

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# FIFTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 141.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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### MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

A joint resolution in relation to the navigation and bridging of the rivers St. John and St. Francis, where said rivers are the line of boundary between the United States and the Dominion of Canada.

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WHEREAS, By the terms of the Ashburton treaty, 2 concluded August ninth, A. D. eighteen hundred 3 and forty-two, at Washington, D. C., between the 4 United States and Great Britain, the rivers St. 5 John and St. Francis are declared the line of boun- 6 dary between said nations at that place, from the 7 “monument at the source of the river St. Croix to 8 the outlet of lake Pohenagamook;” and

WHEREAS, By article third of said treaty, it is 2 agreed that the navigation of said rivers shall be 3 free and open to both parties to said treaty; that

4 all the produce of the forest in logs, lumber, tim-  
5 ber, boards, &c., or of agriculture, grown on any  
6 of those parts of the State of Maine watered by the  
7 river St. John or its tributaries, shall have free  
8 access into and through the said river and its said  
9 tributaries, having their source in the State of  
10 Maine, to and from the seaport at the mouth of the  
11 river St. John; and that when within the Province  
12 of New Brunswick, said produce shall be dealt  
13 with as if it were the produce of said province, and  
14 like privileges to the inhabitants of the Province of  
15 New Brunswick; and

WHEREAS, A very large area of territory in the  
2 northeastern part of the State of Maine, embracing  
3 more than one hundred and fifty townships and  
4 more than three million acres of land, a large  
portion of which is fertile, and suitable and well  
6 adapted for agricultural purposes, and since the  
7 conclusion of said treaty, has been, and now is, in  
8 process of development, thereby largely benefiting  
9 the State of Maine, by increasing its population, as  
10 well as adding to the aggregate wealth of the state  
11 and nation; and

WHEREAS, This belt and tract of territory, larger  
2 than some of the states of our union, by reason of  
3 its geographical location, has no other available

4 outlet for the purposes of trade and commerce  
5 except the said river St. John, by means of which  
6 only the citizens of said territory are now enabled  
7 to carry on mercantile and commercial intercourse  
8 with other parts of the state, and other states, and  
9 the world; and

WHEREAS, Said rivers St. John and St. Francis,  
2 owing to the peculiar conformation of the lands in  
3 which they have their source and through which  
4 they flow, are subject to high and dangerous  
5 freshets, continuing for long periods, also at other  
6 periods of the year to be filled with broken floating  
7 ice, thereby closing this great commercial highway  
8 during said periods, thus shutting up and prevent-  
9 ing all intercourse between the inhabitants of said  
10 territory and other parts of the state and other  
11 states, whereby the inhabitants of said territory  
12 suffer great loss in their business, and the settle-  
13 ment and development of all this rich and fertile  
14 agricultural domain is seriously hindered, if not  
15 ruined; and

WHEREAS, The Province of New Brunswick has  
2 constructed a railroad from the city of St. John, at  
3 the mouth of the river St. John, up said river, and  
4 striking the boundary of the State of Maine in near  
5 proximity thereto, said railroad connecting with

6 the European and North American Railroad, lead-  
7 ing into the State of Maine and other states, which  
8 first mentioned railroad is made accessible to the  
9 inhabitants of that part of the territory of the State  
10 of Maine living on the lands adjacent to said rivers  
11 St. John and St. Francis, would be of immense  
12 benefit to all the people thereof, to their property,  
13 their trade and commerce, and to the people of the  
14 state and the United States, as well as to the  
15 Province of New Brunswick, by furnishing busi-  
16 ness to their road and otherwise; and

WHEREAS, All that is necessary to be done to  
2 accomplish the above named desirable objects, is to  
3 build certain bridges over and across said rivers  
4 St. John and St. Francis, at proper points to be  
5 designated. Therefore

*Be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives  
in Legislature assembled:*

That our senators are instructed, and our repre-  
2 sentatives in congress are requested to use their  
3 best endeavors and influence to secure an appropri-  
4 ation of sixty thousand dollars, as early as practi-  
5 cable, to aid in the building of four bridges, neces-  
6 sary approaches thereto, with safety, or ice piers,  
7 on the northeastern boundary line of the State of

8 Maine, over the rivers St. John and St. Francis,  
9 where they are the line of boundary between the  
10 United States and the Dominion of Canada, as fol-  
11 lows: one over the river St. John at Van Buren;  
12 one at Little Falls; one at Fort Kent, and one over  
13 the river St. Francis, near its junction with the  
14 river St. John. *Provided*, That the Dominion of  
15 Canada or the Province of New Brunswick will  
16 appropriate an equal amount in aid of the building  
17 said bridges, necessary approaches, and safety  
18 piers.

*Resolved*, That the governor be requested to trans-  
2 mit to the senate of the United States and to house  
3 of representatives at Washington, and to each of  
4 the senators and represenatives in congress from  
5 this state, and to the Dominion parliament, gov-  
6 ernment, senate and house of representatives at  
7 Ottawa, to the government, provincial parliament,  
8 legislative council, and house of representatives of  
9 the Province of New Brunswick at Fredericton, a  
10 certified copy of the foregoing memorial, preamble  
11 and resolutions.



STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 18, 1879. }

Reported from the Committee on Federal Relations, by Mr.  
BROWN of Bangor, and on motion of Mr. CURRAN of Calais,  
ordered printed.

B. L. STAPLES, *Clerk.*