

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventy-First Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1903.

HOUSE.

Friday, March 6, 1903.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Wight of Hallowell.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Judiciary.

By Mr. Hubbard of Paris: Remonstrance against the act additional to the act creating the Rumford Falls Municipal Court, by E. C. Holt and 11 others of the Oxford County Bar.

By Mr. Pettengill of Rumford: An Act to provide in part for the expenditures of government for the year 1904.

By Mr. Buxton of Abbot (under suspension of the rules): Petition and Bill, An Act to authorize the town of Foxcroft to appropriate money for the purpose of fencing and keeping in repair certain private cemeteries therein.

Legal Affairs.

By Mr. Burrill of Ellsworth: An Act to amend the charter of the city of Ellsworth.

By Mr. Sargent of Brewer (under suspension of the rules): Bill, An Act to amend the charter of the city of Brewer.

By Mr. Eaton of Calais (under suspension of the rules): Remonstrance against the passage of the employer's liability act.

Railroads, Telegraphs and Expresses.

By Mr. Poor of Belfast: An Act to amend Section 114 of Chapter 51 of the Revised Statutes, relating to duties of railroad commissioners.

By Mr. Campbell of Cherryfield: Bill, An Act to incorporate the Maine Coast Telephone Company.

By Mr. Irving of Caribou (under a suspension of the rules): Bill, An Act to incorporate the Aroostook Telephone Company.

Placed on File.

By Mr. Buzzell of Old Town: Petition of A. J. Bradbury and 48 others in favor of the bridge bill.

Inland Fisheries and Game.

By Mr. Farnsworth of Tremont: Petition of B. E. Sylvester and 42 others, citizens of Bluehill in Hancock county,

praying for the enactment of a law prohibiting the use of horns, or similar instruments, in hunting deer in Bluehill.

By Mr. Howe of Canton (under a suspension of the rules): Resolve in favor of screening Lake Anasagunticook in Canton, Oxford county.

Public Charities and State Beneficiaries.

By Mr. Clarke in Nobleboro: Petition of the local Board of Health in Bristol in favor of a State laboratory of hygiene.

Public Buildings and Grounds.

By Mr. Smith of Presque Isle (under a suspension of the rules): Resolve providing for completing the fire-proofing and necessary repairs in south wing of State capitol.

Taxation.

By Mr. Thompson of China: An Act to repeal Section 28 of Chapter six of the Revised Statutes, in relation to taxation of corporations.

Knox County Delegation.

By Mr. Butler of South Thomaston: An Act establishing the salary of the County Attorney for the County of Knox.

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, this bill was referred to the committee on salaries.

Mr. Allen of Sanford, introduced the following bill: An Act to amend resolve in favor of the town of Sanford, and on motion by the same gentleman the rules were suspended, the bill was read three times and was passed to be engrossed.

Orders.

On motion of Mr. Smith of Presque Isle,

Ordered, The Senate concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they adjourn to meet on Tuesday next, March 10th at four o'clock in the afternoon.

On motion of Mr. Dudley of Augusta, Ordered, That the committee on banks and banking be directed to inquire into the expediency of continuing and extending the system of branch banking in the state of Maine.

On motion of Mr. Davidson of Hammond Plantation, the vote was reconsidered whereby the House on March 5th passed the order that 1000 copies of the legislative records be printed containing the discussion on resubmission.

On motion of Mr. Davidson, the order was then indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Davidson presented the following order:

Ordered, That 1000 copies of the debate on the motion to substitute the minority for the majority report of the committee on temperance relating to resubmission, be printed for the use of the members.

On motion of Mr. Clark of Prospect, the order was laid on the table.

Reports of Committees.

Mr. Newcombe from the committee on legal affairs on bill, An Act to amend section two of chapter 116 of the Revised Statutes relating to the fees of trial justices, reported ought not to pass.

Mr. McFaul from the same committee, on bill, An Act to authorize the Narraguagus River Power Company to generate, use, transmit and sell electricity, reported ought not to pass.

