

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES,

PASSED BY THE

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

JANUARY SESSION, 1841.

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

AUGUSTA:
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1841.

RESOLVES
PASSED BY THE
LEGISLATURE OF MAINE.
1841.

[supplied from page 467 of volume]

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 5, 1841.

The joint standing committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred a resolve respecting French spoliations, and sundry petitions on that subject, have had the same under consideration, and

REPORT :

That the subject of the claims of the citizens of this State, and other States of the Union, on the United States, respecting French spoliations, prior to the ratification of the Convention between the United States and France, of the thirtieth of September, in the year one thousand eight hundred, has been long pending in Congress, on which, reports favorable to the claimants, from time to time, have been made, which have not, as yet, been brought to any just issue.

The memorialists request legislative action on the subject, so far at least as to urge on Congress the speedy consideration of their claims, for French captures of American vessels and spoliations on American commerce, prior to the ratification of the Convention aforesaid.

The justice of the claims, when examined by various committees, has always been admitted in Congress.

The demand on the General Government rests on the appropriation of the claims of individual citizens to the use of the Government.

The United States always urged on France the justice of the claims of her citizens for indemnity, and this was not denied by France. But that Government brought forward counter claims, not against the claimants, but against the United States, for alleged breaches of national engagements.

The United States, in this situation of her relations with France, released the claims of her citizens, in consideration of the release, on the part of France, of national stipulations and claims against the United States—thus purchasing a great public advantage, at the expense of the claimants. Thus far it is deemed proper and useful to state, in this place and on this occasion. The whole subject is believed now to be before Congress, and no other action of this Legislature is expected, than to invoke Congress to adhere to that sacred regard of justice and constitutional principles, which require that private property should not be taken for public use, without a full indemnity.

Your Committee ask leave to report the Resolves, which are herewith submitted.

ERASTUS FOOTE, *per order.*

Chapter 166.

RESOLVES respecting French Spoliations.

Resolved, That the government of the United States are bound, by every principle of justice and national honor, to make speedy provision for the indemnification of those citizens, who suffered by French spoliations on American commerce, prior to the ratification of the treaty of eighteen hundred; that the General Government having by their treaties with France compromised all claims upon that government, for such captures and spoliations, and having received an equivalent, any longer delay to do justice to the claimants does not comport with national justice.

U. States bound to indemnify.

Resolved, That the Governor of this State be requested to forward a copy of this Report and these Resolutions, to our Senators and Representatives in Congress, and that they be requested to call the immediate attention of both branches of Congress to the subject, and use all their influence to procure the passage of a law, making provision for those who suffered by the French captures and spoliations aforesaid.

Gov. to transmit these Resolves to members of Congress.

[Approved April 16, 1841.]

Chapter 167.

RESOLVE in favor of the town of Belfast.

Resolved, That there be paid, out of the treasury of the State, to the town of Belfast, the sum of thirty-four dollars and ninety-three cents, for two tents furnished by said town, for use of soldiers drafted into the service of the State, in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine: *Provided*, that the tents aforesaid shall first be delivered to the keeper of the State's arsenal at Bangor, and produce his receipt for the same.

Belfast, \$34.93 for two tents, for Aroostook expedition—

—on producing receipt from keeper of State Arsenal.

[Approved April 16, 1841.]