

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

1897.

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side, and I think all the facts bearing upon the case were presented to us fully. This island is about six miles in length and four miles in width, containing about 2700 acres. There are other islands around it which would naturally be included if it was incorporated as a plantation or town. At the present time, about 900 people live upon these islands. There are two post offices, three churches, several stores and good dwellings. This island supports a physician. There are 185 polls and the estates in 1896 amounted to \$124,669. There is a town debt of \$616 and the rate of taxation last reported was .017. Two hundred and fifty-eight scholars are reported, 144 of whom attend school. There was expended last year \$1245 for schools upon the island. It appears that there are in the county of Hancock of the 32 towns included within its limits, 14 that have less population than this island, and it has at the present time double the population of seven of these towns. The valuation of Swans Island appears to be greater than any other of the 13 towns of said county. It seems strange that this town has maintained a form of government for many years, has voted and paid taxes, maintained schools and supported their poor and that there has been no record from of government. This was brought out in the evidence by the petitioners. It was claimed by the remonstrants that there was a prescriptive government that would be binding in anything that might occur, and would be sufficient at the present time for them. The people are very intelligent and progressive, and in the past have been very prosperous. At one time they were largely interested in navigation and in the fishing business and even now in the depressed condition of both these industries, they are as active in the pursuit of their several occupations, as the people upon the main land or other islands that dot our coast. This island has a future before it. And for all these reasons your committee have thought it best for these people that they should at least have some form of government. These people should not be denied the right to vote. And if they have at the present time no form of government, as the records in the secretary of State's office show, there might become in future elections a serious question as to the right of these people to participate. We feel there is no injustice to be practiced upon the people of Swans Island by asking them to assume the dignity of a town at the present time.

Mr. Grindle of Hancock: It appears to me that the people there should have some voice in deciding matters of this kind. And it is a reasonable thing that we give to them this right and privilege. They have voted on this question and quite a large number have voted against being incorporated. We may fail to see any good reason for this, and I may even agree that it would be better for them to be incorporated, but I do not think that that would be a sufficient reason, why we should pass the bill without giving

them any voice in the matter. They pay their State tax, have always cared for their town paupers, and are an industrious, enterprising class of people. If they prefer to remain a plantation and live under that form of government, I cannot see what valid reason there is for us to take that right and privilege from them. The question comes up in regard to the legality of their transactions of business, that there is no record that they are an organized plantation. I understand a bill will be introduced legalizing the transactions of the town, so that no difficulty will come from that. The opposition that I would have to passing the bill in its original form, and that opposition outweighs everything else, is that it is taking from the people rights and privileges which rightfully are theirs, and in doing that it seems to me that we are striking at American principles of liberty and self-government. So that the reasonable thing for the Legislature to do will be simply to adopt the amendment and give the people an opportunity of voting upon this question.

Mr. Pike of York, spoke briefly, justifying the action of the committee and urging the passage of the bill.

The question was upon Senate amendment A, amend section 5 by adding at the end thereof the following words: "By a majority vote of the duly qualified voters of Swan's Island plantation, at a meeting duly called therefor, at any time within two years from the date of the approval of this act by the Governor."

Seventeen voting in the negative and one in the affirmative, the amendment was refused passage.

The bill was then read the second time and passed to be engrossed.

Bill an act to authorize the town of Kittery to raise money for the observance of its 250th anniversary, came from the House, passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules. On motion of Mr. Hurd of York, the rules were suspended, bill read twice without reference to committee, and passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Hinckley of Franklin, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Thursday, March 11, 1897.

Prayer by Rev. Fr. Doherty of Augusta.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

An act to extend and additional to the charter of the Oakland Water Company.

In Senate this bill was amended and passed to be engrossed. The House reconsidered the vote whereby it passed this bill to be engrossed as amended, Senate amendment "A" was adopted and the bill was then passed to be engrossed as amended.

An act to provide for the examination of candidates for position as teachers in the public schools of the State.

Pending the first reading of this bill, it was laid on the table on motion of Mr. Blanchard of Wilton.

Petitions, bills and resolves presented and referred.

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Coffin of Shapleigh—Bill an act in regard to exceptions.

By Mr. Pattangall of Machias—Bill an act to amend section 54, of chapter 80, of the Revised Statutes.

By Mr. Patten of Amherst—Bill an act to legalize the organization of the plantation of Swan's Island.

LEGAL AFFAIRS.

By Mr. Gowell of Berwick—Bill an act to incorporate the Ogunquit Sewerage Company.

By Mr. Durgin of Orono—Bill an act relating to the powers and duties of town officers.

EDUCATION.

By Mr. Walton of Skowhegan—Bill an act to amend chapter 116, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to schooling of children in unorganized townships.

AGRICULTURE.

By Mr. Pattangall of Machias—Petition of Frank Stuart and 23 others, for the enactment of a law requiring the inspection of grass seed.

By Mr. Mitchell of Newfield—Petition of Albert R. Leavitt of Parsonsfield, and 20 others, for the same.

