

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1863.

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1863.

FORTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 10.

MINORITY REPORT

Of the Joint Select Committee to whom was referred that portion of the Governor's Message which relates to the Scientific Survey.

The undersigned, a minority of the Joint Select Committee to whom was referred that portion of the Governor's Message which relates to the Scientific Survey, having attended to their duty, beg leave to submit the following report :

The question, in our judgment, is not whether any good may come from a Scientific Survey of the State of Maine, but whether the advantages to be derived are likely to prove commensurate with the expenses and outlays attending such survey.

The undersigned would most cheerfully concur in the recommendation of the Governor, had not investigation shown that his Excellency labored under false impressions when writing his Message. Speaking of the Scientific Survey, Governor Coburn said :

“ The Legislature of 1861, passed a resolve providing for a Scientific Survey of the State, and appropriated three thousand dollars in aid of the object. A similar amount was appropriated by the last Legislature for the continuance of the work. The practical value of what has been done can be judged by you from the Reports of those who conduct the survey, shortly to be laid before you. It is understood that another year's work will complete the undertaking as originally designed, and I respectfully recommend that the amount be granted for the purpose.”

The probable cost of completing the survey in a manner to realize the benefit of such an enterprise, was in our opinion, at this time of our embarrassment, a very proper inquiry to be made.

In answer to such an inquiry, Mr. Goodale read from an estimate by Prof. Hitchcock, and the least estimate of that gentleman is twenty-five thousand dollars.

And by his comparison of Maine, with other States, we judge at least ten years will be necessary to accomplish the work. The last two Legislatures have appropriated six thousand dollars for the prosecution of this scheme.

The printing for 1861, was an additional expense of two thousand dollars. And in view of the high price of paper, the expense for 1862, must exceed that amount. It is just to conclude, that Prof. Hitchcock would make his figures low, and making that allowance which is due to all such estimates, with the expense of printing, of publishing maps, and other incidental charges, it is not safe to calculate anything short of fifty thousand dollars, to complete the Scientific Survey of the State of Maine.

Since scientific knowledge is as imperishable as the hills which surround us, and scientific truths never lose their value by being put to rigid tests, but like the diamond, grow bright by polishing, we therefore recommend that the discoveries of the last two years, which have cost the State, at least possible figures, ten thousand dollars, be set to practice.

One alleged object of this Survey, is to give character to the State, to place her on an equal with her sister States, and raise her credit abroad.

Missouri was prosecuting a like Survey, at an expense of ten thousand dollars a year. When the war broke out they suspended operations.

Massachusetts saw fit, in 1836, to institute a survey of her public lands in Maine, and made choice of Dr. Jackson to conduct the survey. Dr. Jackson was selected for his eminence in literature. Maine owning the public lands in connection with Massachusetts, was by force of circumstances, compelled to enter with Massachusetts on the survey, and made arrangements with Dr. Jackson to make a Geological survey of the entire State. Suffice it to say, that after three years operations, with an outlay of many thousand dollars, the State, in 1839, refused the asked for appropriation to complete the survey. The alleged cause of that refusal was the expense of the Aroostook war.

We are to-day involved in a war, in a civil war, in a gigantic civil war, which is not only mingling the blood of our brave young

men with southern soil, but is threatening the entire destruction of our time honored and much cherished government. We believe Maine has character, is on an equal with her sister States, has an abundance of credit, at home and abroad, and has an ample scope for all her energies, for all her spare men and money, to save a common country from impending ruin.

The doings of the survey thus far, belong to the State, she has bought them, has paid for them, has paid ten thousand dollars for them, and we recommend that all the valuables connected with the Scientific survey, be carefully preserved in the archives of the State, and that no appropriations be made at present, for the continuance of the enterprise.

Relying on the courtesy of this House for an opportunity of defending our position, we respectfully submit the foregoing.

GEO. W. HAMMOND.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 4, 1863. }

Presented by Mr. HAMMOND of Paris, and on motion of Mr. CROSBY of Dexter, laid upon the table and 350 copies ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

CHARLES A. MILLER, *Clerk.*