Mr. Leavitt from the committee on agriculture, on bill, An Act to amend an Act allowing annual stipend to the Waldo Agricultural Society, reported ought not to pass.

Mr. Tripp from the same committee, on resolve in favor of the Maine Poultry and pet stock association, reported ought not to pass.

Mr. Benner from the same committee, on resolve in favor of the Washington town fair and agricultural society, reported ought not to pass.

Mr. Coburn from the same committee on resolve in favor of the Madawaska not to pass.

Mr. Pettengill from the committee on Interior waters, on bill, An Act to prevent obstruction to navigation in Songo river, reported ought not to pass.

Mr. Oakes from the Committee on Ways and Bridges, on petition of inhabitants of Van Buren and adjoining towns for an appropriation to aid in building a steel bridge across Violette brook, reported leave to withdraw.

Same gentleman from same com-

mittee, on Resolve in favor of the bridge across Meduxnekeag river in Littleton, Aroostook county, reported ought not to pass.

Same gentleman from same committee, on Resolve to aid the town of Smyrna in the construction of a bridge across the East Branch of the Mattawamkeag river at Smyrna Mills, reported ought not to pass.

Same gentleman from same committee, on Resolve in favor of building a bridge across the Kennebec river between the towns of Bingham and Concord, reported ought not to pass.

Mr. Little from the Committee on Public Charities and State Beneficiaries, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of the hospital of the Society of the Sisters of Charity of Lewiston, Maine. (Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs).

Mr. Merriam from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of the Central Maine General Hospital. (Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs).

Mr. Morrison from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of the Maine Division of the International Sunshine Society. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.)

Mr. Purinton from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of the Maine General Hospital. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs).

Mr. Dodge from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of Bangor Children's Home. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs).

Mr. Lamb from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of the Maine Home for Friendless Boys. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs).

Mr. McGregor from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of the Knox County General Hospital. (Re-

ferred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs).

Mr. Purinton from the same committee, on resolve providing for repairs on the tomb of Governor Enoch Lincoln, reported ought to pass. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.)

Same gentleman from same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of the St. Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum of Portland. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.)

Mr. McGregor from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of the Eastern Maine General Hospital. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.)

Mr. Drew from the committee on judiciary, on Bill, An Act relating to proof of attested instruments, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Dudley from the committee on appropriations and financial affairs, on Bill, An Act to amend Section eleven of Chapter 58 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the stipend paid from the State treasury to agricultural societies, reported ought to pass.

Mr. McPaul from the committee on legal affairs, on petition, reported bill, An Act to incorporate the Pike Family Association.

Mr. Kelley from the committee on legal affairs, on petition, reported Bill, An Act to prevent the throwing of sawdust and other mill waste into the St. Georges river in the towns of Montville, Searsmont and Appleton.

Mr. Newcomb from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, Bill, An Act to incorporate the Searsport Water Company.

Mr. Oakes from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, Bill, An Act to incorporate the Boothbay Harbor Electric Light and Power Company.

Mr. Barker from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass bill, An Act to amend Section 6 of Chapter 3 of the Public Laws of 1899, entitled, An Act to amend Section 5 of Chapter 156 of the Public Laws of 1895, entitled, An Act to amend An Act to amend Section 6 of Chapter 35 of the

Revised Statutes, relating to intelligence offices.

Mr. Kelley from the same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass bill, An Act to amend the charter of the city of Gardiner.

Mr. McPaul from the same committee, on bill, An Act to extend the charter of the Dexter Water Company, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Barker from the same committee, on bill, An Act amendatory of Section 2 of Chapter 287 of the Public Laws of 1895, as amended by Chapter 33 of the Public Laws of 1899 and Chapter 163 of the Public Laws of 1901, relating to the better protection of sheep, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Kelley from the same committee, on bill, An Act to amend Section 98 of Chapter 82 of the Revised Statutes, relating to evidence, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Barker from the same committee, on bill, An Act to change the name of Burnt Island in the town of North Haven to Scallop Island, reported ought to pass.

