

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

❧ 1887 ❧

VOLUME I.

AUGUSTA:

BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1888.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

JOSEPH R. BODWELL

TO THE

Legislature  State of Maine,

JANUARY 6, 1887.

AUGUSTA:

SPRAGUE & SON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE,
1887.

ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives.

In accordance with the duty enjoined upon the Governor by the Constitution, I now submit to you information of the condition of the State, and recommend to your consideration such measures as I judge to be expedient at this time.

My first recommendation is that the State tax be reduced by the sum of \$235,945.33, which is 26 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent of the total amount now levied. The condition of the State finances, according to the annual report of the Treasurer, will justify this important step. The nominal amount of the bonded debt of the State is \$5,157,000, all of which is due and payable in the year 1889,—\$2,330,000 in June, and \$2,827,000 in October. In offset to the total amount of the debt, there is in the treasury a sinking-fund of \$2,110,390.57. This fund is composed of our own State Bonds to the amount of \$1,161,500; United States Bonds, \$834,300; New Hampshire State Bonds, \$92,600; and Massachusetts State Bonds, \$21,000. The premium on the three last named securities amounts, to-day, according to the statement of the Treasurer, to \$247,260.00,—thus making the aggregate value of the sinking-fund \$2,357,650.57. The premium will probably be higher rather than lower during the current year. Deducting the sinking-fund at its full and actual value, the aggregate debt of the State which remains to be provided for is \$2,799,349.43.

The sinking-fund operations, under the Act of 1868, should be brought to a close, now that the State is called upon to provide for the final liquidation of the bonds in aid of whose

payment the fund was originally established. Of the securities in the fund, I recommend that the bonds of our own State be cancelled and destroyed by the Treasurer in the presence of a joint committee of the two branches of the Legislature and a committee of the Executive Council. I recommend further that the avails of the United States, Massachusetts and New Hampshire bonds be devoted directly to the liquidation of the State debt, according to the manner which is indicated below.

To provide for the State debt still remaining I recommend that a Refunding Bill be enacted, giving the Treasurer the right to sell, after due advertisement, to the highest bidder, bonds of the State of Maine to an amount not exceeding two million eight hundred thousand dollars, the bonds to run for thirty years at three per cent, interest to be paid semi-annually at the Treasurer's office and in the city of Boston. I also recommend that for the ultimate redemption of these new bonds a sinking-fund be established, amounting to one per cent annually of the whole amount, said sinking-fund to be invested in State bonds of the New England States, and city bonds of any New England city of twenty thousand inhabitants whose total permissible debt is not in excess of five per cent of its valuation. I think a sinking-fund should not be so closely restricted in the line of investments as to practically defeat a large share of the profit to be derived from its establishment. That has been, to some extent, the defect of the sinking-fund of 1868, as pointed out by the Treasurer in his annual report. I recommend only a small sinking-fund for the new bonds,—one which, without burdening the tax-payer, will rapidly extinguish the debt.

I recommend further that a provision be inserted in the Refunding Act, authorizing the Treasurer to exchange the new bond for the old at any time after the passage of the Act, and further that the Treasurer be given the right to purchase, to the extent of the net amount remaining in the sinking-fund, all Maine bonds that may be offered in advance of their maturity, provided that the terms of exchange

and purchase shall be obviously advantageous to the State. These authorizations to the Treasurer will probably result in a considerable saving to the treasury. The exchange of bonds and the purchase of bonds from the resources in the sinking-fund should be conducted with the knowledge and the approval, in writing, of the Governor — the old bonds, in all cases, to be cancelled and held as vouchers for the examination of the next Legislature.

The suspension of the interest on the State bonds now held in the sinking-fund, together with the suspension of the \$80,000 annual contribution to that fund and the termination of the \$50,000 for direct payment of State debt, form the groundwork for the reduction of the State tax, as I have recommended. With the successful refunding of the State debt and the provision for a new sinking-fund of one per cent, as recommended, a further reduction of the State tax may be confidently expected by the next Legislature.

