

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

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

1897.

[This volume has no title page. The above information is supplied by the
State Law and Legislative Reference Library, based on later volumes.]

SENATE.

Thursday, March 18, 1897.

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

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Andrews of Garland.

Journal of yesterday read and approved. Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

Bill an act to amend section 8, of chapter 11 of the Revised Statutes of 1893 as now amended, relating to text books, school apparatus and repairs on school buildings.

This bill came from the House on its first reading, and on motion by Mr. Witham of Cumberland, was tabled, pending second reading.

Resolve to provide for the extinguishment the claims 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.

This resolve in the Senate passed to be engrossed, came back from the House amended by House amendments "A" and "B."

On motion by Mr. Engel, tabled pending adoption of amendments in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Savage of Androscoggin, the following order was taken from the table.

Ordered, The Senate concurring, on and after Friday, the 19th inst., two sessions shall be held daily, unless otherwise ordered, Sundays excepted, until the day of final adjournment, the afternoon session to commence at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Savage offered the following substitute:

Ordered, That on and after March 19th, the Senate and House hold two sessions daily on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and one session on Mondays and Saturdays, until otherwise ordered.

The substitute order was adopted.

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

This bill in Senate passed to be engrossed as amended by House amendment "A" and Senate amendment "A," came back from the House. Senate amendment "A" amended by House amendment "I."

The Senate reconsidered its vote passing the bill to be engrossed. House amendment "I" was adopted in concurrence and the bill passed to engrossed as amended.

Bill an act to fix the salaries of county and State officers for a period of years, came from the House referred to the committee on salaries.

On motion by Mr. Engel of Penobscot, the Senate non-concurred in the reference and the bill was laid on the table.

HOUSE BILLS READ AND ASSIGNED.

An act to amend section 67, of chapter 81, of the Revised Statutes, as amended

by chapter 107, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to attachments.

Resolve in favor of the hospital of the Sisters of Charity of Lewiston, Maine.

Resolve in favor of the Portland School for the Deaf.

Resolve in favor of the Maine Industrial School for Girls.

Resolve in favor of the town of York. House amendment "A" adopted in concurrence.

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

PUBLIC ACTS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR.

An act relating to the April term of the supreme judicial court in the county of Aroostook.

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

An act to amend chapter 30, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to liens on buildings.

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

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

An act to amend sections 7, 9 and 14 of chapter 106, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the issue and serving of venires.

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."

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

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Stearns of Aroostook—Bill an act in relation to the names of corporations.

EDUCATION.

By Mr. Roberts of Oxford—Bill an act relating to the employment of superintendents of schools.

RAILROADS.

By Mr. Merrill of Somerset—Petition of St. Albans Grange for charter for the Westbrook, Windham and Harrison Railroad Company.

SALARIES.

By Mr. Heald of Kennebec—Bill an act in reference to trustees of State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.

PLACED ON FILE.

By Mr. Merrill of Cumberland—Petition of John C. Haley and 18 others, members of Grant, Sheridan and Gurney Posts of Biddeford and Saco, in favor of the Soldiers' Home at Newport; also petitions of Carroll L. Hayes, commander, and 7 others of the E. G. Parker Post of Kittery; of Charles Goodnow and 22 others; of T. W. Harford and 16 others, soldiers residing in Old Orchard; of Hanon Hutchings and 14 others, members of G. H. Ruggles Post No. 37, at Etna; of Timothy Elliot and 13 others of Grant and Sheridan Posts, Biddeford; of James M. Fennelly, S. V. com-

mander of the department of Maine, G. A. R., and commander of the James M. Parker Post No. 105, and 8 others, of Bar Harbor; of John H. Wyman, commander, and 41 others of Russell Post Skowhegan; of Charles Harris and 67 others, soldiers and sailors of Saco and Biddeford; of Ira C. Jordan and 9 others of Brown Post No. 34, of Bethel; of members of Bates Post No. 58, of Norridgewock; of Henry F. Davis and 37 others of G. H. Ruggles Post and Relief Corps; of Roscoe G. Holmes and 14 others of the N. W. Mitchell Post No. 80, of West Newfield, for the same.

