

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

1899.

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HOUSE.

Wednesday, March 8, 1899.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Peckham of Hallowell.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

The following Senate bills and resolves were read and assigned:

Resolve in reference to Yorks deeds.

Bill an act to amend Section 13 of Chapter 64 of the Revised Statutes as amended by Chapter 51 of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to probate of foreign wills.

Bill an act to prevent immoral exhibitions.

Bill an act to amend Section 7 of Chapter 11 of the Revised Statutes relating to the duties of the Governor and Council in regard to payment to towns of State school fund and mill tax.

Resolve for the purchase of the Maine State Year Book and Legislative Manual for the years 1899 and 1900.

Bill an act to fix the salary of the judge and register of probate for the county of Oxford.

Resolve in favor of Potter Academy of Sebago.

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

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Merrill of Skowhegan—Remonstrance of L. W. Weston and 15 others of Skowhegan, against the repeal of section 2, chapter 27, of Revised Statutes, relating to victualors and inn holders.

Bill an act to establish a municipal court in the town of Skowhegan.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

By Mr. Farrell of Van Buren—Bill an act to amend section 8, of chapter 115, of the Revised Statutes, relative to the compensation of members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

RAILROADS, TELEGRAPHS AND EXPRESSES.

By Mr. Hill of Belfast—Petition of R. H. Moody and 51 others of Belfast, in favor of an act requiring railroad corporations to issue mileage books, good for bearer at a rate not exceeding two cents per mile.

By Mr. Carr of Old Town—Remonstrance of H. W. Day and 59 others of

Bangor, in opposition to the anti-scalping bill.

By Mr. Davis of Brownville—Remonstrance of Amos P. Bradbury and 14 others of Old Town, against same.

TOWNS.

By Mr. Jordan of Lisbon—Petition of B. P. Snow and 20 others of Yarmouth, for the setting off of Ocean Park from the town of Old Orchard and annexing the same to the city of Saco.

PLACED ON FILE.

By Mr. Daigle of Madawaska—Remonstrance of Germain Berube and others of Caswell Plantation against the moving of the northern Aroostook registry of deeds from Madawaska to Fort Kent.

ORDERS.

On motion of Mr. Donham of Hebron,

Ordered, That a committee of two be appointed by the Speaker to act with such additions as may be made by the Senate to attend to the work of editing the report of the exercises held by the State government in memory of the late Hon. Nelson Dingley.

The Speaker announced as the committee on the part of the House, Messrs. Donham of Hebron, Harris of Auburn.

On motion of Mr. Manley of Augusta,

Ordered, That the committee on ways and means be and they are hereby instructed to ascertain and report to the House the rate necessary for the assessment of the State tax for the years 1899 and 1900.

On motion of Mr. Spurr of Otisfield,

Ordered, That John R. Hughes of Amity be excused from further attendance on this House on and after March 10 and the clerk be instructed to make up his pay in full to the end of the session.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Philbrook from the committee on the judiciary, reported ought to pass on bill an act to abolish the common council of the city of Waterville.

Mr. Chase from the committee on legal affairs, reported ought to pass on bill "An act to amend chapter 33, section 1 of the Public Laws of 1887, relating to the burial of soldiers."

Mr. Sanborn from same committee, reported same on bill "An act to amend chapter 226 of the Private and Special Laws of 1849 as amended by chapter

502 of the Private and Special Laws of 1852, relating to the free bridge across Salt Pond in Bluehill."

Same gentleman from same committee, reported ought to pass in new draft under same title, bill "An act to incorporate the Freeport Village Corporation."

Mr. Morey from same committee, reported ought to pass in new draft under same title, bill "An act to renew and extend the charter of the Buckfield Water Company."

Mr. Bird from the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses on bill "An act amendatory of the charter of Westbrook, Windham and Harrison Railway Company and to extend the same, reported ought to pass in new draft under same title, bill "An act to amend the charter of the Westbrook, Windham and Harrison Railway Company, to extend the same and to change the name of said company."

Mr. Powers from the committee on financial affairs, on resolve in favor of Francis Keefe, in payment of witnesses', magistrates' and officers' fees and other disbursements made by him in the Kittery and Eliot contested election case reported "ought to pass," resolve in favor of Frances Keefe in part payment of witnesses', magistrates' and officers' fees and disbursements made by him in the Kittery and Eliot contested election case.