The State tax to be levied this year, after the reduction referred to, will amount to two and three-quarter mills on the dollar of State valuation, or twenty-seven and one-half cents on each one hundred dollars. But it must be noted that one mill of the two and three-quarters is not the ordinary State tax, but is specially levied for the School fund. Its beneficent operation is such that the rich towns of the State are held in part to educate the children of the towns not so well off in worldly goods. This tax is levied according to property, and divided among the towns according to the number of scholars, so that the rich towns get back a great deal less than they pay, and the towns of less wealth get back a great deal more than they pay. This tax was established by the Legislature of 1872 and has worked well. Being levied directly by the State it is often confused with the State tax proper, which is levied for the support of the State Government in all its departments. Deducting this mill tax for schools, the State tax proper for the ensuing year will be only one mill and three-quarters, which is the lowest rate of State tax for support of the Government that has been levied within the last

fifty years, with the exception of the tax levied respectively by the Legislatures of 1846, 1860 and 1861. The reduction now recommended relates to the State tax proper, and amounts to nearly thirty-seven per cent of the whole amount levied.

These facts are encouraging to the tax-payers of the State and are, in the highest degree, creditable to the care and economy with which the State finances have been administered in the past. In 1868 the State debt was \$8,100,000, and every dollar, except \$699,000, was incurred on account of the war for the suppression of the Rebellion. The payment of five million three hundred thousand dollars which has been made on the principal, leaves only two million eight hundred thousand dollars of the debt and will impose a tax for interest of only \$84,000 per annum. If anything more were needed to guarantee the high credit of the State, it would be found in the Constitutional provision which prohibits the incurring of any obligation in excess of three hundred thousand dollars, except for purposes of war. In this will always be found a large protection to our credit and an invaluable safeguard to the tax-payer.

It may be stated as a maxim that there is no expenditure for which the citizen gets so much in return as for the amount he devotes to paying taxes, and yet there is no subject upon which people are more justly sensitive than that the taxes be equal. If all communities, and all the citizens of each community, paid in equal and proper proportion, there would be no complaint among the people. The grievance arises, in large part, from the inequality of taxation, and the inequality arises, in large part, from the errors in valuation — errors in many cases innocently made, no doubt, but still working hardship in many ways.

It should be made the steady aim of the Legislative power of the State to equalize the burdens of Government. To that end I recommend that an earnest inquiry be made into the mode of our valuation, with the view to its improvement. A Board, composed of one Commissioner from each county, hastily summoned at the close of each decade, with each

member naturally endeavoring to have his own county valued at as low a rate as possible, would not seem to be the best method devisable. And yet that is the character of our present system. A smaller number of Commissioners, say not exceeding three, at work for a longer period, chosen, not as the representatives of the counties in which they may reside, but for the whole State, would be less cumbrous, less expensive and in many ways more efficient. The systems of valuation in force in other New England States should be carefully examined. Some improved methods in those States could, I have reason to believe, be profitably incorporated in our own system.

One provision in the Valuation Act I specially recommend, viz: that in case of destructive fire or any other sudden and disastrous calamity in any city or town, the Governor, with the advice of the Council, be authorized to suspend the collection of a certain amount of the State tax levied on said city or town, proportioned to the loss incurred,—said suspension to remain in force until the adjournment of the next ensuing Legislature. If the calamities which have lately befallen the towns of Eastport and Farmington had occurred directly after the adjournment of the Legislature, those towns would have been subjected to great inconvenience and distress for the ensuing two years, which could only have been relieved by summoning an extra session of the Legislature.

In this connection, it may be profitable for the Legislature to inquire whether, in the rapid changes in the relative position of towns, with respect to property, it might not conduce to justice and equality of taxation if the valuation should be revised once in five years instead of once in ten as is now done. The Constitution of the State requires that "a general valuation shall be taken at least once in ten years"—implying that it might be wise to take the valuation oftener. In 1845 a valuation was ordered by the Legislature intermediate between the valuations of 1840 and 1850. I submit the whole subject, in all its important bearings, to your careful inquiry and most mature consideration.

