

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**LEGISLATIVE RECORD**  
OF THE  
**Sixty-Eighth Legislature**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE.**  
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**1897.**

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## HOUSE.

Augusta, Jan. 6, 1897.

This being the day designated by the constitution of the State for the meeting of the Sixty-eighth Legislature, the members-elect of the House of Representatives assembled in their hall at 10 o'clock A. M., and were called to order by the clerk of the last House.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Hayden of Augusta.

A communication was received from the secretary of State transmitting a certified roll of the representatives-elect of the Sixty-eighth Legislature. A call of the roll by the clerk revealed the presence of a quorum, 142 members-elect, responding to their names.

On motion of Mr. Murray, Messrs. Murray of Pembroke, Knowlton of Portland, Talbot of Lewiston, Currier of Farmington, Macomber of Augusta, Levensaler of Thomaston and Young of Hiram, were appointed a committee to wait on the Governor and inform him of the presence of a quorum of the members-elect of the House of Representatives in Representatives hall and request his attendance to administer to them the oath required by the constitution to enable them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

Subsequently Mr. Murray reported that the committee had performed the duty assigned it, and His Excellency the Governor was pleased to say that, with his Council, he would forthwith attend upon the convention for the purpose indicated in the message.

Thereupon the Governor, accompanied by his Council, came in and administered, and the members-elect subscribed, the oaths necessary to qualify them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

The Governor and his Council then withdrew.

## In the House of Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Hamilton, Messrs. Hamilton of Biddeford, Hussey of Guilford, Maxwell of Richmond, Whitney of Norridgewock, Shaw of Saco, Hill of Portland and Patten of Amherst, were appointed a committee to receive, sort and count votes for Speaker.

Having attended to the duty assigned

it, Mr. Hamilton, from the committee, reported as follows:

Whole number of votes,	138
Necessary for a choice,	70
Seth L. Larrabee had	138

And Hon. Seth L. Larrabee was declared duly elected Speaker of the House.

Mr. Larrabee was conducted to the chair by Mr. Hamilton, and addressed the House as follows:

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I am pleased to accept the high office to which you have elected me with such unanimity. I appreciate the great responsibilities and the important duties which I assume by such acceptance. Your cooperation and assistance is earnestly solicited and will be constantly required to enable me to discharge the difficult and peculiar duties of the position which you have assigned me. I shall endeavor to be faithful to the interests of the State, and to serve you fairly and impartially. I hope thereby to retain the esteem of those among you whose friendship I now enjoy, and to merit the confidence which those, with whom I have little or no acquaintance, have so generously, by their votes, expressed.

We are here assembled to discharge a great trust which the people of Maine have committed to us. We have no sovereign but the people. From them we come, for them we shall act, and to them we shall be accountable for what we do. Unto our keeping they have entrusted all their laws and rules of civil government. They have made us the stewards of their educational, penal, reformatory and charitable institutions. They have appointed us to measure the burden of taxation which they shall bear and to apportion it equitably and without unjust discrimination. They have made us arbiters of all new and proposed legislation. If one good and salutary law is lost to them, or one bad or pernicious law enacted by this Legislature, we shall be responsible, for no law can be repealed or enacted save by our consent. Responsibility always induces conservatism. We should be slow to change existing laws or to enact new ones unless we are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that such action will be wise and progressive. Our individual business experiences of

the past few years of financial depression have taught us lessons of prudence and economy that we may well bring to apply to the consideration of State affairs. No appropriation of the people's money should be made save in response to the urgent demands of public necessity. The people of Maine are an industrious and prosperous people. Industry recognizes the necessity of taxation and bears it generously, but halts if it becomes excessive. Prosperity is aided and increased universally as taxation is decreased and lightened. We should take from the savings and the property of our people for public use by way of taxation as lightly as we consistently can to provide for the public welfare. But while we enter upon our duties with a determination to be reasonably prudent and economical we must not forget that the motto of our State is an ambitious motto, that our laws should reflect the best thought of the progressive times in which we live, that our institutions should be liberally supported and maintained at that standard and grade which will produce the greatest efficiency, that old ways and means are not necessarily the best because they are old, nor new ways and means essentially bad because they are new. Of the old we should be conservative; of the new, considerate. I know that we shall each of us approach the consideration of the varied questions which shall be submitted to this Legislature with an honest purpose, and I trust that we shall dispose of them all with wisdom and discretion. Thanking you sincerely for the great honor you have bestowed in appointing me to direct your deliberations, I await the pleasure of the House. (Applause.)

On motion of Mr. Newcomb, Messrs. Newcomb of Eastport, Simpson of York, Plummer of Lisbon, Burrill of Corrinna, Lane of St. George, Thompson of Standish and Daggett of Smyrna, were appointed a committee to receive, sort and count votes for clerk of the House.

