

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING ITS SESSION

A. D. 1856.

PART SECOND.

Augusta:

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1856.

THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 9.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR,

*Laying before the House, the Report of DR. A. T. WHEELOCK,
Commissioner to the Paris Exhibition.*

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*To the Senate and House of Representatives :*

I herewith lay before the Legislature, the Report of Dr. A. T. Wheelock, appointed Commissioner to the Paris Exhibition, under resolve of March 17, 1855.

ANSON P. MORRILL.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
Augusta, January 4, 1856. }

REPORT OF COMMISSIONER  
TO THE  
UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION OF INDUSTRY.

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My purpose in this Report of the Universal Exhibition of Paris, is to make it most direct and practical.

All the prospective ideas of such exhibitions are not comprehended by the wisest minds, but among the most prominent is that of a friendly unity between nations. In connexion with this idea, the remarks of Mr. Alexander Vattemare may serve as an

INTRODUCTORY.

At a dinner given to the American Commissioners, at the Palais Royal, at which were present as invited guests, several of our foreign ministers and other distinguished Americans, Mr. Vattemare said:

GENTLEMEN:—It is impossible for me to find words to express to you, all the happiness I feel just now, in finding myself in the midst of so many distinguished and illustrious American citizens, among whom I see a number of those who treated me with so much kindness during my two visits to the United States for the accomplishment of my self-imposed mission—the promotion of the system of International Exchanges, a system acknowledged to be the most likely to cement friendships among men and secure the intellectual union of nations. Most of you gentlemen have been eye-witnesses of, or more, contributors to the success of my mission. The remembrance of the fraternal and most generous hospitality with which I was treated in your

beautiful country, will last even after me. And let me add, to the honor of America, that if the system of exchanges is still standing, its existence is altogether due to the liberality of your country. For in 1844, I had in the prosecution of our system, spent so much of my little fortune, that the welfare of my beloved family was strongly compromised, and that I was on the point, yielding to the advices of true friends, of abandoning this cherished child of my fancy, for the success of which, I would have given my own life, when light from the east raised my hopes again and stimulated me to persevere. The State of Maine, from which, owing to her rural population and commercial occupations, I had the least to expect, was the first to support my efforts. In the session of 1844, a farmer, member of the Legislature, proposed that the sum of \$300 be appropriated for their share of these expenses. This generous proposal was unanimously adopted. The example given by Maine was followed by Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, North and South Carolina, and Florida. It is true, that in several of the above States, the acts did not last more than the first or second year. Yet it is to these generous appropriations that I have been able to bring the system of exchanges to its actual state. I consider it my duty, gentlemen, a duty of conscience, to proclaim the name of the State which was to give the first and most effective support to a system which, it is the universal belief, is destined to render good and great services to mankind. The specimens of the wonderful productions of the intellectual activity of the United States, distributed by the system and now permanently deposited in the Hotel de Ville, have already conquered to your country the admiration and esteem of the world. These feelings towards your noble country will yet be increased by the present exhibition of the specimens of the inventive genius of America. However incomplete this collection placed in the Palace of Industry may be, it will be sufficient to show what you are and the glorious prospects before you. Hence, gentlemen, thanks to

the noble hospitality given to the productions of your mind and industry by the government of France and the city of Paris, we have two different American exhibitions in this metropolis, which combined together, will I trust, make the balance, and illustrate young America among her ancient and so powerful competitors.

Mr. Guizot's report on that subject, and letters received from the Hon. Prefect of the Seine, and from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, manifest a deep interest in the American department of both these enterprises, and reciprocate the feelings so eloquently expressed by the glorious Father of your country, the immortal Washington, on the 8th of March, 1784. That these happy presages, so fully realized to this time, may be perpetuated to the latest generation, is, gentlemen, the most ardent wish of my heart, and the aim of all the efforts of my humble life.

#### COMMERCE AND MANUFACTURES.

Many of our manufacturers have thought it useless to compete, on their own soil, with the manufacturers of England, France, and Germany. If it is so, the markets of the world worth competing for most, now, are those of other countries than these. Turkey, Egypt, Persia, Tunis, and similar other nations are on the eve of making the same improvements that we have. They are introducing railroads, telegraphs, improved modes of building, clothing, and other changes, not less than ourselves. They are in many cases introducing machinery. We ought then to take every means to bring our resources, our articles of production and commerce to their notice. There is not the least doubt that we can offer to them as valuable and agreeable facilities of trade in most of the articles they need, as other nations. The Americans, to say the least, are not behind any other European nation, as honorable and agreeable and successful dealers. We may make ourselves preferred in these respects in any of these markets.

