

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1864.

AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1864.

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 16.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Augusta, March 1, 1864. }

To the President of the Senate and

Speaker of the House of Representatives :

I have the honor to communicate papers relating to the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, as follows :

1st, The appointment of B. W. Norris as Commissioner.

2d, Two communications from David Wills, Esq., agent of the Governor of Pennsylvania.

3d, The report of the doings of the Commissioners^e of the several States, at a meeting held at Harrisburg, December 17, 1863.

You will allow me to express the hope that the appropriate legislation may be had upon this subject which the pride and honor of our State demand.

SAMUEL CONY.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
 Augusta, December 14, 1863. }

Hon. B. W. Norris :

DEAR SIR: You are hereby appointed Commissioner for this State to meet other Commissioners from other States at Harrisburg, on the 17th instant, to arrange the preliminaries of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, and report to this department, subject to the action of the legislature.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. COBURN,
Governor of Maine.

GETTYSBURG, December 3, 1863.

To his Excellency, ABNER COBURN, Governor of Maine :

SIR: It is important that a definite course of action be speedily determined upon by the Governors of the States interested in the National Cemetery, so that those whose Legislatures meet in January, may have the subject submitted to them for consideration. To effect that purpose a meeting of agents, or Commissioners from the different States, is called to convene at the "Jones House" in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Thursday the 17th inst.

Will you please send a Commissioner to represent you at that meeting.

I am with great respect,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

DAVID WILLS,
Agent for A. G. CURTIN, Governor of Pennsylvania.

GETTYSBURG, December 19, 1863.

To his Excellency, ABNER COBURN, Governor of Maine :

SIR: His Excellency, Governor Curtin, suggests that the names of the trustees to be appointed for the management of the Soldiers' National Cemetery here, as recommended in the second clause of the resolution embodied in the enclosed proceedings, be inserted in the Act of Incorporation.

Will you do me the favor to nominate, without delay, a trustee for the State of Maine, that we may have the bill prepared with the names embodied in it, and ready to be passed by our Legislature as soon as it convenes.

I remain with great respect,

Your Excellency's obedient servant,

DAVID WILLS,

Agent for A. G. CURTIN, Governor of Pennsylvania.

To his Excellency, Gov. Coburn, and the Executive Council:

The undersigned, having been intrusted with the duty of representing the State in the recent meeting of Commissioners to adjust and apportion the expense of providing a cemetery for the Union soldiers slain in the battle of Gettysburg, respectfully submits the enclosed report of the proceedings in relation thereto.

No expense has been incurred thus far, except for exhuming and reinterring the dead. At the time of the meeting of the Commissioners, about twenty-three hundred had been exhumed, and about six hundred remained to be exhumed, making nearly three thousand in all. Should a corporation be created as recommended, it will be seen that all the expense with the exception of that already incurred, will be entirely under the control of the trustees, subject to the action of their respective Legislatures.

It cannot be doubted that our State will very cheerfully and promptly provide the moderate sum required, as her proportion of this fitting tribute to the heroic dead. It was in this confident belief, that I ventured to assent most cordially, so far as lay in my power, to the arrangement embodied in the resolutions herewith presented.

The requisite calculation makes the proportion of our State, with the estimated expense as a basis, twenty-one hundred two dollars and sixty-five cents, which sum may be increased or diminished by the corporation to be created, and subject of course to the States interested.

Thanking you for the honor conferred in calling on me to represent the State in so delicate and sacred a trust, I remain,

Most respectfully yours,

B. W. NORRIS.

HARRISBURG, December 17th, 1863.

The Commissioners appointed by the Governors of the different States, which have soldiers buried in the Soldiers' National Cemetery, at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, met at the Jones House in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at 3 o'clock, P. M., on the 17th of December, 1863.

The following named Commissioners were present, viz :

Hon. B. W. Norris of Maine.
 Hon. L. B. Mason of New Hampshire.
 Mr. Henry Edwards of Massachusetts.
 Mr. Alfred Coit of Connecticut.
 Hon. Levi Scobey of New Jersey.
 Mr. David Wills of Pennsylvania.
 Col. James Worrall of Pennsylvania.
 Col. John S. Berry of Maryland.
 Mr. L. W. Brown of Ohio.
 Col. Gordon Lofland of Ohio.
 Col. John G. Stephenson of Indiana.
 Mr. W. Y. Selleck of Wisconsin.

On motion of Col. Lofland of Ohio, Mr. David Wills of Pennsylvania, was elected Chairman of the Convention.

