

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1861.



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1861.

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# FORTIETH LEGISLATURE.

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SENATE.

No. 19.

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## REPORT

OF THE

### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

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The Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred papers from the last Legislature, together with the petition of William Wood and nearly one thousand others, praying that an appropriation may be made for a complete scientific survey of the State, have had the same under consideration, and ask leave to submit the following Report and accompanying Resolves :

From indications derived from petitions coming from all parts of the State, and from all classes of citizens, we feel warranted in saying that public opinion regards such a survey as a necessity urgently demanded by the varied interests of the State. With the petitioners, we believe that Maine possesses almost incalculable resources for national strength and wealth within its soil, its minerals, its water power, its sea coast abounding in spacious and convenient harbors, and its facilities for manufactures and for commerce. We also believe that capital and enterprise may count upon as sure, and as remunerating rewards in Maine, as elsewhere. And yet we are met by the stubborn fact that our population, during the last ten years, has increased but very little. In many of our older farming districts there has been an actual decrease of population. The failure of certain crops hitherto regarded as material to the interests of farmers, together with the exhausting system of farming heretofore so extensively pursued, has induced the belief in very many minds, and especially in the minds of the younger portion of our population, that a farmer in Maine may not reasonably hope for

more than a meagre support for himself and family, and that only as the reward of ceaseless and unmitigated drudgery. Hence the manufacturing enterprise of neighboring states, the fruitful prairies and speculating baubles of the west, and the glittering illusions of the land of gold have seduced so many of our young men and maidens from their allegiance to the soil of their nativity, thus withdrawing the very life blood of prosperity. The question therefore forces itself upon our consideration, Can anything be done to arrest this 'downward movement?' The history of those who have gone out from the rural homes of Maine, shows that a very large proportion of them have failed to realize the cherished hopes centered in other professions, and in other climes. There are already indications of a more correct judgment concerning the relative advantages and natural resources of Maine. It is being learned that, all things considered, the battle of life may as well be contested in Maine as elsewhere. Farmers are seeking to understand their soils, the plants that spring up on every side, and the insects that destroy; but in consequence of defective education, their progress is slow and toilsome.

They do not need to be told that they own four-fifths of all the property in the State; that they represent at least two-thirds of the bone and muscle, that farming is as honorable as the learned professions. They cannot divest themselves of the idea that theirs is an *unlearned profession*, and that they are subject to the withering bondage always imposed upon ignorance.

They need, therefore, the light of science. They need that which will enable them to respect themselves, and to implant within the hearts of their children not only a love for, but an earnest and living faith in the profession. Anything short of this will fail to give enduring prosperity to Maine. We are aware that this must be a work of time. But we believe it is begun, and that a scientific survey, "ably conducted and faithfully reported," with especial reference to the interests of agriculture, while it would incidentally develop all other resources, would tend in an eminent degree to its advancement.

H. C. WARREN.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVES in favor of a scientific survey of the state.

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*Resolved,* That the governor with the consent of the  
2 council, is hereby authorized to contract with some  
3 suitable person or persons to conduct a scientific sur-  
4 vey of the state, said survey to embrace its geology,  
5 agriculture, natural history and physical geography.

*Resolved,* That the person or persons who shall con-  
2 duct this survey, shall analyze soils, minerals or other  
3 deposits, whenever such may be found of a character  
4 demanding minute and careful investigation into their  
5 characteristics and commercial value.

*Resolved,* That the person or persons so employed by  
2 the state, shall collect and prepare for deposit in the  
3 public buildings, specimens, illustrative of the geology,  
4 agriculture and natural history of the state.

*Resolved,* That the person or persons so employed in  
2 prosecuting this survey, shall be required to present  
3 to the legislature on or before the third Wednesday of  
4 January in each year, a report of his or their proceed-

5 ings and progress, together with such suggestions as  
6 may be deemed useful; which report shall be pub-  
7 lished in connection with, and incorporated in, the  
8 annual report of the secretary of the Board of Agri-  
9 culture.

• *Resolved*, That the sum of four thousand dollars be  
2 appropriated from the treasury, to be expended under  
3 the direction of the governor and council, in prose-  
4 cuting said scientific survey.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 27, 1861.

On motion of Mr. WARREN of Somerset, the Report of the Committee on Agriculture was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

JAMES M. LINCOLN, *Secretary*.