By Mr. Burrill of Corinna—Petition of R. O. Jones of Winslow, and 40 others, for the same; of A. L. Gray of North Newport, and 27 others for the same.

By Mr. Searls of Chelsea—Petition of J. H. Yeaton of Chelsea, and 66 others, for the same.

By Mr. Reed of Harmony—Petition of W. H. Farrar of Ripley, and 34 others, for the same; of Sherburn Leighton of Harmony, and 47 others for the same.

By Mr. Whiting of Norridgewock—Petition of H. F. Weymouth and 53 others, for the same; of C. H. Tobey of Norridgewock, and 39 others, for the same.

By Mr. Hutchins of Penobscot—Petition of H. J. Harriman of Bucksport, and 28 others, for the same.

By Mr. Peirce of Frankfort—Petition of George W. Ritchie of Winterport, and 20 others for the same.

By Mr. York of Nobleboro—Petition of W. H. Emerson of Newcastle, and five others, for the same.

By Mr. Pope of Manchester—Petition of S. C. Watson of Oakland, and 14 others, for the same.

By Mr. Fernald of Poland—Petition of B. F. Cobb of Poland, and 20 others for enactment of a law to regulate the sale and analysis of concentrated commercial feeding stuff.

By Mr. Luce of New Vineyard—Petition of C. W. Allen of Freeman, and 35 others, for the same.

By Mr. Murray of Pembroke—Petition of D. S. Humphrey of Charlotte, and 13 others, for the same; of D. J. Fisher of Charlotte, and 13 others, for the same.

By Mr. Houghton of Fort Fairfield—Petition of F. M. Haines of Fort Fairfield, and 19 others, for the same.

By Mr. York of Nobleboro—Petition of

George W. Oliver of Nobleboro, and 27 others, for the same.

By Mr. Bither of Linneus—Petition of James F. Bither of Linneus, and 25 others and Osgood F. Smith of Cary, and 20 others, for the same.

By Mr. Whiting of Norridgewock—Petition of Samuel W. Tinkham of Anson, and 13 others, for the same.

By Mr. Reed of Harmony—Petition of D. L. Frost of St. Albans, and 23 others, for the same.

By Mr. Burrill of Corinna—Petition of R. H. Libby of Newport, and 43 others for the same.

By Mr. Moore of Deering—Petition of R. W. Ellis of Embden, and 19 others for the same.

By Mr. Jewell of Hallowell—Petition of W. P. Atherton of Hallowell, and 23 others, for the same.

By Mr. Conant of Strong—Petition of Morrill Wing of Belfast, and 53 others, for the same.

By Mr. Kaler of Scarborough—Petition of W. F. Clark of Harpswell, and 20 others, for the same.

By Mr. Burrill of Corinna—Petition of Bradbury Merrill of So. Dover, and others, for the same; of E. F. Straw of Parkman, and 38 others, for the same; of Alfred B. Nichols of Abbott, and 41 others, for the same.

SHORE FISHERIES.

By Mr. Littlefield of Vinal Haven—Remonstrance of E. T. Meserve and 25 others of Small Point, against any change in the lobster law; remonstrance of J. C. Gilman and 40 others of Ashdale against same.

PLACED ON FILE.

By Mr. Burns of Westbrook—Remonstrance of G. A. R. Cloudman, Post No. 100, against Soldiers' Home at Newport.

ORDERS.

On motion of Mr. Gardner of Dennysville,

Ordered. That R. A. Davis be excused from further attendance at this session on and after the 11th on account of sickness, and that the clerk be instructed to make up his pay to the end of the session.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Sharp of Aroostook, Mr. Edmunds of Corinth, Mr. Poor of Oxford, Mr. Pratt of Woodland, Mr. Witham of Cumberland, Mr. Ames of Jefferson, Mr. Burse of Pittsfield, and Mr. Purington of Topsham, for the committee on labor, reported ought not to pass on bill an act relating to the hours of labor of minors and women, employed in manufacturing and mechanical establishments.

Mr. O'Neil, for the same committee, presented a minority report, ought to pass.

Pending the acceptance of either report on motion of Mr. O'Neil of Bideford, both reports were laid on the table.

Mr. Boynton, for the committee on legal affairs, on bill an act providing for elections with the secret ballot, reported that the same be referred to the next Legislature.

Mr. Murray, for the committee on towns, on petition of D. A. Moore and 185 others praying for an city charter for Willard in South Portland, reported that the same be referred to the next Legislature.

Mr. Lincoln, for the committee on claims, reported ought not to pass on resolve in favor of William Scott.

Mr. Williams, for the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses, on petition of T. E. Skofield and others of Harpswell, praying for a charter for an electric, steam or power railroad, reported that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

Mr. Hamilton, for the committee on judiciary, reported ought to pass on bill an act relating to and amendatory of chapter 213, of the Special Laws of 1891. Printed under rule.

Mr. Hamilton, for the same committee, reported ought to pass on bill an act to amend section 34, of chapter 3, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 166 of the Public Laws of 1895. Printed under rule.

Mr. Hill, for the committee on legal affairs, reported ought to pass on bill an act to amend sections 6 and 8, of chapter 81, of the Revised Statutes, relating to indorsement of writs. Printed under rule.