By Mr. Roberts of Oxford—Petition of D. E. Ellis and others of J. H. Morgan Post of Guilford, for the same.

By Mr. Merrill of Somerset—Petition of F. M. Roberts and 50 others, members of the G. A. R. of Newport, for the same.

By Mr. Poor of Oxford—Petition of Henry W. Colby and others of Joseph Colby Post No. 41 of Rumford, for the same.

By Mr. Reynolds of Cumberland—Remonstrance of Geo. H. Libby and 98 others against the appropriation for the Soldiers' Home in Maine.

RE-REFERRED.

On request by Mr. Reynolds of Cumberland, the Senate granted unanimous consent to take from the table the report of the committee on legal affairs, reporting ought not to pass, 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."

On motion by Mr. Reynolds the bill was re-referred to the committee.

READ AND ASSIGNED.

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

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."

Resolve in favor of heirs of John Robertson.

Resolve in favor of summer training schools for teachers and the distribution of educational documents.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Clason for the committee on legal affairs, to which was referred the order of the Legislature relating to having bells attached to horses drawing teams with wheels after dark, reported legislation inexpedient.

The following members of the committee on judiciary, to which was referred the resolve concerning an amendment to the constitution forbidding the appropriation of money raised by taxation for sectarian or ecclesiastical purposes, reported that the same ought to pass: Messrs. Savage, Drummond, Knowlton, Hamilton and Smith. The following members reported ought not to pass on

the same: Messrs. Stearns, Philbrook, Weeks and Fogler.

Pending the acceptance of either report, on motion by Mr. Savage, the reports with accompanying resolve were laid on the table to be printed.

Mr. Stearns for the committee on judiciary, reported ought to pass, bill an act to amend section 6, of chapter 132, of the Public Laws of 1891, relating to punishment for intoxication. Report accepted and tabled for printing under rule.

Mr. Stearns for the same committee, reported ought not to pass, bill an act to protect assignees. Report accepted.

Mr. Stearns for the same committee, to which was referred the order of the Legislature referring to the expediency of the change in the name and title of the serving of writs, reported legislation inexpedient. Report accepted.

Mr. Clason for the committee on legal affairs, reported ought not to pass, bill an act to punish the commission of loud noises in dwelling houses. Report accepted.

Mr. Chamberlain for the committee on sea and shore fisheries, to which was referred the petition of J. M. Powers and others from the last Legislature, asking for a close time in clams in Deer Isle, Sedgewick, Brooklin, and act accompanying, reported legislation inexpedient. Report accepted.

Mr. Chamberlain for the same committee, to which was referred the petition of John H. Leavitt and others relating to taking of clams at Scarborough, with act accompanying, reported legislation inexpedient. Report accepted.

Mr. Chamberlain for the same committee, reported legislation inexpedient on bill an act to regulate the taking of clams in the towns of Georgetown and Phippsburg. On motion by Mr. Ferguson of Sagadahoc, tabled pending acceptance of report.

Mr. Wyman for the same committee, to which was referred the report of the commissioners appointed to investigate, revise and simplify the laws relating to sea and shore fisheries, reported ought to pass, bill, in new draft, an act to revise and consolidate the public laws relating to sea and shore fisheries. Print under rule.

Mr. Merrill for the committee on agriculture, reported ought to pass, resolve in favor of the Maine State cattle commissioner. Print under rule.

Mr. Reynolds for the committee on agriculture, to which was referred the order of the Legislature relating to the standard weight of a bushel of parsnips, reported ought to pass, bill an act to establish the standard weight of a bushel of parsnips. Print under rule.

Mr. Walls for the committee on military affairs, reported ought to pass, resolve providing for uniforms, camp and garrison equipage for Co. M, 1st Regiment, and Co. M, 2d Regiment. Print under rule.

Mr. Hurd for the committee on banks and banking, reported ought to pass, bill

an act to incorporate the South Portland Trust and Banking Co. Print under rule.

Mr. Pike for the committee on towns, to which was referred the petition of William Thompson and others, praying that certain islands may be set off from the town of Jonesport and annexed to the town of Roque Bluff, reported that the same be referred to the next Legislature. Report accepted.