In any useful articles made by machinery, or in the manufacture of machinery, there is not the least doubt we can compete with any nation in the world for these markets. Europeans have not that aptitude for working machinery, that Americans have, and evidently will continue to remain behind us in these respects. In manual handicrafts they are in advance of us, and will be likely to continue to be so. Our course is then a plain one.

All these nations become favorably disposed towards Americans. All that is necessary to be done then, is, to neglect no means of introducing ourselves in a commercial point of view to their attention. One of the best means of doing so, towards nations who do not inform themselves by reading as is the custom of Americans, is at these commercial and industrial exhibitions, which are really trades-unions as well as peace-congresses on the grandest scale, to meet these merchants and manufacturers who there congregate from all these nations; if we have neglected this shorter and improved way of doing so, we should employ the next best means and introduce our manufactures to them in other ways as rapidly and industriously as is possible.

One of the most important branches of business for our own State, at the present time, would be the trade to Europe in manufactured lumber. All articles for building, of wood, may be manufactured here and sold at a very large profit in any of the countries of Europe. Their woods suitable for carpenter-work have become very scarce there; and much more than that, they have not introduced machinery in their manufacture, and will not soon be likely to. Doors, sashes, blinds and various other articles manufactured from our woods, may be sold for very much more than their value here with us.

In the manufacture of machinery itself, our State is becoming largely interested; very successfully so. By proper means, this branch of business may be entered into extensively for foreign trade. In the opinion of practical machinists who were at the Universal Exhibition as Commissioners from Canada, the ma-

chinery exhibited at our state mechanics' fair was superior to any seen at the great exhibition.

Any information on these subjects that may be desirable to commercial men, may be obtained from Charles L. Fleischmann, Esq., at Paris, France, who having resided several years in a government capacity in this country, has now some years since, established a business agency there.

### AGRICULTURE.

There was held, in June, as a part of the Universal Exhibition, a general meeting of animal re-producers, at which were brought forward specimens of the principal European races of animals from the agricultural schools and government establishments of France, England, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland and Holland. Most of these races, as well as those that have been introduced into our own country, are distinguished for some special quality. Some are superior for working cattle, others for breeding, others for milking qualities, others for slaughter, &c. There is no physiological incompatibility in a union of these qualities. A few years since, there was no breed of cattle in this country that could be kept in a condition fit for slaughter while they were worked. It is not so now. At the present time all our animals that are kept specially as milkers, are not considered valuable for anything else; or perhaps in addition as breeders of the like kind of stock. There is a French race that combines all the necessary qualities. This is the Courtoise. The cows are rather small in size, about the proportion of the Hereford for oxen, compact, with little offal, hardy, kept with a small amount of fodder, and while in a condition fit for slaughter are still excellent for their milking qualities. This race should be, at once, introduced into our country.

Our state is becoming one of the most important fruit-growing states of the Union, from the fact principally that the soil and climate produce in the greatest perfection those varieties of fruit that can be long preserved, and therefore fit for export-



ation. This state may be made to produce a greater value of fruit, than now of grain, with much less expense of raising. It is an object therefore, that the number of these varieties be increased.

During the whole of the spring and early half of the summer, there is seen in the markets of France a fine quality of apple called the Reinette; juicy, with peel thin, small core, large size, the pulp rich and crisp; reminding the experimenter upon it, of a cross between the Baldwin and a pine apple; if which could be effected the result would be nearly similar. The Roxbury Russet, in its peculiar valuable properties, including its capability of preservation, more nearly resembles it than any other, but is much inferior to it in all the qualities of a good fruit. It has never been generally introduced into America.

We as a powerful and growing state, are one only of a confederation that is soon to become the leading nation of the globe, in inventive genius, in the sciences and literature, in the utilities as well as the elegancies of life. Any improvement therefore in agriculture, or in manufactures, or in commerce, may justly claim the attention of our people; our operations are on a scale so extensive that millions may thus be readily added to our resources, as well as our power and influence in other ways increased. The spirit of the age is favorable to this.

However much the friends of peace may have reason to be discouraged in view of the wars of the present century, yet, the increasing interest that is every where manifested in all the useful arts, the very great and universal interest that is given to industrial exhibitions, the hearty response of the whole world to the invitation to enter into these friendly contests of skill, to become acquainted with each other in thus understanding the products of each others hands with each others mutual needs, allows the hope that the future is to be given to art, and industry, and civilization.

A. T. WHEELLOCK.

BELFAST, December 10, 1855.

STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 2, 1856. }

ORDERED, That five hundred copies be printed for the use of
the Legislature.

DAVID DUNN, *Clerk.*