

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1859.

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

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1859.

RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

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in his opinion is of equal value with that of said number fourteen, and to make return of the same in his next annual report.

CHAP. 289.

[Approved April 4, 1859.]

Chapter 289.

Resolve in aid of roads and bridges in the county of Aroostook.

Resolved, That there is hereby appropriated from the state treasury the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars, to be paid to the land agent, and to be expended by him in the sums hereafter named, for repairing the following roads and bridges in the county of Aroostook, to wit:

Roads and bridges in Aroostook co., in aid of.

For repairing the military road from Mattawamkeag to Linneus, in township number two, range two, two hundred fifty dollars; in township A, range two, one hundred fifty dollars.

For building and repairing the road leading from number eleven, to Fish river, one thousand dollars.

For building and repairing the road from H, range two, to Violette brook, one thousand dollars.

For repairing the road leading from Masardis to Ox-bow, two hundred dollars; *provided*, that the inhabitants work out a like sum.

For completing the bridge across Little Madawaska stream, in the Eaton grant, four hundred dollars; *provided*, that the inhabitants finish said bridge to the satisfaction of the land agent.

For building a bridge over the Molunkus stream in the east half township number two, range five, three hundred dollars.

For building a bridge over the Mattawamkeag river where the road laid out by the county commissioners leading from Smyrna to Crystal plantation crosses said river, two hundred dollars; *provided*, that the inhabitants shall raise and expend a sum sufficient to complete said bridge to the satisfaction of the land agent.

[Approved April 4, 1859.]

Chapter 290.

Resolve in aid of building a bridge over the Passadumkeag river in township number one, north division, in the county of Penobscot.

Resolved, That there be appropriated and paid out of the state treasury to be expended under the direction of the land agent, the

Bridge over Passadumkeag river, in aid of.

CHAP. 291. sum of four hundred dollars for building a bridge over the Passadumkeag river in township number one, north division, in the county of Penobscot, on the road from Lowell to near the mouth of Olaman stream in Greenbush, when said bridge is completed to the satisfaction of the land agent.

[Approved April 4, 1859.]

Chapter 291.

Resolves relating to slavery.

Resolved, That the institution of human slavery is at variance with the theory of our government, abhorrent to the common sentiment of mankind, and fraught with danger to all who come within the sphere of its influence; that the federal government possesses adequate power to inhibit its existence in the territories of the Union; that the constitutionality of this power has been settled by judicial construction, by contemporaneous exposition, and by repeated acts of legislation.

Resolved, That possessing the power thus to inhibit slavery on the national domain, it is the manifest duty of congress to exercise it; and in case of the refusal or neglect of congress to take such action it becomes the right and duty of the people of a territory to exclude slavery therefrom and to establish free institutions by the force of territorial legislation.

Resolved, That the new and startling dogma, endorsed by the national administration, that the constitution of the United States carries slavery into all the territories and guaranties its preservation and protection therein, is utterly repugnant to the feelings and long settled convictions of the American people; is in flat contravention of the spirit and letter of the constitution itself, and is a foul libel upon the memory of Washington and his co-patriots, who in founding our government, declared that its main objects were "to establish justice, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Resolved, That the supreme court of the United States by the monstrous doctrines it has avowed on the Dred Scott decision, has forfeited all claim to the respect and confidence of the nation. The preservation of personal liberty and the general cause of truth and right demand therefore a reorganization of this tribunal, to the end that the free states may have a representation upon the bench pro-