Mr. Roberts for the committee on library, to which was referred the report of the librarian of the Maine State Library for the years 1895 and 1896, reported that the same be accepted. Report of committee accepted. Report of librarian accepted.

(Mr. Walls of Knox in the chair.)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

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

These bills came up on their first reading, and on motion by Mr. Engel of Penobscot, the rules were suspended, the bills read the second time and passed to be engrossed.

An act to amend chapter 102, of the Public Laws of 1891, as amended by chapter 267, of the Public Laws of 1893, entitled "An act to provide for the printing and distributing ballots at the public expense and to regulate voting for State and city elections."

An act entitled 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 Searsport Water Co.

Resolve in favor of building a bridge over the Daigle brook in the town of Van Buren, in county of Aroostook.

Resolve in favor of the town of Cutler for repairs on highways and bridges.

An act additional to chapter 101, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to the inspection of buildings.

An act relating to and amendatory of chapter 213, Special Laws of 1891, entitled "An act to incorporate the York Light and Heat Co."

An act relating to and amendatory of chapter 29, Special Laws of 1897, entitled "An act to incorporate the Kennebec Light and Heat Co."

An act to amend section 34, of chapter 3, of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 166, of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to the duties of municipal officers.

An act in relation to suits for taxes.

An act relating to chapter 320, of the Private and Special Laws of 1895, entitled "An act to incorporate the Kennebec Railroad Co."

An act to amend sections 6 and 8, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the endorsements of writs.

An act additional to and to extend the charter of the Cumberland Illuminating Co.

An act to repeal chapter 463, of the Private and Special Laws of 1885, relating to the taking of bass in Winnegance creek.

An act to incorporate the Lewiston Trust and Safe Deposit Co.

An act to abate the court taxes assessed on Lang plantation since its organization and now remaining unpaid.

An act to increase the efficiency of the local board of health of the town of Eden.

An act to amend section 33, of chapter 6, of the Revised Statutes, relating to taxes on stock of banks and other corporations.

An act to repeal chapter 197, of the Private and Special Laws of 1895, relating to taking of fish in Marble brook and pond.

An act to amend section 8, of chapter 396, of the Private and Special Laws of 1893, as amended by chapter 204, of the Private and Special Laws of 1895, relating to the charter of the Deer Isle Telephone Co.

An act to incorporate the Old Town Gas Light and Power Co.

An act to amend chapter 353, of the Private and Special Laws of 1889, relating to the Bluehill Water Co.

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

An act to repeal chapter 246, of the Private and Special Laws of 1895, entitled "An act to prevent the use of narrow-rimmed wheels on Greenfield road in the town of Greenbush."

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

This bill was given its second reading. Mr. Roberts of Oxford, offered the following amendment: Insert before the word "ornamentation" in the sixth and 14th lines, the words "profit or. Amendment adopted and bill passed to be engrossed as amended."

PASSED TO BE ENACTED.

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

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

An act to incorporate the Franklin, Somerset & Kennebec Railway Co.

An act to provide for the retirement of members of the fire department of the city of Portland upon half pay.

An act to repeal chapter 580, of the Private and Special Laws of 1868, and chapter 65, of the Private and Special Laws of 1878, relating to Swett's pond, Field's pond and Brewer pond, in Orrington.

Resolve in aid of Wiscasset bridge.

TABLED.

On motion by Mr. Savage of Androscoggin, bill an act to incorporate the York Sewer Co., tabled by him pending second reading, was taken from the table, read the second time and passed to be engrossed.

Bill an act to amend chapter 214, of the Private and Special Laws of 1883, entitled "An act to incorporate the Penobscot River Dam and Improvement Co., as amended by chapter 74, of the Private and Special Laws of 1887, and by chapter 462, of the Private and Special Laws of 1889, and by chapter 620, of the Private and Special Laws of 1893, came up on its second reading and was tabled pending second reading on motion by Mr. Savage of Androscoggin.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Bill an act authorizing the insurance commissioner to revoke the license of an insurance agent or broker was taken from the table on motion by Mr. Engel of Penobscot, read the second time and passed to be engrossed.

