

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSIONS

A. D. 1851--2.

Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1852.

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

No. 29.]

[HOUSE.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives
of the State of Maine :*

THE undersigned, President of the York County Agricultural Society, in compliance with its vote, presents to the Legislature the accompanying resolves of said society, and respectfully asks for them a careful consideration. The subject vitally interests every individual of the State of whatever occupation, age or sex, for all must mainly depend upon the productions of the earth for the supply of their tables. Indeed, in some cases, consumers have greater interest in the matter than agriculturists themselves. Prices depend on supply and demand—on plenty and scarceness, and the purchaser can escape the effects of high prices only by diminished consumption, while the producer is in part or wholly remunerated for short crops by the high price of his surplus. An interest of such paramount importance is worthy of the fostering care of the Legislature if by legislation it can be fostered. The Legislature has heretofore done much by its encouragement to agricultural associations. The York County Society is confident of much good already from its efforts, and it is doubtful if that society would have had existence but for State encouragement, though that encouragement now constitutes a small part of its pecuniary resources.

The great waste of labor and expense by farmers from want of knowledge and skill in their business is obvious to every observer,

and its effect on the prosperity of the State is incalculable. For complete success in the practice of agriculture, a knowledge of the numerous ingredients in the soil—of their chemical affinities and combinations—of what combinations and decompositions that are needed, and how they can be supplied and effected by manures—of how these effect plants and what is essential for each species—of animal and vegetable physiology—and of what crops and animals that are most suitable for the soil and climate—is all requisite. The agriculturist to obtain this varied, hidden and extensive knowledge, needs all the aid the light of science and the investigation and experience of the best minds can afford. How to obtain this aid and diffuse it through the State seems to require the wisdom of the Legislature to devise and its power to accomplish.

RUFUS McINTIRE.

March 1, 1852.

RESOLVES.

Whereas, Agriculture embraces within itself the elements of individual and national wealth and power ; and *Whereas*, this most important department of science has been in a great measure overlooked and neglected, while other branches have received the attention of the Legislature ; therefore be it

Resolved, That agriculture is paramount to all the other industrial interests of society and should be considered an object of special regard and patronage both by the government and by the people.

Resolved, That while we would gratefully acknowledge the pecuniary aid hitherto afforded by the State to local agricultural societies, yet in the judgment of this society it is believed that neither these or any other means now in operation are sufficient for the full development of the agricultural resources of the State or the continued and permanent advancement of this ancient and honorable department of human industry.

Resolved, That the necessity for additional State patronage appears from the low condition and slow progress of agriculture among us, compared with the thrift and intelligence so conspicuous in other departments of labor, and from the large quantities of produce imported from other States, which by means of improved methods of cultivation might be grown by our own farmers at a cost enabling them successfully to compete with the more naturally fertile soils of the west.

Resolved, That to prevent further depreciation in the great interest of agriculture and to raise this important pursuit to that point of perfection which has been attained by most other arts—a *knowledge of the natural sciences is indispensable* ; for if there are scientific principles on which successful cultivation depends it follows that no efforts are *well* directed unless founded on these principles.

Resolved, That a thorough, systematic *professional* course of education is as necessary to prepare the cultivator of the soil for eminence in his calling as it is universally acknowledged to be to the lawyer, the divine or the physician, and that the yeomanry of Maine who bear so large a portion of the public burthen have a right to claim from the government the same fostering aid which is extended to other great interests of the community.

Resolved, That while this society would respectfully refer to the wisdom of the Legislature the maturing of a system by which the wants of agriculturists shall be supplied and thereby the wealth and prosperity of the people of the State increased, they would respectfully suggest the organization of a department of agriculture with offices commensurate with the interests to be cared for and the establishment of an agricultural school combining in the greatest practicable degree the advantages of similar institutions in other countries.

At the annual meeting of the York County Agricultural Society, holden at Alfred, February 11th, 1852, the foregoing resolutions were offered and adopted unanimously, and the President of the Society requested to cause the same to be presented to the Legislature now in session, and to urge action thereon.

JAMES FOSS,

Secretary of York County Agricultural Society.

STATE OF MAINE.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 13, 1852.

ORDERED, That 350 copies of the foregoing Resolves and accompanying communication, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

EDMUND W. FLAGG, *Clerk.*