Same gentleman from same committee, on bill, An Act to amend Chapter 77 of the Public Laws of 1899, relating to mortgagee's lien for costs of foreclosure under Section 5 of Chapter 90 of the Revised Statutes, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Kelley from the same committee, on bill, An Act to incorporate the Wells Telephone Company, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Campbell from the same committee, on bill, An Act to establish the jurisdiction and term of office of women appointed to solemnize marriages, administer oaths and take acknowledgments of deeds, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Manson from the committee on legal affairs, reported in a draft and ought to pass bill, An Act to regulate the placing of permanent moorings in harbors.

Mr. Newcomb from the same committee, on bill, An Act to allow the inhabitants on Moose River, Somerset county, to assess and collect taxes to build and help in repairing the roads and bridges in said plantation, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Page from the committee on appropriations and financial affairs, on re-

solve in favor of the town of Trescott, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Dudley from the same committee, on resolve in favor of repairs on elevator in State House, reported ought to pass.

Same gentleman from same committee, on resolve in favor of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Maybury from the committee on military affairs, on bill, An Act to amend Section 16 of Chapter 266 of the Public Laws of 1893, relating to the militia, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Maybury from the committee on banks and banking, on bill, An Act to extend the charter of the Hallowell Trust Company, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Snow from the committee on agriculture, reported in a new draft and ought to pass bill, An Act to regulate the sale and analysis of concentrated commercial feeding stuffs.

Mr. Sweeney from the committee on interior waters, reported in a new draft and ought to pass bill, An Act to incorporate the St. John River Dam Company.

Mr. Ross from the same committee, on bill, An Act to authorize the St. John Lumber Company to build and maintain piers in the St. John river in the town of Van Buren, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Sargent from the same committee, on bill, An Act to extend the charter of the Union River Water Storage Company, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Oaks from the committee on ways and bridges, on petition of Crosby Spaulding and 39 others of Carratunk, praying that an appropriation be granted to Carratunk plantation, to aid in repairing road from Carratunk village to Pleasant Pond in said plantation, reported resolve in favor of Carratunk plantation. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs).

Same gentleman from same committee, on petition of C. H. Hill and others of Moscow, praying that an appropriation be granted to the town of Moscow, to partly reimburse said town for money expended and to be expended in making extraordinary repairs on highways and bridges in said town, result-

ing from damage caused by the freshet of December, 1901, reported resolve in favor of the town of Moscow. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.)

Same gentleman from same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve in favor of the town of Crystal. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.)

Same gentleman from same committee, reported in a new draft and ought to pass, resolve to aid in repairing roads in Jerusalem plantation. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.)

Mr. Manson from the committee on legal affairs, on bill, An Act to amend Section 113 of Chapter 51, of the Revised Statutes, in relation to election of railroad commissioners, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Manson offered the following amendment: That the report of the committee on legal affairs, upon bill entitled "An Act to amend Section 113 of Chapter 51 of the Revised Statutes in relation to election of railroad commissioners," be amended by inserting the word "not" in the last line of said report before the word "to," so that said report shall read "ought not to pass."

The amendment was adopted.

The order relative to adjournment came from the Senate amended by Senate amendment A, by substituting 10.30 o'clock for 4 o'clock.

Mr. Burrill of Ellsworth, moved that the House insist and ask for a committee of conference.

The motion was agreed to, and the Speaker appointed on the part of the House Messrs. Burrill of Ellsworth, Davis of Waterville, and Swett of Portland.

First Reading of Printed Bills and Resolves.

Resolve waiving a forfeiture of the public lot in the southeast quarter of Township No. 4, Hancock county, north division.

An Act to incorporate the Van Buren Sewerage Company.

An Act to incorporate the Hancock Water, Light and Power Company.

An Act to extend the charter of the Strong Water Company.

