

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1850.

Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1850.

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE.

No. 4]

[HOUSE.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVES respecting the admission of California, formation of Territorial Governments, and the action of our Representatives and Senators in Congress.

Resolved, As the sense of this legislature, that California ought to be promptly and unconditionally admitted into this Union, in accordance with her application to congress for that purpose, and governments formed for New Mexico and Utah prohibiting slavery therein—and that no territorial government should be formed without an express prohibition to that effect.

Resolved, That any attempt to connect, with the question of the admission of California, that of territorial governments, of fugitive slaves, of slavery in the District of Columbia, and other kindred subjects,

5 can only tend to increase the excitement which now
6 exists throughout our country on those subjects, and
7 would in no degree aid in effecting a harmonious set-
8 tlement of existing controversies, which have unfor-
9 tunately assumed a sectional character and bearing.
10 But in view of the excitement which these subjects
11 have caused, in congress and throughout the whole
12 country, and of the fact that there appears but little
13 or no probability that a bill establishing a territorial
14 government with an express prohibition of slavery,
15 can be passed in the senate of the United States, and
16 having no desire to prolong any controversy beyond
17 that period when it may cease to afford any reasonable
18 probability of being productive of some practical good,
19 but rather to cultivate and perpetuate a feeling of
20 harmony and union among all the citizens of the
21 several states of this great confederacy,—therefore,

Resolved, That the plan which has been suggested
2 by the president of the United States, viz: first, that
3 California be admitted.—Second, that the territories
4 in question be permitted to remain under the laws
5 and regulations now in force therein, until such time
6 (which we believe will be at an early day,) as the

7 people of said territories shall form constitutions, and
8 ask for admission as states into our Union—presents
9 the best if not the only plan of arriving at any practi-
10 cal results at the present time, and the only *compromise*,
11 likely to be adopted, upon which the patriotic of all
12 sections and parties can have any hope of uniting,
13 with any good degree of harmony.

Resolved, That our representatives in congress be
2 requested and senators instructed, to use their best
3 efforts to carry out the views expressed in the fore-
4 going resolutions, viz :—first, to endeavor to secure
5 the unconditional and unqualified admission of Cali-
6 fornia as a separate measure, and to vote against
7 encumbering this with any other matters or quest-
8 ions.—Second, to use all proper efforts to secure ter-
9 ritorial governments, with express prohibitions of
10 slavery, so long as they may judge that there is any
11 reasonable hope of having their efforts attended with
12 success.—Third, if, in the exercise of their best judg-
13 ment, they deem it impossible to secure such territo-
14 rial governments with express prohibitions of slavery,
15 to take such a course as may tend to permit those
16 territories to remain under their present laws and

17 regulations, until such time as they may ask admission
18 as states—but in no case to vote for any territorial
19 bill, either as a separate measure or when coupled
20 with others, unless it shall contain the principle of the
21 ordinance of '87—an express prohibition of slavery.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward
2 copies of these resolutions to each of our senators and
3 representatives in congress, and to each of the gov-
4 ernors of the several states.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 22, 1850.

ORDERED, That 500 copies of the foregoing Resolves, be printed for the use of the House.

EDMUND W. FLAGG, *Clerk.*