

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 978.

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## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Ninety-eight.

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### RESOLUTIONS

Relative to the extermination of the Gypsy Moth.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled.*

The General Court of Massachusetts now in session desire to memorialize your honorable bodies that you will grant an appropriation to assist in the work in which we are now engaged, that of exterminating the Gypsy Moth. A foreign foe hath entered our borders; he destroyeth our heritage; he is an insidious foe in the darkness while we sleep; he defoliates our land and leaves a desert behind him.

Massachusetts, ever jealous and watchful of the common interest as one of the union of States, has now these seven years endeavored to exterminate this foe, not only to her own land but promising in the near future to spread over the entire Union, entailing thereby untold damage. All the leading economic entomologists of the country who have carefully and fully investigated the matter, are united in the belief that the complete extermination of this insect is possible because many colonies in very unfavorable locations

and of large extent have been completely annihilated. A careful study of the life and habits of the insect pest adds force to this conclusion.

In the last session of Congress an appropriation was made providing for "an investigation into the ravages of the Gypsy Moth." This investigation has been made by Prof. L. O. Howard, entomologist, of Washington, D. C., in a very thorough manner. The report has been issued by the Department of Agriculture and contains many words of praise for the work which Massachusetts has accomplished. He says: "It is true that a large amount of money has been expended, and it is also true that much more money must be expended before extermination can be accomplished; but it is undoubtedly safe to say that the money which has been and will be spent by the State in this work is but as a drop in the bucket to the loss which would have been occasioned by the insect had it been allowed to spread unchecked.

The loss would have fallen not only upon the State of Massachusetts, but upon other States of the Union so that we may say, that the State work has not only been wisely done, but that it has been patriotically done.

The simple fact that it has unquestionably been exterminated over considerable stretches of territory and that extensive colonies existing in the most disadvantageous territory for the prosecution of remedial work, have been so thoroughly destroyed that not an individual moth has been found for three years with the most rigid annual inspection, is sufficient proof of this possibility, for what can be done for one section can be done for all, if the means be sufficient. . . . A continuation of the appropriations for a few more years is unquestionably a necessity."

Were the appropriation to lapse a single year, the work which has been done during the past six years would be largely lost.

The \$775,000 already appropriated would have been spent in vain.

At a meeting of the Association of Economic Entomologists held in Detroit Aug. 12 and 13, 1897, the following preamble and resolve were unanimously adopted:—

*Whereas*, The Association of Economic Entomologists is familiar with the efforts being made by the State of Massachusetts to exterminate the gypsy moth; and

*Whereas*, On two former occasions it has endorsed this undertaking by public resolutions; and

*Whereas*, The existence of the gypsy moth in Massachusetts is a standing menace, not only to the agricultural and forestry interests of that State, but to those of the country at large; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That this association would urge upon the people of Massachusetts the danger of dilatory measures, and the wisdom and great importance of providing liberally for the work of exterminating the gypsy moth.

At the National Farmers' Congress held at St. Paul Aug. 31 to Sept. 1, 1897, the matter, as in former years, was considered, and the following resolve adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the efforts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in endeavoring to exterminate the imported pest known as the Gypsy Moth meet with our hearty approval, and we, members of the Farmers' National Congress, assembled at St. Paul, earnestly appeal to the Congress of the United States to aid our sister State in exterminating what is liable to be a national pest if neglected.

The unaided efforts of Massachusetts to exterminate this insect pest have attracted wide attention, and since all authorities agree that it is a menace not only to this State, but to all other States in the Union, we petition your honorable bodies to make an early and liberal appropriation to be expended as you may think best, to assist us to exterminate this our common foe.