The reports of the workings of our various public institutions for the past two years will be laid before you. They all show gratifying evidences of fulfilling the objects for which they were established. The Hospital for the Insane shows commendable progress in every provision for the comfort and cure of the inmates, and I think it may be said that in all its appointments it is the equal of any institution of the kind in the country. It has been, in all respects, prudently and efficiently administered. I have only one suggestion to make in regard to it, and that is that the criminal insane,—I mean those who have incurred the heavy penalties of the law and have had their sentences commuted on account of insanity,—should be kept apart from the general class of patients. Whether this should be done by providing an entirely separate ward, or a small building on the grounds, a little removed from the other buildings, it must be for the wisdom of the Legislature to determine. I commend the subject to your careful inquiry.

I recently paid a visit to the Reform School for Boys and have witnessed with much gratification the condition of that Institution. Its discipline and management do honor to the Superintendent and all his teachers and assistants. I understand that the Trustees will ask for an appropriation for an experiment of the cottage plan, where the boys are treated precisely as though they were in a family, having smaller numbers associated together, and thereby increasing the direct influence of those to whose charge they are committed. I refer the subject to the Legislature, feeling sure that the most careful consideration will be given to it, as involving the welfare of a class of our population who may be turned from evil and made useful and respectable citizens. No subject is more worthy of patient investigation and wise provision.

It was my pleasure, also, to pay a visit to the State Prison, the detailed condition of which will be found in the reports of the Warden and Inspectors. The work of the prisoners, principally engaged on carriage-making, is of a very excellent order. The carriages, I think, are not sold at prices to inter-

fere with the rights or interests of citizens of the State who are engaged in the same line of business. It is, of course, necessary to keep the prisoners engaged in work, both with the view to proper economy and the view to their improvement and reformation. It would be utterly cruel to keep them in idleness, and it would be utterly useless to work them except to some good end. If the number of convicts was very large, it would not be fair to engage them all upon one line of business in competition with any special class of workmanship in the State. I recommend that if the present mode of working the prisoners should prove unfairly hurtful to honest citizens in their calling, there should be such division of the labor of the Prison as would make interference in any specific direction so small that no special influence would be felt from it. I commend to your attention the report of the Prison Commissioners, and specially suggest that due consideration be paid to the facts they have collected touching the number of prisoners in the jails of the several counties. The circumstances which lead to the overcrowding of our jails every winter with petty offenders against the law should, in my judgment, be carefully investigated.

The Industrial School for Girls, established some years since at Hallowell, has proved an excellent Institution. It has saved a large number of girls from the unfortunate surroundings in which fate had placed them and has secured for them respectable employment. The report of the Superintendent is well worthy of your examination, and I hope the Institution will receive the favor and assistance of the Legislature.

The Military and Naval Asylum for Orphans, located at Bath, is a well-managed institution, and continues to deserve the confidence and patronage of the State. There is some effort made to enlarge the basis of admission to its privileges. It will be your duty to carefully examine into the propriety of such action.

Beside the treaty obligations we are under to make certain grants to the remnants of Indian tribes within our bor-

ders, we are called upon to do it on the ground of philanthropy and charity. There has of late years been a moral and material improvement in the condition of these wards of the State, and I recommend that this tendency be aided and fostered by all that the Legislature may properly do to that end.

The last Legislature had under consideration the subject of establishing a separate reformatory for the female criminal class. It then received a large degree of approbation from the members of both Senate and House. I respectfully suggest that the subject be again taken under consideration. I am sure that such an institution will elevate the character of our prison discipline and be the means of rescuing many women from a life of degradation. A separate institution, under the care of female officers, affords the delicacy of treatment which is due to women, even in their fallen state, and it is a duty we owe to humanity to provide an institution which will give this advantage in its discipline and treatment. The experiment has been tried with great success in other States, and I commend the subject to the careful consideration of the Legislature. It is one which appeals to manhood and philanthropy with peculiar force and earnestness.

