

his Excellency, to permit it to go forth to the world with the sanction which the silence of this Legislature would give it. It has been to your committee, a matter of deep regret, that a time so unpropitious as the present, when the condition of our finances renders the credit and resources of the State unavailable, should have been selected by the chief executive officer of the state government, to anticipate her ways and means, and to connect with a display of her embarrassments, the hopelessness of relief.

It is, therefore, with the intent mainly of proclaiming to the people of this State, that their representatives in this General Assembly are unwilling to concur with the Executive in the surrender of claims which our forefathers asserted and maintained, in the darkest period of the struggle by which that claim was established, and with the further design of renewing the declaration of rights in relation to the public domain, which the State of Maryland has heretofore published, and which her representatives can never abandon, that your committee recommend for adoption, the following resolutions:

JOHN M. S. CAUSIN, Chairman.

WILLIAM H. TUCK,

I. D. JONES,

WM. LINGAN GAITHER,

EDWARD A. LYNCH,

BENJAMAN C. PRESSMAN, }
 JAMES L. MARTIN, } Dissenting.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the public lands are the common property of the several States of this Union, acquired by the common blood and common treasure, and held by the federal government in trust, for the common use and benefit.

Resolved, That the uses for which the disposition of the public lands was originally entrusted to the federal government, have been fulfilled; and that they ought to be distributed among the several States.

Resolved, That the public lands were never conveyed to, or acquired by the federal government, for purposes of revenue; but in trust only for the use mentioned in the cessions for the several States, and the terms of acceptance by the federal government.