

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 28.

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
3 or proprietors of the farms or lots of land as were
4 given the "proprietors or persons unknown" in the
5 division of lands in township numbered seventeen,
6 range seven, now Walagrass, by Noah Barker and
7 his associates, to wit, the following farms or lots:
8 Lots two, ten, thirteen, fifteen, seventeen, twenty-
9 one, twenty-two, twenty-six, twenty-seven, thirty,
10 thirty-one, thirty-four, thirty-five, thirty-eight, for-
11 ty-seven, forty-eight and forty-nine, together with
12 one-half of lot twenty-four in common, amounting
13 in all to two thousand three hundred and ninety-
14 six acres. That the sum of eleven hundred ninety-
15 eight dollars is hereby appropriated to purchase
16 said farms or lots, at a price not exceeding fifty

17 cents per acre, and to be paid to the land agent,
18 when he shall have completed said purchase, by
19 the treasurer of state, and the land agent shall
20 deed to the occupants of said lots or their assigns
21 each their several lots, when he is satisfied that
22 they have fully paid for 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 A. Webber, in the months of May and June, 1847, agreeable to direction 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 thereon homes and farms out of the forest, and they were invited by the agent, John A. Webber, to take up those lots as actual settlers, and from time to time the two States have sent on agents, and received from those 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 settlement of our domain, and it is farther claimed that all have paid for their farms.

September 1, 1853, Massachusetts conveyed her interests in the township aforesaid to Clark and McCrellis, without making any reservation of these 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 of Maine and proprietors. The lots assigned to Maine were subsequently deeded to the settlers, leaving the farmers, who had made their farms, buildings, and raised their families on the lots awarded to the proprietors and numbered in the resolve, at the mercy of the proprietors. It is claimed that the State cannot afford to repudiate a bargain made with these farmers (who most of them have resided on their farms more than thirty years), and therefore the State should make good to these farmers the titles of their farms.

STATE OF MAINE.

In HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 13, 1880. }

Reported by Mr. COLE from Committee on State Lands and
State Roads, and ordered printed under rule.

ORAMANDAL SMITH, *Clerk,*