The Board of Health is discharging an important function in the State, and I think the sphere of their duties might be enlarged with great advantage. Every abuse that may lead to disease should be promptly removed, every avenue that may lead to infection should be promptly closed. The Board of Health should be empowered to see that municipal organizations, common carriers and licensed inn-keepers do their duty in these respects, and that everything practicable be done to render Maine, as nature seems to have designed her, one of the healthiest States on the continent. In this connection, I beg to suggest that we owe a duty to the large number of citizens of other States who stay among us for the summer season, who have erected residences upon our soil, and who pay taxes into our treasury. Whatever we can properly do to promote their wishes and their comfort

should be ungrudgingly and cheerfully done. Our climate has lured them in great numbers, and we shall be negligent in our duty and unmindful of our own interests if, by any carelessness or neglect, we fail to extend them a welcome, give them the most complete protection of our laws, and provide such acts of liberal legislation as may render their stay agreeable and healthful.

The laws for the preservation and increase of fish and game in the State should be rigidly enforced, and, if necessary, additional provisions should be enacted. I call your attention to the report of the Commissioners on this subject. The laws already enacted are valuable and beneficent in their operation and effect. Under their enforcement fish and game are both rapidly increasing in the State. The opposition to these laws and the determination to violate them led to a deplorable crime in the county of Washington in November last, but I trust such an occurrence will stimulate and not discourage the enforcement of the law. I suggest that an inquiry be made, whether the State should not make some provision for the families of the two men who lost their lives in the line of their duty while enforcing the laws of the State. It is important to have a proper public sentiment on this question. Those who oppose these laws and insist on fishing and hunting in unlawful ways and without regard to seasons, are as unwise as those would be who, with a famine impending, should insist on devouring the seed corn. Unless these laws be rigidly maintained, there is danger that we shall ultimately have no fish in our waters and no game in our forests.

The attention of the Legislature should be given to ascertaining the best mode for preventing the introduction and spread of the fatal disease of pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle of the State. The disease is not known at present, to exist in Maine, but a salutary warning was given by the experience on the farm attached to the Agricultural College at Orono, in 1885. Fuller authority should be given to the State to destroy at once all cattle known to be affected with the disease. The owners will not do the work of destruction

themselves, on account of the direct loss incurred, and, therefore, the government, as a general safeguard to the herds of the State, should assume the task and the cost of instant destruction when the disease is ascertained to exist. One neglected case that might have cost the State fifty dollars to destroy, would possibly entail a loss of many thousands of dollars to our cattle growers. It has cost England millions of dollars in her efforts to extirpate the disease, and if the contagion should break out among our vast herds on the Western plains the loss would be incalculable. Beside guarding our own State by proper enactments on the subject, I recommend that Congress be memorialized to take the utmost care and precaution, through the National power, to prevent the importation and spread of the disease.

The Agricultural College is doing a good work, which could be made still more effective by increased means. You will be asked for an appropriation for that Institution to replace the valuable herd of cattle destroyed on account of a disease which was infectious and threatening to other herds in the State. This claim is well based and I think should be favorably considered. The Trustees of the Institution should guard against experiments in farming and dairying, in competition with neighboring farmers, but they should at the same time, be enabled to make tests of fertilizers, of the different modes of applying the same, and of the different methods of feeding cattle, sheep and swine; so that the farmers of the State may have the benefit of the knowledge thus derived.

Whatever the Legislature can do to aid and encourage the agricultural interests of the State, should be cheerfully and promptly done. The agricultural resources of Maine are very great and are, as yet, only partially developed, and whatever tends to make farming more pleasant and more profitable is always worthy of attention and encouragement.

A measure now before Congress, known as the Hatch Bill, for the establishment of experimental stations in different States, will, if it becomes a law, enlarge the power of the

Agricultural College, and, to a considerable extent, remove the cost of its maintenance from the treasury of the State.

