

# 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. 1853.

---

**Augusta:**  
WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1853.

SENATE.....

.....No. 13.

---

# MESSAGE

OF

# GOVERNOR CROSBY,

TRANSMITTING THE

## COMMUNICATION OF LAND AGENT

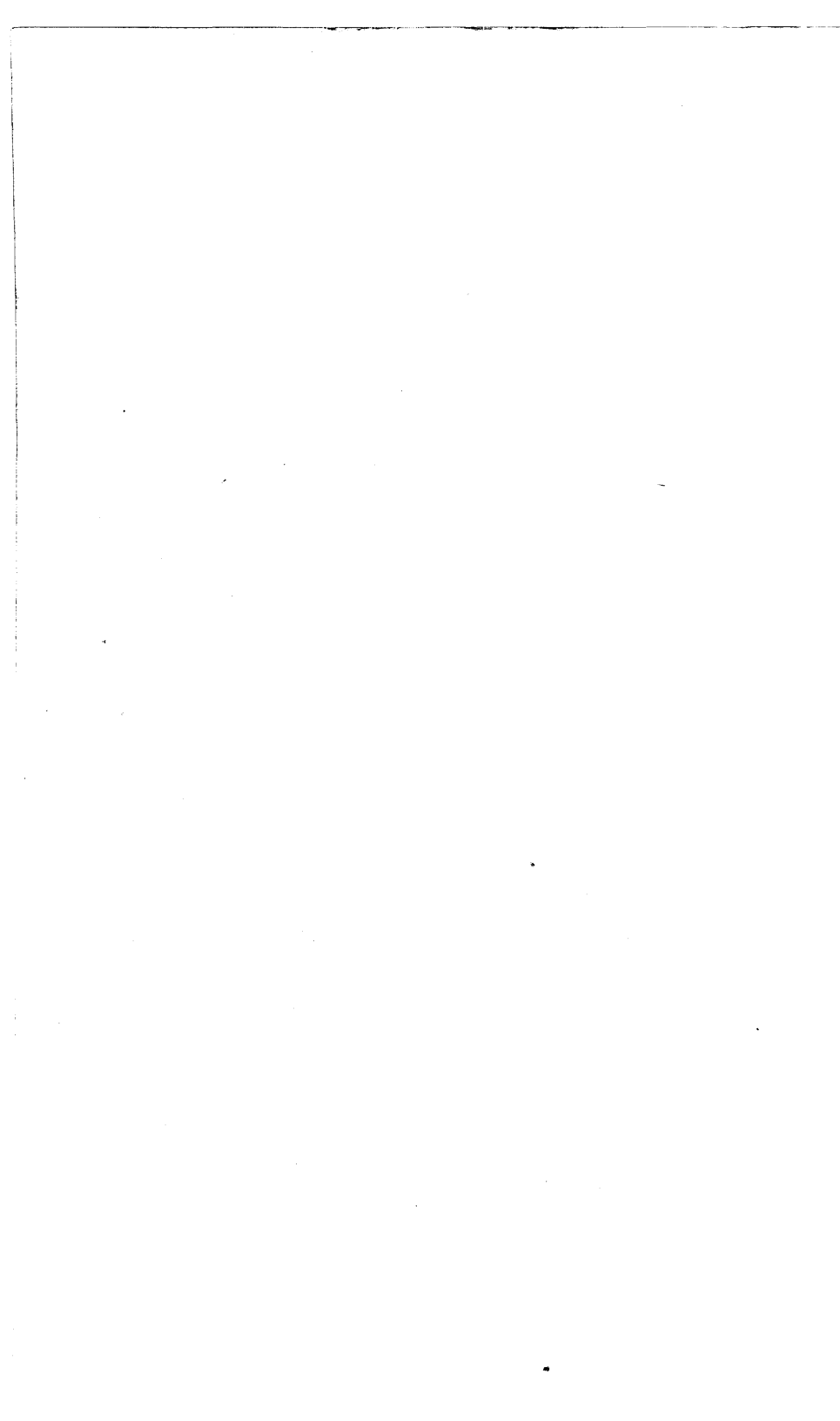
TO THE LEGISLATURE, MARCH 30, 1853.

