

SENATE...No. 45.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

RESOLVES

Concerning the Interests and Rights of Agriculture.

IN SENATE, Feb. 22, 1844.

Whereas, three fourths of our whole population depend on the products and profits of the farm for the supply of their physical wants, the means of happiness, of moral and intellectual improvement; and whereas, Congress has given bounties on the fisheries to make them a nursery of seamen, and has given none on agriculture, which is the best nursery for freemen,—has spent millions to advance the interests of commerce, and has done nothing to advance agriculture, the basis of that commerce,—has protected manufactures by ample duties, and has left agriculture substantially to protect herself; and whereas, by the present tariff, articles principally used by agriculturists, such as iron, agricultural implements, manufactures of iron, leather and manu-

factures of leather, salt, &c., are subject to nearly prohibitory duties ; and articles principally used by manufacturers, such as dye-stuffs, machinery, wool, linseed, hides, &c., are admitted into our ports either duty free, or subject to merely nominal duty—the products of manufactures being protected by a duty nearly prohibitory, while our agricultural products, most liable to be injured by foreign competition, are not so protected ;—and while large quantities of wood, potatoes, grain, butter, cheese, pork, hides, and other articles, are annually imported from foreign countries into the United States ;—and whereas, capital has been withdrawn from agriculture by the inducements of a greater per cent. held out to capitalists by the laws of the state and nation, to invest in other departments of industry ;—and whereas, a wise and liberal policy of the government to encourage agriculture, rests on the great republican principle of advancing the greatest good of the greatest number ;—therefore,

Resolved, That neither the state nor nation ought, either by special or general legislation, to create any means of investment for capitalists superior to those held out to them by the real estate of the country.

Resolved, That the present tariff is unequal in its discrimination against agriculture, and though it should not be repealed, should be so revised by Congress, that all classes of our importers and fellow-citizens may contribute alike to the revenue and bear alike the burdens of government.

Resolved, That the tariff, as at present established, is also unjust to the agriculturists of the country, inasmuch as it imposes upon them three fourths of the tariff of duties as consumers, without affording them any adequate con-

sideration for the payment of their tariff taxes—and that it is not the interest or the duty of the farmers to submit to be taxed to build up manufactures and commerce, unless they also can be protected in the equal enjoyment of the home market for all our agricultural staples.

Resolved, That it is the duty of the general government not to extend protection and encouragement to manufactures and commerce unless she adopt a like policy towards the great agricultural interests of the country.