An Act to amend the charter of the Sanford Light and Water Company and to consolidate with the Springvale Aqueduct Company and Butler Spring Water Company.

An Act to regulate the practice of embalming and the transportation of the bodies of persons who have died of infectious diseases.

An Act to incorporate the Libby Meadow Brook Dam Company.

An Act to incorporate the Round Pond Improvement Company.

An Act to regulate the taking of cod-fish, pollock, hake, and haddock in the waters of Frenchmans bay.

Resolve in favor of the Society of the Sisters of Charity for the use of the Healy Asylum of Lewiston, Maine.

Resolve in favor of the Young Women's Home of Lewiston.

An Act to amend Section 16 of Chapter 72 of the Revised Statutes, relating to suits on probate bonds.

An Act relating to the Fryeburg Electric Light Company.

An Act to enable cities and towns to establish permanent fuel yards.

Passed to Be Engrossed.

An Act to authorize the town of Athens to remove the bodies of deceased persons.

An Act relating to the Young Women's Christian Association of Portland, Maine.

An Act to authorize the Van Buren Water Company to increase its capital stock and bonds.

An Act to amend Chapter 49 of the Public Laws of 1899 relating to the taking of Black Bass in certain lakes in Kennebec and Somerset counties, also Sabattus pond in Androscoggin county as amended by Chapter 287, Public Laws of 1901.

An Act to extend the charter of the Winthrop Cold Spring Water Company.

An Act to enlarge the powers of the Prouts Neck Water Company.

An Act relating to the election and term of office of certain members of the board of assessors, board of overseers of the poor and female members of the school committee of the city of Portland.

An Act relating to Gorham Academy.

An Act granting a new charter to the Farmington Village Corporation.

An Act to authorize municipalities to make contracts for water, gas and light.

An Act establishing the salary of the county attorney for the county of Kennebec.

An Act to grant testimonials of honorable service to soldiers who served in the war with Spain.

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

An Act to incorporate the Liberty Water Company.

An Act to amend Chapter 266 of the Public Laws of 1893, as amended by Chapters 128 of the Public Laws of 1899 and 167 of the Public Laws of 1901, relating to the militia.

An Act to amend Chapter 159 of the Public Laws of 1901, providing for the retirement of commissioned officers of the militia of the National Guard of the State of Maine.

Resolve in favor of establishing a modern fish hatchery and feeding station at Sebago Lake.

An Act to amend Chapter 94 of the Public Laws of 1887, relating to agricultural societies.

An Act to repeal Sections 7, 8, 9 and 10 of Chapter 61 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the rights of married women.

An Act to repeal Section 36 of Chapter 63 of the Revised Statutes, relating to examination before judges of probate.

An Act to authorize executors and administrators to provide for the perpetual care of burial lots.

An Act to amend Chapter 67 of the Revised Statutes and Chapter 143 of the Revised Statutes relating to the appointment of guardians for persons insane.

An Act relating to the authority of court over guardians ad litem or next friend.

An Act relating to the acknowledgment of deeds.

An Act relating to the waiving of the provisions of wills by widow.

An Act relating to the attachment of partnership property.

An Act to repeal Section 16 of Chapter 78 of the Revised Statutes, relating to duties of county commissioners.

An Act to amend Paragraph 5 of Section 62 of Chapter 81 of the Revised Statutes, relating to property exempt from attachment and execution.

An Act to amend Section 4 of Chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by Chapter 157, Public Laws of 1893, relating to trustee suits.

An Act relating to the dissolution of attachments by filing bond.

An Act to amend Section 1 of Chapter 114 of the Revised Statutes, relating to duties payable by public officers.

An Act to prevent injury to books and works of art.

An Act to repeal Sections 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Chapter 133 of the Public Laws of 1897, relating to pardons.

An Act relating to the commitment of the insane, and to abolish the right of appeal to justices of the peace and quorum.

The committee of conference on the order relative to adjournment, reported that they had failed to agree.

