

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

FORTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 28.

MAJORITY REPORT.

The Committee on Division of Towns, to which was referred the petition of J. S. Ricker and others, citizens of Westbrook, asking to be set off from the town of Westbrook, and organized into a new town, have heard the evidence and arguments of the parties, and after careful consideration the committee submit the following Report:

We find that the principal roads, passing through Westbrook, converge in Portland, and that the travel and business center in that city from all parts of the town.

Westbrook now contains about thirty-three square miles of territory. The division asked for, would leave the old town a narrow strip, but little more than two and a half miles wide by seven long, with several square miles of waste land within its limits.

The parties agree that the town house and farm are within the territory asked to be set off, and that the remonstrants have not sought a removal, or complained of the location, nor have they evinced a want of liberality in voting appropriations for streets and other improvements in the eastern section.

There is no evidence that permanent local jealousies exist, but rather peace and harmony.

The testimony goes to show, that a respectable minority of those living within the section sought to be severed, choose to remain as they are; while others prefer a union with Portland. More than this, a large majority of the citizens of Westbrook by vote and remonstrance protest against the division.

The remonstrants urge that Westbrook is an ancient and wealthy town—that a commendable pride incites them to oppose dismem-

berment and insignificance—a consideration not to be entirely overlooked.

We are of opinion that the substitution of Westbrook Seminary for the High School would not be advantageous, but rather injurious to the educational interests of the locality, for the reason that the town would lose control over the scholars while in a private institution.

There is a prospective view of this question brought out by the testimony, and by examination of the map of Westbrook, that cannot be ignored. The southeast border of the town is rapidly becoming, to all interests and purposes, part of Portland, and will ere long be absorbed by that city.

The only grievance of the petitioners, manifest to your committee, is the inconvenience and delay caused by so large a number of voters and votes at the annual spring election.

We therefore further report that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

LUTHER H. WEBB,	}	<i>Senate.</i>
JOSHUA GRAY,		
SAMUEL WASSON,	}	<i>House.</i>
H. G. O. SMITH,		
I. F. THOMPSON,		

STATE OF MAINE.

•
IN SENATE, February 18, 1870.

Reported from Committee on Division of Towns, by Mr. WEBB
of Somerset, and on his motion laid on the table and ordered to be
printed.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*