Official reports concerning our educational progress will be laid before you. Maine has always maintained a high rank in the scale of intelligence,—the degree of her illiteracy, by the census tables of the United States, being very small. It would, in fact, be difficult to find a native of Maine of adult years and sound mind who cannot read and write. It is our duty to maintain and still further advance our educational standard, and I am sure the Legislature will not neglect any needed action in this important field.

The provision for educating the blind and also the deaf and dumb children of the State has thus far proved adequate. These unfortunate children have had the advantages of the best institutions in other States. There is a wish expressed by many for an Institution of our own to carry forward the work. While this is in itself desirable, the need of it is not pressing, the children are not neglected, and I cannot recommend that the State should undertake it at present. The expense would, in any event, be large, and it would be several years before the facilities of the new Institution would be equal to those already enjoyed.

The militia system of the State, now organized upon a very economical scale, should be cheerfully maintained. I trust there will be no hesitation on the part of the Legislature to make the appropriation necessary to ensure such advantages of uniform, discipline and drill as may enable Maine soldiers to rival the best organizations in other States. I venture to suggest, though not within the domain of State legislation, that it might be wise to have the militia of the several States organized as a National Guard, the uniforming, equipping and maintenance of which should be at the expense of the National Treasury. Our experience in the late war showed how readily the organization of troops and appointment of officers could be effected under State authority, and yet the whole body, at the moment of necessity, placed under the command of the National Government. If a regi-

ment were authorized for each Congressional district throughout the country, it would make a large and effective force, furnish a bond of strong sympathy between all the States, especially between the young men of the States, and would give, regardless of the disparity in the wealth of the States, the same ability to organize for the cause of common defense.

While the General Government is seeking to get rid of a surplus revenue derived from indirect, unoppressive and unfelt taxes, the militia system of the several States is sustained by direct taxes upon the lands and homes of the people, and in many States is felt to be a financial burden. I think few wiser measures could be enacted by Congress than to unify the militia, give it a truly National character, and create that spirit of pride and emulation between the several States which would tend to make the whole force one of patriotic usefulness, without great expense and without involving any one of the many objections to a standing army. The Constitution of the United States declares that "a well regulated militia is necessary to the security of a free State," and I think that a National Guard, thus organized, would, for the first time in our history, fully carry out the idea of what the militia should be.

If this suggestion should meet with the favorable consideration of the Legislature, I recommend that by proper memorial it be brought to the attention of Congress.

Many of the States whose troops were engaged in defense of the Union at Gettysburg have erected on the battle field monuments or memorial stones commemorative of the event. The troops of Maine were honorably distinguished on that bloody field, and the memory of their heroic deeds should be honored with those of their compatriots. I recommend that the Legislature take appropriate action in the premises,—as justly due to the living and to the dead, and to the honor of the State for all time.

The question of the prohibition of the liquor traffic in Maine has engaged popular attention within the last year to a considerable extent. The agitation has resulted in a re-affirmation

on the part of the people, at the polls, of their full faith in the prohibitory system, and of their desire to see the law fairly administered and properly enforced. The situation in the State respecting the law may be briefly and candidly stated. In from three-fourths to four-fifths of the towns of the State the law is well enforced and has practically abolished the sale of spirituous and malt liquors as a beverage. In the larger cities and towns, on the seaboard and at railway centers, it has been found more difficult to secure perfect compliance with the law, but it can still be said that at very few points in the State is liquor openly sold. The offences against the law are in large part clandestine, and therefore difficult to detect and expose by legal testimony. But it is a great moral gain when the liquor seller is driven from the light of day to secret places and to stealthy devices to carry on his hurtful and demoralizing traffic.

Some of the more zealous friends of the temperance cause think that an increase of the penalties, especially for the first offence of liquor selling, would cure the admitted evil of imperfect enforcement, but the more prudent, and I think by far the larger number, are of the opinion that an increase of the penalty would do harm, rather than good. What is actually needed at the points named is a sound public opinion to urge and uphold the enforcement of the law. Where that is wanting the case is made difficult with the prohibitory law, as indeed it always is with every form of law. Perhaps an increase of penalty would, in the places referred to, enhance, rather than diminish, the evils of indifference and of hostility.