SOLDIERS' HOME IN MAINE.

Resolve in favor of the Soldiers' Home in Maine.

This resolve, tabled by Mr. Billings of Waldo, pending concurrent action with the House in the indefinite postponement of the same, came up by special assignment.

Mr. Morrill of Cumberland, moved to non-concur with the House. The Senate so voted and the vote was doubted by Mr. Walls of Knox.

Mr. Morrill: Mr. President, this resolve in favor of the Soldiers' Home in Maine, calls for our careful consideration. When it came before the pension committee, we each one of us had the same prejudice against it that exists in the minds of some of the G. A. R. members at the present time, and it arises from a falling out between the State and National Relief Corps. When the wives fall out it makes their husbands disagree so they lose sight of the real issue in the case.

The committee advertised a hearing and listened to the evidence in favor of the Home, but no one appeared in opposition. The committee had a desire to see the place where the present Home is located, so they went to Newport and found it to be about 2½ miles from Newport Depot on the Dexter Railroad, and it was the unanimous opinion of the committee that it was a very suitable place for such a purpose, with good land for gardening, good drainage, and as fine scenery as is seldom seen in Maine.

There seems to be only two things to be considered in this case—humanity and finance. Now I say that there are cases where some of the old soldiers and their wives and children are not receiving the care and attention that is their due, and in accordance with the law of the State. The amounts furnished some of them would not be very acceptable to the average member of the Maine Legislature,

were they to be put in their places. It is perfectly natural to try and keep down the pauper bills, and that desire sometimes goes too far for the actual necessities of those in want. This Home is not for persons who have good homes, but for extreme cases. This is a large State, and more extreme cases of poverty brought on by old age and infirmity will be found than we may imagine. There will be no one obliged to go unless he chooses, so there will be no compulsion about it, as some have stated. It does seem to me that it places the old soldier in a position that was not contemplated in 1861 to 1865—that when he grew old he should go to a National Home without his wife, or live with her in a destitute home, as is too often furnished. Beside the soldier and his wife, the crippled, helpless sons and daughters have to be supported in the several towns and cities, often at quite an expense. There is one young lady in the Home at Newport who has to be wheeled about in her chair, and cannot walk, or feed herself.

I tell you, gentlemen, these affairs are worthy of our consideration. Old age, disease, poverty, bring changes of mind, less friends and cooler ones.

Now let us consider the financial part. If only two per cent. of the old soldiers, their wives, dependent children and aged mothers go to this home, there will be quite a goodly number. I noticed in the history of the Wisconsin State Home that they commenced on the cottage plan with a few houses, and have since largely increased the number and all are well filled, so it appears to be satisfactory in that State. All the states but six have a State Home, so they have the help of the United States government to the extent of \$100 per year for each soldier or sailor supported in these homes. According to the inspector's report on State Homes, it costs \$250 for each two persons supported. Each soldier or sailor in most cases, turns in two-thirds of his United States pension, and to that should be added his State pension. Soldiers or sailors poor enough to be admitted to this home, would not be drawing less than six dollars at the present time. I know this plant will cost something now for house rent, if proper rent is provided. We hear it said that it is too late to re-establish this home. Perhaps it is a little late but it will be quite a number of years before the last old soldier and his wife and dependent children will pass over the river.

I was glad to hear the young men in the House state that if the G. A. R. wanted this State Home, it would be their pleasure to vote for it. I have never had any fear of falling into the hands of the young men of the State and would not fear to appear before a Legislature composed wholly of men under 30 years of age who remember nothing of the war, and ask for help for myself or comrades, or those dependent upon me for support. Now how is it with the G. A. R. men and soldiers that are not G. A. R. men? As near as can be ascertained less than one

half of the old soldiers in this State belong to the G. A. R. There does seem to be a difference in opinion. The vote of the House shows that, but it does seem as though some of the G. A. R. men in the House after thinking the matter over must have changed their minds by this time. And suppose one half of the G. A. R. men were opposed, how would it be with the soldiers not belonging to the posts? As a rule they are the poorest half, have either been expelled for non-payment of dues or are too poor to join any post. Now among this class will be found the men that will be looking for this act to pass, but have no chance to express their views as the posts do. I have noticed that poor men sign these petitions more freely than men of means with good homes.