Mr. Webster from the committee on education reported ought to pass in new draft under same title resolve in favor of West Lebanon Academy.

Mr. Burns from same committee reported ought to pass on resolve in favor of North Yarmouth Academy.

Mr. Jordan from the committee on taxation reported ought to pass on resolve in favor of Joshua Gray of Gardiner, and William D. Snow of Skowhegan.

Mr. Burns from the committee on education on order relating to insuring Normal and Training school buildings reported resolve in favor of the trustees of the State Normal school.

Mr. Brown from the committee on military affairs reported ought to pass on resolve in relation to re-equipping the National Guard.

Mr. Garcelon from the committee on interior waters on bill an act to authorize the city of Lewiston to take water

for domestic purposes reported ought to pass in new draft bill an act to authorize the city of Lewiston to take water for municipal and domestic purposes.

Mr. Philbrook from the committee on the judiciary reported ought not to pass on bill an act to amend Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 119 of the Revised Statutes relating to offences against habitations and other buildings.

Mr. Sanborn from the committee on legal affairs on bill an act to make the prohibitory law more effective in the State of Maine reported that same be referred to the next Legislature.

Same gentleman from same committee reported ought not to pass on bill an act to amend Section 17 of Chapter 18 of the Revised Statutes.

Mr. Chase from same committee reported same on bill an act to amend Section 23 of Chapter 285 of the Acts and Resolves of 1897.

Mr. Morey from same committee on order to inquire into the expediency of amending the laws relating to tramps reported legislation inexpedient for the reason that a bill has been reported by the judiciary committee to the House touching same subject matter.

Mr. Jordan from the committee on taxation reported ought not to pass on bill an act in relation to taxes assessed on timber and grass on reserved lands for years 1887 to 1896 both inclusive.

Mr. Brown from the committee on military affairs on petition of Young Men's Christian Association of Maine that they be reimbursed for amount expended for soldiers in the late war with Spain reported that the petition be referred to the Governor and Council.

Same gentleman from same committee reported same on resolves in favor of the cities of Portland, Lewiston, Westbrook, Deering, Rockland, Gardiner, Old Town and Augusta, also the towns of Brunswick, Otisfield, Lisbon and Dresden for reimbursement for amounts expended for needy families of soldiers in the late war with Spain.

Same gentleman from same committee reported same on resolve in favor of Rev. C. S. Cummings, chaplain of the 1st Regiment National Guard.

Same gentleman from same committee reported same on resolve in favor of the city of Gardiner to reimburse it for the amount of money expended, in the aid of Private Charles L. Rice, Battery C, 1st Maine Heavy Artillery.

Same gentleman from same committee reported ought not to pass on resolve in favor of the city of Bath to re-imburse it for the amount of money expended in equipping a Volunteer Naval Reserve.

Mr. Farrell from the committee on interior waters reported leave to withdraw on petition of George G. Cunliff and others that a charter to improve the Allagash river be granted them.

Mr. Carr from same committee reported ought not to pass on bill an act to incorporate the Old Town Navigation Company.

Mr. King from committee on interior waters on petition reported bill an act to incorporate the St. Croix Water Power Company.

Same gentleman from same committee reported ought to pass in new draft under same title bill an act granting the Dennysville Lumber Company additional rights.

Same gentleman from same committee reported ought to pass in new draft under same title resolve for improvement of Songo and Chute rivers.

Mr. Weed from the committee on inland fisheries and game on bill an act relating to the taking of salmon, during open season, with drift nets on the East Branch of the Penobscot river reported ought to pass in new draft bill an act pertaining to the taking of salmon in the Penobscot river above the Water Works dam at Bangor.

The reports were accepted and bills and resolves ordered printed under joint rules.

READ AND ASSIGNED.

Bill an act to prevent the killing of tern.

Read the third time and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules on motion by Mr. Philbrook of Waterville.

Bill an act to authorize the Franklin and Somerset Land and Lumber Company to hold the stock and bonds of the South Branch Improvement Company.

Read the third time and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the

rules on motion by Mr. Spofford of New Sharon.

Resolve in favor of the North Berwick Agricultural Association.

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Bill an act to amend section 3, of chapter 216, Public Laws of 1893, as amended by chapter 295, Public Laws of 1897, relating to discontinuing schools and conveying school children.

