

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

EXTRA SESSION OF THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 1853,

AND THE

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1854.

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

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1854.

RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1854.

Chapter 131.**CHAP. 131.**

Resolve in favor of cheap ocean postage.

Resolved, That the senators of this state in the congress of the United States be instructed, and the representatives of this state in the congress aforesaid, be requested, to use their influence in effecting a reduction of the rates of oceanic postage on letters transmitted from any port in the United States, to any port in Europe. Ocean postage.

Resolved, That the governor of this state be directed to furnish each of the aforesaid senators and representatives with a copy of the aforesaid resolve.

[Approved April 11, 1854.]

STATE OF MAINE.

THE committee on state lands and state roads, to which was referred the petition of William Black, the petitions of Samuel Leavitt, of James Stickney, of Sanford Noble, and the petition of Joseph Nelson and sixty others, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to

REPORT:

That for many years prior to the treaty of Washington, negotiated in 1842, the jurisdiction and ownership of a large portion of the northern part of this state, including nearly all of the county of Aroostook, was in dispute, and a subject of controversy, between the government of Great Britain and that of the United States. The effect of the controversy was to retard the settlement of the country bordering on the St. John river, and the Aroostook river in said county, and to render titles to lands there uncertain. But notwithstanding this uncertainty as to jurisdiction and ownership, very numerous settlements were made upon the borders of the St. John, and upon some portions of the Aroostook river, near the present line of the state. At the time the negotiation of the treaty was pending at Washington, the condition of these settlers was, by a memorial on the part of the agents of Maine, presented to the consideration of the plenipotentiaries who were charged with the negotiation, and an article was inserted in the treaty, being the 4th article, in these words:

“All grants of land heretofore made by either party within the limits of the territory which by this treaty falls within the dominions of the other party, shall be held valid, ratified and confirmed to the persons in possession under such grants, to the same extent as if such territory had by this treaty fallen within the dominions of the party