

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

**A. D. 1838.**

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# EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE.

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No. 12.

HOUSE.

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## REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON STATE LANDS

IN RELATION TO

## THE MADAWASKA ROAD.

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The Joint Standing Committee on State Lands, to which was referred the return of the Surveyor General of the survey of the Aroostook Road from the Aroostook to the St. John's River, near the mouth of the Madawaska River, have had the same under consideration and ask leave to

## REPORT:

That by an act of the Legislature of this State, passed March 28, 1831, the Land Agent of this State was authorized to cause to be surveyed and laid out a road from some eligible point on the Military Road to some point on the River St. John near the mouth of the Fish River, not varying more to the East than to some point near the mouth of the Madawaska River, or so much thereof as might be considered for the interest of the State, and was further authorized to expend from time to time such sums of money as might be necessary to make said Road safe and convenient for travellers, not exceeding however, ten per cent. of the sales of Timber and Land—provided the State of Massachusetts should authorize the Agent of that

State to expend equal sums on her part for the same purpose—provided further that the said Agents should bridge, causeway and make said Road by contract, if proposals were offered which in the opinion of said Agents were reasonable and sufficient security given for the performance of the same.

That the Legislature of Massachusetts so far assented to the conditions of said Law as to authorize her Agent to make said Road in conjunction with the Agent of this State from the Mattawankeag, to the Aroostook Rivers, a distance of seventy four miles, two hundred and sixty two rods; provided that the expense of the same and of the other improvements she might make in opening roads, removing obstructions in streams, &c. should not exceed the amount of ten per cent. of the money received by that State on the sales of Timber and Lands. That in pursuance of said authority the Land Agents of said States proceeded to cut out and open a winter road from the Military Road to the Aroostook River—the above named distance of seventy four miles two hundred and sixty two rods, and that about seven and one half miles of said Road, commencing on the Military Road, were Turnpiked during the last season.

That the ten per cent on the sales of Land appropriated to this object by the law of 1831, amounts at this time to the sum of sixty thousand one hundred and forty-nine dollars and forty cents, of which sum fourteen thousand three hundred and seventy-one dollars twenty-five cents have been expended in opening and making the road to the Aroostook, leaving an unexpended balance in the Land Office and the Treasury of forty-five thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight dollars fifteen cents to be applied to the completing the Road to the Aroostook, in which the State of Massachusetts has united with us, and in extending it to the St. John, which by the survey is forty-six miles one hundred twenty-six rods further, when Massachusetts shall authorize her Agent to contribute her proportion in making the same.

The Committee are satisfied from the best information that

can be obtained on the subject that this Road will open to the inhabitants of this and the neighboring states, a tract of land of greater productive power and better adapted to all the wants of agriculture, than any other in New England, and they believe they are but expressing the almost universal sense and feeling of the citizens of this State on the subject, when they recommend that this Road be continued and completed as speedily as may be, in accordance with the provisions of the law of 1831, and that a quantity of Land equal to one range of townships on each side of the whole length of said road be laid off and lotted out for settlement, of the Lands belonging to Maine bordering on said road and sold to such persons only as intend and will engage to settle and improve the same, and they recommend that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts be invited in accordance with the liberal policy heretofore pursued by that State in relation to her lands in Maine, to unite with this State in preparing and offering to settlers an equal quantity of her lands bordering upon said Road upon the same conditions established by us.

Your Committee have looked in vain for any other portion of the public domain which offers equal facilities and inducements to settlements, with the fertile region which will be opened to the public by this Road, and at the same time that they believe the measure peculiarly calculated to promote the agricultural interests of the State, they consider it a measure of vast importance to the great and leading interests of all its citizens, in its tendency to arrest and turn back upon this beautiful region the tide of emigration now flowing from this and the other New England States to the south and the west, in opening a channel of communication with the settlers on the territory of this State, on the River St. John, and in demonstrating to the people and the governments of this State and of the Union, the necessity that the settlement of our still unadjusted boundary shall be no longer procrastinated. Wherefore your committee ask leave to report the following Resolves.

M. P. NORTON, per order.



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## STATE OF MAINE.

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### RESOLVES in Relation to the Madawaska Road.

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1st. **RESOLVED**, That the Land Agent of this State be directed to carry into operation the law of 1831, in relation to the opening and making a Road from the Military Road, to some point on the River St. John, near the mouth of Fish River, and not varying more to the East than to some point near to the mouth of the Madawaska River, provided the State of Massachusetts shall authorise and empower her Agent to unite with the Agent of this State in continuing the same and in contributing her equal proportion with this State in making the same, and that the Governor with the advice of Council be authorised from time to time to issue his warrant on the Treasury for such sums as may be expended on said Road, not exceeding, however, in all, the sum of forty-five thousand seven hundred sixty-eight dollars fifteen cents, being the unexpended balance of the appropriation for the same, made by the law of 1831.

2nd. **RESOLVED**, That the Land Agent be authorised and empowered to locate and cause to be lotted for settlement, as the demand for the same may from time to time require, of the Lands belonging to this State bordering on said Road, a number of townships equal to a range of townships on each side of the whole length of said road, and that the State of Massachusetts be requested to authorise her Agent to locate and lot for settlement, an equal quantity of the Lands belonging to her on said Road, and that the Lands so located, or such portions of

them as may be more valuable for settlement than timber, shall be sold in lots to such persons only as intend and shall engage to settle and improve the same, and shall perform the settling duties required by Law—provided, that no more than one lot fronting on said Road shall be sold to any one purchaser.





# STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
FEB. 13, 1838. }

ORDERED, That five hundred copies of the Report and  
Resolves be printed.

(Extract from the Journal.)

Attest.

Geo. C. GETCHELL, Clerk.