On motion of Mr. Drew of Portland, the order was indefinitely postponed.

Subsequently the following order came from the Senate:

Ordered, That when the Senate and House adjourn, the House concurring, they adjourn to Tuesday, March 10, at 10 o'clock A. M.

Mr. Drew offered House amendment A, by striking out the words "10 A. M.," by inserting in place thereof the words "4.15 P. M."

The amendment was adopted, and the order then received a passage as amended.

Passed to Be Enacted.

An Act authorizing Washington county to sell its stock in the Washington County Railroad Company, and authorizing the sale or lease of said railroad. (Tabled pending its passage to be enacted on motion of Mr. McFaul of Machias.)

An Act to amend Chapter 145 of the Private and Special Laws of 1887, entitled "An Act to provide sewerage in the town of Houlton."

An Act to provide for the recording of plans.

An Act to cede the jurisdiction of the State of Maine to the United States of America over so much land as has been or may be hereafter acquired, for the public purposes of the United States. (Tabled on motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, pending its passage to be enacted.)

An Act to relieve the town of Boothbay Harbor from the duty of building, repairing or maintaining roads, streets or ways on the Isle of Springs.

An Act to grant certain powers to the Hancock county trustees of public reservations. (Tabled on motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, pending its passage to be enacted.)

An Act to authorize the town of Kennebunk to own and maintain an electric lighting and power plant.

An Act to amend Section 3 of Chapter 216 of the Public Laws of 1893, relating to the conveyance of scholars and to the maintenance of schools.

An Act to amend Section 3 of Chapter 80 of the Public Laws of 1899, relating to the election of officers, and the filling of vacancies occurring in the office of truant officer.

An Act to amend Chapter 130 of the Private Laws of 1866, entitled, "An Act to incorporate the Sebec Dam Company," as amended by Section 6 of Chapter 26 of the Private and Special Laws of 1899.

An Act to amend Chapter 284 of the Public Laws of 1901, relating to sea and shore fisheries.

An Act to amend the charter of the city of Auburn.

Orders of the Day.

The Speaker stated that that order relative to adjournment had been returned by the Senate, that body non-concurring and insisting.

Today assigned:

Bill, To amend Section 12 of Chapter 3 of the Revised Statutes of 1883, as amended by Chapter 335 of Public Laws of 1885.

Mr. White of Dyer Brook, moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

MR. STURGIS of Standish: Mr. Speaker, this bill has had a very unfortunate experience. It has been to the committee and reported back to the House "ought to pass," and then some members of the House who were

opposed to it asked that it be recom- mitted to the committee on towns. That was done; and although at least one man who was opposed to it, a member of the House, agreed to come before the committee on towns and state his objection, he failed to do so. The com- mittee assigned a day for a hearing, and then they made a reassignment, and I personally went to the gentleman and asked him if he would go before the committee on that afternoon. He said he would. The committee waited for half an hour beyond the time set for the gentleman to appear, but he did not, and the committee reported back to the House that the bill ought to pass.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this bill is in- tended to promote the better conduct of municipal affairs. And every town is not obliged to adopt this law. The bill is permissive. It simply allows the people to adopt the provisions of it if they see fit. I see no very great objec- tion that can be urged against the peo- ple having the right to say for how long a time they will elect their selectmen, whether they will elect them as under the present law for a term of one year, or for a term of three years, electing one annually, and giving the people of the towns a chance to select their can- didates for the office of selectmen, as- sessors and overseers of the poor with the understanding that they are to re- main three years, and that they want to nominate and elect officers only who will be efficient, and not nominate, as is done in many cases, one man who will be the head of the board and the practical board, while one or two of the other men are nominated for vote- getting purposes, making a board that in many cases and in many towns is not efficient and really a one-man board. Now I believe, if the people of any town see fit to adopt the provisions of this act, that they will understand that the persons who are to be elected are to serve the town for three years, and that it behooves them to be very particular in their choice of select- men, assessors and overseers of the poor. The office is an office of much more importance than is realized by a great many people. The assessors as- sess the value of the property upon which the taxes of the town, county