---

AUGUSTA:

WHEELER AND SIMPSON, PRINTERS.

1853.



## MESSAGE.

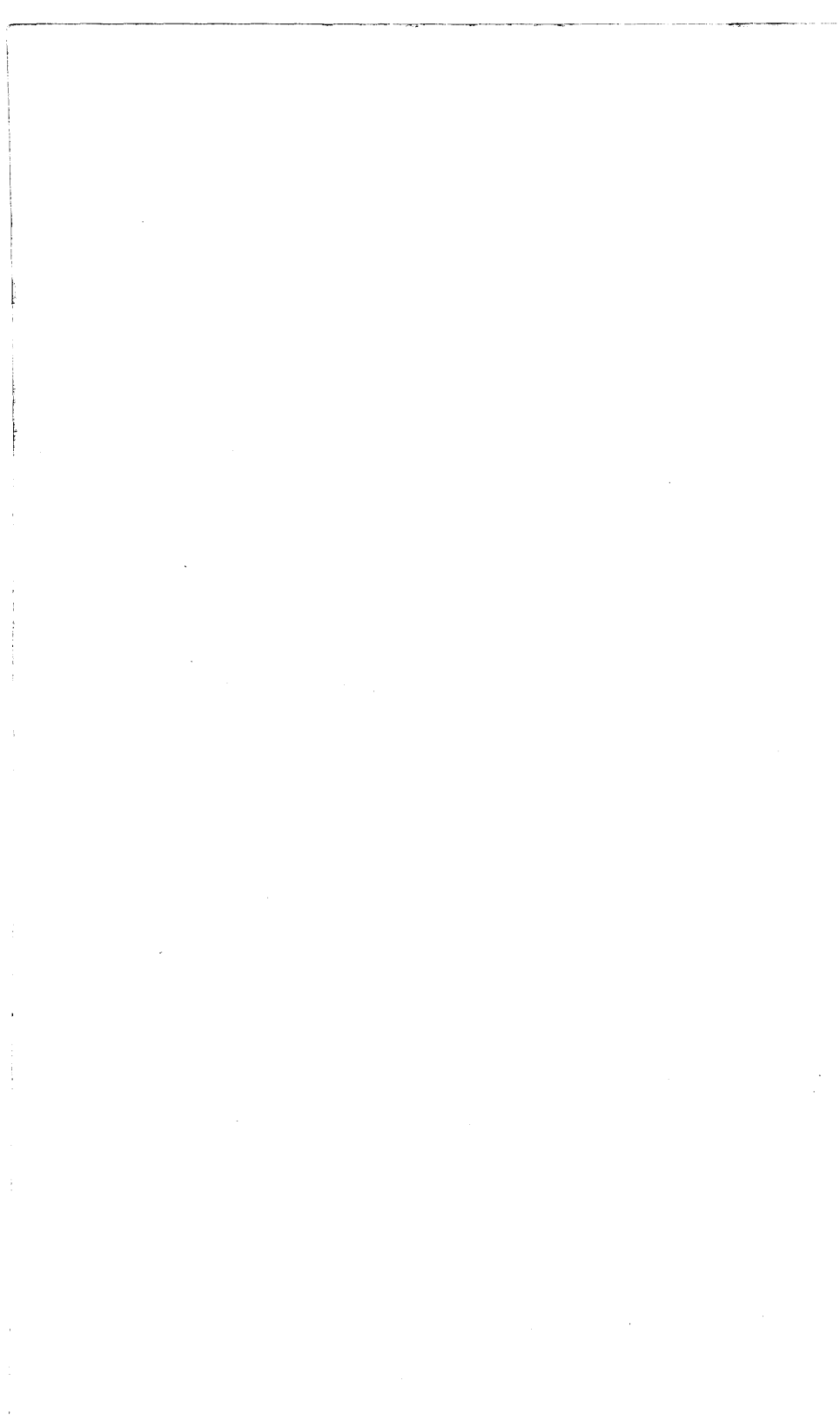
---

*To the Senate  
and House of Representatives:*

I herewith submit for your consideration, a communication, which I have this morning received from the Land Agent.

