

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*Charles F. Rice*

DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1840.

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AUGUSTA:

WM. R. SMITH & CO., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

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1840.

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**TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE.**

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**NO. 21.**

**HOUSE.**

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**RESOLVES**

**RELATING TO THE**

**PUBLIC DOMAIN.**

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[Wm. R. SMITH & Co.....Printers to the State.]



## STATE OF MAINE.

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### RESOLVES relating to the Public Domain.

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WHEREAS resolutions in relation to the public  
2 lands of the United States have been transmit-  
3 ted to the Governor of this State, from the  
4 States of Missouri and Vermont; and whereas  
5 it is expedient and proper that this Legislature  
6 should express its opinions upon a subject in  
7 which the people of Maine are deeply interested:  
8 therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Public Domain was pur-  
2 chased with the blood and treasure of the people  
3 of all the States composing our federal Union;  
4 and that, consequently, they have a joint and  
5 equal interest and right in and to that domain,  
6 and all privileges and advantages resulting from  
7 its possession.

*Resolved*, That the principle of joint, equal,  
2 undisputed, and indisputable right and interest  
3 in the public lands, on the part of all citizens of

4 the United States, is clearly recognized and  
5 established in the deeds of cession by which a  
6 large portion of those lands were conveyed, and  
7 is incontrovertibly deducible from the mode in  
8 which the title to the residue was acquired; and  
9 that all legislation by the general government on  
10 the subject, down to the present day, has fully  
11 admitted the existence of that principle, and  
12 been based thereon.

*Resolved*, That the domain thus possessed is  
2 of immense, and in many respects almost incal-  
3 culable value; that rightly managed, it might  
4 be productive of vast benefit to the people of  
5 our common country, and their posterity to the  
6 remotest generations; that, whether for peace  
7 or war, we, in common with our fellow citizens  
8 of other States, have, in that rich domain, a  
9 resource that, carefully, yet liberally, husbanded,  
10 would not fail us for ages to come; and, there-  
11 fore, that all legislation in relation thereto should  
12 be impartial, cautious though liberal, tempering  
13 magnanimity with wisdom.

*Resolved*, That such legislation, in relation to  
2 the public lands, as, keeping in view the great  
3 principle of joint and equal right, should best

4 promote their speedy sale, on the lowest reas-  
5 onable terms, to actual settlers and cultivators,  
6 would, in our opinion, be most eminently advan-  
7 tageous to all the people of all the States,  
8 collectively and individually.

*Resolved,* That a law ceding to any of the  
2 States of this Union the public lands within  
3 their limits, either without a consideration, or  
4 for one merely nominal, or for less than their fair  
5 value, would be manifestly unequal and partial  
6 in its operation upon the several States within  
7 which such lands lie, contrary both to the spirit  
8 and letter of their original cession, and a viola-  
9 tion of the rights of the whole people.

*Resolved,* That the general government is the  
2 best guardian of an interest so important as the  
3 Public Domain; and that such legislation with  
4 regard to its proceeds as would produce the  
5 most equal participation in the joint fund, by  
6 those jointly interested in it, would, in our view,  
7 best effectuate its fair and equitable disposal.

*Resolved,* That, in common with the General  
2 Assembly of Missouri, this Legislature “dep-  
3 recate all attempts to connect the question of the  
4 public lands with party politics, and to make

5 them subservient to political aspirations; and  
6 that it invokes the good faith and justice of  
7 Congress, to execute with fidelity the trust  
8 reposed in the federal Legislature.”

*Resolved,* That a copy of these resolutions be  
2 forwarded to each of our Senators and Repre-  
3 sentatives in Congress, to be laid before the  
4 bodies of which they are members, and that a  
5 copy be also forwarded to each of the Govern-  
6 ors of the States of this Union, with a request  
7 to lay them before the Legislatures of said  
8 States, respectively.





# STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
*February 25, 1840.* }

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

[Extract from the Journal.]

ELBRIDGE GERRY, *Clerk.*