

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES,

PASSED BY THE

TWENTIETH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

JANUARY SESSION, 1840.

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June
28, 1820, and February 26, 1840.

AUGUSTA:

W^M. R. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1840.

RESOLVES
PASSED BY THE
LEGISLATURE OF MAINE.
1840.

[supplied from page 113 of volume]

ators and Representatives in Congress, and to the Governor of New Jersey.

[Approved March 18, 1840.]

Chapter 94.

Resolves relating to the Northeastern Boundary.

Resolved, That the patriotic enthusiasm with which several of our sister States the past year tendered us with their aid to repel a threatened foreign invasion, demand our grateful recollection—and whilst this spirit of self-sacrifice and self-devotion to the national honor pervades the Union, we cannot doubt, that the integrity of our territory will be preserved.

Resolved, That the promptness and unanimity with which the last Congress, at the call of this State, placed at the disposal of the President, the arms and treasures of the nation for our defence—the firmness of the Executive in sustaining the action of this State, and repelling the charge of an infraction of the arrangement made with the British Lieutenant Governor in March last, and charging back upon the British government the violation of that agreement—their decision in demanding the removal of the British troops now quartered upon the disputed territory as the only guaranty that they sincerely desire an amicable adjustment of the boundary question, afford us confident assurance that this State will not be compelled single handed to take up arms in defence of our territory and the national honor, and that the crisis is near when this question will be settled by the national government either by negotiation or by the ultimate resort.

Resolved, That unless the British government, during the present session of Congress, make, or accept a distinct and satisfactory proposition for the immediate adjustment of the boundary question, it will be the duty of the general government to take military possession of the disputed territory; and in the name of a sovereign State we call upon the national government to fulfil its constitutional obligations to establish the line, which they have solemnly declared to be the true boundary, and to protect this State in extending her jurisdiction to the utmost limits of our territory.

Resolved, That we have a right to expect that the general government will extend to this member of the Union, by negotiation or by arms the protection of her territorial rights, guaranteed by the federal compact, and thus save her from the necessity of falling back upon her national and reserved rights of self-defence and self-protection—rights which constitutions can neither give nor take away; but, should this confidence of a speedy crisis be disappointed, it will become the imperative duty of Maine to assume the defence of our State and national honor, and expel from our limits the British troops now quartered upon our territory.

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to forward copies of these Resolutions to the President and Heads of the Departments, and to the Senators and Representatives in Congress from this State, with a request to the latter to lay them before the respective bodies of which they are members, also to the Governors of the several States with a request to lay them before their several Legislatures.

Gov. to transmit
copies, &c.

[*Approved March 18, 1840.*]