

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

1897.

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ORDERS.

On motion by Mr. Savage, it was Ordered, at each afternoon session hereafter, the calendar of matters tabled and assigned be called for further disposition of said matters.

On motion by Mr. Wyman of Washington, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Monday, March 22, 1897.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Andrews of Garland.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

An act to amend chapter 184, of the Private and Special Laws of 1895, entitled an act to incorporate the Castine Water Company.

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

The following Senate bills were read and assigned:

An act to amend sections 4 and 5, of chapter 636, of the Private and Special Laws of 1871, establishing a municipal court for the city of Lewiston, as amended.

An act to amend section 42, of chapter 92, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the inspection of dams and reservoirs.

An act to amend section 5, of chapter 226, of the Private and Special Laws of 1895, relating to the capital stock of the Buckfield Aqueduct Company.

An act to amend chapter 118, of the Public Laws of 1891, relating to the registration of vital statistics.

An act to establish the standard weight of bushel of parsnips.

An act to amend section 6, of chapter 132, of the Public Laws of 1891, relating to punishment for intoxication.

The following resolves were read, and assigned for tomorrow morning under suspension of the rules.

Resolve for the purpose of repairing the church of the Penobscot tribe of Indians.

Resolve in favor of Olaf H. Nilson.

Petitions, bills and resolves presented and referred.

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Philbrook of Waterville—Bill an act to amend section 27, of chapter 134, of the Revised Statutes, relating to appeals in criminal cases.

LEGAL AFFAIRS.

By Mr. Blanchard of Wilton—Bill an act authorizing and directing the treasurer of Franklin County to refund certain money to Perkins plantation.

Mr. Murchie of Calais, presented a resolve in favor of the city of Calais, and on motion by Mr. Murchie the rules were suspended and the resolve received its two readings and was passed to be engrossed.

ORDERS.

On motion of Mr. Smith of Presque Isle,

Ordered, That on and after March 27, Representative Bither of Linneus, be excused from further attendance at this session of the Legislature, and that the clerk be instructed to make up his pay to the end of the session.

On motion of Mr. Murchie of Calais,

Ordered, That there shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Executive Council, a commission whose duty it shall be to ascertain as to the desirability of establishing new Normal schools in eastern or central Maine, and report by bill or otherwise. Said commission shall report their decision to the next Legislature and serve without pay except that they shall be reimbursed for actual necessary expenses incurred.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Walton for the committee on legal affairs, reported in a new draft, bill an act to amend section 29, of chapter 24, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 31, of the Public Laws of 1887, relating to the support of paupers in unincorporated plantations, and that it ought to pass. Printed under rule.

Mr. Fogler for the committee on judiciary, reported in a new draft bill an act to amend section 26, of chapter 1, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 141, of the Public Laws of the year 1895, relating to corporations and that it ought to pass. Printed under rule.

Mr. Philbrook for same committee, reported bill an act in relation to political caucuses in cities, and that it ought to pass. Printed under rule.

Mr. Fogler for same committee, reported ought not to pass on bill an act to legalize the organization of the plantation of Swan's Island.

Mr. Smith for same committee, reported bill an act to amend section 8, of chapter 24, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 60, of the Public Laws of 1891, relating to paupers, their settlement and support, and that it ought to pass. Printed under rule.

READ AND ASSIGNED.

An act to incorporate the town of Perham.

An act to permit the Patten and Sherman Railroad Company to sell or lease its road.

An act to set off a part of the town of Rome and annex the same to the town of Belgrade.

An act to amend chapter 30, and chapter 40, of the Revised Statutes, relating to inland fisheries and game.

On motion of Mr. Jones of Lincoln, this bill was laid on the table pending its first reading.

An act additional to the act incorporating the Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

An act to incorporate the Union Gas and Electric Company.

An act to amend an act entitled an act to establish the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

On motion of Mr. Blanchard of Wilton,

this bill was laid on the table pending its first reading, and assigned for Wednesday of this week.

An act to incorporate the Harpswell Village Corporation.

An act to repeal certain old and obsolete Private and Special Laws, relating to close time for fishing in the public waters of the State.

Mr. Jones of Lincoln, offered an amendment to amend said bill by inserting immediately after the words, "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in Legislature assembled, as follows," the following: "The following named Private and Special Laws are hereby repealed, to wit."

The amendment was adopted, the bill was read twice and assigned for tomorrow morning.

An act authorizing the construction of a town way or highway over and across the tide waters of Webhannet river in Wells.

On motion of Mr. Merrill of Portland, this bill was read a third time and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.

An act to prevent the use of diseased meat for food purposes.

An act relating to the Portland Railroad Company.

On motion of Mr. Murchie of Calais, this bill was laid on the table pending its first reading.

An act to regulate the use of bicycles.

On motion of Mr. Holmes of Addison, this bill was laid on the table pending its first reading.

An act amendatory of and additional to chapter 47, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 61, of the Public Laws of 1887, relating to Loan and Building Associations.

Mr. Currier of Farmington, offered amendment "A," to amend said bill by adding thereto the following section: "Section 6, chapter 274, of the Public Laws of 1893, entitled an act for the taxation of Loan and Building Associations, is hereby amended by striking out the word, "Saturdays," in the second line of the first section thereof, and inserting the words, "secular days."

