

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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RESOLVES

OF THE

LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

PASSED AT ITS SESSION,

WHICH COMMENCED ON THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF MAY,
AND ENDED ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF JUNE,
ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND TWENTY.

Published agreeably to a Resolution of June 23, 1820.

PORTLAND:

PRINTED BY FRANCIS DOUGLAS, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1820.

CHAPTER IV.

Resolve for providing a Seal. *June 9th, 1820.*

Description of the Device, &c. of the SEAL and ARMS of the State of Maine.

A SHIELD, argent, charged with a PINE TREE; a MOOSE DEER, at the foot of it, recumbent. Supporters; on dexter side, an HUSBANDMAN, resting on a scythe; on sinister side, a SEAMAN, resting on an anchor.

In the fore ground, representing sea and land, and under the Shield, the name of the State in large Roman Capitals, to wit:—

MAINE.

The whole surmounted by a Crest, the NORTH STAR. The Motto, in small Roman Capitals, in a label interposed between the Shield and Crest, viz:—DIRIGO.

EXPLANATION.

The MOOSE DEER (*Cervus alces*) is a native of the forests of Maine. When full grown, it is scarcely inferior to a horse in size. It has a neck, short and thick, a large head, horns dilating almost immediately from the base into a broad, palmated form, a thick, heavy upper lip, hanging very much over the lower, very high shoulders, and long legs. The color is a dark greyish brown, much paler on the legs and under part of the body. The hair is coarse and strong, and is much longer on the top of the shoulders, and ridge of the neck, than on other parts. The eyes and ears are large, the hoofs broad, and the tail extremely short. The greatest height of the Moose Deer is about seventeen hands, and the weight of such an animal about twelve hundred and twenty pounds. In deep snows they collect in numbers in pine forests.

The MAST PINE (*Americana, quinis ex uno folliculo setis*) leaves five together, cones cylindrical, imbricated, smooth, longer than the leaves, crest of the anthers of two minute, awl-shaped bristles. It is as well the staple of the commerce of Maine, as the pride of her forests. It is an evergreen of towering height, and enormous size. It is the largest and most useful of American Pines and the best timber for masts.

Application of the Emblems, &c.

NAME.

The territory, embraced by the limits of the State, bears the name MAINE.

ARMS OF THE STATE.

CREST.

As in the Arms of the United States, a cluster of Stars represents the States, composing the Nation, the NORTH STAR may be considered particularly applicable to the most northern member of the confederacy, or as indicating the local situation of the most northern State in the Union.

MOTTO.

“ DIRIGO.” *I direct, or, I guide.*

As the Polar Star has been considered the mariner's *guide* and *directer* in conducting the ship over the pathless ocean to the desired haven, and the centre of magnetic attraction; as it has been figuratively used to denote the point, to which all affections turn, and as it here is intended to represent the State, it may be considered the citizen's *guide*, and the *object* to which the patriot's best exertions should be *directed*.

SHIELD.

The Pine Tree.

The stately Pine, with its straight body, erect head, and evergreen foliage, and whose beauty is exceeded only by its usefulness, while it represents the State, will excite the constant prayer of its citizens, *semper viridis*.

The Moose Deer.

A native animal of the State, which retires before the approaching steps of human inhabitancy, in his *recumbent* posture and undisturbed situation, denotes the extent of unsettled lands, which future years may see the abodes of successive generations of men, whose spirit of independence shall be untamed as this emblem, and whose liberty shall be unrestricted as the range of the Moose Deer.

The Supporters of the Shield.

An Husbandman with a scythe represents Agriculture generally, and more particularly that of a grazing country; while a Seaman resting on an anchor, represents Commerce and Fisheries; and both indicate, that the State is *supported* by these primary vocations of its inhabitants.

The Committee appointed to report a suitable Device and Seal for the State of Maine,

REPORT, a Device for the Seal of the State, a sketch of which, with a description and explanation of the same, are herewith submitted. They also report the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the Secretary of State be directed to procure a suitable Seal, conforming to the sketch aforesaid, and that he cause

the Device aforesaid to be engraven thereon, and that said seal, when so completed, be deposited in the office of the Secretary of State, and that the same shall become and be the Seal of this State.

2. *Resolved*, That the Secretary of State cause the sketch, description and explanation aforesaid, to be fairly copied on parchment and deposited in the office of the Secretary of the State.

CHAPTER V.

Resolve authorizing the Governor to procure a Press. *June 12th, 1820.*

Resolved, That the Governor be authorized to procure for the use of the State, a suitable Press to accompany the Seal of State; and that the same be deposited in the Secretary's Office, for the use thereof.

CHAPTER VI.

Resolve relating to the settlement of the boundaries between the State and the British Provinces. *June 12th, 1820.*

WHEREAS, by the act relating to the Separation of the District of Maine from Massachusetts proper, and forming the same into a separate and Independent State, provision is made, that all the lands belonging to the Commonwealth within said District of Maine, shall belong one half thereof to Massachusetts, and the other half to the State of Maine; which lands lie contiguous to the British Provinces of New-Brunswick and Lower Canada: And whereas under the fifth article of the British treaty, provision is made for settling the eastern and northern boundaries of this State, under which article, commissioners have been appointed: And whereas it is important that a division of said lands between Massachusetts and this State, should be made as soon as may be; which division cannot, with safety and convenience to the parties interested, be made, till after said lines shall have been run and established: And whereas it is believed that little progress has yet been made in ascertaining and settling said boundaries: Therefore,

Resolved, That the Governor of this State be requested to transmit to the President of the United States, a copy of this resolve, accompanied with such representations in relation to this subject, as he shall think proper and best calculated to effect the object. And also that he be authorized and requested to make such communications to the Governor of Massachusetts on this subject, as he shall deem necessary.