It can, however, be said with satisfaction that even with this imperfect enforcement at certain points, the law has been of immeasurable value in reducing the liquor traffic, and has correspondingly increased the wealth of the State by increasing the sobriety of the people and saving the fruits of industry. One evil, inseparable from a law enacted after a strong popular contest, is that the prevailing side is looked to as the one to enforce its provisions, whereas every law should be as binding upon those who opposed its enactment as upon those

who labored for it. The experience of Maine for the last thirty years abundantly justifies the adoption of the prohibitory system, and it will be the duty of the Legislature to add to its efficiency in whatever way, after full and impartial investigation, may be found practicable,—always remembering that legal penalties must be kept inside, and not pressed beyond, the bounds of public opinion.

For several years complaint has been made of the law in this State which, under certain conditions, permits imprisonment for debt. There is something repulsive to our better feelings in this treatment; something, also, that contradicts common sense in such a remedy. If a man owes a debt and has no property, and you deprive him of the power of working, how can he pay it? Moreover, society has no right to inflict an ignominious punishment upon a man for the misfortune that deprives him of the power of meeting a pecuniary obligation. I therefore recommend that every law and part of law which permits imprisonment for debt in Maine be repealed. In taking this step we are but following the enlightened policies of the great majority of our sister States in the Union.

I also recommend that trustee process, so far as it relates to the wages of a laboring man, be abolished. The undoubted result of these steps will be to curtail the credit of laboring men, and to keep them from incurring obligations which readily absorb their earnings. It will force the relations between employer and the employed to a cash basis, and will largely benefit the laboring man by adding perceptibly to the value of his day's wages. It will, I think, be found that the saving resulting to the labor of the State from the cash basis will show itself in an addition to the aggregate deposits in the savings banks of the State. Imprisonment for debt and trustee process both being removed, the laborer is made a free man, with no unjust penalties menacing him and no one tempting him to incur needless debt.

There is reason to believe that abuses occur in permitting children of too tender age to work in our factories. This

should be prohibited by law. I recommend that children shall not be admitted to work in factories before the age of fifteen years. This will give time for strength and growth, and also for acquiring the rudiments of a good education. In this matter, the parents who seek work for their children are as often to blame as the employers in factories, and the penalty adopted should be made to apply to whichever is the offending party. A special penalty should be attached to the offence of misrepresenting the age of the child.

I recommend, further, that labor in all corporations in the State be absolutely restricted by law to ten hours a day, and that a day's labor outside of corporations shall always be left, as now defined by statute, at ten hours. If a day's labor be less or more than that, it must be by virtue of a special contract between the parties, and be regulated by the hour. The multiplication of machinery and the great addition to the power of manufacturing, ought naturally to be followed by some amelioration in the hours of labor. The length of a day's work might be, even now, further reduced, if the wants of the people did not multiply in equal ratio with the facilities for gratifying them. If men with the earnings of to-day should live after the manner of forty or fifty years ago, a large surplus would result from daily wages; but as wants multiply additional means are required. It is, however, a satisfaction to believe that the tendency is in the right direction, and that the average wages of workingmen throughout the United States, reckoned in coin and measured by their ability to purchase the necessaries and luxuries of life, are larger than they have ever before been in any period of our history, while at the same time the average hours of labor are shorter.

A pleasant custom has grown up within the last few years in many of the States to have an annual holiday, known as "Arbor Day." It is devoted wholly to the planting of trees, useful, ornamental, and in many cases for memorial purposes; and under the proclamation of the Governor appointing the

day and specifying its purpose, a very large amount of tree planting has been accomplished in many of the States. The custom is one which I think may be profitably adopted in this State, and I suggest that a law to that effect be enacted by the Legislature.