I do not expect any man in this State government from the Governor down to the smallest official to rise and say he wants to go to such a place, I have no desire to go at present but there may come a time to me, when there will be a difference in opinion about how much I shall eat, how many clothes and how much fire it will take to keep me warm, and if I do not concur I can take my wife by the hand and go to Newport and then the town will have a rest and the municipal officers will not exceed the appropriation on my account and get turned down in the March election.

In the year 1895, the posts in this State paid out of their funds for their poor comrades and their families, the amount of \$3429. A great many of the old soldiers of the State will be taxed to help pay the bills and among them can be found some of the heaviest taxpayers. If I am correct there were 13 Grand Army men who voted for this bill and four against it—not a very strong opposition. In the cities where there has been a large increase in wealth and population it would be cheaper for them to support their own old soldiers, their wives and those dependent upon them, than it would to vote for the Newport Home. In the rural districts from which a larger percentage of the old soldiers went to the war, they naturally came back and drifted into the same localities. I submit to you gentlemen, that it was important in the war that these men should go from the rural districts to try to uphold the government and the people who live in our large cities are equally holden to help support these old and dependent soldiers who have no homes. So far as petitions are concerned, I am satisfied that if this matter had been started three weeks ago and every post in the State had been consulted, we should have such a flood of petitions in here that it would take half a day to look them over—I have had various letters urging the passage of this resolve. It may be said that it is not the financial policy of the State to establish a Soldiers' Home. In other states that have Soldiers' Homes they pay a state pension and if I am not mis-

informed, the state of Massachusetts pays out \$500,000 a year. Twenty-six states in this union at the present time have State Homes. And I think that if all the old soldiers were here today, and a vote were taken, nine out of ten of them would vote in favor of this home. I hope that this resolve will receive a passage.

Mr. Reynolds of Cumberland: I am not going to trouble the Senate with a speech but I wish simply to present a remonstrance which I received last night from my city. "The ex-soldiers and sailors of the late war, living in Portland and vicinity, fully believing that the measure or resolve now before the Legislature, asking for an appropriation of \$15,000 for the purpose of erecting a building at Newport, Maine, for the purpose of founding what is to be known as the Newport Soldiers' Home, is uncalled for and not desired by the majority of the veterans of Maine. And fully believing that our beneficent State pension law allowing specific pensions to the needy applicant, works better for the veteran and his family and allows him to live and die among his kindred and friends at home, we do therefore most earnestly protest against such movement and most earnestly hope that the above mentioned measure or resolve may be indefinitely postponed." It is headed by ex-Governor Robie, Gen. Francis Fessenden, Gen. Maddocks, Major H. S. Melcher, George H. Libby, and about 95 others—men who represent all walks of life and all shades of political belief. And I think they are most of them members of the Grand Army.

Mr. Billings of Waldo: Mr. President, in reply to the remonstrance which comes to us from Portland, I have this to say in explanation. I have no axe to grind in this matter and what I say comes from the heart that beats in sympathy with the men who were my comrades from 1862 to 1864 in the war of the Rebellion. When this idea of establishing a Home for a certain class of veterans was started, there were at that time two Relief Corps in this State—one National and one State. The State Corps had its origin in Portland and it is a fact that wherever these corps are established, the posts, most of them, entertain the same ideas. It was desired on the part of the State Corps to have a Home located at Deering. You can see from that point where the hostility to this measure commenced. It was carried into our State Corps and was lost at Skowhegan. From that very post comes a remonstrance of some 14 or more, but at the same time there is a petition coming from there of more than three to one, asking for the appropriation for this Home. We have here presented petitions from almost every section of the State. The committee on pensions advertised their hearing in the State paper and other papers all over the State, in order that the people from other vicinities might know what was going on here. Yet from Portland they

