

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Fifty-Seventh Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 103.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE to purchase certain farms or settlers' lots in township number seventeen, range seven.

Resolved, That the land agent be and he is hereby
2 empowered and directed to purchase of the owners or
3 proprietors of the farms or lots of land as were given
4 the "proprietors or persons unknown," in the division
5 of lands in township number seventeen, range seven,
6 now Wallagrass, by Noah Barker and his associates,
7 to wit, the following farms or lots: Lot 2, 10, 13,
8 15, 17, 21, 22, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 47, 48
9 and 49, together with one-half of lot No. 24 in com-
10 mon, amounting in all to two thousand three hundred
11 and ninety-six acres. That the sum of eleven hundred
12 ninety-eight dollars is hereby appropriated to purchase
13 said farms or lots at a price not exceeding fifty cents
14 per acre, and to be paid to the land agent, when he

15 shall have completed said purchase, by the treasurer
16 of state; and the land agent shall deed to the occu-
17 pants of said lots or their assigns each their several
18 lots, when he is satisfied that they have fully paid for
19 the same.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

TOWNSHIP 17, R. 7, W. E. L. S. An undivided half of this township was assigned to Maine under the Act relating to the separation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts proper and forming the same into a separate and independent State, passed June 19, 1819. The lots in controversy were surveyed by John S. Webber in the months of May and June, 1847, agreeably to directions of George W. Coffin and Levi Bradley, Land Agents of Maine and Massachusetts.

Immediately thereupon settlers went on to nearly if not quite all of these lots, and have made themselves homes and farms out of the forest; and from time to time the two States have sent on agents and received from these settlers road labor in payment for these several lots. It appears from returns, that nearly all these lots have been paid for under the laws for the settlement of our domain, and it is further claimed that all have paid for their farms.

September, 1, 1853, Massachusetts conveyed her interest in the township aforesaid to Clark and McCrillis, without making any reservation of settlers' lots. Hence the proprietors or their assigns became joint owners of these lots with the State of Maine. In 1873, Commissioners, appointed by the S. J. Court, made partition of these lots between the State and proprietors. The lots assigned to Maine were subsequently sold to the settlers, leaving the farmers on the lots awarded to the proprietors at the mercy of the proprietors. It is claimed that the State cannot afford to repudiate a bargain made with these farmers, and therefore the State should make good to these farmers their titles.

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STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 2, 1878.

Presented by Mr. DICKEY of Fort Kent, and on his motion
ordered printed.

ORAMANDAL SMITH, *Clerk.*