

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1845.

AUGUSTA:

WM. T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1845.

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

No. 4.]

[HOUSE.

STATE OF MAINE.

THE Committee, to which was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the annexation of Texas,—Resolves relating to the annexation of Texas,—Resolves from the legislature of New Hampshire on the same subject, together with a resolve in relation to the occupation of Oregon, report the following Resolves :

E. B. FRENCH, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES in relation to the annexation of Texas, and the occupation of Oregon.

RESOLVED, That obedience to the will of the people, 2 is a fundamental principle of democracy.

That the question of the annexation of Texas to the 2 United States, was appropriately and directly present- 3 ed to the people for their consideration, and after full 4 discussion, has been decided affirmatively; and it now 5 becomes the duty of the government, to take imme- 6 diate and efficient steps for the consummation of the 7 measure, at the earliest practicable period.

That the government of Texas and of the United 2 States, have a right to make treaties and stipulations, 3 and enter into alliances and compact, and that the 4 government of Texas, in ceding her territory, and the 5 government of the United States in accepting the ces- 6 sion of said territory, exercise powers, which no other 7 government or people should be suffered to impair or 8 defeat.

That the questions of the annexation of Texas and 2 the occupation of the Oregon, are great national ques- 3 tions, and as such, have been canvassed and passed 4 upon by the people, and any attempt to place them 5 upon sectional grounds, and to make them subservient

6 to local interests, is calculated, to endanger the success
7 of those measures.

That the territory of Oregon, extending on the Pa-
2 cific Ocean from the forty-second degree to fifty-four
3 degrees and forty-nine minutes, north latitude, belongs
4 to the United States, and it is the imperative duty of
5 the government to occupy the same, and extend its
6 sole jurisdiction over said territory without unnecessary
7 delay.

That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our
2 Representatives be requested, to use their best exer-
3 tions to secure the annexation of Texas to the United
4 States, and the occupation of Oregon, in conformity
5 with the foregoing resolutions.

That the Secretary of State forward to each of our
2 Senators and Representatives in Congress, a copy of
3 these resolutions.

STATE OF MAINE.

The minority of the Joint Select Committee, to which was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to Texas, together with a resolution relating to the occupation of the Oregon territory, cannot assent to some of the resolutions on the annexation of Texas, reported by the majority.

They believe this measure to be of paramount importance to this state, and upon the success of which, her prosperity greatly depends. Her views have been unequivocally declared upon it, and her sentiments the legislature should repeat.

The minority therefore oppose that resolve which seems equivocally to admit the propriety, while it inferentially denies the practicability of the present consummation of this great measure.

They also deeply regret that one of the resolves reported by the majority, is eminently calculated to arouse local jealousies, excite sectional prejudices, and to array one portion of our country against another.

It is no less, than by a solemn act of this legislature to impugn the motives, question the patriotism, and distrust the sincerity of some of the powerful and ardent advocates of our common cause.

Urgent necessity alone can ever palliate such a course, which, at the present time, is not only uncalled for and improper, but in their opinion unjustifiable in the extreme.

These are some of the reasons which compel the minority to dissent from the views of the majority.

They therefore ask leave to report the annexed resolves.

HENRY TALLMAN,
J. H. PILLSBURY,
WALDO P. VINAL.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES relating to the annexation of Texas.

RESOLVED, That obedience to the will of the people,
2 is a fundamental principle of democracy.

RESOLVED, That at the recent presidential canvass,
2 the immediate annexation of Texas was a question of
3 paramount importance and fully and freely discussed,
4 that Maine, by her vote for James K. Polk, the bold
5 and determined advocate of immediate annexation, has
6 decided for and demands its consummation.

RESOLVED, That the United States and the Republic
2 of Texas, as sovereign and independent governments,
3 are under no obligations to consult the will or pleasure
4 of any other power as to the question or terms of their
5 union.

RESOLVED, That our Senators in Congress be in-
2 structed, and Representatives requested, to give their
3 support to the immediate annexation of Texas to the
4 United States.

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be directed
2 to transmit a copy of the foregoing resolves to each of
3 our Senators and Representatives in Congress.



STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 23, 1845. }

Laid on the table, and four hundred copies ordered to be printed
for the use of the House.

[Extract from the Journal.]

SAMUEL BELCHER, *Clerk.*