

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

1897.

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SENATE.

Wednesday, March 10, 1897.

The Senate met according to adjournment and was called to order by the President.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Henry of Augusta. Journal of yesterday read and approved. Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

Bill, an act to secure the better observance of the Lord's Day came from the House on its first reading and was tabled on motion by Mr. Stearns of Aroostook, pending first reading.

Bill, an act to amend the charter of the Fryeburg Horse Railroad Company came from the House on its first reading and was tabled on motion by Mr. Savage of Androscoggin, pending first reading.

Bill, an act to amend section 1 of chapter 26 of the private and special laws relating to taxation of certain plantations came from the House on its first reading and was tabled on motion by Mr. Savage, pending second reading.

A communication was received from the Secretary of State, transmitting the twenty-sixth annual returns of the Naval and Military Orphan Asylum at Bath, Maine, and the same were referred to the committee on military affairs.

HOUSE BILLS READ AND ASSIGNED.

An act relating to the April term of the Supreme Judicial court in the county of Aroostook.

An act to incorporate the Northern Development Company.

An act to permit the Good Will Home Association to increase its capital and to enlarge its purpose to include aid for needy girls.

An act to amend chapter 229, of the Private and Special Laws of 1894, entitled "an act incorporating the trustees of the fund for the support of the Episcopate of the Protestant Episcopal church in the diocese of Maine," as amended by chapter 214, of the Laws of 1880, and as amended by chapter 106, of the laws of 1895.

An act granting additional powers to the Long Pond Water Company.

An act to amend section 19, of chapter 142, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the Maine Industrial School for Girls.

An act requiring all educational institutions receiving State aid to make report to the State superintendent of public schools, who shall publish the same as part of his annual report.

An act to extend the charter of the Lewiston, Augusta and Camden Railroad Company.

An act to amend an act incorporating the Saco River Telephone and Telegraph Company.

An act to extend the charter of the Kennebec and Franklin Railroad.

An act to incorporate the Lubec Electric Light and Power Company.

An act relating to taking of alewives in the Bagaduce river and Walker's pond. On motion by Mr. Savage of Androscog-

gin, amended by striking out section 2. Read once and assigned as amended.

An act to amend the charter of the city of Bangor.

Mr. Engel of Bangor, offered the following amendments:

Amendment A. Strike out in the 10th line, after the word "or" the "by at least 10 members" and insert in lieu thereof the words "two-thirds."

Amendment B. In the 39th line strike out the words "by at least 10 members" and insert in lieu thereof the words "two-thirds."

Mr. Engel: In explanation of these amendments I would say that the city of Bangor passed a vote that two-thirds of the city council may call a special meeting and instructed the representatives to draw the bill accordingly. When the bill comes in here, it reads that 10 can call a meeting, which is entirely different from the vote of the city council. For this reason I offer these amendments, which I understand to be entirely acceptable to the committee.

Amendments A and B were severally adopted and the bill read and assigned as amended.

SPECIALLY ASSIGNED.

Resolve in favor of the trustees of the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

This bill came from the House on its first reading, amended by House amendment A, which is further amended by House amendment A.

Pending the adoption of amendments in concurrence, on motion by Mr. Parsons of Piscataquis, the bill was laid on the table and Tuesday, March 16, assigned. The President called Mr. Hinkley of Franklin, to the chair, who presided during a part of the session.

The following bills, petitions, etc., were presented and referred:

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Maxwell of Androscoggin—Bill, an act to amend section 13, of chapter 366, of the Private and Special Laws of 1897, entitled, "an act to incorporate the Lisbon Falls Water Company."

LEGAL AFFAIRS.

By Mr. Chamberlain of Lincoln—Bill, an act to amend section 42, of chapter 92, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the inspection of dams and reservoirs.

RAILROADS, TELEGRAPHS AND EXPRESSES.

By Mr. Engel of Penobscot—Bill, an act in relation to accidents upon railroads.

EDUCATION.

By Mr. Salley of Somerset—Petition of Andrew B. Cole and 20 others of Norridgewock, favoring the passage of the Wiggin school tax bill.

SHORE FISHERIES.

By Mr. Walls of Knox—Remonstrance of John T. Young and 29 others of Matinicus Isle plantation, against any change in the lobster law.

AGRICULTURE.

By Mr. McCullough of Washington—Petition of C. B. Albee of Northfield, and 9 others, for the enactment of a law to regulate the sale and analysis of concentrated commercial feeding stuff.

