

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1839.

VOL. 2.

AUGUSTA:
SMITH & ROBINSON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1839.

NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE.

NO. 36.

HOUSE.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON STATE LANDS.

R E P O R T .

THE Committee on State Lands, to whom were referred certain Resolutions adopted by the Legislatures of Connecticut and Arkansas, concerning the disposition of the Public Lands belonging to the United States, have had the same under consideration, and

R E P O R T

the accompanying Resolves, as expressive of the feelings and opinions of the people of Maine, upon the subject to which they relate.

W. DELESDERNIER, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE relating to the Public Domain.

Resolved, That the Public Lands, having been
2 acquired, either by purchase out of the common
3 funds of the Union, or by cession, to be held as
4 a common fund, belonging to the States, not in
5 severalty, but in their confederated capacity;
6 and that the appropriation of the proceeds of the
7 Public Lands to the support of the Federal
8 Government, best effectuates their true purpose
9 as a common fund, by relieving the States from
10 an equivalent taxation.

Resolved, That the Public Domain, having
2 been wrested from the British Crown, by the
3 toil and blood of our revolutionary patriots and
4 soldiers, belongs as a just, honorable and equal
5 inheritance, to all their descendants, whether
6 situated in the old or new States; and that
7 while the people of Maine, however willing to
8 consent to the cession of the Public Lands to
9 the States in which they lie, upon just and

10 equitable terms, can never recognize the exclu-
11 sive right of those States to the property or
12 dominion of the **Public Domain**, they at the
13 same time repudiate and disavow, any assump-
14 tion of a title on the part of the original thirteen
15 States, to a partial division of the **Public Lands**,
16 as unfounded, impracticable and injurious.

Resolved, That the policy of confining the sale
2 of the **Public Lands** to actual settlers, would be
3 eminently republican in its tendencies, by check-
4 ing the dangerous speculations of grasping mo-
5 nopolists, by preventing the formation of a landed
6 aristocracy, by increasing the number of our
7 independent yeomanry, who are at once, the
8 pride and reliance of the country, and by secur-
9 ing to honest and provident labor, for ages to
10 come, the opportunity of acquiring upon easy
11 terms, the enjoyment and blessings of a freehold
12 possession of the soil.

Resolved, by this Legislature, that his Excel-
2 lency the Governor, be requested to forward a
3 copy of these Resolutions to each of our Sena-
4 tors and Representatives in Congress, and also
5 to each Executive of the several States, for such
6 disposition as they may consider proper.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 2, 1839. }

These Resolves were read once, laid on the table, and 600 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

GEO. ROBINSON, *Clerk.*