are coming in, today, saying that they never knew of such a movement going on here. If there is such a movement that is going to draw from the State treasury, why have they not investigated this matter before this late hour? Previous to this there has not been a remonstrance, not a word. I have full faith and confidence in the members of this Senate to vote their convictions, whether for the Home or against it. The matter was in such condition when it came before the committee that the committee said: "We will not recommend an appropriation for it, unless it is lifted out and above this quarrel." They went to work to do it. They lifted it out and placed it in the hands of the Governor and Council, and if we vote an appropriation, the Governor and Council are the ones who will have it under control in conjunction with the other parties who are interested in the Home. I am not advocating a place where loafers and idlers can go and get a living. We ask this appropriation for the support of a Home that is intended to benefit those who need it, those who ought to have it, those men whom I have seen stand between treason and loyalty before the bullet and the cannon,—for what? For your homes and for your nation. When the State of Maine appropriates \$1 for that institution, then every male member will have \$100 appropriated by the general government, and when a man goes there for a home, a certain proportion of his pension shall go for his support. When the general government accepts it as a proper shelter for these men who are poor and cold and needy and ready to die, then we can get this appropriation which I speak of. When the Home is once established we shall have but very little expense to look after, and in 20 years these men will pass away and this whole property, farm and all, will revert to the State. The argument comes up that the majority of the Grand Army men are not in favor of this measure. Well, sir, there are sporadic cases over the State where they are not in sympathy. But in nine cases out of 10 it is because they do not understand the principle upon which it is founded. And when they come to understand the principle, they become in favor of it. The Grand Army does not represent all the veterans in the State. There are only 8000 to 9000 Grand Army men in the State, while there are nearly 16,000 veterans, and these latter are the men for whom we stand and plead, today. They are too poor in many cases to belong to the G. A. R.; they are unable to pay their dues. Is it possible that there is any man here in this Senate who desires that a man who stood true and honored the flag and who fought for the integrity of this country, should end his days in the poorhouse or something that is equivalent to it? Two years ago, there were 2155 Grand Army men who petitioned for this Home. There were citizens at that time that petitioned the Legislature to the number of 3546, then there was the Relief Corps,

making the number of all the petitioners here, 6313, and this interest is not confined to any one section of the State, but is broad and deep. I am sorry that some of the Grand Army men of this Senate, men who are true as steel, men who marched to the front and whom I respect from the bottom of my heart, are not in sympathy with this movement, but they vote their convictions and I stand and plead for mine. I am pleading for those who are not capable of standing before you and presenting their own case, for the men who went upon the field of battle and made the shackles fall from 4,000,000 slaves as if touched with the breath of the Almighty, for those men who made the rebel states honor and respect the flag under which we live. The loyal heart of Maine, I believe, beats, today, in sympathy with the oppressed. When your comrades fell on the field of battle, did you not, when bullets were flying around you and you exposed your life, take that beloved comrade and carry him in your arms to a place of safety? Here in the battle of life these men are falling. Shall we not take them up in our arms and carry them to a place of rest, so that when their sun of life is fast declining below the western horizon, it shall go down in transparent twilight and not in darkness and storm?

Let us disagree with the House. We ask you to put that question back there again, for I believe as firmly as I believe that I stand here, today, that the House will reverse its decision on the question.

Mr. Walls of Knox: Mr. President, I feel that I have a right and a duty to perform here today. The reason that I object to this is because I do not believe it is for the best interests of the soldiers who need the help. I believe that a man who has lived in a town, raised his family there and lived among his friends there can be a happier man to remain there than he can be to be transported over there beside that beautiful lake in the wilderness of Maine, cold in the winter and hot in the summer. What is for the best interests of the soldier and the State, who is to take care of them today, with the assistance of the government? This committee has recommended a sum of money, some \$75,000, to be distributed all over this State. The soldiers receive their portion of it, and it goes out so that the citizens of the whole State receive the benefit of it. One of the reasons why the State can better afford to do it is because they are receiving in part a compensation, as well as the deserving one is receiving. If you put your money into this institution, with all its fixtures and paraphernalia, and are they going to get the blessings, in proportion to the money that is given them? Who is to take charge of this institution? They have got to have discipline over there, and these people who are among their own friends can go when they please and do what they can for their own support, if they go to this institution, will have to be under a strict government, of