By Mr. Reynolds of Kennebec—Petition of D. H. Thing of Mount Vernon, and 35 others, for the same.

By Mr. Heald of Kennebec—Petition of Hiram Conforth of Oakland, and 17 others, for the same.

By Mr. Hurd of York—Petition of Sherman J. Bean of Jay, and 24 others, for the same.

By Mr. Ferguson of Sagadahoc—Petition of J. P. Cobb of Bowdoinham, and 29 others, for the same.

By Mr. Walls of Knox—Petition of L. D. Carroll of Union, and 31 others; of R. Grinnell of Union, and 50 others; of B. A. Emery of South Thomaston, and 13 others; of Alden Robbins of Appleton, and 24 others, for the same.

By Mr. Sharp of Aroostook—Petition of Ira J. Porter of Houlton, and 16 others, for the same.

By Mr. Weeks of Penobscot—Petition of A. L. Gray of North Newport, and 26 others, for the same.

By Mr. Parsons of Piscataquis—Petition of E. G. Lovejoy of Medford, and 1a others; of William F. Towne of Monson, and 11 others; of Frank Hart of Williamantic, and 13 others, for the same.

By Mr. Poor of Oxford—Petition of W. N. Rose of Canton, and 57 others, for the same.

By Mr. Merrill of Somerset—Petition of F. L. Brown of Palmyra, and 14 others; of Sherburne Leighton of Hammond, and 15 others, for the same.

By Mr. Billings of Waldo—Petition of B. F. Foster of Montville, and 20 others, for the same.

By Mr. Roberts of Oxford—Petition of Harrison Farrar of Paris and 33 others, for the same.

By Mr. Maxwell of Androscoggin—Petition of E. A. Jones of Webster, and 13 others, for the same.

By Mr. Wyman of Washington—Petition of Gilbert L. Tabbutt of Columbia, and 21 others, for the same.

By Mr. Sharp of Aroostook—Petition of W. R. Tyrrell of Linneus and 13 others, for the enactment of a law requiring the inspection of grass seed.

Petition of Osgood F. Smith of Cary and 22 others, for the same.

By Mr. Stearns of Aroostook—Petition of D. F. Marston of Mattawamkeag, and 25 others; of R. H. Libby of Newport, and 47 others; of H. F. Gould of Kenduskeag, and 22 others, for the same.

By Mr. Parsons of Piscataquis—Petition of Alfred B. Nichols of Abbott, and 46 others; of J. W. Seabury of Parkman, and 40 others; of Edwin Riley of South Dover, and 18 others; of G. R. Hoxie of Sebec, and 31 others, for the same.

By Mr. Poor of Oxford—Petition of L. D. Elliott of Rumford, and 20 others, for the same.

By Mr. Reynolds of Cumberland—Petition of W. F. Clark of Harpswell, and 23 others, for the same.

By Mr. Hargraves of York—Petition of Seth Meserve of Lyman, and 18 others, for the same.

By Mr. Merrill of Somerset—Petition of J. P. Longley of Palmyra, and 22 others, for the same.

By Mr. Roberts of Oxford—Petition of James A. Kimball of Albany, and 17 others; of Horace Sanborn of Norway, and 40 others; of Augustus Charles of Stowe, and 25 others, for the same.

By Mr. Wyman of Washington—Petition of Benjamin W. Strout of Millbridge, and 20 others, for the same.

By Mr. McCullough of Washington—Petition of F. L. Morang of Eastport, and 6 others; of D. S. Humphrey of Charlotte, and 13 others, for the same.

By Mr. Reynolds of Kennebec—Petition of L. F. Doloff of Mount Vernon, and 17 others; of H. H. Snell of Vassalboro, and 18 others, for the same.

By Mr. Clason of Kennebec—Petition of W. P. Atherton of Hallowell, and 17 others; of J. H. Barton of Windsor, and 25 others, for the same.

By Mr. Hurd of York—Petition of J. H. Hammond of North Berwick, and 27 others, for the same.

By Mr. Walls of Knox—Petition of J. F. Bryant of Washington, and 31 others; of H. H. Payson of Hope, and 16 others, for the same.

ORDERS.

On motion by Mr. Salley of Somerset, it was

Ordered, the House concurring, that the committee on legal affairs be directed to inquire into the expediency of the State supporting and maintaining the large bridges, and report by bill or otherwise.

Ordered, that the use of the Senate chamber be granted the committee on towns this Wednesday afternoon, for a hearing.

