

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

4628

PASSED BY THE

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

OF THE

**S T A T E O F M A I N E ,**

**A . D . 1 8 4 2 .**

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Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820, February 26, 1840, and  
March 16, 1842.

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*AUGUSTA:*

Wm. R. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

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1842.

territory, for the march of their armies from Halifax to Quebec. Then it was that the first intimation of any claim to this territory was made known—a claim, in the opinion of your committee, as unprecedented as it is unjust. On this question, it is believed, the United States are plainly in the right, and the British government as plainly in the wrong. Your committee, therefore, beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following resolutions :

1. Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives, That we heartily respond to the sentiments contained in the resolutions from the states of Maine and New Hampshire, above referred to.

2. Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives, That it is the duty of the general government to prosecute the settlement of the north eastern boundary question, without any unnecessary delay.

3. Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives, That while we deprecate a war with Great Britain as a great national evil, and to be resorted to only in case of stern necessity; and while we recommend to the government of the United States a conciliatory, yet firm and decided course on the subject, yet, if such course fail, we pledge ourselves to sustain the authorities of the Union in maintaining their rights, with all the resources in our power.

Resolved, by the senate and house of representatives, That his excellency the governor be, and hereby is, requested to transmit a copy of the foregoing report and resolutions to the executives of the states of Maine and New Hampshire, and to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

A true copy.

Attest: C. L. KNAPP, *Acting Secretary of State.*

27th CONGRESS, }  
2d Session. }

{ HO. OF REPS.  
{ War Dept.

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### MILITARY ROAD IN MAINE.

#### LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

*Transmitting the information required by a resolution of the house of representatives of the 8th instant, respecting estimates of the cost of a military road in the state of Maine, &c.*

FEBRUARY 15, 1842.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR, February 12, 1842.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the 8th instant, requesting the secretary of war to communicate to the house of representatives any

## MILITARY ROAD.

and all estimates which may have been made of the cost of a military road to forts Fairfield and Kent, in the state of Maine, and of the sums needed for the purpose of erecting such road during the current year, I have the honor to transmit, herewith, a report and estimate of the colonel of the corps of topographical engineers, which have been prepared under the orders of this department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. SPENCER.

HON. JOHN WHITE, *Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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BUREAU OF TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS, }  
Washington, February 12, 1842. }

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the house of representatives of the 8th instant, I have the honor to submit the following estimates in reference to the "cost of a military road to fort Fairfield and fort Kent":

The estimate for the road to fort Kent was submitted in a communication from this bureau of the 31st of January, amounting to	\$99,600
The road from the mouth of Little Machias, (the present state road,) by Fairbanks', to fort Fairfield, is about 34½ miles long, and will require about 160 feet of bridge work. Using these elements of distance and those of cost in the report of 31st of January, the expense of the road to fort Fairfield will be, 34½ miles of road, at \$1,200 per mile	\$41,400
160 feet of bridge work, at \$20 per foot	3,200
Total for the two roads	<u>\$144,200</u>

The amount which will be required for the present year depends upon the time when the appropriation will be made, and is therefore difficult to state. As a probability, it may be stated at 60,000.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

J. J. ABERT,

*Colonel Corps Topographical Engineers.*

HON. J. C. SPENCER, *Secretary of War.*

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BUREAU OF TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS, }  
Washington, January 31, 1842. }

SIR:—In conformity with your direction, I have examined into the estimates for the road from fort Kent to the Aroostook, and from thence to the state road in the township of Masardis. Correcting the distances by the more exact measurements lately made under Major Graham, the following revised estimate is submitted:

MILITARY ROAD.

From fort Kent to the Aroostook, . . . . .	45½ miles.
From the Aroostook to the state road in Masardis, near the junction of the Masardis, or St. Croix, with the Aroostook, 12 "	"
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Total distance, . . . . .	57½ "
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Say 58 miles, at an average rate of \$1,200 per mile,	\$69,600
In this distance there is about 1,000 feet of water course, over which bridges will have to be made—1,000 feet of bridge- work, at an average of \$20 per foot, . . . . .	20,000
For repairs of the road from the state road to Houlton, . . . . .	10,000
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Total, . . . . .	<u>\$99,600</u>

Fort Kent, as a military position, cannot be considered of much consequence, but its moral and police influences are very great. There is a tacit understanding between the civil authorities of Maine and New Brunswick, that, under existing circumstances, the tax collector of the former will not go north of the St. John's, nor the collector of the latter go south, in the execution of their several duties. This understanding adopts the St. John's, above the "due north line" as a temporary boundary, which gives to the position of fort Kent, at the junction of Fish river and the St. John's, an important bearing upon the police and quiet of the country. These considerations make fort Kent a position deserving of being maintained; and, if maintained, the road is essential.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,  
 J. J. ABERT, *Colonel*  
*Corps Typographical Engineers.*

HON. J. C. SPENCER, *Secretary of War.*