necessity. If the money that is raised by this State for pensions for these men and their families is not enough, then give them all they should have. Who asks for this thing? Is it a universal feeling of the Grand Army that they want these particular arrangements made for the future care of those that are in distress, or is it a scheme started for a purpose I will not mention? One thing has been stated that I do not understand, that men who are poor cannot belong to the G. A. R. Gentlemen, there is not a soldier in the State of Maine that has a particle of manhood in him but can belong to any post in this State, without one single dollar of dues. If there is such a post as that in the State, I hope they cannot exist for 24 hours. The old soldier is not driven out because he cannot pay his dues, but he has a right to join the G. A. R. or not, as he pleases. This matter was up two years ago, and those who were in for it went to the committee and said, "We will go to the State department, and if they say they want it, we will come back to you; if they say that they do not want it, we will not come back to you." Gentlemen, they came back just the same, after that resolve was voted down largely, and said it had no meaning and amounted to nothing. Soldiers who are living in the precincts where these posts are, who do not belong to the G. A. R., receive the same tender care from the hands of the G. A. R. and Relief Corps as the members themselves receive. Every soldier receives their true sympathy in the days of his sickness, and when on his death bed, where can he receive true sympathy more than in his own family, where his own daughter and those who have been dear to him all his life can minister to his needs and come in and bring all those little things that make life pass away as pleasantly as it can under those circumstances? Will that Newport home afford all this? The thing means well, but is it for the best interests of the soldier, his wife or mother or dependent children? The next year after the voting down of the resolution to which I have referred, the department commander, as he had a right and a duty to do, relative that as well as to other matters, went before the department and gave an address, from which I will read an extract:

"Many of our most prominent comrades believe that it is infinitely better that the veterans shall be cared for in their declining years in their own homes, rather than to take them in their old age and infirmities to new scenes and surroundings, to form new friends and acquaintances away from home. Many believe that if such a home was established, it would be able to accommodate but a very small percentage of those who would be entitled to its benefits," etc.

I am satisfied that the Grand Army men of this State are ready and willing to do justice to every comrade and his dependents. I tell you, gentlemen, give me a

home near my friends, a home, though it may be humble, where I can be surrounded by those who will care for me, rather than to put me in a place where the stranger is going to care for me, where the superintendent is going to inform me what I have got to do and what I cannot do. I think we shall be doing the soldier the most good to have him supported there, than to send him over to Newport. I hope the Senate will concur with the House in the action they have taken.

Mr. Billings: I wish to read a letter to disabuse my comrade's mind about this Home at Newport, a letter from one of the inmates of that institution, a soldier's daughter, whose father has died:

"Dear Sir: As a member of the Home, I am naturally feeling anxious as to the result of the action in the Senate, tomorrow, giving the Soldiers' Home at Newport an appropriation. It is a matter in which I am deeply interested. It has been my home for many months, and I certainly hope it may continue to be while I live, for here I am contented and happy, receiving all the kindly care my helpless condition makes necessary. My little pension of \$8 a month, while a God-send, in itself would not pay for the care that I now receive among strangers. I am the daughter of a soldier and now I have no home but this. I know you are interested, and I wish you to know how closely and intensely we are waiting the discussion upon the resolve for our home at Newport."

That is a letter from one of "those unfortunate people" that had to go to Newport for a home.

Mr. Morrill: Mr. President, there have been some remarks made about the restraint that one would be under at this Home. I think if I lived in a place where the municipal officers did not supply my wants and requirements, I should like a new boss, and I should try it and see how it worked. In regard to men being expelled from G. A. R. posts for non-payment of dues, that has been practiced right along since its organization until very recently, when their dues have been remitted. If the soldier has a home, I am willing that he should be supported in it, but if they fail to provide a proper home where he can be reasonably supported, that is the man we want to care for. As to the petitions, I did not have a roster of the posts, but I wrote to several posts, sending them a copy of this resolve. Every one but two responded, and those are in Aroostook county. Now if all these people were properly provided for and actually received the amount demanded from the State pension agent, do you suppose that \$75,000 would fill the bill? It would call for nearer \$200,000.