Mr. Hall, for the same committee, reported ought not to pass on bill an act to incorporate the City of Deering Water Co.

Mr. Jones, for the committee on interior waters, on petition of John Ross and others, praying for and regulating the sale of marked logs and stray logs and providing for the distribution of proceeds received therefor, reported that the same be referred to the next Legislature.

Mr. Knowlton, for the committee on judiciary, reported ought not to pass on bill an act to amend sections 5 and 20, of chapter 95, of the Revised Statutes, relating to waste and trespass on real estate.

Mr. Fogler, for the same committee, reported ought to pass on bill an act additional to and to extend the charter of the Cumberland Illuminating Co. Printed under rule.

Mr. Weeks, for the same committee, reported ought not to pass on bill an act to regulate the practice of veterinary surgery.

Mr. Philbrook, for the same committee, reported ought to pass on bill an act to amend section 23, of chapter 79, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the admission of attorneys to the practice of law. Printed under rule.

Mr. Weeks, for the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass bill an act to incorporate the Lewiston Trust and Safe Deposit Co. Printed under rule.

Mr. Pattangall for the committee on education, on resolve in favor of the establishment of a Normal school in the city of Calais, reported that the same be referred to the next Legislature.

Mr. Pattangall, for the committee on education, reported ought to pass on re-

solve in favor of the town of Topsfield. Printed under rule.

Mr. Hancock, for the committee on towns, on petition of Harrison Davis, praying that a part of Eliotville be set off from Eliotville plantation, reported that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

Mr. Hatheway, for the committee on towns, on petition reported bill an enabling act for the annexation of Deering to Portland.

On motion of Mr. Moore of Deering, pending the acceptance of the report, it was laid on the table.

Mr. Austin, for the same committee, reported ought to pass on bill an act to repeal acts incorporating the town of Maxfield. Printed under rule.

Mr. Boynton for the committee on legal affairs, on petition relative to all trees and shrubbery except properly cared for and ornamental trees growing within the limits of streets and highways, reported that the same be referred back to this House and be placed on file, as a bill covering the same subject matter has been reported by the committee on agriculture.

Mr. Hathorn for the committee on military affairs, reported ought not to pass on resolve for repairing the block house at Fort Kent.

Mr. Walton for the committee on legal affairs reported ought not to pass on bill an act to amend section 8, of chapter 319, of the Private and Special Laws of 1895, entitled an act to incorporate the Somerset Traction Company.

Mr. Walton for the same committee, reported ought to pass on bill an act in relation to suits for taxes. Printed under rule.

Mr. Smith for the committee on judiciary, reported ought to pass on bill an act relating to and amendatory of chapter 29, of the Special Laws of 1887, entitled an act to incorporate the Kennebec Light and Heat Company. Printed under rule.

Mr. Jewell for the committee on interior waters, on petition of the proprietors of the Machias Eoom, praying for revision and alteration of fees and tolls of Machias boom be made. Reported that the petitioners have leave to withdraw.

Mr. Stevens for the committee on shore fisheries, reported in a new draft and ought to pass bill an act to repeal chapter 463, of the Special and Private Laws of 1885, relating to the taking of bass in Winnegance creek. Printed under rule.

Mr. Hamilton for the committee on temperance, reported ought not to pass on bill an act to prohibit the sale of tobacco to minors.

Mr. Fogg for the committee on military affairs, reported ought to pass on resolve in aid of the Maine Gettysburg commission. Printed under rule.

Mr. Floyd for the committee on legal affairs, reported ought not to pass on bill an act amendatory of chapter 124 of the Revised Statutes in regard to the disinterment of dead bodies.

Mr. Floyd for the same committee, reported ought not to pass on bill an act to authorize the re-assessment of taxes in case of irregularity or error in the original assessment.

Mr. Macomber for the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses, reported ought to pass on bill an act to amend the charter of the Kennebec Railroad Company. Printed under rule.

READ AND ASSIGNED.

An act to incorporate the Wilton Electric Light and Power Co.

On motion of Mr. Currier of Farmington, this bill was laid on the table pending its second reading.

An act to amend sections 6 and 9, of chapter 18, of the Revised Statutes, relating to ways.

An act for the better preservation of highways and commoding public travel.

An act in relation to the care of convicts who are sick at the expiration of sentence.

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

An act to amend chapter 506, of the Private and Special Laws of 1889, entitled an act to incorporate the city of Deering, as amended by chapter 436, of the Private and Special Laws of 1893, chapter 633, of the Private and Special Laws of 1893, and by chapter 238, of the Private and Special Laws of 1895.

On motion of Mr. Moore of Deering, this bill was laid on the table pending its third reading.

An act to fix the compensation of the sheriff of the county of Franklin.

An act to amend section 102, of chapter 11, of the Revised Statutes of 1883, relating to the title of State superintendent of schools.

An act to authorize the Damariscotta Mills Water Power Co. to develop, sell and use electric power, and to transmit electricity for lease or sale, heat, light and power.

