

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Sixth Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 178.

STATE OF MAINE.

MEMORIAL TO CONGRESS.

Whereas, by the Ashburton treaty concluded August 9, 1842, the St. John river became the boundary line between the United States and the Dominion of Canada, and

Whereas, a very large area of territory in the northwestern part of the State of Maine, embracing more than one hundred townships, and amounting to more than two millions acres of land, of which a very large proportion is fertile and suitable and well adapted for agricultural purposes; and, since the treaty, has been and now is in process of development, thereby largely increasing its population and adding to the wealth of the State and nation; and

Whereas, this belt of territory, as large as a majority of our counties, by reason of its geographical location has no other available outlet for the purposes of trade and commerce except the river St. John or its banks; and,

Whereas, said river St. John, owing to the peculiar conformation of the vast area of land in which it has its source, fed by the great rivers, the Allegash, big and little Black, the St. Francis and Fish rivers, is subject to high and dangerous freshets, continuing for long periods; also at other periods of the year is filled with anchor ice or frozen slush, therefore closing the great highway during said periods; thus shutting up and closing all intercourse between the inhabitants of said territory and the other parts of the State and the world; whereby the inhabitants suffer great loss in their business and the settlement and development of this rich agricultural domain is seriously retarded, and,

Whereas, the Temiscouata railway has been extended up the left bank of the St. John river to Clair station directly opposite Fort Kent, and upon the said bank of the river to St. Francis river and the Canadian Pacific Railway running to Edmundston within twenty miles of which said road makes connection at said point thereby giving railway facilities through by Bangor, or by the river DeLoup, Quebec and Portland; and further it is the intention of the Dominion of Canada to construct this railway up the valley of the St. John and St. Francis rivers which, when completed, will give greater facilities and a much shorter route to Portland, and,

Whereas, all that is necessary to be done to accomplish this great object is to build a railroad and carriage bridge at Fort Kent over and across said St. John river, and

Whereas, the Fish river, flowing from the great lakes, to wit: Long, Cross, Square, Eagle and Portage lakes, and some five other small lakes, making one of the best, if not the very best, water powers in the State of Maine, draining

as it does a vast area of valuable timber and fertile agricultural land, which wants but railway facilities to set in motion a vast amount of machinery and manufacture millions of lumber every year, and build up the towns of the county of Aroostook, thereby largely adding to the wealth of the State, and bring the people seeking for good health in one of the most beautiful spots of earth for a summer residence, thereby restoring their diseased and weak lungs and giving pleasure and delight to life.

Therefore, be it resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, that our senators in Congress are instructed, and our representatives requested, to use their best endeavors and influence to secure an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars in aid of building a bridge for railroad and carriage and foot travel; said bridge to be constructed with granite abutments and piers, or with heavy iron tubes, and filled with hand laid concrete; the structure to be of iron or steel: Provided, the dominion government of Canada, or any railroad corporation in said dominion shall furnish a like sum.

Resolved, That the governor transmit to the Senate of the United States and to the House of Representatives at Washington, and to our senators and representatives in Congress, and to the dominion government at Ottawa, also the Parliament, Senate and House of Representatives at Ottawa, certified copies of the foregoing memorial, preamble and resolutions.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 23, 1893. }

Tabled pending adoption, by Mr. HARRIS of East Machias, and ordered printed.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*