

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 5.

STATE OF MAINE

Memorial to Congress relating to Free Ship Bill so called.

The State of Maine has long been the largest builder of sailing ships of any state in the Union. For over a century and a half, ship-building and ship-owning, and the trades dependent on them, have given employment on sea and land to the population of our coasts. In fifty of our towns, these are the principal trades known to our people. The prosperity of a population of two hundred thousand people within our borders is inseparably connected with American shipping, the building, the owning, and the sailing of ships.

To the agitation of measures pending in Congress, which our people believe encompass the destruction of this indus-

try, older than our State or nation, protected almost from the nation's birth by the laws which it is now proposed to repeal, our State cannot remain a silent witness.

If our Registry Laws have failed to increase our tonnage engaged in the foreign trade, which is now protected from foreign competition, yet in domestic tonnage, where they give full protection, we have built up a fleet larger than any other nation.

For our own State these laws have done more, they have enabled our shipbuilders to meet the change from wood to steel, and to establish within our borders extensive plants and yards, from which have been launched vessels for our merchant marine, unsurpassed by any similar vessels in the world.

We ask our countrymen, to recall the fact that under these laws, in the crises of three great wars, Maine has been enabled far out of proportion to her numerical strength to contribute to the national glory and success upon the seas; and to take warning that a repeal of these laws while it means ruin to so many of our people, will be a deadlier blow to the national security and national defense. Therefore be it

Resolved, That in the name of our State, united in common defense, without regard to party, we protest against any change in these laws; and that a copy of this resolve be sent to the speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the State's delegation in Congress.



STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
January 14, 1895. }

Ordered printed on motion of Mr. TWITCHELL of Bath.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*