The amendment was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Merrill of Portland, the bill and amendment were laid on the table pending its second reading.

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

An act to authorize the Bath Gas and Electric Company to issue additional bonds.

An act to amend section 45, of chapter 38, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the inspection of milk.

An act to incorporate the Chain Lake Dam and Improvement Company.

An act to authorize the St. John River Edge Company to erect and maintain four toll bridges across the St. John River.

An act to enforce the payment of State and county taxes on timber and grass on reserved lands in this State.

An act to incorporate the Nahmaknata Improvement and Navigation Company.

On motion of Mr. Burrill of Corinna,

this bill was laid on the table pending its third reading.

An act relating to the jurisdiction of the municipal courts of the cities of Biddeford and Saco.

An act relating to the manufacture, sale and shipment of lime.

On motion of Mr. Levensaler of Thomaston, this bill was laid on the table pending its third reading and Thursday of this week assigned for its consideration.

An act authorizing the town of Lebanon to contract with the city of Rochester, New Hampshire, to supply the village of Lebanon with water for fire and domestic use.

An act relating to the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary.

An act to amend chapter 65, of the Public Laws of 1895, entitled an act in relation to State taxes on organized plantations taxed by the State as wild lands.

Resolve providing for the expenses of the Governor and staff while attending the ceremonies relating to the formal transfer of the Grant monument to the city of New York.

An act in relation to the duties and compensation of the State prison physician.

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

An act to amend section 3, of chapter 150, of the Private and Special Laws of 1891, entitled an act in relation to the municipal court of the city of Portland.

An act to amend an act entitled an act to revise and amend the charter of the city of Calais.

Resolve in favor of the heirs of John Robertson.

PASSED TO BE ENACTED.

An act amendatory of and additional to chapter 268, of the Public Laws of 1893, entitled an act to regulate the organization and control of street railroads.

An act to incorporate the Searsport Water Co.

An act to amend section 4, of chapter 58, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 2, chapter 18, of the Public Laws of 1891, and to amend section 5, of chapter 58, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 125, of the Public Laws of 1887, relating to the board of agriculture.

An act relating to the crossings in the new highway in Ashland and Sheridan plantation by the branch track and log spur of the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad.

An act to authorize the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Co. to lease a connecting railroad, which may be built from Limestone.

An act relating to the catching of smelts in Damariscotta river.

An act to provide for an investigation of the causes of fires, and the publication of statistics relating to the same.

An act to amend section 205, of chapter 6, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 11, of chapter 70, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to taxes.

An act to incorporate the York Sewer Co.

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

An act to regulate the packing of sardines.

Resolve in favor of an appropriation to aid in erecting a High school building in the town of Frenchville in the county of Aroostook.

Resolve that the land agent be empowered and directed to convey settlers' lots in Wallagrass plantation.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

On motion of Mr. Palmer of Bangor, bill relating to the Brewer Light and Power Co. was taken from the table, and on further motion by the same gentleman, it was read twice and assigned for tomorrow morning.

On motion of Mr. Merrill of Portland, bill relating to the powers and duties of school supervisors was taken from the table.

Mr. Merrill offered an amendment, to strike out in section 3, the figure "3," after the word "section," and insert in place thereof the figure "4"; insert a new section as follows: "Section 3. The provisions of this act shall not apply to cities."

The amendment was adopted, the bill was read a third time and was passed to be engrossed as amended.

On motion of Mr. Hamilton of Biddeford, the order fixing the tax rate for 1897 and 1898 was taken from the table.

The order then received a passage.

On motion of Mr. Blanchard of Wilton, the order relating to the election of railroad commissioners was taken from the table.

In Senate this order was amended by striking out the words, "committee on legal affairs," and inserting the words, "committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses."

The question being on the adoption of the Senate amendment,

Mr. Wilson of Gorham: It is not generally known to the people of the State what the circumstances are as regards the railroad commissioners. It is understood that we have a railroad commission appointed by the Governor. It is thought that we have a railroad commission for whose service the State pays. But the commissioners are not paid by the State. They are paid in full by the railroads. It is not fully understood that we have no appeal from them. Their decision is final. We are here to represent the people of the State, and not steam railroads. We are here to look after the interests of our constituents and the welfare of the people at large, and, today, these conditions now existing must be changed in order that our people may have justice done them at the hands of our railroad commissioners. They must be elected by the compensation for their services direct from the State, and the State not be reimbursed by the railroads, as it is now. There is no man on the face of the earth but who will act for the interests of those from whom he receives his pay. It is but natural and just that they

should. When the railroads pull the string on these railroad commissioners, they dance, and they dance strong and they dance long, as many of us are fully aware. Now when we elect our railroad commissioners and they receive their pay from the State and there is an appeal from their decision, there will not go through so much railroad law as in the past. I beg to insist on the passage of the order, and move that the House insist on its action.

The motion to insist was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Smith of Presque Isle, resolve in favor of the town of Hollis was taken from the table.

Senate amendment "A" was adopted and the resolve was passed to be engrossed as amended.

On motion of Mr. Walton of Skowhegan, bill relating to the schooling of children in unorganized townships was taken from the table, and on further motion by the same gentleman, it was read a third time and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Hutchinson of Auburn,

Adjourned.