

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 166.**CHAP. 166.**

Resolves in relation to certain proposed modifications of the navigation laws of the United States; allowances of bounty to fishing vessels, and reciprocal trade with the British North American colonies.

Resolved, That the repeal of the laws granting allowances to vessels employed in the cod fisheries; laws established by the wisdom of the founders of the republic, and by the beneficial operation of which a large amount of capital and labor has been enlisted, and an invaluable nursery for our armed marine has been created, especially in view of the liberal encouragement of the government of France to the French fisheries, and the greater facilities of the English fishermen, would be unjust and highly inexpedient, and would operate to the great injury if not to the absolute destruction of the fishing interest of this state and the country.

Navigation laws of the U. S., and reciprocal trade, in relation to.

Resolved, That the money expended in these bounties to the fishermen accomplishes more in raising up and sustaining an invaluable body of skillful seamen, upon whom the nation can depend to maintain our flag and honor in the hour of peril, than the same amount expended by the government in any other way; and we regard it, therefore, as a measure of wise, national economy, to preserve and foster this indispensable nursery for seamen.

Resolved, That the provisions of our navigation laws, confining our internal and coastwise commerce to American bottoms, had their origin in a wise and sound policy, adopted in the light of the experience of all commercial nations, and now confirmed by our own. That the abandonment of this policy, under the claim of reciprocity would be an abandonment without any adequate equivalent, as that which we should receive would be insignificant, in comparison with that which we should give in yielding to other sections the internal and coasting trade of half a continent.

Resolved, That the granting of American registers and enrollments to foreign built vessels, by which said vessels shall become entitled to the benefits and privileges, now exclusively appertaining to vessels deemed and denominated "ships and vessels of the United States," would be a policy emphatically adverse to American labor; degrade the character of American ships, by the introduction of the cheap built vessels of the colonies, and expose us to so ruinous a competition, from the sudden Americanizing of the whole unemployed mercantile marine of a commercial rival, when engaged in a war that

CHAP. 167. should render it expedient, that we feel that we may safely rely upon American statesmen to protect the great interests that are involved in maintaining the well established and wise policy under which we have prospered.

Resolved, That the great lumbering interests of this state are entitled to the equal protection of the government, and by no arrangement for reciprocity of trade between the United States and the British North American colonies, should colonial lumber be suddenly admitted into the United States free of duty, thus introducing at once, and without an opportunity to prepare for the change, a disturbing element that would jeopard this important business of our citizens.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward copies of the foregoing resolutions to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

[Approved April 19, 1854.]

Chapter 167.

Resolve in favor of George Ross.

George Ross, in favor of.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the treasury of the state to George Ross, publisher of the Northern Tribune, the sum of six dollars, in full for publishing the laws of the state passed at the extra session of eighteen hundred and fifty-three.

[Approved April 19, 1854.]

Chapter 168.

Resolve authorizing the governor and council to settle the account of Adams Treat for services in superintending repairs of state prison.

Adams Treat, settlement of account of authorized.

Resolved, That the governor and council be hereby authorized to settle the account of Adams Treat for services rendered by him in superintending the repairs on the state prison in eighteen hundred and fifty-one, and for the amount found to be due and allowed by them they are authorized to draw a warrant on the treasury to be paid out of any moneys not otherwise appropriated.

[Approved April 19, 1854.]