

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1843.

AUGUSTA:

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



1843.

TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

No. 5.]

[SENATE.]

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

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

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Hampton, July 5th, 1842. }

SIR:—I have the honor to transmit to you the enclosed Preamble and Resolutions, adopted by the General Assembly of this State at its recent session, in relation to an act of Congress, entitled “an act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights.”

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. F. CLEVELAND.

His Excellency,

The Governor of Maine.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

RESOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE PUBLIC LANDS.

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States, has passed an act entitled “an act to appropriate the sales of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights,” the object of which is to distribute among the several States and Territories, and to the District of Columbia, the avails of the public lands,—and whereas, the Federal Government is one of limited powers, without authority to distribute money to the States—and whereas, Congress, while ordering the avails of the public lands, which have heretofore gone into the national treasury, as a common fund, has simultaneously commenced a permanent National Funded Debt,—and whereas, in directing the money derived from the sales of the public lands to other purposes than the support of the Government, and legitimate national expenditures is unwarranted by the Constitution,—and Congress in bestowing the common funds of the nation in bounties upon the States, is thereby impairing the independence of the latter, by causing a humiliating dependence on the Central Government, and destroying the original relation that each bear to the other—therefore,

Resolved, That this General Assembly and the people of the State of Connecticut, disapprove of the act of

Congress, entitled "an act to appropriate the sales of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights," because the same is without authority from the Constitution, and is of injurious tendency.

Resolved, That the Federal Government possesses no authority to distribute money from the national treasury to the States, and that in ordering such distribution, Congress transcends its powers.

Resolved, That it is not only unconstitutional, but it would be unwise to make the States of this Union, dependent upon the Federal Government, or to clothe the latter with the power of dispensing pecuniary bounties to the States, thereby elevating the Central Government, which is the creature of the States, above the States which created it.

Resolved, That a frugal government, which is economical in its expenditures, and which shall abstain from all bounties, is best adapted to a republican people; and this General Assembly, speaking in behalf of the people of Connecticut, protest against any system of dividing up the public treasure, or any measure that is calculated to involve the country in debt.

Resolved, That the Senators of this State in the Congress of the United States, be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use their best exertions to procure an immediate and unconditional repeal of the "act to appropriate the sales of the public lands, and to grant pre-emption rights."

Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor, be requested to transmit copies of this Preamble and these Resolutions, to the President of the United States, and to the Governors of the several States, requesting them to lay the same before their respective Legislatures; and

also to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

In Senate, 1842.

Passed.

E. S. ABERNETHY, *Clerk.*

House of Representatives, 1842.

Passed.

R. S. HINMAN, *Clerk.*

APPROVED, June 9, 1842.

C. F. CLEVELAND.

Office of Secretary of State, }
 HARTFORD, July 9, 1842. }

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of record.

N. A. PHELPS, *Secretary of State.*



STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Hampton, July 5th, 1842. }

SIR:—I have the honor herewith to transmit to you copies of sundry Preambles and Resolutions, passed by the General Assembly of this State at its recent session, in relation to the following subjects, viz :

1. A Tariff of duties on foreign importations.
2. The Military Academy at West Point, in the State of New York.
3. An act of Congress, entitled “an act to establish a uniform system of Bankruptcy throughout the United States.”

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
C. F. CLEVELAND.

His Excellency,
The Governor of Maine.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

RESOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE TARIFF.

WHEREAS, prior to the adoption of the constitution of the United States, the several States possessed power and authority to lay discriminating duties on importations, for the purposes of revenue and protection ; and whereas, by the adoption of said constitution such power and authority was surrendered by the States to the General Government ; and whereas, such power and authority has been exercised by the General Government ever since the adoption of said constitution by various enactments, based upon the principle of discrimination, thereby affording protection and encouragement to the agricultural and manufacturing interests of the people of the States, by a system of discriminating duties upon such articles of foreign growth, produce and manufacture, as came into competition with domestic products ; and whereas, many of our fellow citizens, relying on the stability of the policy adopted and continued by the General Government, have invested large amounts of capital in various pursuits, in which further encouragement is essential to their prosperity, and conducive to the general welfare—therefore,

Resolved, That it is the right and the duty of Congress to adopt a system of discriminating duties on imports, to raise such an amount of revenue as, with the avails of the

sales of the public lands, shall be sufficient to defray the expenses of a wise and prudent administration of the government.

Resolved, That in adopting a Tariff, rendered necessary by the present state of the public revenue, sound policy requires that it be so adjusted as to afford essential protection to the manufacturing, mechanical, and agricultural interests of the country.

Resolved, That we coincide with the sentiments expressed by His Excellency, the Governor, "that it is the duty of every government, as an agency established by the people for their own benefit, promptly and freely to exert its constitutional powers in behalf of the various interests of society."

Resolved, That while we yield to the principles of the act of Congress, passed on the 2d day of March, 1833, and generally known as the "Compromise Act," in limiting the duties on imports to such an amount of revenue "as may be necessary to an economical administration of the government," including, of course, ample provision for the defence of the country; yet we hold to the right and duty of Congress so to discriminate in the distribution of those duties over the lists of imports, as may render the best and most efficient encouragement and protection to American industry, whether employed in the factory, the workshop, the field, or upon the ocean.