and State are raised, and in a large measure, so far as the expenditure of the money raised by the town is con- cerned, it is in their hands; and it seems to me that to run the affairs of a town upon business principles, would be for its interests. No one will employ a man to run his business for him who has no experience, and then, as soon as he becomes of practical value, turn him out; and under the present system the political complexion of very many towns is very close. People come here as representatives elected by a ma- jority of only one. Now, any man who goes in and who is an efficient officer of a town, cannot do anything with things which he thinks would be right and be again re-elected, because in towns where it is as close as that, if he treads upon any man's corns they can very easily turn him down by a small combination. The consequence is that in many ways he has to trim. He cannot do what is for the best interests of the town. He has become a trimmer. But if he were elected for three years he would not have to trim and he could do business for the town in a business- like way without being afraid of the corns of some of the people he might tread on.

I hope the motion to indefinitely post- pone will not prevail, and if it does not, I have an amendment which I wish to offer: By adding to Section 1, after the last words thereof, the following: Pro- vided, however, that any town which has availed itself of the provisions hereof and elected its selectmen, over- seers of the poor and assessors for terms of one, two and three years, may at any subsequent annual meeting vote to elect all of such officers for one year longer, in which case the terms of any of such officers theretofore elected, whether for one, two or three years, shall thereupon cease.

In support of the amendment I will say that there are very many of the members of the House who thought that the bill was good, but that if any town had once taken advantage of this law, it would become an endless chain and there would be no way by which they could revert; and some people have been very afraid that they would still continue to get bad men on the board, and that once having got them

on they could not turn them down the next year. So, in order to satisfy those people who were afraid of that part of the bill, I offer this amendment and I move its passage.

Mr. CLARK of Prospect: Mr. Speaker, This bill, amended as it is, is not of the value that it was before, in my estimation. When you examine it you will find that at any election a town has the right to vote to abolish this system, after they are once in. Then what becomes of the officers? They have an officer then that is elected for two years and one for one year who will have to be paid any way. Attorneys that I have consulted tell me that there is a decision in a similar case, according to which a man elected for a term of three years, whether you abolish this act at any subsequent town meeting or not, will have to be paid for his full term of three years.

I do not like the idea of this act, myself. Of course, I am only one. This looks to me as though it would be a trap, a snare to get some poor devil into. Many times when something comes up like this, that is, a new law, people will jump in and get all they can; they think they want something of this kind, but after they get it they find that they don't want it.

I don't see any way that this bill will practically change the system in the towns as it is today. Furthermore, in many of the towns I think this legislation would bring in politics, which we have had in our town but which now does not prevail there in our town meetings. Politics does not run our town meeting, but if it should, as it has in years past, and as it does in many small towns, it will work to the detriment of the people. It always has.

The gentleman from Standish (Mr. Sturgis), says he sees no reason why the people should not have a chance to elect their officers for a term of three years if they see fit. I reply that they have that chance now. It is not an uncommon thing for a man to be elected four or five years in succession on a board of selectmen. The argument has been made that many times the towns will suffer by putting in a new board of selectmen. You take your Maine Register and follow back and you will find, it is true, that sometimes it does ap-

pear that there has been a new board of selectmen elected. But follow back in your Register a little farther and you will find that one of those new men has been a man that has served on the board before. I know in my own case I was elected in the board in my town in a year when there were three new men elected, but when in reality there was just one new man and I was the man; the other two men had had previous experience in town affairs.

Again, this law does not hit the assessors of cities and plantations. I know of no reason why this should not affect the assessors of cities and plantations as well as the towns. I see no reason why the towns should be picked out and pulled into this snare, and the assessors of cities and plantations be left out; and I hope that the members, when they vote on this, will not vote for anything that will draw the people into a snare of any kind. You will find that the farmers of the State are men that are not unreasonable. You can see by the petitions from the farmers that are sent in here that they want simplicity in town affairs in all its forms. You will see by their petitions that they want the road law changed, for instance, so they can have the option of raising their highway money in labor or in cash.

