

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF ILLINOIS,

IN FAVOR OF

The adjustment and payment of claims for aid and advances furnished by individuals to the expedition under General George Rogers Clark, in 1778-'79, known as the "Illinois campaign."

FEBRUARY 22, 1847.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed

Whereas, during the expedition under General George Rogers Clark, in the years 1778 and 1779, known as the "Illinois campaign," the forces under him suffered so great privations and encountered such difficulties as promised to render abortive the purposes thereof; and whereas nothing but the aid and advances of certain individuals then resident in the territory—among whom none acted more patriotically and generously than Francis Vigo and the ancient inhabitants of Kaskaskia—rescued the troops from disaster and probable destruction, and secured to the State of Virginia a successful consummation of the purposes of the campaign; and whereas Virginia has "heretofore audited and allowed" the claims preferred against her on account of the aforesaid advances, the payment of which has devolved upon the United States by virtue of the cession of the country then rescued from the armed occupation of the English and Indians combined; and whereas the United States, notwithstanding their legal and equitable obligation to liquidate the said claims having, at repeated investigations through committees in Congress, acknowledged the validity thereof, have neglected to discharge the same, though there now remains no reasonable excuse for further delay in their adjustment and payment, the government having already received millions of dollars from the sale of the lands acquired in the aforementioned cession from Virginia; on which said claims were and are subsisting equitable liens; and no reason now being offered for such delay by any save that based upon the antiquity of such claims, a reason addressing itself only to a mind unwilling to perform an act of justice and unworthy the regard of a high-minded and grateful nation and government: therefore,

1. *Be it resolved by the people of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our representatives requested, to use all proper exertions to secure the early adjustment and payment of all such claims as are comprehended within the terms of the foregoing preamble.*

2. *Resolved, That the governor be respectfully requested to transmit to*

our Senators and Representatives in Congress, at as early a day as practicable, a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions.

NEWTON CLOUD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
JOSEPH B. WELLS,
Speaker of the Senate.

Originated in the Senate.

H. W. MOORE, *Secretary.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

I, Horace S. Cooley, secretary of State, do certify that the foregoing is a true copy from the original preamble and resolutions on file in my office. Witness my hand at Springfield, this 8th day of February, 1847.

H. S. COOLEY,
Secretary of State.

Witness, during the expedition under General George Rogers Clark, in the years 1775 and 1776, known as the "Illinois campaign," the same under his authority as chief privy and messenger and as promised to render advice the purpose thereof; and to render holding out the aid and advances of certain individuals that tend to the contrary—among whom none shall have previously and voluntarily been Francis Vigo and the ancient inhabitants of Kentucky—secured the troops from disaster and probable destruction, and secured to the State of Virginia a successful consummation of the purpose of the campaign; and whereas Virginia has "heretofore notified and allowed" the claims presented against her on account of the above-mentioned expedition, the payment of which has devolved upon the United States by virtue of the cession of the country then ceded from the United States to the English and Indians contained; and whereas the United States, notwithstanding their legal and equitable obligation to liquidate the said claims having at repeated investigations through committees in Congress, acknowledged the validity thereof, have neglected to discharge the same, although there now remains no reasonable excuse for further delay in their adjustment and payment, the government having already received millions of dollars from the sale of the lands acquired in the aforementioned cession from Virginia, on which said claims were and are existing equitable liens; and on account now being offered for such delay by any one that bears upon the equity of such claim, a reason addressing itself only to a mind unwilling to perform an act of justice and upholding the right of a litigant and faithful nation and government: therefore:

I. Be it resolved by the people of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly. That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives requested, to use all proper exertions to secure the early adjustment and payment of all such claims as are comprehended within the terms of the foregoing preamble.

R. Woodcock, That the governor be respectfully requested to transmit to