

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 257.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE requiring the Land Agent to convey certain Lots in Township No. 18, Range 6, W. E. L. S.

Resolved, That the Land Agent be and is hereby
2 required to convey by deed all Lots in Township
3 18, Range 6, W. E. L. S., in the county of Aroos-
4 took, surveyed by William Dwelly, A. D. 1847,
5 occupied, and to the parties indicated by Noah
6 Barker in his report dated April, 1874.

WHEREAS the Legislature, having determined by a resolve adopted on the 27th day of February, A. D. 1873, to investigate and authorize the conveyance by deed of undetermined lots and parcels of land in certain townships lying upon the Saint Johns River and its tributaries ;

AND, WHEREAS the intention of said Legislature, as then expressed, has, for a period of fourteen years, for reasons wholly inexplicable, been delayed, hindered, or prevented of consummation, to the material and social detriment of a numerous and respectable class of citizens with dependent families, occupants, encouraged thereon, under urgent State auspices, requiring prompt and decisive action, now that attention is called to a delinquency, not the fault of the State, and, is hoped, not official inattention, where this and cognate matters have been and are entitled to consideration ;

THEREFORE, in order that the grievance referred to may become removed, the following statement of facts, with the accompanying resolve, are respectfully submitted to this Legislature, in the hope of favorable action for the relief called for.

Statement of facts connected with settlers on Township Eighteen, Range Six, west from the east line of the State, in the county of Aroostook :

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

W. H. Dwelly, Jr., surveyed on said township (18, R. 6) in the year 1847, and lotted a part of it for settlement. Settlers were invited, and did enter upon such lots, under the supervision of John S. Webber, local land agent. They have cleared and made themselves homes on every lot, and complied with the conditions of the several acts and resolves of the State, whereby settlers upon the State land have been required to clear, seed down, erect buildings, and reside with their families upon the lot so entered upon, with one or two exceptions, of mountainous lots. Facts connected with the settlement of this township (18, R. 6) are more than emphasized in that the original settlers in fact at that early period, through suffering and hardship, in every sense were the wards of the State.

This primitive people, simple and confiding, deferred all their material interests to the magnanimity of the State. They have never been disturbed in their quiet possessions and occupancy, thus creating year by year stronger claims upon the State for remuneration, either in money or conveyances of the lands as was originally intended.

Again, relying upon the good faith of the State, the lots or many of them originally entered upon, have become sub-divided, some into two, some into three, others into four parts, and these sub-divisions with more than one family upon each sub-divided part.

Their applications for relief by State compliance *with its own stipulations*, have been often and repeated—no fault of theirs.

State authorities, moved by a sense of justice, and firm resolution that all invitation and neglect should cease, in furtherance of this object, on the 27th of February, 1873, the Legislature adopted a "Resolve relative to Claims of Settlers upon Proprietors' Lands in county of Aroostook."

Under this resolve, Hon. Noah Barker, on the 12th of April, A. D. 1873, commenced the work of determining the ownership of each claimant to land in said 18, R. 6, and has furnished a complete schedule of owners, and number of persons in each family, number of the lot, acres improved, and when taken up.

These settlers, as will be observed, have occupied their lots many long years, with all the endearments of family and home, as sacred to this primitive people, as are homes to others, possessing more of comfort and luxury. They have become weary of "hope deferred." The situation is truly embarrassing and requires mandatory legislation to awaken a sense of duty, especially when "the concern of one is the concern of all."