The gentleman from Standish, speaks of men being elected on the board simply because they are vote-getters. Will that be changed under this law? I ask any fair-minded man if there will be any change in that respect? That good vote-getter would be in the town just the same as he was before this law took effect, and he will get into office just the same as before this law took effect; and I claim that it would work more to the detriment of the towns than the present system as it is. The gentleman speaks of men having to trim, that they cannot do their duty because they have to trim in order to get back into office again. But in my limited experience I never have seen the time when a man had to trim and could not stand up and do his duty and be re-elected. A man that does his duty is the man that the people want in their town offices today. It is the man that does not do his duty and then has to trim that they do not want; and we want to have the

chance to say whether we shall have them for one, two or three years, or longer, as we see fit, and not have any snare set for us or have that clause put in and be caught in a trap and have to pay for the full term to which an officer may be elected, as undoubtedly we will have to do.

The gentleman speaks of its being for the better conduct of municipal affairs. I see nothing in this bill that would guarantee that. I hope that the motion to indefinitely postpone will prevail.

Mr. THOMPSON of China: Mr. Speaker, I hope the motion to indefinitely postpone will prevail; and it seems to me that in the proposed amendment is adopted, it will neutralize the effect of the bill. This is quite a sacred affair when we touch the rights of towns. It seems that there is a tendency to take away from these towns some of their rights, and we wish to retain all we possibly can.

There is nothing to prevent any town from accomplishing this end under this method; and it looks to me as if there is no demand coming in from these towns for this law. I have heard none of it as I go over the State, no demand whatever that this should be passed. I hope the motion will prevail to indefinitely postpone.

Mr. HILL of Buxton: Mr. Speaker, I regard the proposed amendment as a good thing in the interests of the towns. In my own town of Buxton I am satisfied that if we could elect our selectmen under the provisions of this bill, we would have a better administration of town affairs. And I see no reason why towns should not have a chance to try this method of having a man selected for three years. I would like to have this bill enacted in the interests of the towns of our State. It seems to me that we ought to pass this legislation in the interests of the towns; and when we do that I believe it will result in the interests of all the towns financially. I endorse the measure.

Mr. HOWE of Canton: Mr. Speaker, I hope the motion to indefinitely postpone will prevail. I do not believe that it is for the interests of the towns. If the gentleman from Standish, and the gentleman from Buxton, are so fortunate as to be situated in towns where

they can get the best men in the town to serve on the board of selectment for one year, even, they certainly are to be congratulated. I think that is not the case in a majority of towns; it certainly is not in mine.

Now if it is almost impossible to get the men of the best ability in a majority of the towns to serve for one year, how will it be when you go to them and say, "You must serve for two and three years?" I think, as one gentleman has suggested, that in some towns the irresponsible element will find there is an opportunity for them to run in some of their officers and get them into office for an indefinite period to the detriment of the towns generally. I do not think it is wholesome legislation, and I hope it will not prevail.

The question being on the adoption of the amendment, a division was had and the amendment was adopted by a vote of 64 to 1.

The question then being on the indefinite postponement of the bill, a division was had and the bill was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 60 to 23.

Special Assignment.

Majority report of committee on education reporting "ought to pass" in a new draft under same title, resolve in favor of Colby College, and minority report of same committee reporting "ought not to pass" on resolve in favor of Colby College.

On motion of Mr. Randall of Freeport, these reports were laid on the table and Wednesday, March 11, was assigned for their consideration.

On motion of Mr. Clark of Prospect, the order relative to the printing of a thousand copies of the debate on re-submission, was taken from the table.

Mr. Clark offered House amendment A, by striking out "one thousand copies," and inserting instead thereof "two thousand."

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

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, the House adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning.