

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 305

In Senate, April 3, 1919.

Ordered: That 500 copies of the remarks of Senator Googin delivered on April 2, 1919, on the presentation of a watch to President Higgins, and his acceptance of same, be printed for the use of the Senators of the seventy-ninth Legislature.

P. F. CRANE, Secretary.

Presented by Mr. Baxter of Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

Mr. Googin of Androscoggin: Mr. President: I rise to a question of personal privilege. The time has now come in the deliberations of this Senate when it is fitting and right that we should pause for a moment from our labors. Before long the Senate of the 79th Legislature will be a thing of the past. And before that time comes when each member of the Senate shall have returned to his home, I wish, at the request and in behalf of the senators over which you have so fairly and efficiently presided, to say to you Mr. President, a few words.

From boyhood to manhood does not seem in the fleeting of

time to be a great ways. But, from a water boy on a gravel train to the presidency of the Maine Senate is indeed a great accomplishment, and praise too high cannot be given you for this achievement. Today you stand as an inspiration to the youth of our state. Your record cannot fail but show to them, that if they will but use the best that is in them, they can accomplish great things. We, who have served in this Senate under your guiding hand and inspired by your fine personality cannot but feel that your position today is not the end of your service to your state.

And it is with a deep sense of pleasure and satisfaction that I herewith present you with this token of our regard and admiration. May this appreciation be reflected in this timepiece. And as you mark the passing of time upon its dial, it is our sincere wish that you will always remember that time can never efface the pleasant memories which your fellow senators will always feel, in having served in this Senate with you as their president.

And Mr. President, may God in his infinite wisdom and mercy keep and prosper you. And when in due time you reach that haven of rest to which we all must go, give you life everlasting. (Applause.)

The PRESIDENT: Senator Googin, fellow senators, may I be pardoned at this time if I say that perhaps I am under a strain otherwise than this presentation this morning and if in any way I give vent to my feelings I trust you will know that my thanks are none the less sincere.

It was indeed a proud moment in my life when I was elected to the House of Representatives to serve my city, and it was also a proud moment when they returned me for the second term. The city which I represented in that legislature had never had a senator. It seemed to me **but fitting that I** should become a candidate for the high position of senator, and in view of the fact that the southern end of Penobscot county and that side of Penobscot river had never had a senator, it seemed most fitting that we should be recognized at that time. I cast my lot with other candidates for the position and out of a field of six, three to be selected, the good people of Penobscot county saw fit to name me as one of their three senators. I served with some of you in the last Senate, and this year being a candidate for re-election, and being re-elected it seemed to me that the highest honor that I could attain, having been honored by my fellows in the lower house as being the party candidate for speaker of the minority party, thereby making me their floor leader—the highest honor, I say, seemed to me to be your presiding officer, and with that end in view I became a candidate for this high office and you senators elected me as your president.

My one great ambition has been to serve you fairly and honestly, and in the appointment of my committees, I have the list before me, and there is only one change made after that list was made up. It seemed to me that I recognized, in visiting each one of you senators, your intrinsic worth, and it was hard for me, I assure you, to decide just where I could place you to the best advantage, where you could give the best service to

the state. But suffice it to say, I have never heard or received one complaint over my appointments. You have been splendid to me, and as I gave vent to the expression this morning, there is not a senator in this body that I would not defend to my utmost at any time or any place. You have been most loyal in your support of the chair, and I want personally to say to you that I appreciate it more than tongue can tell.

My distinguished friend, Senator Googin, has referred to my position in life. I want to say to you, senators, that I have done nothing in life but what you would have done under similar circumstances. Being called upon at the early age of sixteen to take care of my mother,—God bless her!—and two brothers and a sister, the only position obtainable that would pay an adequate compensation was that of water-boy on a gravel train. And if you men complain of getting water for the family, you may understand how hard it was to carry water for eighty men on a gravel train when it wasn't the day of steam-shovels. I was fortunate enough to secure that position for the second year, keeping my studies up in the old gravel train car at night, reciting to my teacher on Sunday on my return home. I graduated with my class—not publicly,—without honors, because I was not an attendant upon the school, but I had the satisfaction of knowing that I had accomplished something.

And with that end in view I determined to conquer life from my viewpoint. I started out and from then on I have devoted myself to that effort, and I shall so continue until time is no

more, believing that we should aim for the very highest in life, and that we shall land where we are best fitted to serve.

I have not made an extended address or talk to the Senate, believing that my duties as presiding officer did not call for such action; but at this time, and as we have so much time today, I am sure the members of the Senate will pardon the president if he takes a moment, or a few moments of your time to review somewhat the work of this Senate. I want to say to you, senators, and restate it, that I believe in the history of the state of Maine there were never thirty more loyal senators gathered together to represent the state of Maine in its varied interests than are gathered in this 79th legislature. I believe that when the history of this state is written, this Senate of the 79th legislature will go down as one of the most progressive, **aggressive and efficient** of any in its history. I want particularly to refer to some of the committees, and this is a first list that I made up of my appointments, and while it may appear to you a bit rambling as I have not prepared it, it is straight from the heart and I mean every word I may say in regard thereto.

