity. Whether we compare kingdoms, states, counties, districts or farms, the condition of this branch of labor, which they severally exhibit, is a sure index, not only of its pecuniary, but of its moral condition. It is no less an axiom founded in truth, that agriculture prospers or languishes, in proportion to the science or skill of the men who manage its labors. It is not the natural fertility of the soil, so much as the intelligence and industry of those who till it, which gives to husbandry its interests and its rewards. The man who devotes the energies of a highly cultivated mind to this primitive and all important branch of labor, is a public benefactor. Cincinnatus did more to immortalize his name, and to command our applause, by his love of rural labors, than by his military exploits. Washington, amid all the glories that irradiated his brow, sought his highest pleasures in the business and retirement of a farm."

"Despotism will never flourish in an American soil, but through the ignorance, and we may say, consequent depravity of its cultivators."

"It should be the policy of Government, therefore, which watches over the interest of all, to infuse into the labors of husbandry, all the lights of science and knowledge, to take care to expand and elevate the minds of those who are to give it efficiency of character, and to call forth skill and industry by proffered rewards. With us these considerations possess peculiar force. Our population and business are emphatically agricultural, and every aid which is extended to this class, benefits, indirectly, every portion of the community. Agriculture constitutes the thousand rills, which swelling and traversing every portion of our country, propel the spindle, and the hammer, of the citizen and the manufacturer, and finally by



their union, make up the mighty stream of commerce which unceasingly flows into the Atlantic."

That our agriculture is susceptible of improvement, that the products of its labors may be doubled, nay quadrupled, must be apparent to those who have compared our husbandry with that of some European countries, or who have contrasted at home, the well cultivated district or farm, with those which are badly managed. How is this desired improvement to be effected? By diffusing useful knowledge and the means of improvement among our farmers."

Your Committee recall to recollection the munificent benefactions of the Legislature, to advance the literary character of our State, and the fact that very little has been done, legislatively, to improve our agriculture, which employs seven eighths of our population, can only be ascribed to the fact, that little has been asked for, or thought of. Our public seminaries for literary instruction, are numerous and respectable. They meet the eye in almost every village. But where is the head taught to help the hands, in the business which *creates* wealth? and which is the grand source of individual and national prosperity and happiness? Our literary and professional schools have been reared up and sustained by the expenditure of many thousands of dollars from the public treasury. It will not, however, be denied, that the benefits they dispense are altogether partial,—that the rank and file of society, destined by Heaven, to become the conservators of civil liberty, are virtually denied a participation in the science and knowledge—in the means of improvement and of happiness, which they are calculated to dispense. And we hazard not the fear of contradiction in assuming, that if a moiety of public moneys, which have been appropri-

ated to literary schools, had been judiciously expended, in rendering science subservient to the arts, and in diffusing the higher branches among the laboring classes, the public benefits from the appropriation, would have been far greater than they are at the present day."

Your Committee believe that such an establishment as is proposed in the petition which they have had under consideration, is really necessary to carry into full effect the aid now offered by this State to Agricultural Societies, as it would afford a very favorable point to which those Societies might send by delegates or agents, for the purpose of procuring any animals, plants, seeds, or implements, which it might be desirable to introduce into their respective districts. It would also in their opinion be an excellent institution to which the youth of our State, might go to make themselves acquainted with the principles and practices of Agriculture, and the subjects connected therewith, and therefore report the Bill which is herewith submitted.

**JESSE SMART, Per Order.**

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STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED  
AND THIRTY-FIVE.

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AN ACT to incorporate the Maine Stock and  
Pattern Farm Company.

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SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate  
2 and House of Representatives in Legislature  
3 assembled, That Sanford Howard, his associ-  
4 ates, successors and assigns, be and they hereby  
5 are created a body corporate by the name of the  
6 Maine Stock and Pattern Farm Company; with  
7 power, by that name to sue and defend in any  
8 Court of Record or in any other place; have  
9 and use a common seal; ordain, establish and  
10 put in execution, such by-laws, ordinances and  
11 regulations, as to them may appear necessary  
12 and convenient for the government of said Cor-  
13 poration, and the prudent management of their  
14 affairs, provided the same be not repugnant to*

15 the laws of this State; take and hold estate,  
16 real and personal, not exceeding twenty thou-  
17 sand dollars, which shall be used exclusively  
18 for the purpose of improving the science of ag-  
19 riculture, horticulture, the breed and manage-  
20 ment of domestic animals, and the manufactur-  
21 ing and mechanic arts, connected therewith, with  
22 power to lease or dispose of the same at pleas-  
23 ure; and generally to have and enjoy all the  
24 powers and privileges necessary to carry into full  
25 effect the objects contemplated by this act of in-  
26 corporation.

SECT. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the  
2 capital stock of said corporation shall be divided  
3 into as many shares as shall be provided by the  
4 by-laws; and the number of votes to which each  
5 stockholder shall be entitled at all meetings of  
6 said stockholders, shall be according to the num-  
7 ber of shares he shall hold, in the following  
8 proportions, that is to say: for one share, one  
9 vote, and every two shares above one, shall give  
10 a right to one vote more, provided no one mem-  
11 ber shall have more than thirty votes.

SECT. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That when-  
2 ever said Corporation shall have raised and ac-

3 tually paid into its Treasury, for the purposes of  
4 this Act, the sum of at least five thousand dol-  
5 lars, or be possessed of property to that amount,  
6 the Treasurer of this State shall, on satisfactory  
7 evidence being produced to him of that fact, pay  
8 from any moneys in his hands belonging to the  
9 State, a like sum of five thousand dollars to the  
10 Treasurer of said Corporation, and the State  
11 shall thereupon be considered a member of said  
12 Corporation and receive a certificate of the num-  
13 ber of shares to which it is entitled by the pay-  
14 ment of said sum: and the Treasurer of State  
15 shall, unless some other individual should be  
16 designated from time to time by the Legislature,  
17 for that purpose, represent the shares owned by  
18 said State, at all meetings of the Corporation,  
19 and may give as many votes as the State has  
20 shares, notwithstanding the provisions contained  
21 in the second section of this Act.

SECT. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That said  
2 Corporation shall cause to be made out and cer-  
3 tified, annually on the second Wednesday of  
4 January, to the Treasurer of State, whose duty  
5 it shall be forthwith to communicate the same  
6 to the Legislature, a detailed report of the do-

7 ings of said Corporation, the improvements made  
 8 or proposed to be made in any of the objects  
 9 which this incorporation designs to attain, with  
 10 a minute statement of its receipts and expendi-  
 11 tures and of the condition of its funds.

SECT. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That San-  
 2 ford Howard may call the first meeting of said  
 3 Corporation at the State House in Augusta, at  
 4 such time as he may appoint, by giving three  
 5 weeks previous notice thereof in all the news-  
 6 papers printed in Augusta.

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STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
 March 6, 1835. }

Read twice, and Thursday next assigned for a third reading, and  
 one thousand copies, with the accompanying Report, ordered to be  
 printed for the use of the Legislature.

[Extract from the Journal.]

Attest, JAMES L. CHILD, Clerk.