

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 201

House of Representatives, Feb. 17, 1915.

Reported by Mr. Ryder from Committee on Federal Relations, and ordered printed under joint rules.

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE, Memorializing Congress in the Interest of Universal Peace.

Contemplating with horror the terrible and seemingly unnecessary destruction of life and property now going on in a large part of Europe, and realizing, as much as it can be realized by a people at peace with all the world, the deplorable condition in which the present war will leave all the countries engaged, and in a lesser degree all the nations of the world, and contemplating also the fact that popular ideals of national honor and dignity are such that really trifling matters may precipitate any two nations or the whole world in deadly conflict, with its consequent destruction of human life and of the accumulation of works of art, science and labor that the centuries have produced for improving the conditions of mankind, we, the Sen-

ate and House of Representatives of Maine, in Legislature assembled, would respectfully memorialize Congress as follows:

That the present method of settling international questions and disputes by the slaughter of the citizens of the contending nations is absolutely wrong in principle, brutal in its conception, a relic of barbarism brought to a state of scientific perfection, un-Christian, uncivilized, inhuman, and destructive of everything that makes for human happiness. At the present stage of the world's history no armed warfare except in self-defence is justifiable. It settles no question except that of the superiority of military and naval force. All the disputes at issue have to be settled after the war is over. None of the so called "civilized" countries of the world allow any of its citizens to settle personal grievances with revolver or dirk. No towns or districts of a civilized state are fortified against the encroachments of each other, and there are no armed conflicts between them to determine the rights of any question at issue. But all differences between individuals, towns or states are peaceably settled in courts of law. With a boundary line of over three thousand miles between our country and the Dominion of Canada, unfortified and unguarded except by revenue officials, we have no wars nor cause for war with Canada. Differences arise, but they are adjusted without first killing a few thousand men on either side.

We are firmly of the opinion that there is no reason why all questions of international dispute may not be settled by an in-

ternational court just as simply as are these lesser cases cited, the honor and integrity of each party to the controversy being maintained only by submission to the mandates of this court. And we are as firmly of the opinion that no adverse decision of this court could ever be so disastrous in its effect as the *successful* termination of a bloody war.

This nation, and all the individual units of which it is composed—and in all probability other nations are doing the same—is making every effort possible to cure or alleviate the distresses of our citizens who are suffering in mind, body or estate, and at the same time enrolling our healthy and robust male citizens to become targets for the machine guns of some possible foreign foe. One thousand, more or less, of these stalwart sons of America, whose lives should be put to some useful purpose, are put aboard of a modern battleship costing the people of this country several millions of dollars, and sent out to strike a mine, or be pierced by a projectile from a submarine sent out by this same possible foreign foe, and all is over, except the requiem for the dead. And thus the world over the able-bodied men of all nations are mustered into the service, military or naval, and bound to become murderers at wholesale and in time become the victims of such wholesale murder. Human life is of more importance to the world than thrones and dynasties. These are suffered to exist for the benefit of the governed, and to guarantee to their respective peoples the right to live and to follow those pursuits which make life worth

living. But governments do not guarantee these blessings so long as they persist in forcing their best blood into an arena beside which the Amphitheatre of Rome dwindles into insignificance, where they must fight, with the best blood of other governments, a battle of extermination, with the ferocity of beasts of the jungle, to uphold the dignity, honor and glory of some prince or potentate.

With these truths now being presented to the world by a fearful object lesson, it is by us

Resolved, That the Government of the United States, being
2 on friendly relations with all nations, should take the in-
3 itiative in a strong movement for continued peace among all
4 the neutral powers, by urging them to join in a long time
5 peace pact, by the terms of which all perplexing questions,
6 of whatever nature, shall be submitted to a neutral inter-
7 national court of arbitration, each firmly agreeing to abide
8 by its decision, and further agreeing to engage in no armed
9 warfare except in case of the actual invasion of its terri-
10 tory or of that over which it has assumed a protectorate, and
11 then only to the extent of repelling the invaders.

And to this end be it *Resolved*, That we earnestly petition
13 the Congress of the United States and the Department of
14 State at Washington to do all in their power to hasten the
15 day of Universal Peace in the name of Humanity and Uni-
16 versal Economy.

And be it further *Resolved*, That one thousand copies of
18 this Memorial be printed and a copy be sent to the President
19 of the United States, the Secretary of State and to each Sen-
20 ator and Representative in Congress.