

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1862.

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1862.

FORTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 20.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC SURVEY.

The Joint Select Committee to whom was referred so much of the Governor's annual address as relates to the Scientific Survey of the State, have given the subject such attention as its obvious importance and the time at their disposal permitted.

The several reports emanating from the persons employed to conduct the survey last year, were examined, and Mr. Goodale, the accomplished Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, to whom conjointly with the Governor had been entrusted the general oversight of the work, was called before the committee to explain how the money appropriated for the survey at the last session of the Legislature had been expended, and also to give such information as he might be able as to the plan of conducting it, and how much, probably, would be required to continue it, efficiently, another year. It is proper to add that the examination of Mr. Goodale satisfied the committee, most fully, that the appropriation of 1861 had been judiciously and profitably expended.

The Governor in his address, in calling attention to the Scientific Survey, expressed the opinion that its results thus far would exceed the expectations of the Legislature which authorized it. However this may be, it is certain that the explorations of last year led to many interesting and highly valuable practical discoveries. Without attempting to so much as allude to all of them, we would mention in this connection a quarry of fine statuary marble, pronounced to be, by a competent judge, superior to the best foreign marble he had ever seen; extensive beds of marl containing superphosphates, and therefore invaluable for manures; beds of limestone suitable for the manufacture of quicklime; tin ore of uncommon purity and

in such quantity as to justify the hope that further search may disclose the existence of a mine of that rare and almost invaluable metal; ores of lead and of iron in various places, and native copper ore of the very finest quality.

In the departments of Physical Geography and Natural History, useful results were obtained, as a reference to the reports will abundantly show, and it is not improbable that in practical utility this part of the survey may prove in the end superior to the geological part. The entomological report, devoted mainly to the army worm and the grain aphid, is especially commended to the attention of the agricultural members of the Legislature.

Such, in brief, are some of the results of last year's operations, under an expenditure of three thousand dollars. The first inference we draw is that the control of the survey was entrusted to competent hands, and that the persons employed to do the work must have toiled for something besides the scanty pay they received; and the first conclusion we come to is that they are proper persons to be continued in the service, and that the experience acquired cannot fail to aid them materially in the prosecution of their labors another year. This brings up the question of continuing the survey another year, and upon this the committee agreed unanimously that it ought to be continued. They regarded the State as fully committed by the legislative action of last year to the policy of beginning and carrying through a critical scientific survey of the whole territory included in its limits, and that the expediency of doing so can hardly be regarded as an open question, as the well considered action of a former Legislature is surely entitled to the deference and respect of the present. But if it were not, it would still be undignified and unwise to change our policy upon such a subject as often as Legislatures change. Having begun our survey, and, as it were, notified the world of our intention, and thus awakened expectation, we ought in justice to ourselves to go through with it, unless some overwhelming reason can be given for abandoning it. The results of last year, as already shown, afford no such reason, but, on the other hand, numerous reasons for going forward with it, and, in the judgment of the committee, there are still other considerations to be urged in favor of the measure. It is well known that in point of territory, in extent of sea coast, in the

number and capacity of her harbors, in the greatness of her water power, and in the magnitude and quality of her timber forests, Maine stands first among the States of New England. With these advantages in her favor, she ought to be the Empire State of the North; but in the one element without which no State can be great or powerful, namely, a numerous population, she is deficient. Indeed, in the number of inhabitants to the square mile, she falls very far below either of the other New England States, and during the last ten years the ratio of her increase is less than eight per cent. It is plain from this that she fails to retain at home the natural increase of her inhabitants, and that she is not attracting immigration to any perceptible amount.

Facts such as these should arrest the attention of the Legislature, for, whatever else a State may lose, least of all can it afford to lose its *men*, especially if, as in our case, its cultivable lands are to any extent unoccupied, its water power unimproved, and its mineral resources undeveloped. As a State, therefore, we ought to feel the utmost solicitude in having these lands taken up, and taken up, too, if possible, by our own hardy sons, and thus at the same time change unproductive to productive property, and interpose a check to that tide of emigration which has set so steadily towards the West for many years, draining our capital, diminishing our population, and sapping the very foundations of our prosperity. In point of fact, the great mass of our people know but little about the wild lands of the State, and a scientific examination of them would seem to be the first step to be taken to direct popular attention to them, and if such examination should demonstrate, as we have reason to believe it would, that in natural fertility they are equal to any lands this side of Western New York, except, perhaps, some portion of the valley of the Connecticut, and most desirable farming lands, the effect would be to attract settlers to take up claims and make homes there. In the hope that such may be the result, and for other reasons hereinbefore set forth, the committee recommend a continuance of the survey, and that the sum of four thousand dollars be appropriated for the purpose, and that the accompanying resolve ought to pass.

All which is respectfully submitted.

N. WOODS, *Chairman.*

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE making an appropriation for a continuance of
the scientific survey of the state.

Resolved, That the sum of four thousand dollars be
2 appropriated from the treasury, to be expended under
3 the direction of the governor and secretary of the
4 board of agriculture in prosecuting a scientific survey
5 of the state as contemplated in chapter eighty-four of
6 the resolves of eighteen hundred and sixty-one.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 4, 1862.

On motion of Mr. SWEAT of Portland,

Ordered, That the report of the Committee on the Scientific
Survey of the State, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

JAMES M. LINCOLN, *Secretary*.