READ AND ASSIGNED.

An act to amend chapter 70, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to the sales of land for non-payment of taxes.

Resolve to provide for the extinguishment of the claim of Don H. Powers and Dr. A. G. Sirois against the State for services rendered in connection with the shooting of Game Warden E. O. Collins by Charles Morris.

Resolve in favor of the town of Peru.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Drummond for the committee on judiciary, reported ought not to pass, bill an act relating to the prior conveyance of subsequently acquired titles. Report accepted.

Mr. Stearns, for the same committee, reported ought to pass, bill, in new draft, an act to authorize the county of Aroostook to make temporary loans. Report accepted, and on motion by Mr. Stearns, bill read twice under suspension of rules, and passed to be engrossed.

Mr. Drummond, for the same committee, reported ought to pass, bill, an act to provide for the retirement of members of the fire department of the city of Portland, upon half pay. Report accepted. Bill read once and assigned.

Mr. Drummond for the same committee reported ought to pass, bill, an act to amend chapter 154 of the Private and Special Laws of 1895, relating to the charter of the Wiscasset Water Co. Report accepted and tabled for printing under rule.

Mr. Drummond for the same committee, reported ought to pass, bill an act to amend section 11, of chapter 46, of the Revised Statutes, relating to clerks of corporations. Report accepted and tabled for printing under rule.

Mr. Savage for the same committee, reported ought to pass, bill an act to legalize the incorporation of Wales Grange. Report accepted and tabled for printing under rule.

Mr. Savage for the same committee, reported ought to pass, bill an act regulating the holding of the terms of the supreme judicial court for Franklin county. Report accepted and tabled for printing under rule.

Mr. Savage for the same committee, reported ought to pass, bill an act to provide for filling vacancies of trustees. Report accepted and tabled for printing under rule.

Mr. Savage for the same committee, reported ought to pass, bill an act to incorporate the Livermore Falls Light and Power Co. Report accepted and tabled for printing under rule.

Mr. Clason for the committee on legal affairs, reported ought to pass, bill an act to amend section 13, of chapter 143, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the duties of municipal officers. Report accepted and tabled for printing under rule.

Mr. Walls for the committee on education, to which was referred the report of the commissioners upon the establishment of a new Normal schools, reported that the same be accepted. Report accepted.

Mr. Morrill for the committee on taxation, to which was referred the order of the Legislature relating to the expediency of so amending the Statutes that the exemption from taxation of property held by religious societies may be applied to the funds of such society devoted to church purposes where such funds do not exceed the amount of property now exempt as a parsonage, and where no parsonage is owned by said church, reported ought to pass, bill an act to amend paragraph 4, of section 6, of chapter 6, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the taxation of the estate and property of religious societies. Report accepted and tabled for printing under rule.

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Resolve to repair The Forks bridge in The Forks plantation, Somerset county. 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 Merry-meeting bay.

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

An act to incorporate the Mercantile Trust Co.

TABLED.

An act to incorporate the Eastport Street Railway. This bill came up for its second reading and was tabled, on motion by Mr. Savage of Androscoggin, pending second reading.

PASSED TO BE ENACTED.

An act to amend section 45, of chapter 140, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the State prison.

An act amendatory and additional to chapter 47, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the duties of bank examiner.

An act in relation to the disposition of unclaimed baggage by common carriers.

An act for the protection of beaver.

An act to provide for the retirement of police officers of the city of Portland upon half pay.

An act to authorize the erection of piers and booms in the Mattawamkeag river at the Oxbow.

An act to extend the charter of the Eastport Bridge Co.

An act to authorize the Infusorial Earth Co. to lower the waters of Noyes pond in the town of Bluehill during certain months in the year.

An act granting Ernest E. Abbott the right to establish and maintain a ferry between Sullivan and Hancock.

An act to extend the rights, powers and privileges of the Public Works.

An act to incorporate the Penobscot East Branch Log Driving Co.

An act to incorporate the Misery Stream Dam Co.

An act to authorize the Madison Water Co. to sell and convey its property and franchises to the Madison Village Corporation.

An act to extend the charter of the Maine Water and Electric Power Co.

An act to incorporate the Hollowell water commissioners.

An act to incorporate the Deer Isle Water Co.

An act to incorporate the Rangeley Water Co.

An act to incorporate the Kingfield Water Co.

An act relating to the Portland Safe Deposit Co.