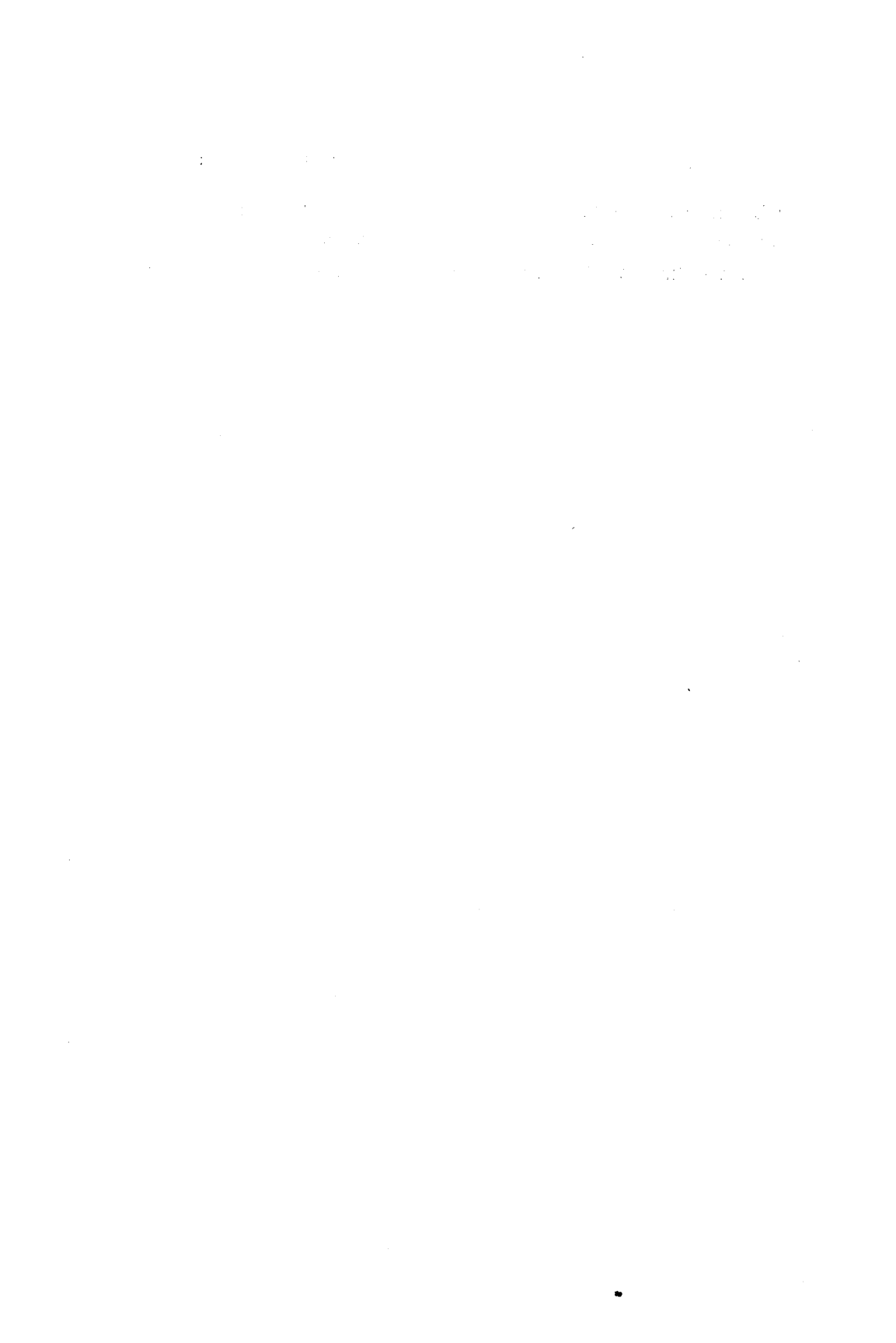
These settlers have occupied these lots, as will be observed, many years, having their homes thereon, and their children, with all the endearments of domestic ties, as sacred to this primitive people as are the homes of others, surrounded with comfort and luxury.

Now, to ask an extension of time of two years, when they have already become wearied with "hope deferred," is more than ought to be required.

It is manifestly due to these people that this Legislature authorize the conveyances at once, waiving all pecuniary consideration, a boon if granted, wholly inadequate to the sac-

rice incurred by these long suffering settlers, through delays and procrastination of State and government officials.

To the State, the "concern of one is the concern of all."



STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 11, 1887. }

Presented by Mr. DICKEY of Fort Kent; tabled, and ordered printed.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, Clerk.