

REPORT

OF THE

MAJORITY OF COMMITTEE OF ASSEMBLY,

TO WHOM WERE REFERRED PETITIONS RELATIVE TO

FISHING IN THE RIVER DELAWARE.

974.901

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READ FEBRUARY 16, 1847, AND ORDERED TO BE PRINTED.

TRENTON:

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1847.

MAJORITY REPORT.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom were referred the numerous petitions praying for a change of the laws regulating the fisheries in the river Delaware, beg leave to REPORT, in part :

That they have given the subject all the attention in their power, consistent with the discharge of other duties which devolved upon them. They have listened with great interest to the able and elaborate arguments made before them by the most eminent counsel in the state. The great efforts made by the parties interested, and the magnitude of the subject, demands a more serious and extended examination than it is at present in the power of the committee to give. The principles are so important, the interests involved so various, and the rights of the remonstrants have so long been recognized as settled and permanent, that a majority of your committee have come to the conclusion that a partial change of the laws, as contemplated by the petitioners, would not be expedient or result in their benefit.

The committee believe, that if any modification is made, it should be a work of great care, of much examination, and would require more time and investigation than can be given to the subject at the present session. If a change is to be made, there should be a well digested system adopted, which

R E P O R T

IN THE

SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

FOR THE YEAR 1880

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

ALBANY:

WHELAN & SON, PRINTERS, 1880.

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would clearly define and preserve the rights of all. Your committee are not prepared to admit the claim of the petitioners, of a right of common fishery, to the extent it is asserted. If their claim is just, then the rights of the shore owners must be invaded and unsettled in points long established and well settled by the policy and laws of the state, and for near half a century, oppressive and unequal laws have been deliberately sanctioned. If time and other duties permit, your committee will endeavor to make a further report on this subject, embracing a review of the question at large. The majority have decided it is inexpedient to report a bill, or recommend any further action on the subject at the present session.

A. S. HUBBELL.

A. SIMPSON.

J. W. ALLEN.

ISAAC R. SROPE.

Majority of the Committee.

FEBRUARY 16, 1847.