

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

PASSED BY THE

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1863.

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

AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1863.

RESOLVES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1863.

Chapter 277.

Resolve in favor of Stevens & Sayward and Daniel T. Pike.

Stevens &
Sayward and
D. T. Pike, in
favor of.

Resolved, That there be paid out of the treasury to Stevens & Sayward, for furnishing two hundred and fifty-eight copies of the Thrice-weekly Journal at the order of the legislature, and for advertising in the same, three hundred and ninety-three dollars; also that there be paid to Daniel T. Pike, for two hundred and fifty-eight copies of the Thrice-weekly Age, furnished by order of legislature, and for advertising in the same, three hundred and ninety-three dollars.

Approved March 26, 1863.

Chapter 278.

Resolves relating to national affairs.

WHEREAS, slavery is the conceded cause and prime support of the existing gigantic rebellion, and from a local, limited, industrial institution, it has been elevated into a vast war power; it feeds and clothes the armies of the rebels in the field and their families at home; it builds their military roads, digs their military entrenchments, erects their forts, navigates their piratical craft, clears the highways, drags their artillery and ammunition as human beasts of burden, and throws into the active service of the rebellion, three millions of unwilling victims; and

WHEREAS, the president of the United States in the discharge of the solemn and responsible duties devolving on him as commander-in-chief of the army and navy, considered it his duty, on the twenty-second of September last, to issue a proclamation in which he declared "that on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any state or any designated part of a state, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be thenceforward and forever free," and "that hereafter as heretofore the war will be prosecuted for the purpose of practically restoring the constitutional relations between us and the people thereof, in which states that relation is or may be disturbed or suspended," and

WHEREAS, the friendly warning contained in said proclamation, evincing on the part of the president in the estimation of many, a degree of forbearance not warranted by the circumstances, has not only been entirely disregarded, but treated with scorn and contempt by the so called confederate government; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson Davis and his misguided associates continue with unabated zeal and with all the forces at their command, in their desperate and wicked work of destroying the best government ever instituted by the ingenuity of men, and which, if successful, we fear will blast the hopes of the friends of constitutional liberty throughout the world; therefore,

Resolved, That we hail with profound satisfaction the proclamation of emancipation issued by the president of the United States on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, as a measure right under the circumstances, justified by military necessity and the laws of war, and clearly within the constitutional power of the president as commander-in-chief, and that it will inaugurate a new and glorious epoch in the history of the nation, and strike a final and fatal blow at the life of the rebellion; and that the administration of the general government should receive the cordial sympathy and support of every loyal citizen throughout the length and breadth of the land in its mighty grapple with the most gigantic rebellion ever known, confidently believing that if all who profess to love and revere our flag are faithful and true, the day is not far distant when triumphant success will crown our efforts, and our once happy and prosperous, but now distracted and bleeding country will resume her former high and proud position among the nations of the earth.

Resolved, That we regard the plan of compensated emancipation proposed to the loyal slave states by the president, as eminently wise and just, and that, if accepted, it will remove the chief source of strife in the nation, and elevate and dignify labor.

Resolved, That as the rebellion originated in the interests of slavery, it is but equitable that slavery should aid in its suppression; and that, therefore, the introduction of southern negroes into the military service of the nation, so far as they can be made effective, we regard as expedient and just.

Resolved, That the government should listen to no suggestions of compromise with rebels in arms against the unity and life of the republic; that all adjustments with traitors in rebellion would be a premium to treason; and that the war should be closed, only, when the last rebel shall have unconditionally surrendered, and the flag of the union, with its thirty-five stars undimmed upon its folds, floats unmolested and revered over every city, and town and village in the land.

Resolved, That the governor is hereby requested to transmit certified copies of these resolutions to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

Approved March 26, 1863.