Some of your members have served with me the entire four terms, I believe one of your members has served with me during that entire number of terms that I have served in the legislature, and I refer to the distinguished senator from Hancock county where I was born, Senator Ricker. In the appointment of the committee on agriculture I gathered the state under my eye and it seemed to me that if I could put that staunch Republican, staunch citizen, staunch man of the highest integrity, Senator

Tuttle, as chairman of that committee, associating with him that senator from Cumberland whose illness prevented his coming to us at the organization, Senator Babb, and that senator from Kennebec who has acquitted himself in previous sessions and in this session with credit, Senator Chick, I would have accomplished what would be the highest desires of my heart.

On appropriations and financial affairs, my old committee, members of which I loved, the work of which I loved, I put that ranking senator who has given such splendid account of himself in this and the previous Senate, as chairman, Senator Grant of Cumberland, a man to whom we all owe a great deal for the successful handling of appropriations and financial affairs in the Senate. Associated with him was that splendid type of business man, my friend whom I delight to honor, Senator Emerson of Aroostook; and also the prince of good fellows and the senator who perhaps has done as much along certain lines as any other man in the Senate, Senator Gannett of Kennebec.

On banks and banking, my close personal friend, a man of whom I think there are few equals in this or any other state, Senator Baxter of Sagadahoc, and with him my distinguished friend and a man for whom I have the very highest, highest regard, Senator Creighton of Knox; and with him that senator who has returned to us for the second term, a man who has given a splendid account of his stewardship, Senator Stanley of Oxford.

On claims, that splendid baby of the Senate, and high type

gentleman, a man who served the state with credit two years ago, and the gentleman who has just presented me with your gift, Senator Googin of Androscoggin; and associated with him was that retiring gentleman, modest but efficient, Senator Clement of Waldo; and that senator from Cumberland who perhaps has been worked on committees—the fault of the Chair somewhat—as perhaps few other men in the Senate, Senator Gurney of Cumberland.

On education, that old war-horse of the Senate who has seen, I believe, longer service than any senator present, a man of high type character, who has done his work well and efficiently, Senator Walker of Somerset; and associated with him my friend, your friend, the friend of everybody, that splendid young business man, Senator Ames of Washington; and with them that distinguished senator from my own home county, or the county which gave me birth, Senator Ricker of Hancock.

At the beginning of this session it was stated that the most important committee, or one of the most important committees would be the committee on federal relation, and at the head of that committee I placed a man that I believed in every way capable of fulfilling the duties of that-committee and the exacting duties that it was thought that there would prove to be, Senator Gurney of Cumberland; and associated with him the distinguished senator from Androscoggin, Senator Googin, and the distinguished senator from Aroostook, Senator Thornton.

On Indians affairs: My selection for that committee was the splendid business man whom I have already referred to, Senator

Ames of Washington, and associated with him Senator Ricker of Hancock and Senator Thombs of Penobscot.

On inland fisheries and game, in casting about for the membership of that committee, it seemed that the state should be well divided, and I selected that splendid senator, that gentleman in the highest sense, Senator Metcalf of Piscataquis, and associated with him that distinguished senator from Cumberland county, Senator Babb, and then feeling that perhaps the center of the state should be recognized, I intruded upon the generosity of my friend and fellow senator, Senator Chick of Kennebec.

On insane hospitals, one of the most exacting and one of the hardest worked committees of the senate, I selected my friend and former associate, Senator Chick, associating with him that prince of good fellows, Senator Holt of Hancock, and Senator Peacock of Washington.

On interior waters, a committee requiring as careful consideration in its selection as any committee, one that has to do, perhaps, with more on interior waters than any committee, I selected that splendid business man, Senator Emerson of Aroostook, and associated with him the senator from York, Senator Lord, and the senator from Piscataquis, Senator Metcalf.

On judiciary, supposed to be the peer of them all, although some of us who have served on other committees feel perhaps that that is not wholly true, but certainly a committee that is composed of the highest type citizens of Maine, or any within the gift of this or any other body; and my selection for that committee I believe was based upon the qualifications of the men

and of their service to the state, men who have been tried and not found wanting, men who have come to me on every occasion and have been splendid in their treatment, men who could not have done more had I been their next of kin; they have given me their unstinted support at any and all times. I selected for that committee perhaps the dean of the body, Senator Davies of Cumberland, and associated with him those two splendid men whom it was my delight to honor as far forth as I possibly could, the senator from Penobscot, Senator Dearth, and the senator from York, Senator Deering.

On labor: In casting around for a chairman for this committee, I selected the senator from Kennebec, centrally located and a man who was prepared to give his time and services on that committee, the senator from Kennebec, Senator Cobb, and associated with him the senator from Knox, Senator Creighton, and the senator from Oxford, Senator Stanley.

On legal affairs: It was perhaps in the selection of this committee that I might be pardoned if I suggest that if I had a leaning toward the appointment of any committee it was possibly this one, on account of the close friendship existing between the senator appointed and myself, a man for whom I have always had the highest respect and a man whom I shall always love, Senator Thombs of Penobscot,—and associated with him those two splendid senators, the senator from Cumberland, Senator Gurney, and the senator from Androscoggin, Senator Parent.