An act to incorporate the Mechanic Falls Trust and Banking Co.

An act to confirm the organization of the New York Machine Co., and to enable it to aid in the construction of railroad tracks.

FINALLY PASSED.

Resolve authorizing the county of York to procure a loan.

Resolve making appropriation for the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians.

Resolve making appropriations for the Penobscot tribe of Indians.

Resolve in favor of the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Resolve in favor of Calais Academy.

Resolve in favor of the committee on military affairs.

Resolve in favor of Josiah T. McLellan of Gorham.

Resolve in favor of Lucinda Barrows.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

President Day in the chair.

On motion by Engel of Penobscot, bill an act to amend chapter 253, of the Public Laws of 1893, as amended by chapter 130, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to the taxation of savings banks, tabled pending second reading, was taken from the table.

On motion by Mr. Drummond of Cumberland, the bill was assigned for Wednesday, March 17.

On motion by Mr. Stearns of Aroostook, the following order was taken from the table and indefinitely postponed.

Ordered, That the messenger be directed to discontinue the open wood fires in the fire places of Senate chamber.

On motion by Mr. Savage of Androscoggin, bill an act to extend and additional to the charter of the Oakland Water Company was taken from the table. Tabled pending adoption of House amendment "A" was adopted in concurrence.

Mr. Savage offered the following amendment: Amend by adding the following section and changing the number of the last section from 5 to 6:

"Section 5. Section 4, of said chapter 416, of the Private and Special Laws of the year 1899, is hereby amended by striking out the word 'railroad' in the third line thereof and adding thereto the following: And said corporation may carry and lay its pipes across any railroad, but in case of failure to agree with the railroad company as to the place, manner and conditions of crossing the railroad with its pipes, the place, manner and conditions of said crossing shall be determined by the railroad commissioners, and all work within the limits of the railroad location shall be done under the supervision and to the satisfaction of the officers and agents of the railroad company, but at the expense of said water company."

Amendment adopted and bill passed to be engrossed as amended.

On motion by Mr. Reynolds of Cumberland, bill an act to legalize the doings of school district No. 5 in the town of Falmouth, and of the trustees of the Crispus Graves' Fund, so-called, and to enable said trustees to convey and the inhabitants of said Falmouth to purchase the school building erected out of said fund in said district, was taken from the table, report of committee accepted, bill read once and tomorrow assigned.

TEACHERS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

On motion by Mr. Roberts of Oxford, bill an act to provide for the examination of candidates for positions as teachers in the public schools of the State, specially assigned for today, was taken from the table.

Mr. Roberts: Mr. President, perhaps the Senate would like a little explanation of the bill, and I will simply make a few statements. We are all aware that the State of Maine appropriates to the common schools of the State annually a sum of money exceeding \$500,000. We also know that the towns in their capacity as towns raise in addition to this an amount equal to 80 cents per capita of their population. These sums of money are used for the support and maintenance of the common schools. From the fact that so much money is used and that a large portion of it is raised and apportioned by the State, it would seem to be a reasonable conclusion to draw that the State is interested to see that none of this money is squandered, embezzled or in any way misappropriated, but that it be used in the most efficient manner possible. All of us who are familiar with the rural schools understand that they are not keeping up with the procession, but that compared with the schools of a quarter of a century ago, or comparing them with the city and the village schools, they are gradually dropping behind. Educators have had this matter under consideration for a long time, what methods could be adopted in order that the schools might be brought up to greater efficiency. One of the measures is this one that is before us today, for a State examination of teachers. Now, Mr. President, three-fourths of the school superintendents of this State, upon being asked the question, said that they believed there should be a State supervision. On looking this matter up, I found that, for instance in the county of Androscoggin, of all the school superintendents who replied to the questions asked, only one was opposed to this measure. In the county of Aroostook, a county of small towns, where we might expect opposition if from anywhere, 43 towns answered in the affirmative and seven in the negative; in the county of Cumberland 14 in the affirmative and 1 in the negative; in Franklin 9 in the affirmative and 2 in the negative. I am not going through all the counties, but they are all in about the same proportion. Not only the superintendents, but the leading educators and the best teachers in the State ask for this bill. Those who have been successful in their calling say that it is unfair for them to be in competition with those who are not qualified for the work in which they are engaged, and they ask for this measure. Now with those few statements, I will call the attention of the Senate for a moment to the bill itself. Section 1 of the bill puts this matter into the hands of the State superintendent. The original bill provided for a State board of examiners, one from each county, with a salary, but there was an objection raised to this at the very first, that it created new offices and a greater expense to the State.