Resolved, That we consider one of the best provisions of the act of Congress aforesaid, to be that which requires all duties on foreign goods, after the 30th of June, 1842, to be paid in "READY MONEY"—a provision that should never be departed from; because, in thus requiring gold and silver, the only "money" known to the constitution, to be paid on the products of foreign workshops,

and dispensing with custom-house credits, we impose a wholesome check upon those undue facilities heretofore extended to our foreign competitors, which have often proved ruinous to our own citizens; and we at the same time furnish a salutary antidote to the extravagances of excessive and capricious banking, the evils of which paralyze the arm of industry, wherever they spread.

Resolved, That the inaction of Congress on the subject of a Tariff, merits and receives our decided disapprobation. We did expect that an *exhausted treasury*, forced loans, desolated manufactories, unemployed operatives, and doubtful and gloomy prospects before us all, would have furnished sufficient incentives to arouse every American citizen to speedy and effective action; but since these fail, we respectfully instruct our Senators, and request our Representatives in Congress, to use their best energies to secure the passage of a bill, embracing the views expressed in the foregoing resolutions.

Resolved, That His Excellency, the Governor, be, and he is hereby requested to forward a copy of these Resolutions to the Executive of the several States, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in the Congress of the United States.

In Senate, 1842.

Passed.

E. S. ABERNETHY, *Clerk.*

House of Representatives, 1842.

Passed.

R. S. HINMAN, *Clerk.*

APPROVED, JUNE 10, 1842.

C. F. CLEVELAND.

TARIFF.

*Office of Secretary of State, }
Hartford, July 9, 1842. }*

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of record
in this Office.

N. A. PHELPS, *Sec'y of State.*

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

RESOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE WEST POINT ACADEMY.

WHEREAS, The attention of many of the citizens of this State, has for years past been directed to the large appropriations of public money made by Congress for the support of the Military Academy at West-Point, in the State of New York, and as it appears evident to them that a very large proportion of the cadets received into that School, are the sons of wealthy and influential men, who by the interposition of Members of Congress obtain situations in that institution to the almost total exclusion of the sons of poor and less influential men, regardless alike of qualifications and of merit,—and whereas, the practice of educating such persons at the expense of the United States, without any obligation on their part to continue in its service, after they have completed their educations, or in any way re-imburse to the United States the amount expended in their educations, is considered entirely at variance with our views of justice and equality—we are therefore of opinion that said Military Academy ought to be abolished.

Resolved, Therefore, by the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested to oppose all further appropriations for the support of said Military Academy.

Resolved, That the Governor of this State cause that each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and the Governor of each State and Territory of the United States, be furnished with a copy of the preceding Preamble and Resolutions.

Passed. House of Representatives, 1842.

R. S. HINMAN, *Clerk.*

In Senate, 1842.

Passed.

E. S. ABERNETHY, *Clerk.*

APPROVED, June 8, 1842.

C. F. CLEVELAND.



Office of Secretary of State, }
HARTFORD, July 9, 1842. }

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of record in this office.

N. A. PHELPS, *Secretary of State.*

STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

RESOLUTIONS IN RELATION TO THE BANKRUPT ACT.

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States, at the called session in 1841, passed an act entitled "An act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy throughout the United States," by the provisions of which, debtors, whether traders or not, on their voluntary application, may be discharged from their just debts without payment, and without the consent of their creditors, or any part thereof,—and whereas, said act is retrospective in its provisions, not only in relation to debts, but in respect to contracts, and transfers of property, which are invalidated—is unjust in its operations, subversive of moral obligation, tending to encourage fraud, to destroy confidence between man and man, and in its influence has greatly aggravated the embarrassments and distress which afflict our country,—and whereas, Connecticut being a creditor State, and its citizens extensively interested in claims due from persons in other States, said act operates with peculiar severity on the people of this State:—Wherefore,

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Assembly, said act ought to be immediately repealed; and that the Representatives of this State in the Congress of the United States, be, and they are hereby requested, and our Senators in Congress are instructed to use their influence to procure the repeal of said act; and if necessary, to introduce and vote for a bill for that purpose.

BANKRUPT ACT.

Resolved, That a copy of these Resolutions be forwarded to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and to each of the Governors of all the States.

House of Representatives, 1842.

Passed.

R. S. HINMAN, *Clerk.*

In Senate, 1842.

Passed.

E. S. ABERNETHY, *Clerk.*

APPROVED, June 10, 1842.

C. F. CLEVELAND.



Office of Secretary of State, }
HARTFORD, July 9, 1842. }

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of record.

N. A. PHELPS, *Secretary of State.*

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 10, 1843.

ORDERED, That 500 copies of the foregoing Resolutions of the State of Connecticut, be printed for the use of the Senate.

ATTEST :

JERE HASKELL, *Secretary.*