An act to amend sections 11 and 14, in chapter 58, relating to agricultural societies.

On motion of Mr. Macomber, this bill was laid on the table pending its passage to be engrossed.

An act to amend section 41, of chapter 40, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the taking of salmon in the Penobscot river above the Water Works dam at Bangor.

An act to amend chapter 20, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to liens on buildings.

Resolve in relation to the documentary history of the State of Maine.

An act to amend section 27, of chapter 91, of the Revised Statutes, relating to liens.

An act to repeal chapter 55, of the Public Laws of 1895, entitled an act to amend section 2, of chapter 134, of the Public Laws of 1887, relating to the fortnightly payment of wages.

On motion of Mr. O'Neil of Biddeford, this bill was laid on the table pending its passage to be engrossed.

An act additional, relating to the Hubbard Free Library of Hallowell.

A act authorizing the establishment of free libraries in villages and of branch libraries in towns and cities.

An act in relation to the Bath Military and Naval Orphan Asylum.

PASSED TO BE ENACTED.

An act regulating the costs in municipal, police and trial justice courts.

An act to regulate the shooting of ducks on the Kennebec river and Merrymeeting bay.

An act to incorporate the Sunnyside Cemetery Association.

An act to incorporate the Ogunquit Water Co.

An act to prohibit the killing of deer on Long Island.

An act to amend section 18, of chapter 48, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 89, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to corporations.

An act to amend section 69, of chapter 82, of the Revised Statutes, relating to auditors.

An act to authorize the construction of a weir in tide waters on Sheeps' Cove ledge in Penwamaquon river in Pembroke, county of Washington.

An act in relation to the school committee of the city of Portland.

Resolve in favor of George M. Coombs. Resolve to repair The Forks bridge in The Forks plantation, Somerset county.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Mr. Dickey of Fort Kent, moved that the vote be reconsidered whereby the House accepted the report of the committee on military affairs, voting ought not to pass on resolve for repairing the block house at Fort Kent.

Mr. Dickey of Fort Kent: The State owns this block house, which was built in 1839, and it is rotten and being destroyed and needs some repairs. This resolve calls for \$150, which will put it in good condition and save it to the State. Anyone who goes there will say that it should be preserved and saved. It is the only one in the State, excepting the little one at Winslow. That the State bought and the land around it so that they can keep it in repair. By some means or other, in regard to the block house at Fort Kent, the committee reported that the resolve ought not to pass, but I have my doubts if there is any member in this Legislature, if he should go there, but what would say that it should be preserved and fixed so it will not rot down. Everybody who goes there wants to examine it. The late Hannibal Hamlin used every exertion to have it purchased back and preserved. It was sold by mistake. I hope that the vote will be reconsidered, and then I shall move to strike out the word "not" in the report of the committee.

The question being had on the motion to reconsider the report of the committee, a division was had and the motion was lost by a vote of 9 for to 36 against. The special assignment for this hour was resolve in favor of the Society of the Sisters of Charity hospital of Lewiston.

On motion of Mr. Hamilton of Biddeford, the resolve was read the first time

and assigned for further consideration for Wednesday of next week.

SOLDIERS' HOME AT NEWPORT.

Resolve in favor of the Soldiers' Home in Maine.

Mr. Rounds of Paris, moved that the resolve be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Philbrook of Waterville: This is a matter which I am anxious to investigate and I have had no chance to do so, and I move that it lie on the table until Wednesday of next week.

Mr. Winslow of Portland: I want to say that no matter has come before any committee of this Legislature which has received more careful attention and has been more thoroughly investigated than the resolve now before the House. I was cautioned, as a member of that committee, to go slow, and we have been going slow. We have considered the matter in executive session, and when the resolve was referred to the committee on pensions, we put a notice in the papers that we would give a hearing, and the hearing took place on the day and date specified. There were several gentlemen who appeared before the committee and advocated this measure, and not a single man or woman appeared against it. I have learned since this measure was reported to the House that members have been receiving letters from men, none prominent in Grand Army circles, asking them to do all they could to defeat it. Now I submit that is not fair and candid. Those gentlemen should have appeared before the committee, and they should have stated their reasons why this measure ought not to pass. This measure is not without a precedent, it is not a new thing in the history of the United States for the several states of the Union to have Soldiers' Homes, and at the present time there in 25 states Soldiers' Homes like the one which it is proposed to build at Newport. Is it reasonable to suppose that state after state would have established these homes if it was an unwise measure? So I say that our action is not without a precedent.