To meet that objection, the bill was changed, and it places the matter in the hands of the State superintendent. In the fourth section of this bill we find that

the State superintendent "may issue three grades of certificates, and when issued, the first grade shall be valid for five years, the second grade for three years, and the third grade for one year"; and we find that the third grade certificate can be issued only for three years, or three times. The idea of the measure is this: That the teachers who are beginners and have been in charge of the poorest schools in the State shall be in the third grade, that the best teachers in the common schools of the State shall be in the second grade, and that all other public teachers shall be in the first grade. The examination in the third grade will be very simple and easy, not with the idea to drive from the ranks of teachers any who are competent to teach, but only those who are grossly ignorant of those things they are called upon to teach. The central idea of the bill is this: Here are three grades of certificates. I can hold the third grade only for three years. If I have a third grade certificate, it will be my business to fit myself before the three years are up to enter the second grade, and any teacher who is in the common schools, today, or who may become a teacher in the common schools, can easily do that and it is their duty to do it. When a person takes upon himself the work of a teacher in the public schools of the State, it is his duty not to lie back and think that because he has a certificate now that he may always have one, but it is his duty to perform better work in the future than he is performing now. That is the object of this bill, to bring a gentle pressure upon the teachers that will stimulate and urge them to become teachers in the higher grade. The last section of this bill provides that it shall not go into operation as a compulsory measure for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. It was inought that it would be a hardship if this bill went into operation, today, so we have put it far enough ahead to give all teachers a fair opportunity to fit themselves to meet these examinations. Now, Mr. President, these examinations will be held all over the State. No teacher will be required to go so far but she can return to her home in the same day. Without going any farther into the discussion of this matter, I believe that this measure is for the interest of the teachers of this State, and I know that every one of them who has examined into it and carefully studied it gives her consent to it. I know that every teacher who is meritorious, who does good work and intends to do better work, is in favor of this bill, because it takes her out of competition with the unfit teachers. Knowing this fact, knowing that three-fourths of the school superintendents of this State are in favor of this bill, knowing that the educational force is in favor of it, I hope that it may be adopted and become the law of the State, and if it is found in its operation not to meet the wishes or expectations of its friends, then it can be repealed.

Mr. McCullough of Washington: Mr. President, I do not wish to appear as in opposition to this bill. Last week, I took occasion to send to the educators of

Washington county copies of this proposed bill and asked them their opinion of it, and to advise me. I have received quite a number of letters, and while the measure has some strong supporters, a great many of them think that this is radical legislation and should receive careful consideration. One of the principal objections to the bill is the first clause of section 5: "He shall not grant to the same candidate more than three third grade certificates." Now we have some very excellent teachers who have labored in the schools long and faithfully and have brought up and introduced into the higher grades as competent graduates from their schools as could be found, who it seems to me, under this act, would be debarred from receiving a certificate to teach for more than three years in succession. If this is true, it would be a rank injustice to those teachers. Another feature that they objected to is that it takes from the school fund \$650, for the purpose of paying for these examiners. Another objection advanced is that in many of the counties, especially in Washington county, where these places are set apart for examination, it will cost considerable for teachers to go to those places to be examined, with no surety that when there they will receive a certificate. It seems to me that if there was a public necessity and a general outcry for the passage of this bill, we would have seen some petitions here. I have not seen any. It may be that they have not thought it necessary. The senator from Oxford says that in the rural districts they know that the schools are not managed by efficient teachers. If that is so, why not have the act apply to the rural districts? As this is a matter of more importance than any other piece of legislation that has come before this session, a matter in which we are all deeply interested, and as it does not go into effect until Sept. 1, 1899, and the Legislature meets soon after, no injustice will be done to anyone, and I move that this bill be referred to the next Legislature. In the meantime the people can be educated and pass upon this, and the representatives that they send here two years from now will be thoroughly competent to vote upon this matter.