On library, my friend, and the oldest and the only senator,

if my memory serves me correctly, who has served with me during the entire four terms of my services to the state, Senator Ricker of Hancock, and associated with him Senators Grant and Walker.

On mercantile affairs and insurance: For this committee I selected the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Butler, who has given splendid service as chairman of that committee, and associated with him Senators Tuttle of Aroostook and Grant of Cumberland.

On military affairs: This committee, perhaps one of the most worked committees of the session, I selected that splendid citizen of the younger type of the state of Maine, Senator Gannett of Kennebec, who has been untiring and unceasing in his efforts to promote the welfare of the military department of our state; and associated with him Senator Cobb of Kennebec and Senator Gurney of Cumberland.

On pensions, that splendid senator whom we all love to meet and are delighted to greet, Senator Gordon of York; associated with him Senators Clement of Waldo and Walker of Somerset.

On railroads and expresses, the senator from York, for whom I have the very, very highest respect, a man to whom I am as closely drawn perhaps as any other senator of this body, Senator Lord of York; and associated with him Senator Folsom of Somerset and Senator Parent of Androscoggin.

The salaries and fees: When I came to his high office, I said to my friend, the distinguished senator from Cumberland that I was about to punish him with kindness, and I appointed the

senator from Cumberland, Senator Grant, and associated with him the senator from Franklin, Senator Butler, and the senator from Somerset, Senator Folsom, and if you do not think they have earned their salaries in this one particular committee, please consult with them at your earliest convenience.

The sea and shore fisheries, my friend, and your friend and the great friend of the state of Maine and all its interests, the senator from Washington, Senator Peacock, and associated with him Senators Clement of Waldo and Holt of Hancock.

The state land and forest preservation: Senators Ames of Washington, Emerson of Aroostook, Gannett of Kennebec, who have given of their time and attention to those matters referred to that committee.

State prison, the senator from Penobscot, Senator Thombs, the senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Baxter, and the senator from Knox, Senator Creighton; the result of their efforts on that committee is so apparent in the bills coming through, that no words of eulogy on my part are necessary. They speak for themselves.

On taxation, the senator from Kennebec, Senator Gannett, the senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Baxter and the senator from Androscoggin, Senator Googin. They too have acquitted themselves with credit.

On ways and bridges, a committee that perhaps has done at least two seasons' work in one, early and late, in and out, at all times and in all places, a committee that has given unceasingly of their time and attention to the more than two hundred bills

referred to them. And they have passed upon them, as I believe, logically and with the best interests of the state of Maine at heart. And I desire in this especial way to compliment the senator from Washington, Senator Peacock, the senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Baxter and the senator from Lincoln, Senator Lewis, upon their efficient work as members of the committee on ways and bridges.

The joint select committee on public utilities, I want to especially compliment on their work for the session, and I also want to take this opportunity of saying that the chairman of that committee has introduced for your consideration, in fact it has received a passage, whereby two other committees will be merged with this committee at the next session of the legislature, and that committee will become, as it already is, one of the important committees of the Senate.

To the secretary, assistant secretary, messengers and assistant messengers, pages, door-keepers, postmasters, folders, the ladies in the secretary's office, I desire to express my sincere thanks for their cordial support, their unfailing courtesy at any and all times. I also want to make special mention of my secretary, Miss Georgie Fales, who has rendered splendid service to me as president of the Senate, and whose health will not perhaps permit her continuing until the end of the session; I desire to publicly thank her in this manner for her splendid service to me as secretary.

It seems to me that my lot could not have been cast in pleasanter or more sociable surroundings than I have had during this

session of the legislature, being associated as I am with that splendid type of American gentleman, the speaker of the House, Hon. Frank G. Farrington, and with the members of the lower House, splendid men every one of them.

It would seem to me that the climax of all good things would come to me at this time if—and I hope you will pardon this personal reference—if I could have with me my mother to witness the presentation of this beautiful gift, leaving me, as she did, a year ago last January, and knowing full well my ambitions—and I believe, fellow senators, that she is looking down upon us today and realizing that her son has achieved perhaps the height of his ambition. I trust you will pardon this personal reference, but I feel it and I want to pay this tribute to that woman who made possible my position today.

As I go forth from here I shall carry with me the sweetest memories of those with whom I have been associated, and the only thing that makes me feel bad is that we are about to sever our relations as members of the 79th legislature. But I crave this further indulgence of you, that you will not forget me as I go forth, and I assure you that as you return to your several vocations in life you will ever be uppermost in my mind. And as I glance at this splendid gift of yours I shall think of you as the thirty men who gave me royal support during the 79th legislature, and as the hour is divided into sixty minutes, you shall each receive two minutes and the two minute rule will apply. Many of you, I trust, will return to the 80th legis-

lature. It is my earnest wish that you may be returned by even larger majorities than you were elected to this legislature.

May God bless every member of this Senate and may you always feel that in your president, the present president, you have an everlasting friend.

Senators, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. (Applause.)