Bill an act to amend chapter 282, of the Laws of 1889, relating to railroad crossings.

Bill an act to amend section 196, of chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 5, of chapter 70 of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to the sale of real estate for non-payment of taxes.

Bill an act to amend section 2, of chapter 80, of the Revised Statutes, relating to sheriffs and their deputies.

Bill an act giving mortgagees a lien for costs of foreclosure under section 5, of chapter 90, of Revised Statutes.

Bill an act to amend section 14, of chapter 63, of the Revised Statutes relating to registers of probate.

Bill an act amendatory of and additional to chapter 143, of the Revised Statutes, relating to the Insane hospital.

Resolve in favor of Summer Training Schools for Teachers and the distribution of educational documents.

Resolve in favor of soldiers of the Spanish war who received medical treatment at their homes.

Resolve in favor of the Ignace Blais.

Resolve in favor of Pennell institute.

Resolve to repair the Forks bridge in the Forks Plantation, Somerset county.

Resolve providing for the payment to the city of Eastport, the amount deducted from said city's proportion of the school fund, for the year 1898, on account of imperfect school return.

Resolve in favor of the town of Canton.

Resolve in favor of settling lots in Drew plantation.

Resolve in favor of Hartland academy.

Resolve in favor of Parsonfield seminary, Parsonfield, Maine.

Resolve in favor of Madawaska Training school.

Resolve in favor of Normal school trustees.

Resolve in favor of State Normal schools.

Resolve to reimburse Daniel S. Chadbourn for repairs on breakwater at Mattawamkeag bridge.

Resolve to reimburse F. I. Campbell, treasurer of the town of Cherryfield, for money paid to State pensioners.

Resolve in favor of Ricker Classical institute.

Resolve in favor of Charles M. Bradbury of Biddeford, in the county of York.

Mr. BROWN of Falmouth: I move that this resolve be indefinitely postponed. It is an application for reimbursement, on the part of one of the soldiers of the Spanish war, for the value of some clothing which was not given to him. I have had some conversation with the gentleman from Saco (Mr. Deering) who has had charge of this resolve, and upon a very careful investigation of the case he has become convinced that there is no claim. This man went to the camp at Chickamauga and during his service there he was not supplied with an overcoat and hat and leggings. The State of Maine is in no sense responsible for it, and if he has any claim it should be made against the United States government. I move the indefinite postponement of the resolve.

The motion was agreed to and the resolve was indefinitely postponed.

THE MAINE EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

Resolve in favor of the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary came up on its passage to be engrossed.

Mr. McFADDEN of Dresden: I move that this resolve be indefinitely postponed. This institution is located in the city of Portland where the Maine General hospital is located. The Maine General hospital is maintained as a State institution, and from the name given it the Maine General hospital ought to be capable of treating all classes of diseases. If we are going on appropriating for special institutions right under the eaves of the Maine General hospital, where is the limit coming, what end is there to this system? Besides, this institution is not a needy institution. It is in easy circumstances, liberally endowed, it has received recently a large bequest; and

in the present condition of the State treasury it is not considerate, it is not reasonable in us to grant this request to give of the State's money when there is no real call for the liberality. There are other needier institutions in the State which ought to have all that the State treasury can spare. I submit that it is not reasonable; and even if there were no allegations against the management of this institution, it would not be reasonable—and every gentleman here knows that serious allegations against the management of this institution have been published in the press of the State during the past year, and although they have been whitewashed by an investigation of the trustees, who were interested parties, if this House is going to make a donation to that institution, I submit that it should be done after an investigation by this House as to the charges that have been made. Under the circumstances I believe it is reasonable that this resolve should be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. PHILBROOK of Waterville: There several gentlemen absent this morning who are interested in this bill. I do not wish to delay legislation, but in order that all may have an opportunity to be present and express themselves, if they desire, I move that the motion to indefinitely postpone be laid on the table and that Friday of this week be assigned for its consideration.

Mr. MANLEY of Augusta: I hope the gentleman from Waterville, will withdraw that motion. This bill has been on the table of the House for three or four weeks. It has been assigned and reassigned and reassigned, and every person who had any interest in it had a right to suppose that it was coming up this morning. I cannot see the necessity of postponing it again.

