

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Public Documents of Maine:

BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INSTITUTIONS

FOR THE YEAR

1879.

VOLUME I.

AUGUSTA:

SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1880.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSION

APPOINTED TO

Investigate Alleged Election Frauds

IN CERTAIN TOWNS AND PLANTATIONS IN

AROOSTOOK COUNTY.

AUGUSTA:

E. F. PILLSBURY & CO., PRINTERS.

1879

STATE OF MAINE.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, }
AUGUSTA, January 11, 1879. }

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

In response to an order of the House of Representatives of January 10th, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the Report of the Commission appointed under Resolve for the Investigation of Election Frauds in certain towns in Aroostook County.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. H. GOVE, *Secretary of State.*

STATE OF MAINE.

IN COUNCIL. }
November 5, 1878. }

The Committee of the whole Council, to which was referred the Report of Commissioners appointed under Resolve of the Legislature, approved February 21, 1878, for an Investigation relating to Elections in certain Towns and Plantations in the County of Aroostook, report that the same be accepted and placed on file.

Which is respectfully submitted,

S. C. HATCH, *Chairman.*

IN COUNCIL, }
November 5, 1878. }

Read and accepted by the Council, and by the Governor approved.

Attest: S. J. CHADBOURNE, *Secretary of State.*

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION
APPOINTED TO
Investigate Alleged Election Frauds
IN AROOSTOOK COUNTY.

*To the Honorable the Governor and Executive Council of the
State of Maine:*

The undersigned, Commissioners appointed in pursuance of a Resolve of the Legislature, "for an investigation relating to Elections in Certain Towns and Plantations," approved February 21, 1878, have the honor to report that they have taken all practicable measures, which they deemed suitable and necessary, to ascertain how many and what aliens, and other persons not entitled to vote, were borne upon the voting lists, and were actually present and voted at the last September election in the Towns and Plantations in Aroostook County named in the preamble to said Resolve; and that the results of the investigation which they have made are as hereinafter stated. The names which appear under the headings of the several Towns and Plantations in the following Report were borne upon the voting lists and the men were actually present and voted in such Town or Plantation at said election; and we report it as our judgment upon the law and facts of the several cases that they were not legally entitled to vote at the time their votes were cast.

TOWNS.

GRAND ISLE.

Florent Fournier,
Joseph Lavois,
Firmin LaVasser,
George Lausier,
Paul Chasse.

In the town of Madawaska, we find no evidence of illegal voting at said election, except by one Bruno Marcure, whom we were unable to see, but in regard to whom we are satisfied that he voted without right.

FRENCHVILLE.

Joseph Albert, Senior,
Joseph Albert, Junior,
Fabien Albert,
Registe Daigle,
Sermle Desrosiers,
Frederic Desrosiers,
Maxime Desrosiers,
George Desrosiers,
Belonie Soucie,
Francis Soucie,
Jean Caron,
Louis Tardiff.

In regard to this town of Frenchville we further report that in addition to the above twelve whom we deem to be not citizens entitled to vote, twenty-six more names were questioned; and that upon investigation we were satisfied that sixteen out of the twenty-six were legal voters, while in regard to the remaining ten we were unable to determine whether they possessed the requisite qualifications or not. In some instances their absence from town, in others their failure to attend the hearing after notice given, and other causes, prevented a full and satisfactory investigation.

FORT KENT.

Antoine Boule.
Francis Long.
Edward Mills,
Louis Caron,
Joseph Paradis.

PRESQUE ISLE.

Nelson Turney,
Francis W. Turney,
Thatcher Smith,
Nathan Smith,
Rainsford Smith,
George S. Tompkins,
Nash Tompkins,
(true name James Nash Tompkins),
H. G. C. Tompkins,
George Tompkins, 2d,
Jedediah T. Cronkhite,
John Cronkhite.

FORT FAIRFIELD.

George Clark,
Thomas Clark,
Benjamin Gross,
(true name John Benj. "Gross.")

We believe also that without doubt the names of Solon Ames and Warren S. Ames, who voted in this town at the last September election, should be added to this list of persons not entitled to vote. Facts conceded by the town officers and by gentlemen of both political parties, residents of the town and familiar with their history, satisfy us of this, although we failed to procure the testimony of the two men themselves.

PLANTATIONS.

HAMLIN.

Remic Cyr,
Frederick Duplices,
Thomas Smith,
Raphael Martin,
Hilaire Martin.

CONNOR.

In the Plantation of Connor, we find only one man, Charles Cyr, among those whose names were borne upon the voting lists, who was present and voted without right at said election.

VAN BUREN.

Joseph Burgoyne,
Israel Chouinaid,
Peter Marquis,
Jules LeVasser,
Michel Cyr,
Michael Duberry.

CYR.

Andrew Cyr,
Joseph Lajoie.

EAGLE LAKE.

Marcelle Arnelle,
John Boyles,
Clement Belonge,
Reuben Sweezey,
James Seymour,
Clement Duboy.

WALLAGRASS.

Jeremiah Alney,
Israel Alney,
Francis Belongie,
James Clark,
Helair Dubay,
John Freeman,
Maglin Labe, Jr.,
Charles Labe.
Theopile Labounty,
Peter Losier,
Lewis Martin,
Jeremiah Perriault, Sr.,
Sandy Sutherland.

It is not sure that all these men voted, although they were so returned upon the voting lists.

ST. JOHN.

We find no evidence of illegal voting in this Plantation at the last September election.

ST. FRANCIS.

Xaner Cyr,
A. Debay,
(true name Abraham Debay),
Richard Dube.
Henry Tergon.

PLEASANT RIDGE.

In this Plantation there was but one voter who was alleged by any person interested not to be entitled to vote, and no evidence was presented to us or was within our reach which would warrant us in denying his right.

In reporting the names of persons not entitled to vote we have adopted the spelling which we find upon the voting lists.

The foregoing report contains the instances in which we have been able to obtain evidence which satisfies us that the voting was illegal. We do not claim that the report includes all the cases in which votes were illegally cast. On the contrary there were other instances in which the evidence before us tended to prove that men voted who were not citizens ; but many of them were away, or for other reasons their attendance could not be procured, and the testimony within our reach was not such as to justify us in asserting that their votes were illegal.

It is undoubtedly true that in this part of Aroostook County, in determining the rights of men claiming to be citizens, questions of law and fact of some nicety arise under the treaty and upon general principles. Questions of birth, parentage and residence, and of the character of the residence, whether temporary or permanent, on one side of the boundary line or the other, and it is believed by all the members of the Commission that the illegal voting in the Towns and Plantations to which their investigation extended is not upon a very large scale, and that to the extent to which it occurs it results in most instances, rather from the character and number of the

questions of law and fact arising to be determined, than from a design to act fraudulently on the part either of the voters or the officers of Towns.

JOSEPH W. SYMONDS,
CHARLES BUFFUM,
ALFRED S. KIMBALL.

A true copy of the Report of the Commission appointed under resolve, for the investigation of Election Frauds in certain towns in Aroostook County.

ATTEST.

P. A. SAWYER,
Deputy Secretary of State.