Some may say, is Maine deserving of this, has the State of Maine done anything? What was her record in the war? Let me say to you that I have been investigating, and I have found that the enlistments from the State of Maine during the war were over 70,000, and that her percentage, according to her military population, as compared with the New England states, is about 58, a little above that of Massachusetts. Certainly Maine's record in the war is honorable. Why? In the last Legislature and in this I have heard gentlemen stand up here and wax eloquent as they pictured out to us the forests of Maine, her inland lakes and her streams coursing their way to the sea, her rock-bound coasts, her picturesque lakes and her attractive features. I indorse all this but I am not one whit less proud of the record of Maine in the great struggle for national independence and life. So on this basis I say to you that the State of Maine is entitled to this mere pittance of

\$15,000. And let me say right here that we propose with this sum to build a home and equip it, and we do not propose, unless the necessities of the case demand it, to come here and ask for an additional sum to complete this building. The pension committee not satisfied with what they could learn at the hearing, and after investigating what had been done for homes of this description, made a visit to Newport. We found an old farm house and about 62 acres of land. We found there several inmates of the home, and we also found some rooms in the home unoccupied. We asked why the rooms were not occupied. The answer was, "We have not the means, we are doing all we can, and this home has been supported from its very inception by the voluntary offerings of its friends; and what we want now is ample accommodations for those who are knocking at our doors." Is there any one knocking for admittance? The trustees of that home, who are as honorable men as any in this hall, say that there are over 50 worthy applicants that would go to that home if the home could accommodate them. So there appears to be a necessity for this. It is not a mere fancy that we should follow the footsteps of other states, but there is a real necessity existing in the State of Maine for this home. It has been said that the United States is doing a great deal for the old veterans and that the State of Maine is doing a great deal; but it has also been brought out that the towns do not do their duty. There is no penalty that obliges them to do it. If they are unfavorable to the old veteran they say, "Take him to the poor house, we are under no obligation to support him in his home, and if we fail to do so you cannot punish us for it." So if the State establishes this home and makes provision for the old veteran and his wife and those dependent upon him, it will in my opinion do a grand and noble need. I want to remind you of some of the pledges that were made to the soldier in the early days of the war. Shall the great State of Maine stand behind the soldier? You know what it meant when these young men, in the flush of early manhood, gave up all their prospects in life and went down there saying, "Here is my life, I will give it if necessary that the old flag may never be dishonored and that the Union may be preserved." There are many men here who know what it meant, for the little bronze button is worn in many a lapel by members of this House. At the Newport home I saw and talked with the daughter of a veteran, a bright intelligent girl who, as long as she had health and strength supported her aged parents. They have long since gone to their rest, and she was stricken down with some form of rheumatic disease that rendered her incapable of manual labor. She cannot raise her hands to her mouth to feed herself without artificial means. Will any of you say to her, "I will give you a home, I will take care of you?" I pause for anyone to rise and

make that offer. Shall we open the doors of the poor house and say, "Enter there?" God forbid. What, then, will you do with such a case? I say that the soldiers' home at Newport is designed to care for such as she. The time has come when the State of Maine should play the part of the Good Samaritan to the soldiers who defended her name and her honor in the great civil war.

Mr. Lincoln of Perry: I am not a speech maker but I wish to say that every time I go to a public meeting the first thing brought out is the old soldiers, and "You own the country, the country all belongs to you—everything." Nothing is said of the young man who was born and has lived in another generation since the war was over. I am glad to hear Mr. Winslow speak of moving slow. He did not move slow enough. I admit that we saved the country—that is all right—but the idea that after we have saved the country you are going to put us down by that old lake to die. We object to it. Let us soldiers alone. Let us go home and die among our friends and children. Do not put us on that cold lake where in the summer we can see a few loons and in the winter look on that cold ice. On the coast where I come from they say unanimously, "Let us alone." When we have such a country that has done everything for the soldier, and when the Legislature has voted \$50,000 more for State pensions to further carry out everything that they promised us, I say that the government is doing all they ought to do for us soldiers; and as for this scheme of making another office and appropriating \$15,000 more—only look at it. They say that a hospital at Bangor required \$150,000 to build one ward that would take care of 40 people. Now they only want \$15,000 to take care of the old soldiers at Newport. What kind of accommodations are they going to give us, for Heaven's sake? (Laughter and applause.) Better rig us old soldiers out with a hemlock coffin and let us go through hell snapping. (Laughter.) If the soldiers are of a mind to vote to send us to Newport, well and good; but I want to see the soldier stand up and hear him say that he wants to take his wife and go to that loon lake. (Applause.)

Mr. Andrews of Garland: When we leave our wives and children we would like to know that they have a home. My brother Lincoln is pretty well fixed with a pension of \$24 a month. That is good, and it is true that if I was born on the sea shore I should probably like to live there. That is right. I don't ever expect to go to the soldiers' home. But there are people who are just as worthy as brother Lincoln who receive but \$2 per month from the State. What will that do towards supporting himself and his wife? Perhaps they get \$6 per month. What does that do? We find many friends among those who never went south to participate in the war, but we do expect those who are not well fixed to stand by the old soldier. We have

voted quite liberally for other institutions, and now the soldier comes and asks for a small pittance here of about \$15,000. A few months ago I was rather opposed to this measure, but, it is generally through ignorance that we cry out against a "scheme" or "plan," and I was ignorant, I did not understand the matter properly. The United States government have promised to furnish \$100 every year for every soldier that shall go to the soldiers' home. Now if the soldier and his family are dependent, they have got to be cared for somewhere. I do not want to see the soldier going to Togus and his wife to the poor-house. I want to see them living together, as they commenced the journey of life; and if they have a resurrection I want them to join hands in that land where wars shall cease, where peace shall prevail, where the tear of sorrow shall nevermore fall and where joy shall be in every home. (Applause.)