Mr. PHILBROOK: Out of deference to the chairman of the finance committee, from whose committee room this resolve came, if it his wish I will withdraw the motion; but I know that there are some absent who would desire to be heard in the matter.

Mr. MANLEY: I do not wish to suppress any member who desires to be heard. If there are those absent who desire to speak against the measure I would not press my request.

Now, Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the House, this Eye and Ear Infirmary is not a new institution. It was established 13 years ago in the city of Portland. We had a very careful and exhaustive hearing in regard to this matter before the finance committee. Some 40 persons from Portland were present. We knew very well that there had been some jealousy, a little difficulty, between some of the staff officers of that institution. We advertised the hearing for more than two weeks in every paper in Portland and in the Kennebec Journal. At the hearing the chairman of the committee over and over again asked if there was any one to be heard in opposition to this proposition. Not a single person appeared.

I want to say to my friend from Dresden (Mr. McFadden) that this personal difficulty in this institution was only a difficulty between two surgeons. It has nothing whatever to do with the institution itself. I am not here to defend either one of those surgeons. I am not here to take any part in the controversy between them. That is their private matter and they must settle it as best they can. I only know that both of those gentlemen are earnestly in favor of this appropriation for this hospital.

The Maine General hospital is doing so much work that another hospital was needed in Portland, and is needed now. It is very difficult to gain admission to that hospital by reason of its being almost all the time full. There is not an institution in all this State that in my judgment does so much good to the plain, poor people throughout the length and breadth of this State, as this Eye and Ear Infirmary; and I am glad of having the privilege of saying that a railroad with which I am connected has for years adopted the policy of sending any patient free of expense to and from that institution, whenever it is reported to any of its officers that the patient is poor and cannot afford to pay his expenses. We have transported hundreds of people to and from that institution. They have, every day in the week except Sunday, a clinic at which any person can go and have an operation performed free of charge—at no expense whatever, no matter whether he lives in Portland or in Dresden or in Augusta. It is not a

Portland institution. It is a State institution. And the gentleman talks about its being rich! One distinguished citizen of Portland, to his credit, did give to this institution a large sum; but they can only use the interest of that sum. It has never received anything like the endowment that the Maine General hospital has; and yet we give to that institution \$2500 a year more than we are asked to give to this institution. We have been giving for 12 years to this institution, and why should we stop in the midst of its usefulness?

This institution now is placed under the management of able business men of the city of Portland and vicinity, who manage its entire financial affairs, and hereafter no physician is to have anything to do with that institution except to perform his medical or surgical services. And those services are performed for nothing; and I have the right to say that Dr. Weeks and Dr. Gordon, both of whom gave years of their service to the Maine General hospital, two men than whom there are no physicians in this State who stand higher, said to me personally that this institution needed this appropriation, and that with all their income, and with this appropriation they would fall short and the citizens of Portland had got, in addition, to raise between \$3000 and \$4000 a year to keep it going. They need this money, unless you are going to blot it out of existence. They have done 13 years' faithful service, and why shouldn't this charity be continued? This is one of the charities of all charities that we should help, and I believe that the representatives of this Legislature have a duty to perform as well as a question of an appropriation to settle. We ought to do our duty first. There is no trouble about the appropriation. We have not been extravagant in anything. We have only appropriated for the sick, the unfortunate and for the schools. And I am glad of it. I favor every one of those appropriations and I propose to do it to the end. If we must economize, let us economize in other directions.

Last year, in this institution 2433 hours were spent in the clinical work of the out-patient department. The number of days of free board given to

patients was 4681, an amount five times that provided for in free beds by friends of the infirmary; and in addition to that there are a number of free beds in that infirmary, provided by wealthy and generous men, where patients can go and have their treatment free. In the report of the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary they say, "In response to the urgent call from General Richards and Mayor Randall an opportunity was afforded during the year to accommodate a large number of the soldiers who were sent home critically ill of typhoid fever. An endeavor was made to relieve their sufferings, restore them to health and to their homes as speedily as possible." Those soldiers were cared for at that institution. Truly, they have made a charge against the general government for it, but they have not received their pay. The government has made an offer of \$1 a day, which is far less than the expense incurred in taking care of those people.

