

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF

THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1866.



AUGUSTA:
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1866.

FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 35.

The Joint Special Committee to which was referred the following order,

Whereas, sundry rumors have been circulated to the effect that frauds have been committed in the matter of enlistments, and credits to towns, during the years 1863 and 1864, by persons amenable to the State; and whereas the people are desirous of a full investigation into the matter of frauds committed upon the property of the State by any of its citizens, or upon the National Government during the progress of the late rebellion by any citizen of our State; therefore,

Ordered, That a Joint Select Committee of seven on the part of the House, with such as the Senate may join, be appointed to investigate the subject and report the facts as they may be found to exist; and said Committee is authorized to send for persons and papers, and clothed with all the power of this Legislature to collect evidence in all directions, and to compel the attendance of witnesses, and to sit during the recess of the Legislature, if necessary, and to employ all the clerical or other aids necessary to accomplish the end in view, and to report to this or to the next Legislature.

have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to Report, that immediately upon entering upon their duties, they caused to be published in most of the newspapers of this State a notice, of which the following is a copy:—

NOTICE.

- The Committee of Investigation into alleged frauds in enlistments, will meet in the Senate Chamber on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, at seven o'clock. All persons having knowledge of any facts connected with the subject matter of the inquiry are hereby requested to communicate the same to the chairmen, or to appear before the Committee.

GEO. W. WOODMAN, }
GEO. F. SHEPLEY, } Chairmen.

The Committee have carefully interrogated all persons whose testimony they supposed might furnish any information of value upon the subject matter of the order. They have also examined such papers in the possession of His Excellency the Governor, or of the Adjutant General, as they supposed might throw any light upon the subject of this investigation. They have fully conferred with the Governor, with the Adjutant General, and other Heads of Departments, all of whom have evinced a disposition to furnish any information called for by the Committee, and freely to exhibit any documents in their possession. The Committee are unable to discover any evidence that any fraud has been committed by the State, or any of its officers, or by any citizen of the State, upon the National Government, in the matter of enlistments or credits to the State, during the progress of the late rebellion. After the fullest investigation they have been enabled to make into the matter of enlistments and credits to towns, they are fully satisfied, and accordingly Report, that the evidence before them does not tend to implicate any officer of the State in any transaction, in connection with enlistments or credits to the State, or any district or sub-district in the State, inconsistent with his official duty.

The Committee have not considered it within the scope of their duties under the order, to investigate the fraudulent acts of substitute brokers, or agents to fill the quotas of towns, where there was no allegation of any knowledge or complicity on the part of any officer of the State.

The testimony of the witnesses examined by the Committee has been reduced to writing, and is herewith submitted.

GEO. W. WOODMAN,
J. M. MASON,
J. H. RAMSDELL,
G. F. SHEPLEY,
CHAS. C. SAWYER,
EDMUND WILSON,
JOSEPH H. WILLIAMS,
THEO. C. WOODMAN,
WM. S. DODGE,
WM. H. CHESLEY.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 21, 1866.

Read and accepted, and on motion of Mr. PERKINS, the Report was laid on the table and 350 copies of the same ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

THOMAS P. CLEAVES, *Secretary.*