On motion of Col. Stephenson of Indiana, Mr. W. Y. Selleck of Wisconsin, was elected Secretary of the Convention.

After some discussion by the members of the Convention, Col. Stephenson of Indiana, moved that a committee of four, of which the President of this Convention be one, be appointed for the purpose of preparing and putting in appropriate shape the details of the plan in reference to the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., to be presented to the Convention for their action, which was carried. The Committee was appointed as follows :

Chairman, Col. John G. Stephenson of Indiana; Mr. Henry Edwards of Massachusetts, Hon. Levi Scobey of New Jersey, Mr. David Wills of Pennsylvania.

On motion of Mr. Alfred Coit of Connecticut, the Convention took a recess to await the action of the Committee.

The Convention met again at 5 o'clock, P. M., to hear the report of the Committee. The Committee made the following report :

WHEREAS, In accordance with an invitation from David Wills, Esq., agent for his Excellency, A. G. Curtin, Governor of Pennsylvania, the Governors of the several States appointed Commissioners, who met at Harrisburg, December 17th, 1863, to represent the

States in convention, for the purpose of making arrangements for finishing the Soldiers' National Cemetery: therefore be it

Resolved, By the said Commissioners in convention assembled, that the following be submitted to the different States interested in the "Soldiers' National Cemetery" through their respective governors.

First, That the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall hold a title to the land which she has purchased at Gettysburg for the Soldiers' National Cemetery, in trust for States having soldiers buried in said cemetery, in perpetuity for the purpose to which it is now applied.

Second, That the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be requested to create a corporation to be managed by trustees, one to be appointed by each of the Governors of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and of such other States as may hereafter desire to be represented in this corporation, which trustees shall, at their first meeting, be divided into three classes. The term of office of the first class to expire on the first day of January, 1865. The second class on the first day of January, 1866. The third class on the first of January 1867. The vacancies thus occurring to be filled by the several Governors, and the persons thus appointed to fill such vacancies, to hold their office for the term of three years. This Corporation to have exclusive control of the Soldiers' National Cemetery.

Third, The following is the estimated expense of finishing the Cemetery:

Enclosing grounds,	\$15,000
Burial expenses and superintending,	6,000
Headstones,	10,000
Laying out grounds and planting trees,	5,000
Lodge,	2,500
Monument,	25,000
Total,	\$63,500

Fourth, That the several States be asked to appropriate a sum of money, to be determined by a division of the estimated expenses according to representation in Congress, to be expended in defraying the cost of removing and reintering the dead and finishing the cemetery, under directions of the cemetery corporation.

Fifth, When the cemetery shall have been finished, the grounds are to be kept in order, the house and enclosure in repair, out of a fund created by annual appropriations made by the States which may be represented in the cemetery corporation, in proportion to their representation in Congress.

On motion of Col. Berry of Maryland, the report of the committee was accepted, and the committee discharged.

It was moved by Col. Berry of Maryland, that the report of the committee be considered *serialim*, which was concurred in, and the report was then adopted in detail.

Letters from the Governors of the following States were received by Mr. Wills, Chairman of the Convention, which were not represented by Commissioners, expressing their disposition to approve any reasonable action of the Convention in reference to the completion of the cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., viz.:

Hon. Horatio Seymour of New York.

Hon. Austin Blair of Michigan.

Hon. James Y. Smith of Rhode Island.

Hon. Wm. Cannon of Delaware.

Hon. Henry G. Swift of Minnesota.

On motion of Mr. Scobey of New Jersey, the following committee was appointed by the Chairman, with the view to procure designs of a monument to be erected in the cemetery:

Hon. Levi Scobey of New Jersey.

Hon. B. W. Norris of Maine.

Mr. D. W. Brown of Ohio.

Col. J. G. Stephenson of Indiana.

Col. John S. Berry of Maryland.

On motion of Mr. Alfred Coit of Connecticut, the plans and designs of the Soldiers' National Cemetery, as laid out and designed by Mr. Wm. Saunders, were adopted by the Convention.

A motion was made by Mr. Coit of Connecticut, returning thanks to Mr. Wm. Saunders for the designs and drawings furnished gratuitously for the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Brown of Ohio, offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Mr. Wm. Saunders be authorized to furnish forty photographs of the plan of the Soldiers' National Cemetery, for the use of the States having soldiers buried therein.

DAVID WILLS, *President*.

W. Y. SELLICK, *Secretary*.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 1, 1864. }

On motion of Mr. TURNER of Augusta, laid on the table and
350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

HORACE STILSON, *Clerk.*