Mr. Shaw of Saco: I do not think any attempt should be made to ridicule a subject of this kind. The gentleman from Perry (Mr. Lincoln) looks like a soldier who has a home of his own, but there are hundreds of soldiers who have no home. I want this question to be decided on its merits. There is a reason for this opposition to this measure. We have changed the name of the institution from the "Relief Corps Home" to the "Soldiers' Home," so that this opposition might be done away with. We have a lady in the State of Maine who stands the peer of any lady in this land in her benevolence, her devotion and her good deeds to the old soldier; and I believe that the opposition to this measure arises from jealousy. The people of Maine want this home established. I wish to read a few documents furnished me by the courtesy of the gentleman from Skowhegan (Mr. Walton.)

This certifies that I have not signed any remonstrance against the soldiers' home at Newport as I am in favor of it. My name was placed on the remonstrance by some one else, March, 1897.

DENNIS MURPHY.

Skowhegan, March 5, 1897.

To whom it may concern, and especially to the members of the Legislature:

I know of no reason why the proposition to erect a home for old and indigent soldiers and their wives at Newport is not a meritorious one and should receive the support of the people.

S. J. WALTON.

I have here two statements of members of Russell Post, G. A. R., of Skowhegan, one signed by J. H. Wyman, commander of the post, and 21 others, and the other signed by Charles Smith and 24 others, in which they state as follows: "We view with regret a protest or petition by some misguided members of this post against a Soldiers' Home at Newport, and we emphatically stand by the action of our post at a regular meeting, asking our representative to work for an appropriation therefor."

I have here a document signed by G. A. Moody, Henry Williams, Joseph Pomlow and Nathan Fowler, reading as follows: "The undersigned respectfully represent that they signed a remonstrance against the Soldiers' Home at Newport under a misapprehension, not fully understanding the facts of the matter before the Legislature."

This \$12,000 called for by the resolve, is for a building fully completed and equipped, as far as the \$12,000 will go, and it will be done this year, it will be finished before cold weather so that as many old soldiers as can be accommodated can be taken in and cared for. The garment will be cut according to the cloth that we shall have. Many of the soldiers of Maine have no home. Put the State of Maine with the 25 states of this Union who have accepted the benevolence of the United States government, establish this home and the government will see that you are helped out in your expenses. From an economical point of view this measure is wise. By opposition to this measure the State is kept out of \$10,000 or \$20,000 a year that she might be receiving, because these old soldiers are maintained by somebody. I hope that this resolve will prevail. I oppose the motion to indefinitely postpone.

Mr. Cox of Randolph: I don't know as the members of the House fully understand the nature of the case. The old soldier can be taken to the National Home at Togus provided he can get in, but the wife and children are dependent upon the town, and therefore is it not an object to the towns and the cities of the State that this Home should be established and maintained? I leave it on that point, and on investigation I think you will all see that it will be the best thing for the State that you can possibly do.

Mr. Stetson of Bangor: Of these 25 or 30 states which have established homes for the care of the old soldiers and their wives and children, I want to say that Maine is the only one of the New England states that at the present time is showing a lack of patriotism and of a feeling of generosity and kindness toward these men who have risked their lives and perhaps neglected opportunities to earn a living for themselves after they returned from the war; and I say that we should do something to support these men and give them an opportunity to finish their lives in peace and happiness with their wives and children. I trust that the motion to indefinitely postpone this resolve will not prevail, and that the gentlemen here present will have an opportunity to express their views by a yea and nay vote on this question.

Mr. Hamilton of Mattawamkeag: I am in favor of taking action at this time on the resolve itself. I believe it is a very important matter. The fact that we are going to receive from the general government \$100 for each veteran per year, who shall be cared for in this Home, seems to me to be a sufficient reason why this measure should be carried. It is said that 50 soldiers may be cared for at this Home, at a cost of \$12,000 by the State. That would bring into the State \$5000 of

government money which will be put in circulation among the people. Some of our veterans can care for themselves alone. They are well fixed. This home is not for those, but it is for those who are in need, and it will keep the wife and children in many cases no doubt in the years to come from the pauper's home. It is certainly a sad thing to separate old people in their old age, especially the wife from the veteran who has taken chances that you and I would not be willing to take, today. Let us be reasonable about this matter, and when we vote give the resolve such a majority as shall be an honor to the State of Maine. (Applause.)

Mr. Philbrook of Waterville: I think I must have been misunderstood in my motion to lay the resolve upon the table. I wish to explain my action. When I found that there was liable to be a discussion in regard to this matter, I desired to say something in favor of this home at Newport, but I felt myself entirely unprepared to say anything, this morning, which could interest or instruct the members of the House. It was, therefore, with the hope that I might have an opportunity to better post myself before the discussion that I asked that the matter be laid on the table. It seems to me, however, that the House prefers to discuss it, this morning, and to that I certainly have no objections. I simply wish to say that I desire to record myself in favor of the home at Newport, and I am only sorry that I am not sufficiently well prepared to meet some of the arguments which have been made against it. I desire to withdraw my motion to lay on the table. (Applause.)

