

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1844.

AUGUSTA:
WM. R. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS.

1844.

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 31.]

[SENATE.

COMMUNICATION

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF STATE.

[WM. R. SMITH & Co....Printers.]



STATE OF MAINE.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, }
Augusta, February 19, 1844. }

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I have this day received a communication from the late Governor Kavanagh, under date of the 10th ult., accompanied by a letter from the President of the United States and one from the Hon. J. M. Porter, Secretary at War, explanatory of a communication from the latter, to Gov. Kavanagh, in relation to the removal of the United States troops from Fort Kent, and requesting that the same may be printed. But as I have no authority for ordering the printing of such documents, I herewith transmit a copy of the correspondence, to which I would respectfully invite the attention of the Legislature.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

PHILIP C. JOHNSON, *Sec'y of State.*



CORRESPONDENCE.

[COPY.]

DAMARISCOTTA MILLS, }
January 10th, 1844. }

DEAR SIR:—I herewith transmit a letter from the President of the United States, covering one addressed to him by the Secretary of War, in regard to the late correspondence upon the subject of the removal of the troops of the United States from Fort Kent; and I request that you will cause the same to be printed, and annexed, if possible, to the pamphlet which contains the remainder of that correspondence.

I am, my dear sir, very truly,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) EDWARD KAVANAGH.

To PHILIP C. JOHNSON, Esq., Augusta.

[COPY.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6, 1844.

SIR:—Your letter of the 22d December, was duly received, and its contents were without delay, referred to the Secretary of War for suitable explanations. I now enclose his reply to my enquiries, which I hope may prove satisfactory. I am so fully convinced, that the offensive remark contained in the conclusion of his letter was not designed so much as an exponent of his own opinions, as a replication to views presented by others, that I cannot but indulge the hope above expressed.

Be pleased to accept my cordial salutations and sincere wish for your speedy restoration to health.

(Signed,)

JOHN TYLER.

Gov. KAVANAGH.

[COPY.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, }
 January 2, 1844. }

SIR: I this moment received your note, accompanying the letter of Governor Kavanagh of Maine, and send you herewith a copy of my letter to him of the 30th November last. I am somewhat surprised "*at the tone and temper*" of the Governor's letter, and am perfectly sure that I gave no reasonable cause for the offence he has taken.

On the 20th of October last, you referred to me his letter to you of the 17th of that month, in which he asks, that upon a mature reconsideration, the removed troops might, without unnecessary delay, be required to resume their station at the post that had been abandoned (Fort Kent.) As part of the reasons for so doing, he referred you specially to communications A and E (accompanying his letter) from the Land Agent and Commissioners of the State of Maine, stating that he deemed that nothing could be added to the very forcible and cogent reasons which they give, why the late order from the War Department should be rescinded.

In the first of those communications (A) from the Land Agent, Mr. Bradley, to Governor Kavanagh, the writer says, "I need not describe to you the kind of population there, (on the St. John :) their ignorance of our language, laws, and almost every thing else, you are aware of as well as I am."

In a communication from Capt. William P. Parrott to Mr. Bradley, and to which the latter refers in his letter to Governor Kavanagh, and thus makes part of the same, there is the following paragraph: "The French population are as yet unacquainted with the laws, language and customs of the State, and owing to their situation and feelings they could not be depended upon in case of need."

In the document (E) accompanying the Governor's letter, signed by Philip Eastman, John W. Dana and Henry W. Cunningham, Commissioners of the State of Maine for locating grants, &c., addressed to Governor Kavanagh, they state, that the population of the settlement on the American side of the St. John "is com-

posed mostly of Acadian and Canadian French, a few Irishmen and provincial Englishmen, and here and there an American. The people are generally unacquainted with our laws and customs, unable to read and write, and but very few understand our language. They have heretofore lived under British laws and are too ignorant to be at present capable of self-government. Until the people can be more enlightened by means of schools and intercourse with us, very little dependence can be placed upon them, for discreet and intelligent assistance in the enforcement of the laws." And this state of ignorance is one of the reasons urged in all those communications why the troops should be kept among them. I did not deem this a legitimate reason for employing the troops of the United States, and so stated, as you will observe in the conclusion of my letter.

I did not mean thereby to cast any unjust imputation upon the inhabitants of the State of Maine, and only referred to the alleged ignorance and want of information of a portion of the population, because it had been urged as one of the reasons for keeping the troops among them.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

J. M. PORTER.

To the President of the United States.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 20, 1844.

ORDERED, That 500 copies of the communication of the Secretary of State and accompanying Documents, be printed for the use of the Senate.

JERE HASKELL, *Secretary.*