

# 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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1855.

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RESOLVES

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## STATE OF MAINE.

CHAP. 281.

THE joint select committee appointed to consider the expediency of an appropriation to complete the geological survey of the state, submit the following

## REPORT:

In the year 1836, Dr. Charles T. Jackson commenced the geological survey of the state, having been employed for that purpose by the board of internal improvements, under the resolves passed by the legislature in March of the same year, authorizing them to contract with some suitable person to perform that service, and appropriating five thousand dollars "to be by them expended in carrying on said geological survey."

The survey was continued during a period of three years, and until suspended in consequence of the straitened circumstances of the treasury, growing out of the troubles connected with the north eastern boundary question.

The labors of Dr. Jackson and his associates, excited in the public mind a lively interest in respect to the agricultural and mineral resources and capabilities of the state, and had the effect to direct the capital and enterprise of our citizens into new and inviting fields.

Had the work been prosecuted to its completion, without interruption, and the full and complete reports been published and distributed among our people, it would, doubtless, have contributed in a very powerful degree to increase the wealth and resources, and as a natural consequence, the population and strength of our state.

The committee are strongly of the opinion that the legislature should not longer delay the requisite appropriation for the prosecution of this important enterprise. In the opinion of scientific men—an opinion resting, it is believed, on very adequate foundation—our state is rich in mineral wealth, which it only needs the aid of science to bring to view. Leaving out of view the precious metals, which are known to exist, although the veins in which they originate have not been discovered, it is thought that the ores of copper, lead and tin, may be sought with good prospect of success. Coal also is believed to exist in the region drained by the Aroostook and Sebois rivers. Should these minerals be found in our state, in such quantities as may be hoped, they would form a more permanent source of wealth than the richest mines of gold and silver.

But though the developement of our mineral resources is an object eminently worthy of the attention of the legislature, yet the agricultural interests of the state must be a matter of paramount concern.

A thorough agricultural survey of our territory could not fail to have a powerful influence in directing the attention of our people to this honorable and dignified employment, and in guiding their labors

CHAP. 281. to the most satisfactory results. Were the geologist required to make an accurate analysis of the soil of several different localities in each town, and to exhibit the results in his reports, the effect would soon be seen in a more intelligent cultivation of the soil, and a consequent large increase of the agricultural products and wealth of the state.

The committee cannot forbear to remind the legislature that, while we have allowed this enterprise to remain unaccomplished, through a period of sixteen years, many of our sister states have made their geological surveys, and valuable beds of coal, mines of gold, silver, iron and other metals, now in successful operation, and a new and powerful stimulus given to the enterprise of their people, evince the wisdom of the measure.

The committee, therefore, recommend that the legislature authorize the governor and council to contract with some suitable person to carry forward the geological and agricultural survey, and that it make the requisite appropriation for the accomplishment of that object.

In behalf of the committee.

H. H. BOODY, *Chairman.*

### Chapter 281.

Resolves authorizing the continuation of the geological and agricultural survey of the state.

Geological and agricultural survey of state.

*Resolved*, That the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, is hereby authorized to contract with some suitable person or persons, to continue the geological and agricultural survey of the state, at a salary not exceeding two thousand dollars per annum. *Provided*, that the whole expense of completing said survey shall not exceed five thousand dollars.

Salary of geologist. Proviso.

Geologist, duties of.

*Resolved*, That the person who shall be employed to continue the geological survey shall be required to select complete suits of specimens of all the rocks and minerals of Maine, specimens of which are not already in the possession of the state, and of the institutions herein mentioned, and deposit one of them in the public buildings, one in the cabinet of the society of natural history, in Portland; also, one in the cabinet of each college, or other literary institution in the state, which shall pay the expenses of transportation.

—further duties.

*Resolved*, That the geologist be required to make an accurate analysis of the soil of at least two different localities in each town in the state, and exhibit the results thereof in his reports.

Appropriation.

*Resolved*, That the sum of four thousand dollars be appropriated from the treasury, to be expended under the direction of the governor and council, in continuing said geological and agricultural survey.

*Resolved*, That the person appointed to prosecute the survey be required to present to the governor and council, on or before the first day of January, in each year, a report of his proceedings, and of the progress of the work entrusted to him, and that the same be printed for the use of the legislature.

CHAP. 282.

Proceedings,  
report of, &c.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

**Chapter 282.**

Resolve for the exchange of documents.

*Resolved*, That the secretary of state be and he is hereby authorized and required to cause exchanges to be made with the governments of Canada and New Brunswick, of all the public documents of this state, in the same manner as is effected with the several states of the Union.

Canada and New  
Brunswick,  
secretary of state  
to make ex-  
changes with.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

**Chapter 283.**

Resolve in favor of Albert T. Wheelock.

*Resolved*, That there is hereby appropriated from the contingent fund of the state, the sum of one hundred dollars, to defray a portion of the expenses of Albert T. Wheelock of Belfast, as a reporter of matters of interest to the agricultural societies of this state, from the Paris Exhibition, to be held in Paris, France, the present year; and the governor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant on the treasurer of state for the same.

Albert T.  
Wheelock, in  
favor of.

[Approved March 17, 1855.]

**Chapter 284.**

Resolve in favor of schools on certain islands.

*Resolved*, That there be allowed and paid out of the treasury of the state, from proceeds of bank tax, to Richard Davis of Harbor Island, the sum of sixty-five dollars, for educational purposes on Harbor, Otter and Cranberry islands, in Lincoln county; and the governor, with the advice of the council, is hereby authorized to

Richard Davis,  
in favor of, for  
educational pur-  
poses on certain  
islands.