Mr. Walls of Knox: We are well aware that this is an important piece of legislation. Our State superintendent corresponded with all the school superintendents throughout the State, and many of the teachers, making inquiries covering this ground, and I think it has been demonstrated by the senator from Oxford that about 75 per cent. of them favored a measure similar to this. The object of this is to stimulate those who contemplate teaching and those who are already teaching, so that they will endeavor to fit themselves for better work. They have something to learn every day relative to methods of teaching and the principles that they are to teach. This is intended to hold something before them that will show them the necessity of reading upon the principles of teaching. I know of many teachers who never read a book upon the subject or took any in-

terest in methods of teaching. If they get their certificate and their money and a certain number of weeks, they are satisfied, many of them. I do not say this is the case with the large majority of teachers, because I know they are honest and hard-working people. We shall have two years and a half before this goes into effect, and as it goes into the fall of 1899, the Legislature meets and adjourns before this bill will take effect. It leaves it so that we can adopt it and start upon it now and work upon it, giving a chance to find whether it will work or not, and if after trying it for two years, the State superintendent, or those who are interested in it, find that it is not practicable, of course they would be the first ones to come to this Legislature at the next session and say: "We do not want it, and want it changed." The idea, as I understand it, is that the grade matter is left somewhat discretionary, with the superintendent or those whom he may assign to perform the duties. Of course at the outset they will be quite liberal. The examination will not be rigid and will be conducted in the same way as any good, sensible man would undertake to conduct anything that is for the benefit of education, or the business he is engaged in. If a teacher, after teaching for three years, has not interest enough in the matter of teaching to endeavor to qualify herself to teach in a higher grade than the one she was able to get into first, she might as well be put out of the schools. We do not believe in this stationary business; we believe in progression. In some other states that have adopted this measure, the lowest grade can be held for only one year, and this measure gives three years.

I feel that no injustice can be done to the teachers spoken of in the cities. Your primary teachers should be the best teachers in the schools, and it is the best investment, when you hire your primary teachers, to get those who are best qualified to teach. My experience has been that I hired a teacher who was teaching a free High school, one of the brightest, smartest young ladies in our section, and put her into a primary school, and the results from that were the best of anything I did in that town. From that time we have made selection according to adaptation and fitness of the best teachers that could be found for our primary schools, and, today, we can show you in the High school those very pupils that started in that primary school have shown themselves right through. They got started right. This idea of teaching without any idea of how to teach is worse than thrown away. You know that if they have been taught in such a manner that they have got to be re-instructed, they are in worse condition than if they never knew anything about it. If you have got to get false ideas out of their heads that they received in their primary work, it is worse than if they were never there. I think that in this bill there is nothing that would work injury. As you say, it is for a trial of two years. No doubt the honorable senator will be here in two years, and he will

have a chance to look the matter over, and he can at that time say that we do not want such legislation and the thing can be disposed of. I hope the bill will pass and that we shall give it a trial for the time required.

Mr. McCullough: This bill says graduates of colleges may receive a certificate for five years, graduates of Normal schools for three years, and of High schools and academies for three years and no longer. By what third grade the teacher can only receive a certificate for three years.

Mr. Roberts: The second grade certificate is intended to cover the best of our common schools. The third grade is intended to cover only the very poorest and smallest schools, with beginners as teachers, and we are expecting that they will be able to get out of the third grade into the second grade. If they cannot, they are not worthy of being teachers.

Mr. McCullough: In cities you may have a teacher who is qualified to teach, and fits herself by examination, and proves that she is qualified to advance to the second grade. How is she going to get a school in that city unless it is vacated by somebody in the second grade? Someone has got to go out or she has got to stop teaching before she gets into the second grade. Is that not an injustice to the teacher? It does not make any difference how much she learns in those three years, or how well she qualifies herself, she cannot step into a second grade school until she can get a certificate to teach in that school. Or does it mean that she can continue to teach, get her second grade certificate and still hold her school? It seems to me that the bill is crudely drawn and there should be some amendments to it. People do not understand it. I heartily approve of anything that is beneficial to education in the State of Maine, but I do not want a bill passed that is going to work an injustice to teachers who are well qualified to teach in our schools.

Mr. Savage of Androscoggin: I do not know that I understand exactly the last criticism made by the senator from Washington respecting this bill. If I do understand him correctly, he intimates that there is something in the bill which prevents teachers passing from one grade to another, so far as certificates are concerned.

Mr. McCullough: No, not so far as certificates are concerned, but I understand that if they hold a certificate, they can be employed in a school provided they obtain a situation. I do not think there is anything in the bill which prevents a good teacher who holds a certificate of the proper grade from getting a school, providing she can get employment.