Mr. Morrill read a letter from I. S. Bangs, past commander of the G. A. R. of Maine, urging the importance of the resolve and expressing the hope that it might pass.

Mr. Grindle of Hancock, spoke as a member of the committee which reported

the resolve. They had carefully examined into this matter, investigating the work of the Home, receiving no evidence and hearing no dissenting voice against it. I believe every member of this body is a true friend of the soldier and is willing to do anything for him, if he is in need of help. I fully believe that the design and object of the Home is worthy and noble and deserving of an appropriation from the State for its support.

On motion by Mr. Morrill, the yeas and nays were ordered.

Yeas—Billings, Clason, Engel, Grindle, Hinkley, Merrill, Morrill, Parsons, Poor, Reynolds, Roberts, Salley, Stearns, Weeks, Witham, Wyman.—16.

Nay—Chamberlain, Hargraves, Heald, Hurd, Maxwell, McCullough, Pike, Reynolds, Savage, Sharp, Walls.—11.

Absent—Drummond, Ferguson, Simpson.—3.

And 16 voting in the affirmative and 11 in the negative, the Senate voted to non-concur with the House in the indefinite postponement of the resolve.

The resolve was then given its first reading and tomorrow assigned.

Bill an act for the registration of guides and collecting statistics relative to inland fish and game, came up by special assignment. Consent being given by Mr. Hinkley, upon whose motion the bill was assigned, Mr. Savage of Androscoggin, moved that the matter be re-assigned for tomorrow morning, and the Senate so voted.

On motion by Mr. Merrill of Somerset, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Thursday, March 18, 1897.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Cochran of Gardiner.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Resolve in favor of the town of Hollis, came from the Senate amended by Senate amendment "A."

On motion of Mr. Smith of Presque Isle, the bill and amendment were laid on the table pending the adoption of the amendment.

Resolve in favor of the trustees of the State college of agriculture and mechanic arts.

In Senate the Senate non-concurred in the House amendment, amended the bill and passed it to be engrossed. The House reconsidered the vote whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed as amended and the vote whereby it adopted the House amendment, the Senate amendment was adopted and the resolve was passed to be engrossed as amended.

An act to regulate the packing of sardines.

In Senate amended by Senate amendments "A" and "B." The House reconsidered the vote whereby this bill as amended was passed to be engrossed, Senate amendments "A" and "B" were

adopted, and the bill was passed to be engrossed as amended.

Report of the committee on insurance, was laid on the table on motion of Mr. Smith of Presque Isle, pending the acceptance of the report.

The following Senate bills were read and assigned:

An act relating to the holding of terms of the supreme judicial court in Franklin county.

An act to provide for procuring statistics relating to the poultry industry in Maine.

An act relating to the duties of the board of agriculture.

Senate amendment "A" was adopted and the bill as amended assigned for tomorrow.

On motion of Mr. Rodick of Eden, the vote was reconsidered whereby bill to regulate the packing of sardines was passed to be engrossed, and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was laid on the table pending its passage to be engrossed.

Order relating to two sessions daily on and after Friday, March 19th, which was passed by this House on the 16th inst., returned from the Senate amended.

The amendment was adopted and the order received a passage in concurrence as amended.

Petitions, bills and resolves, presented and referred.

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Burse of Pittsfield—Bill an act to legalize the proceedings by which Palmyra Grange, number 316, was organized.

By Mr. Hamilton of Biddeford—Bill an act to amend section 13 of chapter 146 of the Public Laws of 1893, as amended by chapters 96 and 124 of the Public Laws of 1875.

By Mr. Gowell of Berwick—Bill 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.

ORDERS.

On motion of Mr. Longley of Oldtown, Ordered, that the House concurring, that L. O. Dudley be excused from further attendance at this Legislature and that his pay be made up to the end of the session.

On motion of Mr. Longley of Searsport.

Ordered, that B. G. Hurd be excused from further attendance at this session on and after tomorrow, the 19th inst., and that the clerk be instructed to make up his pay to the end of the session.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Bither for the committee on agriculture, reported ought not to pass on bill an act to amend an act entitled an act to extirpate contagious diseases among cattle.

Mr. Nason for the committee on sea and