

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

1855.

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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:
STEVENS & BLAINE, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1855.

RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1855.

Chapter 278.CHAP. 278.

Resolves relating to slavery.

Resolved. First, That human slavery is, in all its aspects, an unqualified evil and wrong, and as such merits the reprehension of mankind.

Second, That in the early periods of our national history, both the opinions of the people, and the policy of the government, were adverse to the institution.

Third, That the constitution of the United States is, and was designed to be, a charter of liberty, and hence that all acts of the national government by which slavery maintains a legal existence in territory, subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of congress, are in direct conflict with the whole spirit, and with the clear provisions of that instrument.

Fourth, That the act of the thirty-third congress, repealing the law of 1820, known as the Missouri Compromise, by which slavery was forever prohibited in the territory north of the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes, was an unjustifiable violation of a solemn compact and a flagrant breach of faith.

Fifth, That Maine will never consent to the admission into the federal union of any more states with constitutions authorizing slavery.

Sixth, That the act of eighteen hundred and fifty, called the "Fugitive Slave Law," is unconstitutional, and odious to the whole north. Maine therefore demands its immediate and unconditional repeal.

Seventh, That it is the duty of the general government, without delay, to abolish slavery wherever it has exclusive jurisdiction, and to exert its influence whenever and wherever it legitimately may on the side of universal liberty. Therefore

Resolved, That our senators in congress be instructed, and our representatives requested to use all practicable means to secure the passage of the following enactments :

First, An act repealing all laws of the United States authorizing slavery in the District of Columbia.

Second, An act repealing the statute of eighteen hundred and fifty, known as the Fugitive Slave Law.

Third, An act forever prohibiting slavery or involuntary servitude, except for crime, within the territories of the United States.

Resolved, further, That our senators in congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, at all times hereafter, most strenuously to oppose in every justifiable way, the admission of

CHAP. 279. any new state into the Union, except upon the condition to be embraced in the act of admission that slavery or involuntary servitude, excepting that for crime of which the accused shall have been duly proved guilty, shall be forever prohibited therein.

Resolved, That the governor be requested to forward a copy of these resolves to each of our senators and representatives in congress, and to the governors of each state, with a request that the resolves be laid before the legislature thereof.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

Chapter 279.

Resolve in favor of certain members of the Maine Board of Agriculture.

Certain members
of the Maine
Board of Agriculture,
in favor of.

Resolved, That there be paid out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, to Darius Forbes the sum of twenty-eight dollars, and to William G. Clark the sum of fourteen dollars, as a compensation for their attendance as a committee of said board of agriculture before the committee on agriculture of the legislature of Maine.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

Chapter 280.

Resolve for furnishing registers of deeds with the laws and resolves.

Secretary of state
directed to
furnish registers
of deeds copies of
laws and resolves.

Resolved, That the secretary of state be, and he hereby is directed to deliver to each register of deeds in this state to be retained in his office, for the use of such register and his successors in office, one copy each of all laws and resolves which may be hereafter published by authority of the legislature; and that every such register cause the same to be suitably bound, at the expense of the county in which his office is established.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]