Mr. Savage: I do not rise for the purpose of speaking particularly upon that point. I simply wish to say that I think the senator from Washington overlooks really the present purpose of this bill. While it has been stated upon the floor of the Senate that it does not go into effect until Sept. 1, 1899, that is only partially correct. It is a permissive bill, as I understand its terms, until that time. It

only becomes compulsory at that date, unless in the meantime it is modified or repealed by the Legislature which will be in session here two years from now. It merely provides the machinery by which this matter can be tried by the people, by the teachers, by the superintendents of this State. If we refer it to the next Legislature, as suggested by the senator from Washington, in two years from now we shall be practically but very little nearer the solution of the problem than we are now. It seems to me it is very happily framed, that the matter can be put in shape to be tried and not be compulsory, and if it works well in those towns and localities which choose to use it during these next two years, we shall have the benefit of their experience, we or those who succeed us, and they will be able to deal with the problem perhaps more wisely than we can. I sincerely hope that this bill will not be referred to the next Legislature.

Mr. Witham of Cumberland: I would like to inquire how large a territory will each conductor cover, more than one town, or are they county conductors?

Mr. Roberts: They are to be appointed in such central places and so near each other that no teacher will be obliged to be away from home over night.

I think the educational committee and all others who have investigated the matter have come to the conclusion that this will not work injustice toward any teacher who is well qualified to perform the work which is given her to perform. My friend, the senator from Washington, says that some of the educators in Washington county are not in favor of the bill. I would like to call his attention to the fact that 27 of the superintendents of schools in the towns of Washington have written to the educational department that they are in favor of this measure and in only seven towns in that large county have the superintendents written that they are opposed to the bill. The superintendents of schools in the city of Calais, from which my friend comes, I believe, a man who surely from his position ought to know what is required in that city and who must know what the effect of the bill would be upon the teachers of that city, writes to this department that he is in favor of this measure. The objection my friend makes is that some of the teachers are to be barred out. No teacher who is well qualified is to be barred out. No teacher who has been in the schools for years, and has won success in her calling, no teacher who has a good knowledge of the subjects which are to be taught is to be barred out. They are the ones we want there. Only those are to be barred out who are grossly ignorant of the subjects they are called upon to teach. I tell you, Mr. President, when a teacher of the public schools in the State of Maine, in writing a letter spells the word "need," "nead," it looks to me as if there was some need of a law to keep him out of the schools. In the answers made to

these questions I noticed one superintendent says, "We do not want this law. We believe our towns are qualified to manage this matter ourselves," and he spelled "matter," "mater." There is in the educational department, and the senator may see it today, a return signed by a superintendent of schools in this State (and it is not the only one), signed by a cross. There is need of something to be done. This bill is not taking the matter out of the hands of the local superintendents. The care and management and control of the schools is still in their hands. What it accomplishes is to get rid of those teachers who are grossly incompetent. The educational interests of the State demand this measure. The State superintendent of schools is pushing the work and I hope this Senate will vote to sustain and uphold him in his effort to better the common schools of this State.

Mr. Reynolds of Cumberland: I want to speak a good word for the rural districts. I am going to vote for this bill. I do not believe in the bill as it now stands, but it is one of those safe bills that you can vote for that will not hurt anyone and may do considerable good. Where you want to begin to make good teachers is to pay them for their work. Looking through the report of the State superintendent, you will find that you are paying \$3.50 to \$5 a week for teachers. I am willing this bill should stand as it now stands for two years, and then we shall be better informed and know just what we want to do. But first pay your teachers a suitable compensation.

Mr. McCullough: I want to put myself right with the Senate. As my friend, the senator from Oxford, says he has received a letter from the superintendent of schools of Calais, in which he favors the bill, I wish to read this that I received, last night, from the superintendent of schools of Calais:

"My Dear Mr. McCullough: I notice that the bill relating to examination and certificating of teachers by the State superintendent of schools comes up for its final reading, Wednesday, March 10. I believe it is not for the best interests of our schools that said bill becomes a law. It would deprive us of many valuable teachers. I am in favor of the bill as a whole, but there are features which are very objectionable and should be changed. Again, I think we are not sufficiently informed about the meaning of the bill to be ready for it. This is a matter that should be more thoroughly explained to our rural people, for they are the ones that would be benefited or injured by the passage of such a law. Respectfully yours, S. E. Webber, superintendent of schools."

Mr. McCullough here read a letter of similar tenor from the assistant superintendent of schools of Calais.

I simply wished to read these letters, in order that I may not seem to occupy a false position or assuming to have letters from our educators when I have not.

