

HOUSE.....No. 60.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Forty-one.

RESOLVES

Concerning the Public Lands.

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, That the public lands, having been acquired by the common sacrifices of the people of the several States which originally composed this Union, or purchased by appropriations from the public treasury, are the common property of all the States, and ought to enure to their common benefit.

Resolved, That the people of Massachusetts approve and will sustain a liberal policy towards the actual settler upon the public domain, in consideration of the hardships he endures, and the perils he encounters in subduing the wilderness; but that they cannot sustain or countenance such measures of preëmption as will offer the temptation and the opportunity of amassing individual fortunes by the sacrifice of the public property.

Resolved, That, in the disposition of the public lands, this Commonwealth approves of making liberal provisions in favor of the new States, and that she ever has been, and still is, ready to coöperate with other portions of the Union, in securing to those States such provisions; but that she regards the projects of ceding those lands to the States within which they lie, as fraught with signal injustice to the original States, and repugnant to the stipulations and conditions, contained in the deeds of cession by which they surrendered them to the United States.

Resolved, That a system of distributing the public lands among the several States, with suitable provisions in favor of the new States, and the actual settler, ought to be adopted, both as a measure of public policy in putting at rest a disturbing question, and of substantial justice to all the States of this Union.

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress will consult the wishes of their constituents, and the interests of this Commonwealth, by acting in accordance with the views expressed in these resolutions.

Resolved, That His Excellency the Governor, be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing resolutions to the executives of the several States, with a request that they be communicated to their respective legislatures, and to each of our senators and representatives in Congress, that they may be laid before the Senate and House of Representatives.