

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PRINTED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1860.

SIEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1860.

THIRTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 31.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in relation to an uniform decimal system of weights, measures and currencies.

Whereas, there now exists throughout the civilized world divers unequal, incongruous and inconvenient systems of weights, measures and currencies, without a proper basis or any uniform ratio of divisions and multiples—thus subjecting the scholar, the teacher, and the man of business to numerous and needless perplexities in computation and in trade, and making it a most difficult task to determine the absolute or the comparative value of many coins, quantities and admeasurements now in use ;

And whereas, a reform in regard to these inequalities and irregularities is demanded by the highest interests of education and commerce, therefore

Resolved, That our senators and representatives in

2 congress be requested to use their influence to have
3 that body consider the proposed subject and establish
4 an uniform decimal system of weights, measures and
5 currencies—fixing their standards or units of each
6 measure, with their sub-divisions and multiples, in the
7 most concise and simple manner—and that the more
8 effectually to promote this desirable reform, an inter-
9 national commission be recommended for the purpose
10 of producing an uniform system of metrology through-
11 out the commercial world.

And whereas, any great reform of this kind can be
2 successfully completed only by the aid of scientific
3 men ; *and whereas*, it is necessary for the end in view
4 to bring to requisition the greatest ability and ingenu-
5 ity to be found in the nation, therefore

Resolved, Congress be recommended to offer a worthy
2 premium to any citizen of the United States, who shall
3 devise the best system of decimal weights, measures
4 and currencies—the question of merit to be decided by
5 the Commission to which the whole subject shall be
6 entrusted.

Resolved, That the secretary of state be instructed to
2 forward printed copies of these resolves to our senators
3 and representatives in congress.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 12, 1860. }

Reported from the Judiciary Committee by Mr. BLAINE of Augusta, and on his motion 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

CHARLES A. MILLER, *Clerk.*