Mr. Pearl of Bangor: I desire simply to place myself on record as in sympathy with the old soldier. The atmosphere of the State of Maine has always been a healthy one for the old soldier since the day when they were called to go forth to battle for our country. Well do I remember, though but a boy, that 60 per cent. of the voting population of the little town where I then lived went forth to help, and they fought as good soldiers, and I feel that I should be recreant to duty if I did not stand here, having their memories before me, as a friend to the old soldier. I believe we cannot do too much for them; and, today, we have an opportunity to vote to establish a home in our State where they may have the comforts and enjoyments of life as an unbroken family during the remainder of their days. And can we, when we look at what they have done for us, stand here and refuse to grant such a favor to them? Far be it from me to cast my vote against it; and I desire now to ask you most sincerely and earnestly that we vote in favor of this resolve for the appropriation to this home.

Mr. Burns of Westbrook: I wish to state that my constituents and the members of Clouman Post are strongly opposed to the establishment of this home. They say that the money you propose to appropriate here would benefit the old soldiers very much more if it should be given them in State pensions. I believe

that our post is unanimous in this regard. I have presented, this morning, a remonstrance signed by 50 members of that post out of 75. Those will sign when they have an opportunity. I believe that the members of our post were as brave and as loyal soldiers as those who favor this resolve. I believe also that they have the good of the soldiers at heart, and for this reason I shall vote against this resolve, and I believe it would be for the best interests of the Grand Army, until they are united on this subject, to postpone it.

Mr. Lincoln of Perry: Mr. Burns is the only friend to the old soldier who has spoken. We do not want to disfranchise the old soldier. Put him out there at Newport and where is he going to vote? Are you going to take his vote from him and make him a State pauper? There has been a good deal of talk made about the poor wives of the old soldiers. I am inclined to think that their wives will be better taken care of after they are dead than while they are still alive. (Laughter.) I ain't afraid but what my wife will be taken care of after I am dead. I went to the war in 1861. I have it said of me that I draw a big pension. I was mate of a vesseldrawing \$60 a month, and I went into the army when there were no bounties given. I carry this old crooked arm and I am proud of it; but I am a friend of the soldier, and down East, where I come from, every one of the soldiers are unanimous against this resolve.

Mr. Shepard of Buxton: I am in favor of the home at Newport. Something has been said about the old soldier going to hell; but I believe that I should prefer to vote for him to go to Newport. (Applause.)

Mr. Moore of Deering: I agree with the gentleman from Westbrook (Mr. Burns): When at home last I took pains to consult many of my constituency, and I find that they are unanimously opposed to this resolve.

Mr. Rounds of Paris: It always rejoices my heart to hear the old flag eulogized. It has been asserted here that the Grand Army is in favor of the Newport home. Two years ago, the Grand Army went on record in reference to this matter. It was at the session of the Grand Army held at Skowhegan in 1895. At that session a resolve was presented that the department commander be requested to go before the financial committee of the Legislature and request that a reasonable appropriation be made for the benefit of the Soldiers' Home at Newport. That resolution was defeated, and as I understand it, by an overwhelming vote. The department commander, in his address in the following year at Bangor, speaks against an appropriation for the Soldiers' Home at Newport. This is the record of the Grand Army in this State. I am opposed to this resolve because I think the State has already well provided for the soldiers. They have shown their appreciation by liberal pension appropriations. Those have been increased this year by \$5000. They have also provided by enactments that no soldier can become a town pauper, that he and his family shall be

provided for at their homes or at some suitable home. It is not simply permissible but it is mandatory. I do not believe that they contemplate taking care of but a small percentage of those who will be eligible to apply to the home at Newport; and if the State should provide for all of them they must inevitably cut down the State pension. I hope the bill will be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Hutchinson of Auburn: I have received a unanimous expression from every member of the Grand Army post in my city that I should vote against the resolve, and I therefore put myself on record in that way.

Mr. Rounds of Paris: I wish to say further that in the town that I represent there are from 70 to 80 soldiers and every soldier is opposed to the Newport home and they have instructed me to use all honorable means to oppose it.

Mr. Stetson of Bangor, called for the yeas and nays on the question to indefinitely postpone.

Mr. Cram of Mount Vernon: I would like to explain my vote. I fully appreciate all that the soldiers have done in preserving our country as a land of liberty and freedom, and I would not in any way raise my voice or hand in opposition to what I thought was for their good. But I have great confidence in the Grand Army of the State of Maine, and if they should come before our Legislature united in desiring this appropriation I should be only too glad to vote for it; but as they do not I feel that it should be left until they, as a united body, request and require this of the State. Consequently I shall vote to postpone.

Mr. Ayer of Vassalboro: I wish to explain my opposition on this question. No man more highly esteems and honors the brave boys who went forth to do battle than I do, and I would be only too glad to help them in any way possible that I thought would be for their best interests and for their good; but it seems to me, in a matter of so great importance, that they at least, as an organization, should be united in this matter, and in voting yes, as I shall, it is with the distinct understanding that were they united in desiring this appropriation I would be only too glad to vote to give them what they ask.

