

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE,
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OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1841.

Augusta:
SEVERANCE AND DORR, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1841.

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

NO. 8.

SENATE.

REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS

ADOPTED BY THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF DELAWARE,

IN RELATION TO THE

PUBLIC LANDS.

SEVERANCE & DORR,.....Printers to the State.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I herewith communicate agreeably to their request, a Joint Report and Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of Delaware, in relation to the Public Lands and the proceeds of the sales of the same.

EDWARD KENT.

C O U N C I L C H A M B E R, }
February 12, 1841. }

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, }
Dover, Feb. 4th, 1841. }

His Excellency the Governor of the State of Maine.

SIR:—By the direction of His Excellency, Governor Cooper, I have the honor herewith to transmit you the enclosed copy of Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of this State, with the request that the same may be laid before the Legislature of the State over which you preside.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully, yours, &c.

JOHN W. HOUSTON,

Secretary of State.

REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS.

In the General Assembly of the State of Delaware, January Session, 1841.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's Message as relates to the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the Public Lands among the several States, &c.,

R E P O R T,

That the citizens of this State consider the Public Lands as an inheritance purchased by the toil, sufferings, blood and treasure of our revolutionary fathers, and bequeathed to their successors, in which the people of all the States have an equal right ; and that their interest therein is of too much value and too highly appreciated by them to be relinquished without an adequate equivalent : that they view with deep solicitude the continual efforts in the National Legislature, to deprive the original States of their just and equitable rights in the Public Lands, by either ceding them to the new States, or disposing of them at prices merely nominal. That the people of Delaware look forward with anxiety, but not without hope, to the time when the revenue arising from the sales of the Public Lands shall be distributed among the States generally, according to their population, and applied to the purposes of education, thereby promoting the general welfare, by giving safety and permanence to our free institutions, the best security of which, will always be found in the knowledge and intelligence of the people. Your committee, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:—

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Delaware in General Assembly met, That this Legislature views with a jealous eye, every attempt to make a partial

distribution of the proceeds of the Public Lands of the Union among the States, whether by a direct grant to a State, or by sales at prices far below their value to the citizens thereof.

Resolved, That the proceeds of the sales of the Public Domain, should be entirely separated from the general revenue, and distributed among the several States according to their population, to be by them applied to the purposes of education.

Resolved, That we consider the Public Lands as the common property of all the States, and therefore, solemnly protest against any partial distribution of the proceeds thereof.

Resolved, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representative in Congress be requested, to make use of their best efforts to procure the passage of a law for the distribution of the proceeds of the Public Lands among the several States, to be appropriated by them, so as to promote the cause of general education.

Resolved, That the foregoing Report and Resolutions be signed by the Speaker of the Senate and by the Speaker of the House of Representatives ; and that a copy be transmitted to each of our Senators and our Representative in Congress, to be laid before their respective houses ; and that the Executive of each State be furnished with a copy by the Governor of this State, and requested to lay the same before their respective Legislatures.

ROBERT HOUSTON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CHARLES POLK,
Speaker of the Senate.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 15, 1841.
Reported, read and adopted unanimously.

JOSEPH P. COMEGYS, Clerk.

In SENATE, January 16, 1841.
Presented, read and concurred in unanimously.

GEORGE P. FISHER, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 12, 1841.

ORDERED, That 500 copies of this Communication and accompanying Report and Resolutions be printed for the use of the Legislature.

[Extract from the Journal.]

ATTEST,

DANIEL SANBORN, *Secretary.*