The State Government of Maine is now in the sixty-eighth year of its organization. In that long period the archives of the State have increased in interest, in value and in magnitude. It certainly is a matter of great regret that, aside from the vault in the Treasurer's office, there is no provision whatever in the State House for fire proof chambers. If a fire should destroy the documents in the several departments, the loss to the State Government and to the people would be incalculable. After the calamity was accomplished we should all wonder that we had been willing to take the risk of a single day's delay in making suitable provision for the preservation of these documents, which are incapable of duplication.

As the plan of enlarging the State House, including a library and large fire-proof chambers, at a cost of \$80,000, has not received the favor of past Legislatures, I do not now renew it. But I urgently recommend that a fire-proof brick building of moderate cost be erected in the rear of the State House, the upper floor to be given to the State Library and the lower floor to fire-proof vaults for the permanent security of all the papers of the State which have permanent value. As the burden of State taxation will be much lighter hereafter, the comparatively small cost of a building of this character is hardly worthy of consideration, in view of the very great object to be attained by its construction. Its inestimable importance is my excuse for urging it upon the attention of the Legislature with such earnestness.

Our ship-building and navigation interests, in common with those of other maritime nations, are not as prosperous as could be desired. The cause of the decay in the American marine is not difficult to explain, and I regret that the remedy is not within the power of the State. In addition to this, we are vexed with a serious trouble to the American fishing inter-

est. It is evident that our fishermen are now to be antagonized by every possible effort on the part of the Canadian government. The Imperial Government of Great Britain, it is now announced, has sanctioned an act of the Canadian Parliament by which every harsh and unreasonable condition of the Treaty of 1818 is to be revived and enforced against American fishermen. The plain motive of this is to coerce the United States into conceding trade relations which, under the name of "reciprocity," are hostile to many interests of our people.

It is always desirable to maintain the most friendly relations with our neighbors, but I think it is the plain duty of our National Government to teach Canada that the spirit of vindictive aggression, which she is showing towards our fishermen, cannot bring any advantage to her. A simple and direct remedy would be to levy such increased duty on the fish which Canada sends to the United States as would stimulate our own fishermen, and partially, if not wholly, exclude Canadian fishermen from the advantages of our market. It would, I think, be advantageous to demonstrate to the Canadian Government that retaliation is very easy, and that, reluctant as we should be to resort to it, we could soon throw the loss incident to the existing dispute wholly upon the fishermen of the Dominion.

It may, upon investigation, seem expedient for you to make a proper representation to the National Government on this subject, which closely touches the interest of many of our citizens.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House, we may congratulate ourselves that we assemble at a time of general prosperity in the State. While our progress is not so rapid as that of some States more highly favored in natural advantages, our growth is steady and substantial. One most gratifying feature in our advance is shown in the general participation of the people in all that relates to the growth of the State in wealth and comfort. We do not have one class in Maine growing unfairly at the expense of any other. Under the

beneficent influence of a protective tariff our manufactures have largely expanded and every other industry of the State, except the one already referred to, has grown with them. The fifty-four savings banks show that a large surplus is in the hands of the mass of the people. On the first day of November the aggregate deposits in those banks were in excess of \$38,000,000. The wide distribution of ownership of this large sum of money is shown by the fact that the number of depositors was 114,691, and of this number more than 90,000 owned less than \$500 each. The increase of deposits in the past year was more than \$2,000,000, and the increase of depositors was 5,293.

These figures tell their own story and speak more eloquently and more persuasively than any argument for the present industrial system of the United States, which gives such large facilities for the honest workingman to secure an independence. The savings banks have done a faithful work for the people of the State, and have encouraged a spirit of thrift and economy among all classes which cannot be too highly praised. With the same general object in view, another form of combined effort is now being made by the building associations of the State, by which men of very moderate means are enabled to acquire comfortable homes on easy terms and long time. If anything can be done by the Legislative power to promote the object of these new associations, I am sure they will receive your most favorable consideration.

We are entrusted with the Government of a State whose affairs in the past have been wisely and prudently administered. Cherishing a spirit of devotion to public duty, and invoking the blessing of God, without whose aid all human effort is vain, let us turn to the work that is set before us to do.

JOSEPH R. BODWELL.