They have in addition a nurse school. Now there is nothing that this State needs more than trained nurses. If I had to make my choice between a physician and a nurse in a case of sickness, I would take the trained nurse. And taking it all in all this institution has done its work splendidly in all these years, and now, because there is a little petty jealousy existing between two physicians, which has nothing to do with the work of the institution, are we going to stand here and say that we will indefinitely postpone it? As I said, both of the physicians concerned in this difficulty are on record as asking for the appropriation for this institution. And I hope that the motion to indefinitely postpone will not prevail.

Mr. FIELD of Oakland: This resolve was tabled by me some two weeks or more ago. I was frank enough to say that there were some things connected with the institution that did not meet with my approval. I consulted with my friends in this House and met the trustees of this institution, I met the physicians to whom I presume the gentleman from Augusta refers, and after talking with them all and finding out all I could about it, I decided to withdraw my objection to the resolve—and why? I did it because I feared, upon the care-

ful examination that I had made, that I should be doing that which I thought might be wrong. I met a physician of Portland who, after a conversation with me and after having told me of the difficulties connected with the institution, after having told me of the management of the institution and finding fault in regard to it, he said, "I do not want to oppose this appropriation because it is a great institution for the benefit of the poor."

Now, gentlemen, I consider that I am one of the most careful members in regard to the question of taxation. I would be the last to vote for a measure to burden the poor of the State; but I felt, after this investigation that I made, that this institution was doing a great work for the poor, and that it was my solemn duty to withdraw my objection to the resolve; and I hope that this motion to indefinitely postpone will not prevail. (Applause.)

The question being on the motion to indefinitely postpone,

The motion was lost.

The resolve was then passed to be engrossed.

AUGUSTA CITY HOSPITAL.

Resolve in favor of the Augusta City hospital came up on its passage to be engrossed.

Mr. McFADDEN of Dresden: I move that this resolve be indefinitely postponed. This institution was chartered eight years ago as the Augusta City hospital. It does not pretend to be anything else but a City hospital. It has been in operation less than a year. At the time it was chartered I understand that there were pledged some \$5000 by the citizens of Augusta to put in in operation. It is now operating in a hired building, and the management of the institution has been so very unsatisfactory that Dr. Scott Hill and Dr. Randall, and I think Dr. Thompson and another, two, I think, of each school, tendered their resignations because of their disgust and dissatisfaction at the methods and manner of the conduct of the institution. Now if we must appropriate to every hospital that may be organized in any city, if the State must appropriate to them under one plea or another, that they are making trained nurses, that

they are taking care of soldiers, that they are doing a great deal of good to the poor—I don't know where it will end. It can go on indefinitely and to any extent and the tax payers must stand behind it. This is the first appropriation that has been called for by this institution; and unless we propose to say to the physicians of every city in the State who want to organize a hospital, "We will give you almost any sum you ask for, only don't commence too large," then we ought to stop here and indefinitely postpone this resolve.

Mr. MANLEY of Augusta: I had hoped that my friend from Dresden, with whom I stood side by side in a great fight some years ago and who applauded me for what I did in that contest with him, would have overlooked this little institution and would have passed it by. It is true that this is the first time we have ever asked for an appropriation. It is true that we had a quarrel among some of the physicians. I don't know that physicians are more quarrelsome than any other class, but like all professions they have their jealousies. Four of the staff did resign. Their resignations have not been accepted. I took the trouble to, visit every one of these four physicians and asked them if they were in favor of this appropriation of \$1000 a year. They have all assured me that they desired this appropriation to pass, and authorized me so to state.

The gentleman from Dresden made an unintentional misstatement. This institution was started about 11 months ago. The citizens of Augusta subscribed \$7000 for the purpose of erecting a small hospital. We never intended to start out on a large scale and become a great hospital like the one in Bangor and in Lewiston and Portland. We decided—or the committee did, for I want to state that I am in no way connected with the institution—that they would not make this a great hospital; it was not needed. They said they would have a small institution, one that they could take care of without great expense, and they hired a house, admirably located and suited for this purpose, for six years; and the citizens of Augusta, last year, paid of their own free will in money to this institution about \$1800. When the soldiers came here,

last fall, at the request of General Richards a large number of them were placed in that hospital. There were no proper accommodations for them outside of it. We took care of them there. If we do not get the amount of that bill back we shall be badly in debt, but the citizens of Augusta will take care of that.

