

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Fourth Legislature.

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SENATE.

No. 156.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of continuing the publication of  
"York Deeds," being the early records of the State  
in the Registry of Deeds for York County.

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*Resolved*, That — the Maine Historical Society  
2 having agreed to exercise the same supervision in  
3 the publication of additional volumes five and six,  
4 of the York Records, as in the preceding volumes  
5 already published,—the governor and council shall  
6 purchase for the State four hundred and fifty copies  
7 of volume five and a like number of volume six,  
8 at five dollars per volume, provided that the style  
9 and indexing of the same shall equal said preceding  
10 volumes; and that one copy of each volume be  
11 placed in each registry of deeds in the State.

## BRIEF STATEMENT OF FACTS

### *To Accompany the Resolve for Continuing the Publication of York Deeds.*

These priceless muniments of our early titles are subject to danger of loss by fire and other casualty, and are being rapidly worn and torn into illegibility in their present quarters, so that printing them and reduplicating copies is the surest way of preserving them to posterity, and to guard against such confusion as resulted from the loss of the Probate Records in the Portland fire of 1866, and the Cook County land records in the great Chicago fire.

By printing these two volumes the record is made complete and the series consecutive to the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Owing to the troubles of the Indian wars and the changes in the Massachusetts government, the books containing our records were frequently removed to Boston and other places for safe keeping, with the result that the records between 1684 and 1700 are not consecutive, but are scattered through books four, five and six in the Registry of Deeds,—two books being begun, while the others, not yet filled, were away from the office.

The fourth book, now printed, was in use from 1684 to 1699, but not continuously; from 1687 to 1689 the recorder used the book now numbered sixth; from 1690 to 1696 the records were continued in what is now the fifth book; and from 1696 to 1699, the recorder returned to the fourth book. So that to fill the gaps now existing in our books as already printed, volumes five and six must be added to the series.

It has been proven by the financial result of printing these useful documents that the cost cannot be met by relying upon private subscriptions.

In view of the large sums appropriated by Massachusetts, New Hampshire and other States that have records of any antiquity, the value of this series has an addition to our State

library for exchanges, donations and distribution, the interest shown in the work by the learned societies and professions, and the general reading public, it is hoped the legislature will provide for the printing of these two volumes necessary to round out the series to the year 1700.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 1, 1889.

Reported by Mr. SLEEPER, from Committee on Library, and laid  
on table to be printed under joint rules.

C. W. TILDEN, *Secretary*.