WM. G. CROSBY.

COUNCIL CHAMBER, }  
March 30, 1853. }



## COMMUNICATION.

LAND OFFICE, }  
Augusta, March 29, 1853. }

SIR :—Having been directed, by a resolve of the Legislature of this State, to proceed to Massachusetts, for the purpose of obtaining from the authorities of that State, the terms on which she would convey to Maine her interest in all lands in this State ; and having been unable to fully accomplish the object contemplated by said resolve, I have thought it proper to communicate to your Excellency the present aspect of the action of Massachusetts, that the information may be laid before the Legislature, before its adjournment, should your Excellency think proper so to do.

On my arrival in Boston, I learned that no power existed with any agent or commission of the Commonwealth to answer the proposition I was directed to submit, and that Legislative action was necessary to accomplish the object desired.

I immediately presented the subject to his Excellency Governor Clifford, who laid the communication and the Resolve of the Legislature of Maine before the Legislature of Massachusetts, and urged immediate action thereon.

The papers were referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and on the 10th instant that Committee reported to the House of Representatives a bill for the sale of those lands, which bill is hereunto annexed.

After some discussion, several amendments being offered, the subject was recommitted, and final action, by the press of other business, delayed to the present time.

It will be seen that the second section of the bill reported provides that before making any sales, such lands or timber as are now held by Massachusetts, the Land Agent and Commissioners shall offer to the State of Maine, on *reasonable terms*, the right to become the purchaser thereof. I have no doubt, therefore, that these lands will be tendered to Maine, at a price which may be thought reasonable, but not in season to lay the proposition before the Legislature at the present session.

The parties who attempted to purchase these lands last December, when they were offered to the public by sealed proposals, have succeeded in closing a contract for some five hundred thousand acres; and the residue, about twelve hundred thousand acres, are, it is understood, engaged to the same parties, at the option of that State, unless otherwise disposed of prior to September next.

It may, therefore, be important that Legislative action be had at this time, in order to meet the proposition which may be submitted by the authorities of Massachusetts.

His Excellency,  
Wm. G. Crosby,  
Gov. of Maine. )

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient serv't,  
A. P. MORRILL,  
Land Agent.



# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

---

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED  
AND FIFTY-THREE.

---

AN ACT for the sale of the Public Lands in Maine.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives  
in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the  
same, as follows :*

SECT. 1. The Land Agent of this Commonwealth, with the concurrence of the Commissioners appointed by the Acts of 1850, chapter 307, and the Acts of 1851, chapter 190, is hereby authorized to sell for such price, and on such terms, as they may deem for the interest of the Commonwealth, all the timber and lands, now remaining unsold in the State of Maine, and belonging to this Commonwealth: *provided*, however, that in case of the sale of said timber and lands, or of any part thereof, on credit, the security to be received for the payment of the purchase money shall be made entirely satisfactory to said Land Agent and Commissioners, wholly independent of any lien upon the said timber or lands.

SECT. 2. Prior to making any sale of such lands, or of

the timber thereon, as may now be held in severalty by Massachusetts, or jointly with the State of Maine, the Land Agent and Commissioners aforesaid, shall offer to the State of Maine, for such time, and on such terms as they shall deem reasonable, the first right to become the purchasers thereof.

SECT. 3. So much of the third section of the Act of 1851, chapter 190, as forbids the sale of the fee in the public lands, is hereby repealed.

SECT. 4. This Act shall take effect from and after its passage.

---

STATE OF MAINE.

---

In SENATE, March 30, 1853.

READ, and 350 copies of the message and accompanying communication from the Land Agent, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

LOUIS O. COWAN,

*Secretary.*