

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1861.



AUGUSTA:
STEVENS & SAYWARD, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.
1861.

FORTIETH LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 51.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I herewith transmit a Memorial of the Legislature of the Territory of Kansas in reference to the destitution and suffering in that section of our country, which was communicated to me by the Hon. I. M. Beebe, Governor of said Territory, with a request that I should cause it to be laid before you.

I would ask your early attention to the subject to which it relates.

ISRAEL WASHBURN, JR.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, {
Council Chamber, Feb. 28, 1861. }

*To the Governor and Legislative Assembly
of the State of Maine:*

The undersigned, a Committee of the Legislature of the Territory of Kansas, would respectfully and earnestly represent :

That the people of Kansas have suffered during the past summer, from one of the most severe droughts ever before known in the history of this or any other country. We do not deem it necessary to spread before you a detailed account of the hardships consequent upon this state of things; we only say that we are amazed whenever called to contemplate the severity and extent of the calamity. Not less than thirty thousand persons are now and will be dependent for subsistence upon outside resources, until our next harvest, and, in addition to the need of provisions and clothing, a large amount of seed wheat, corn and potatoes, will be required at an early day, or the citizens of Kansas must, to some extent, remain beneficiaries upon eastern liberality for the year to come. The snow which has fallen in immense quantities all over our country, burying beyond the reach of our stock the principal source of subsistence which remained for them, in the dry grass of the prairies, must inevitably cause the death, by starvation, of a large portion of our cattle, while at the same time the roads are rendered impassable and the people exposed to greatly increased privation and suffering, from the difficulty of reaching the points where food is to be obtained; from these causes, we have great reason to apprehend that our condition in the spring must be most helpless and hopeless without a liberal and prompt response to this appeal. We are assured from the office of the Relief Committee at Atchison, that the indications are daily becoming more and more alarming, in consequence of the falling off of private donations, and we are urged to take some measures to provide for the worst that may yet be in the future.

We are especially desirous to procure, from legislative beneficiaries, the means of furnishing our people at least one hundred thousand bushels of seed wheat, and a sufficiency of corn and potatoes also, for spring planting. Our position is one of extreme trial; al-

readily overwhelmed with a deep sense of obligation to sympathizing friends in the east, who have hitherto, under the kind promptings of generous hearts, opened wide their hands for our relief, we are still impelled, by painful necessity, from what we know of the condition of the country, to renew our appeal, addressing ourselves, in this instance, to the concentrated generosity of our eastern friends as represented in the Legislative Assemblies now in session. We ask, therefore, that the condition of our people may be considered, and, as seed time is rapidly approaching, we earnestly desire that whatever is done to save us, as a people, from a prolongation of our destitution and suffering beyond another harvest be done speedily. While we deplore some of the sad effects of our recent severe weather, and storms of snow, we recognize behind the cloud the benignant designs of a kind Providence in preparing our soil, by a process pre-eminently adapted to the end desired, for an early and successful spring culture.

The Territorial Relief Committee have an office in the city of Atchison, and they have the confidence of the people of the country; and we believe any funds committed to them will be wisely, faithfully and equitably distributed over the Territory, according to the necessities of the people; but those who may prefer to disburse their charities through other channels, will, of course, consult their own judgment in the matter.

With grateful acknowledgments for the kind sympathy and substantial aid already received, your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

JOHN W. SCOTT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

W. W. UPDEGRAFF,

President of the Council.

ALFRED GRAY,

Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

J. J. INGALLS,

Secretary of the Council.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 1, 1861. }

Laid on the table on motion of Mr. RANDALL of Lincoln, and
350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

CHARLES A. MILLER, *Clerk.*