The yeas and nays being ordered, the roll was called and the motion to indefinitely postpone the resolve was carried by a vote of 72 for to 56 against.

Yeas—Ames, Ayer, Blanchard, Boynton, Briggs, Furnham, Burns, Burton, Coffin of Thorndike, Conant, Cram, Currier, Day, Dickey, Donnell, Edmunds, Fernald of Poland, Floyd, Fogg, Fogler, Fuller, Furbush, Goodrich, Hancock, Hill, Holmes, Houghton, Hurd, Hussey, Hutchins, Hutchinson, King, Knowlton of Portland, Lane, Larrabee, Lincoln, Littlefield of Kennebunk, Littlefield of Vinalhaven, Luce, Martin, Maxwell, McIntire, Merrill of Bluehill, Merrill of Portland, Moore of Deering, Murchie, Murphy, Murray, Newcomb, Palmer, Pattangall, Pattan, Peirce, Penley, Plum-

mer, Pope, Pratt, Prince, Purinton, Reed, Robinson, Rounds, Searls, Shaw of Cumberland, Smith of Hampden, Smith of Presque Isle, Spear, Staples, Stevens, Violette, York.—72.

Nays—Andrews, Austin, Bither, Brown, Burrill, Burse, Coffin of Shapleigh, Cook, Cox, Cushman, Daggett, Dudley, Durgin, Forest, Gardner, Garvin, Gilman, Golder, Gowell, Greenleaf, Hamilton of Biddeford, Hamilton of Mattawamkeag, Hathaway, Hathorn, Holbrook, Kinsman, Kneeland, Knowlton of Newburg, Levensaler, Macomber, Mason, Mitchell, Moore of Moscow, Noble, O'Neil, Pearl, Philbrook, Rodick, Sanborn, Saunders, Sawyer, Shaw of Saco, Shepard, Simpson, Smith of Masardis, Starbird, Stetson, Talbot, Tarbell, Thompson, Walton, Weeks, Wheeler, Whelden, Wilson, Winslow.—56.

Absent—Britton, Chandler, Chatto, Davis, Fernald of Levant, Gagnon, Goodwin, Guernsey, Jewell, Jones, Kaler, Littlefield of Belfast, Longley, Maxcy, Rowell of East Livermore, Rowell of Kittery, Sewall, Thurlow, Thurston, Tolman, Williams, Young.—22.

Specially assigned for this hour was bill an act providing for the registration of guides and to aid in the gathering of statistics relative to inland fish and game.

The pending question was on amendment "A," to strike out all the words after the word "the" in the third line of section 6, and insert the words "paid into the treasury of the State of Maine by the commissioners."

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Blanchard of Wilton, offered amendment "B," to add section 8, "This act or any part thereof shall not apply to any incorporated town or township."

The amendment was lost.

The bill was then read a third time and was passed to be engrossed.

Specially assigned was resolve in favor of the Castine State Normal school.

On motion of Mr. Hamilton of Biddeford, this resolve was read a second time and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Pattangall of Machias, resolve relating to the preservation of regimental rolls was taken from the table, and on further motion by the same gentleman, it was re-committed to the committee on military affairs.

On motion of Mr. Murray of Pembroke, bill relating to the packing of sardines was taken from the table.

Mr. Murray offered amendment "A," by inserting after the word "sale" in the third line, the following: "Between the first day of December and the 10th day of the following May."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Murray offered amendment "B," by adding after the word "dollar" in the fifth line of section 6, the following: "Payable to the treasury of the State of Maine, said bond to be deposited in the State treasury."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Murray offered amendment "C," to insert after the word "complaint" in the 42d line, the words, "one-half to be paid

to the complainant or prosecutor and one-half to the town in which the offence is committed."

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Murray offered amendment "D," to strike out in the fourth line of section 2 the words, "whether swelled or not," and insert the words, "swelled heads or blow heads."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Murray offered amendment "E," to insert after the word "owner" in the 17th line of section 6, the following: "In the town where such factory is located."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Newcomb of Eastport, offered an amendment, to strike out in the seventh line of section 1, as amended, the word "first" and insert instead thereof the word "fifteenth"; also to strike out in the eighth line the word "tenth" and insert the word "fifteenth"; also to strike out the word "May" in the eighth line and insert the word "April."

On motion of Mr. Whelden of Portland, the bill and amendment was laid on the table and assigned for Friday morning.

On motion of Mr. Hamilton of Biddeford, bill relating to the investigation of causes of fires was taken from the table.

Mr. Fogler of Rockland, offered an amendment to section 6, by striking out the words, "shall receive as compensation for the services required by this act \$5 per diem for time actually expended."

On motion of Mr. Macomber of Augusta, pending the adoption of the amendment the bill was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr. Knowlton of Portland, bill relating to the Franklin, Somerset & Kennebec Railway Co., was taken from the table, and on further motion by the same gentleman, the bill was read a third time and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Greenleaf of Southport,