This institution is located in this city, it is conducted and managed by gentlemen of ability and character—my colleague is one of the directors of the institution—they give their time and attention to it freely, without pay or compensation; they contribute their money to its support. Augusta is peculiarly situated. We have once in two years the Legislature here. We have every year the muster of the militia of the State. Men are taken suddenly ill where an operation must be performed instantly. We have a good hospital with competent and skilled physicians, where every one can go freely, and if they are not able to pay they are treated without expense. When the matter was first proposed, they came to the Legislature and asked for \$10,000 on condition that the citizens would raise \$10,000 to build a building. Knowing what the condition of the treasury would be, I very frankly told them that I should oppose any such proposition. I did not think we had any right to come and ask the State to give anything towards a building until we had first ourselves built a building, raised the money and put the money into it; but I did think it was fair that we should have some little help from the State, as the other sections had. And I said to the financial committee that I did not want them to consider the proposition of \$10,000, \$5000 a year, and stated to them all the facts about it, and asked that they report \$1000 a year. The committee made that report unanimously; and I trust that this will not be turned down but will receive the same kind consideration that you have accorded to the hospitals in the other cities of the State.

The question being on the motion to indefinitely postpone,

The motion was lost.

The resolve was then passed to be engrossed.

PASSED TO BE ENACTED.

An act to repeal Chapter 280 of the Private and Special Laws of 1883, relating to the use of rafts or floats in fishing for smelts in Bagaduce river.

An act authorizing the trustees of the Ministerial fund in the Congregational Society in Buxton to apply the interest of said fund toward the payment of the minister's salary.

An act for the better protection of clams.

An act to incorporate the Wiscasset Academy.

An act to incorporate the Lily Water Company.

An act for the better protection of ship masters and seamen.

An act to fix the salaries of the judge and register of probate for the county of Waldo.

An act to extend the charter of the Bluehill Water Company.

FINALLY PASSED.

Resolve in favor of the Eastern Maine General hospital.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Special assignment: Motion to reconsider vote accepting reports of committee on military affairs, reporting leave to withdraw on petition of Rose White and others for better observance of Memorial day, and reporting ought not to pass on bill relating to same.

Mr. Parkhurst of Bangor, withdrew his motion to reconsider, and moved that the report of the committee be accepted.

The motion was agreed to.

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT.

Report of committee on agriculture, reporting ought not to pass on bill to repeal chapter 334, Public Laws of 1897, relating to commercial feeding stuffs.

Mr. BUCK of Orland: In order that the opposition to this bill may have an opportunity to discuss this matter, I would move that we substitute the bill for the report of the committee.

The SPEAKER: The motion of the gentleman is not in order. The bill is still in the hands of the committee because the report has not been accepted.

Mr. LEAVITT of Eastport: I move that the report of the committee be accepted.

Mr. WEBB of Portland: It seems to me that this is a matter that members should have an opportunity to consider

and be heard upon. I move that the committee be discharged from further consideration of the matter. I hope that the motion of the gentleman will not prevail because that would shut off discussion.

Mr. Leavitt withdrew his motion.

The question being on the motion that the committee be discharged from further consideration of the matter,

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER: That leaves the report with the bill in the hands of the House.

Mr. WEBB: For the purpose of bringing this matter before the House I move to amend the report of the committee by striking out the word "not."

Mr. MANLEY: Then I don't see why we should discharge the committee. If we discharge the committee, they are discharged and they have nothing more to do with it.

The SPEAKER: One way of getting the matter before the House is to move to substitute the bill for the report, and the other way, as they do in the National House of Representatives, is to discharge the committee from further consideration of the matter.

Mr. DeCOSTER of Buckfield: I believe this House should have the privilege of discussing this question, and I hope it will be brought before the House in some way for discussion.

The SPEAKER: The question is on the motion to amend the report by striking out the word "not," making the report favorable instead of unfavorable.

Mr. CHICK of Clifton: I want to say just a word. I am in favor, and I represent farmers in this State who are in favor of not repealing this law. I think I quite well understand the opposition to this bill—being a matter of some little trifling trouble to the trader. But the farmers in the community that I represent are decidedly in favor of maintaining the law as it stands today. We don't want this law repealed, and I voice the sentiment of a large number of influential farmers in the eastern part of this State when I say that the law as it stands pleases them and they do not wish it disturbed. I hope the report of the committee will prevail and that it will be the action of this House to sustain the committee as they have reported.

