

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Seventieth Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 46

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND ONE.

In compliance with the order of the Senate of February 5, 1901, I herewith submit a copy of the circular letter, printed envelope and remonstrance sent to the granges of the state.

My authority for sending the circulars and using the official letter heads of the agricultural department, is the direction of the executive committee of the board of agriculture so to do, in order to notify and inform the grangers and farmers of the state, of the nature of the pending legislation affecting their rights, and to request their protest to the passage of the same.

B. WALKER McKEEN, *Secretary.*

AUGUSTA, February 7, 1901.

Dear Sir and Brother:

An act has been presented in the House and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, to so amend section 5 of chapter 58 as to change the election of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture from the Board to the Legislature. While the bill does not so state, it is proposed to have it take effect at once. The State Grange passed strong resolutions in 1899, favoring the retaining of the functions of the Board as they are at present. Worthy Master Gardner, in his last annual address, spoke strongly along the same line. The farmers now control the Board and its executive officer, and they are independent of all political influences. By placing the election of the secretary in the hands of the Legislature, it must in a measure become political, and the functions of the Board are reduced, a possible step toward the abolition of the Board.

Will you present the enclosed remonstrance in your Grange, making such statements in relation to it as may seem to you to be best, secure as many names as possible, and return to this office at your earliest convenience. I have consulted the State Master, and he sanctions this movement on the part of the Granges.

It would also be of much assistance if some of your members would write the committee, stating their views in opposition to the proposed measure. The members of this committee are as follows: Rutillus Alden, Winthrop; J. W. Dudley, Castle Hill; Joseph F. Stearns, Lovell, on the part of the Senate; and Thomas H. Boothby, Leeds; Henry D. Hammond, Paris; Howard B. Leathers, Hermon; Geo. W. Harvey, Atkinson; Chas. H. Hoxie, Fairfield; W. J. Thompson, South China, and Isaac Cushman, Sherman Mills, on the part of the House. Letters addressed State House, Augusta, will reach them.

Yours very truly,

B. WALKER McKEEN.

(Dictated.)

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in
Legislature Assembled:*

We, the undersigned, citizens of _____ and vicinity, respectfully remonstrate against the change in the method of electing the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, as provided in the proposed amendments to section 5 of chapter 58 of the Revised Statutes, by which the power of electing the secretary is transferred from the board to the legislature.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 7, 1901.

Read, and on motion by Mr. ALDEN of Kennebec, laid on table to be printed.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.