The question being upon the motion to refer to the next Legislature, Mr. McCullough withdrew the motion.

On motion by Mr. Roberts, the bill was read the second time and passed to be engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Parsons of Piscataquis, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Wednesday, March 10, 1897.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Crosby of Augusta. Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

An act to amend section 7, of chapter 249, of the Public Laws of 1893.

This bill came from the Senate amended by Senate amendment "A." The House reconsidered its vote by which this bill was passed to be engrossed as amended. Pending the adoption of Senate amendment "A" in concurrence, on motion of Mr. Burton of Union, the bill was laid on the table and Wednesday of next week was assigned for its consideration.

The following Senate bills were read and assigned:

An act to amend section 37, 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."

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

An 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.

An act to amend section 32 of chapter 63 of the Revised Statutes, relating to compensation of surviving partners.

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

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

Petitions, bills and resolves presented and referred:

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Hamilton of Biddeford—Bill an act amendatory and additional to chapter 102, of the Public Laws of 1891; bill an act to amend chapter 255, of the Public Laws of 1885.

EDUCATION.

By Mr. Smith of Hampden—Petition of N. A. Nickerson and 48 others of Orrington, for equalization of school tax.

RAILROADS, TELEGRAPHS AND EXPRESSES.

By Mr. Hathaway of Willimantic—Petition of S. J. Hughes and 75 others of Monson, for extension of charter of Skowhegan & Athens Railroad Co.

AGRICULTURE.

By Mr. Holmes of Addison—Petition of Gilbert L. Tabbutt of Columbia, and 20 others, for the enactment of a law re-

quiring the inspection of grass seed.

By Mr. Thurston of Appleton—Petition of Alden Robbins of Appleton, and 21 others, for same.

By Mr. Rounds of Paris—Petition of V. P. Decoster of Buckfield, and 16 others, for same.

By Mr. Gilman of Houlton—Petition of Ira J. Porter of Houlton, and 16 others, for same.

By Mr. Blanchard of Wilton—Petition of Sherman I. Bean of Jay, and 24 others, for same.

By Mr. Purington of Topsham—Petition of B. M. Patten of Topsham, and 21 others, for same.

By Mr. Smith of Hampden—Petition of H. W. Hammond of Hampden, and 15 others, for same.

By Mr. Pope of Manchester—Petition of Hiram Cornforth of Oakland, and 17 others, for same.

By Mr. Jones of Lincoln—Petition of Ira Barnes and 20 others of Lee, for same.

By Mr. Currier of Farmington—Petition of William P. Dean of West Farmington, and 18 others, for same.

By Mr. Briggs of Auburn—Petition of James F. Ford and 19 others, and E. H. Libby and 33 others, for same.

By Mr. Walton of Skowhegan—Petition of Ansel Holway of Skowhegan, and 172 others, for same.

By Mr. Conant of Strong—Petition of Benjamin Tarbox of Phillips, and 45 others, for same.

By Mr. Hathorn of Medford—Petition of E. G. Lovejoy and 15 others, for same.

By Mr. Burse of Pittsfield—Petition of F. S. Brown of Palmyra, and 19 others, for same.

By Mr. Martin of Liberty—Petition of B. J. Foster of Montville, and 20 others, and of William H. Moody of Liberty, and 35 others, for same.

By Mr. Brown of Milton—Petition of W. W. Rose of Canton, and 56 others, for same.

By Mr. Hathaway of Willimantic—Petition of Frank Hart of Willimantic, and 14 others, for same; of W. H. Hathaway and 18 others, for same; of W. F. Town and 10 others for same.

By Mr. Burton of Union—Petition of George M. Gordon of Union, and 33 others, for same; of 151 others for same.

By Mr. Rounds of Paris—Petition of Harrison Farrar of Paris, and 33 others, for same.

By Mr. Daggett of Smyrna—Petition of J. D. Doyle of Benedicta, and 15 others, for same.

By Mr. Andrews of Garland—Petition of L. W. Jose of Dexter, and 49 others, for same; of L. W. Jose of Dexter, and 51 others, for same.

By Mr. Bither of Linneus—Petition of Daniel M. Libby of Amity, and 21 others, for same.

By Mr. Coffin of Shapleigh—Petition of Harrison L. Strout of North Waterboro, and 56 others, for same.

By Mr. Greenleaf of Southport—Petition of H. P. Marr of Swanville, and 20 others, for the enactment of a law to regulate the sale and analysis of concentrated commercial feeding stuff.