Mr. DeCOSTER of Buckfield: As chairman of the committee on agriculture I deem it my duty and my privilege to make some remarks upon the acceptance of this report. You are aware that this is a matter that pertains wholly to the interests of the farmers of this State. It is a question that has been discussed at our Grange meetings, at the farmers' homes and at the feed mills more than any other question that comes before this body today pertaining to the interests of the farmers, and I think it is well worthy your consideration. In reference to the committee on agriculture, I believe that committee is composed of good material: it is composed of some of the best farmers we have in the State, some of the best business men, and we have one lawyer upon the committee, who has been elected one of the mayors of your cities, and we feel that this committee knew what they were doing when they reported that this bill should not be repealed. We had before our committee on agriculture some of the leading farmers of our State and they all requested us, "Do not repeal this law." We had before our committee some of the largest dealers of our State, and they said to us, "Do not repeal this law."

Allow me to go back to two years ago, and when this law was being agitated. Petitions were sent to me to circulate in behalf of this bill. I did my duty, and then after that I went to our retail dealers and told them what I was doing, and they said, "You are making a mistake. You are driving concentrated feed out of our State. You cannot afford to pay 10 cents a ton on what you are buying." But now, how is it, today? The law has been in effect for two years, and those same dealers have within a few weeks told me, "That law has been a good law. We do not want it repealed," and furthermore they said, "We will come before your committee and make that statement." Gentlemen, is that worthy of your consideration? These men handle hundreds and hundreds of tons of commercial feeding stuff. We had presented at our committee remonstrance after remonstrance—for what, from whom? From the farmers of our

State asking us, "Do not have that law repealed."

Gentlemen, is not that worthy of your consideration? We had remonstrance after remonstrance from the different Granges of this State. We had one from my own Grange, and I feel proud to say to you, today, that it is one of the largest Granges in New England, one of the largest in the United States, today, numbering over 500 members. We had also remonstrances from the different Granges over our State, representing 2000 people. This is the request made by the farmers of the State. Of late the cry has gone out that the farmers cannot afford to pay 10 cents a ton to have their feed analyzed. Who makes that statement? It is a class of people who say to us farmers, "We are taking your money and we object to your paying 10 cents a ton for having your feed analyzed." The whole substance of the question is that the farmers do not want this law repealed.

That is the question in a nutshell. Now I ask you gentlemen to fully consider this matter. What are we met here for? Is it not to make such laws as will do the greatest amount of good to the greatest number of people? Now, gentlemen, vote upon this matter in such a way that when you go home to your constituents, they can say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servants."

Mr. DUNNING of Winslow: I represent three as good farming towns as there are in the Kennebec valley, and I do not believe you can find a farmer in one of the three towns but what wants this law to stand as it is. Every time I go up home that is the question that they ask every time, what the result in regard to this bill will be; and they don't want it repealed.

Mr. WEBB: I find that I have been laboring under some misunderstanding as to just what this measure was, and I do not want to insist on my motion to amend the report of the committee. I will withdraw my motion.

The question being on the acceptance of the report of the committee,

The report was accepted.

Special assignment:

Bill to amend Section 2 of Chapter 60, Revised Statutes, as amended relating to divorce.

Mr. BROWN of Falmouth: I had intended to oppose this measure, believing as I do in the sanctity of the marriage tie, and being unwilling to vote for any proposition whatever which tends to weaken it; but I am informed by the gentleman who has charge of this bill that this is simply for the purpose of a more accurate definition of some matters that are already incorporated into the law, and at his request I withdraw my objection.

The bill was then read the second time and assigned for tomorrow morning.

On motion by Mr. Wilbur of Avon, bill an act to incorporate the Strong Water Company was taken from the table, read the third time and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Macomber of Augusta, bill an act to incorporate the Sullivan Harbor Water Company was taken from the table.

Mr. Macomber offered amendment A, which was adopted.

On motion by Mr. Macomber the rules were suspended, the bill was read the third time and was passed to be engrossed as amended.

On motion by Mr. Powers of Fort Fairfield, bill an act to create a lien upon monumental work was taken from the table.

Mr. Virgin offered amendments A, B and C which were adopted.

The bill was then read a second time.

On motion by Mr. Virgin the rules were suspended, the bill was read the third time and was passed to be engrossed as amended.

On motion by Mr. Libbey of South Berwick,

Adjourned.