Having attended to the duty assigned it, Mr. Newcomb, from the committee, reported as follows:

Whole number of votes,	136
Necessary for a choice,	69
W. S. Cotton had	103

and W. S. Cotton was declared duly elected clerk of the House.

On motion of Mr. Burns, Messrs. Burns of Westbrook, Fernald of Poland, Britton of Bucksport, Kaler of Scarboro, Pierce of Frankfort, and Davis of Steuben, were appointed a committee to receive, sort and count votes for assistant clerk.

Having attended to the duty assigned it, Mr. Burns, from the committee, reported as follows:

Whole number of votes,	137
Necessary for a choice,	69
E. M. Thompson had	137

and E. M. Thompson was declared duly elected assistant clerk of the House.

On motion of Mr. Knowlton of Portland, that gentleman was charged with and conveyed a message to the Senate informing that body that the House has organized by the choice of Hon. Seth L. Larrabee as Speaker, W. S. Cotton as clerk, and E. M. Thompson as assistant clerk.

On motion of Mr. Fogler of Rockland, that gentleman was charged with and conveyed a message to the Governor and Council, informing them of the organization of the House.

A message was received from the Senate conveying the information that that branch had organized by the choice of Hon. Albert R. Day as president, Kendall M. Dunbar as secretary and A. K. Butler as assistant secretary.

On motion of Mr. Jewell of Hallowell,

Ordered, That George H. Fisher be messenger, William J. Smith be first assistant messenger, Fred A. Stevens be second assistant messenger, Walter I. Neal be mail carrier, Harry P. Hawes be assistant mail carrier, J. F. Frederick be first folder, Chapin Lidstone be second folder, Louis J. Bram be third folder, R. C. Noyes be first doorkeeper, Walter D. Bean be second doorkeeper, and that the Speaker appoint the pages.

On motion of Mr. Winslow of Portland,

Ordered, That the rules and orders of the last House of Representatives be adopted for the government of this House until otherwise ordered.

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, that gentleman was appointed to con-

duct the clerk and assistant clerk to the Governor to take and subscribe the oaths necessary to qualify them to enter upon the performance of their official duties.

Mr. Weeks subsequently reported that he had performed the duty assigned him and that the clerk and assistant clerk of the House had taken the oaths necessary to qualify them to perform their official duties.

On motion of Mr. Furbush of Lewiston,

Ordered, That the secretary of State be directed to deliver to the clerk of the House one copy of Worcester's Quarto Dictionary, one copy of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, one copy of the Holy Bible, one copy of Lippincott's Pronouncing Gazetteer, and one copy of Cushing's Manual.

On motion of Mr. Holbrook of Brunswick,

Ordered, That the clerk of the House be directed to furnish each member and officer of the House with one copy of the Daily Kennebec Journal and two other daily papers printed in the State such as each member or officer may select.

On motion of Mr. Williams of Augusta,

Ordered, That the clerk of the House furnish a catalogue containing the names of members alphabetically arranged, with the residences, postoffice address, boarding places, occupation, politics, number of seat, and diagram of the House, and that the usual number of copies be printed and distributed.

On motion of Mr. Newcomb of Eastport,

Ordered, That the sum of \$30 and usual mileage be allowed and paid Cyrus S. Holbrook for services rendered by him at this session as door-keeper.

On motion of Mr. Jewell of Hallowell,

Ordered, That the sum of \$30 and usual mileage be allowed and paid to S. H. Hammond for services rendered by him at this session as assistant mail carrier.

Papers from the Senate passed in concurrence.

Ordered, That the return of votes for Governor, given in the several

cities, towns and plantations in this State, for the political years of 1897 and 1898 be referred to a joint select committee of seven on the part of the Senate with such as the House may join.

The Speaker appointed on the part of the House Messrs. Briggs of Auburn, Gilman of Houlton, Blanchard of Wilton, Hutchins of Penobscot, Searles of Chelsea, McIntire of Rockport, York of Nobleboro, Rounds of Paris, Floyd of Brewer, Guernsey of Dover, Purington of Topsham, Burse of Pittsfield, Martin of Liberty, Pattangall of Machias, and Gowell of Berwick.

A communication from the secretary of State, transmitting the official returns of the votes cast for representatives to the Sixty-eighth Legislature, was tabled to the committee on gubernatorial votes in concurrence.

The Speaker appointed as pages, Edward W. Delano of Abbott, and Henry J. Mitchell of Springvale.

On motion of Mr. Winslow of Portland the House adjourned until 10 o'clock, tomorrow morning.