

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 63.

STATE OF MAINE.

No. BERWICK, Feb'y 2d, 1887.

HON. G. F. TALBOT,

Portland, Me.

My Dear Sir: Your esteemed favor of Jan. 31st is received and contents noted.

At some future time I will answer your inquiry, as to prohibiting the sacrifice of growing pine and other timber trees; but now I wish to ask your opinion as to the enclosed proposed legislation.

Perhaps something like this would result in ascertaining what *we do want* and save encumbering the Statute Book with useless and unnecessary laws.

If this meets your views I will be obliged to you if you will forward it to your brother and urge him to secure its passage by the present legislature.

Please reply.

Yours Very Respectfully

JOHN E. HOBBS.

PORTLAND, February 2, 1887.

DEAR JOHN: An article in the Argus which I wrote and which I trust you saw led to this correspondence which speaks for itself. Mr. Hobbs of No. Berwick, member of the N. E. Forestry Congress, just sent me a draft of a bill of 35 sections, to which I made some suggestions and sent it back to him. He evidently thinks it is too late for such an elaborate statute so late in the session, and now sends the enclosed bills, the object of which seems to be to gather the facts and then see what legislation is wanted. I think this much might suit the ideas of the Legislature. No subject can compare with it in importance. All your game laws and fish laws put together do not affect an interest of one tenth of the value of the timber lands of the State. The restoration of our forests would quicken agriculture, stimulate commerce, ship building, and every other industry. I have no doubt a half-dozen men of leisure and public spirit would be willing to serve on this commission and pay their own bills.

Write me about it.

G. F. TALBOT.

AN ACT to provide for the collection of Statistics relating
to the Forests of the State.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

SECTION 1. It shall be the duty of the assessors of each
2 town on or before the first day of October, eighteen hun-
3 dred and eighty-seven, to make a careful estimate of the
4 area and condition, as to the stage of growth, density and
5 character of forest land in their several towns; also the
6 area of waste and barren land on which valuable forest
7 trees might be grown, and report the same to the Secre-
8 tary of State. A consolidated summary of these returns
9 by counties and of the information as to the same matter
10 otherwise gathered by the Secretary of State shall be
11 included in his annaul report.

SECT. 2. The selectmen of every town as aforesaid and
2 in which a forest fire of more than one acre in extent has
3 occurred within a year, shall report to the Secretary of
4 State the extent of area burned over, to the best of their
5 information, together with the probable amount of prop-
6 erty destroyed, specifying the value of timber as near as
7 may be and amount of cord wood, logs, bark or other
8 forest product, and fencing, bridges and buildings that
9 have been burned. They shall also make inquiries and
10 report as to the cause of these fires, if they can be ascer-
11 tained, and as to the measures employed and found most
12 effective in checking their progress. A summary of these
13 returns by counties and of the information otherwise
14 gathered by the Secretary of State shall be included in
15 his annual report. Blanks for the reports required in
16 this act shall be furnished by the Secretary of State to
17 the several towns at the expense of the State.

RESOLVE in relation to preserving the Forests of Maine.

Resolved, That the Governor, together with six other persons, citizens of this State, to be by him appointed, be a commission to institute an inquiry into the extent to which the forests of Maine are being destroyed by fires, used by wasteful cutting for consumption or for the purpose of clearing lands for tillage or pasturage; also as to the effect of the diminution of the wooded surface of the land upon the ponds, rivers and water power of the State and in disturbing and deteriorating the natural conditions of the climate.

And said commission shall make report of the results of these inquiries, together with such legislation as seems to them expedient to propose, to preserve and restore the forest wealth of the State, sixty days before the assembling of the legislature for the year 1889; and the State printer, under the direction of said commission, shall cause to be printed as many copies of said report for distribution as they may deem expedient.

The said commission shall serve without compensation, but a sum not exceeding one thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to pay the necessary expenses incurred in collecting the information required by this resolve, to be ascertained by said commission, and audited and paid by the warrant of the Governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 3, 1887.

Presented by Mr. TALBOT of East Machias and tabled for printing, pending reference to Committee on Agriculture.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, Clerk.