

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventy-First Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1903.

people in that section an opportunity to say what they can do. When the vote is taken on the motion to amend, I move that it be taken by the Yeas and Nays.

A Yea and Nay vote was thereupon ordered, and had, and resulted as follows: Those voting Yea were Messrs. Bryant, Buck, Burleigh, Clark, Dudley, Gardner, Goodwin, Guernsey, Hyde, Maddocks, Manley, Morrison, Philbrook, Plummer, Staples of Knox, Stetson, Wilson (17). Those voting Nay were Messrs. Burns, Wing (2) and the motion to amend prevailed.

The question being put upon the motion to indefinitely postpone, the motion was lost.

On motion by Mr. Gardner of Penobscot, the resolve was substituted for the recommendation of the committee that it be referred to the next Legislature, and on further motion by the same Senator, the bill took its several readings and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Goodwin of Somerset, the vote whereby resolve to aid the town of Washburn in Aroostook county in part payment of the expense incurred by it in building a bridge across the Aroostook river in said town, was referred to the next Legislature, was reconsidered, and on the same Senator's motion, the resolve was substituted for the report, and took its several readings under suspension of the rules, and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Staples of Knox, resolve in favor of State House employees took its several readings, and was passed to be engrossed, the same having been reported by the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs "ought to pass," and report accepted.

On motion by Mr. Wing of Androscoggin, the Senate adjourned to meet on Friday, March 27th, 1903, at ten o'clock A. M.

HOUSE.

Thursday, March 26, 1903.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Newbert of Augusta.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

From the Senate: An Act in relation to treasurer and collector of taxes for the town of Acton. (Tabled pending second reading on motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield).

From the Senate: Resolve in favor of the cattle commissioners of the State of Maine for the prevention of the foot and mouth disease among animals. (Read twice and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules in concurrence).

From the Senate: Resolve to provide for clerk hire in the State library during the Legislative session of 1903. (Read twice and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules in concurrence).

From the Senate: Resolve in favor of G. E. Morrison, chairman of the Committee on Salaries and of the Committee on Military Affairs. (Read twice and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules in concurrence).

From the Senate: Resolve providing for the collection of information in regard to the large bridges within the State.

On motion of Mr. Oakes of Milford the vote was reconsidered whereby this resolve was passed to be engrossed, Senate amendment A was adopted, and the resolve was then passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

From the Senate: An Act for the protection of the wild hare or rabbit.

On motion of Mr. Perkins of Wilton the vote was reconsidered whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed, Senate amendment A was adopted, and the bill as amended was then passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

From the Senate: Resolve in aid of navigation on Lewey, Long and Big lakes.

On motion of Mr. Curtis of Portland the vote was reconsidered whereby this resolve was passed to be engrossed, Senate amendment A was adopted, and

the resolve was then passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

From the Senate: An Act conferring certain power upon the trustees of the University of Maine.

On motion of Mr. Thompson of Orono, the vote was reconsidered whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed, Senate amendment A was adopted, and the bill was then passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

From the Senate: An Act to establish Patriot's day.

This bill came from the Senate indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Drew of Portland moved that the House insist and appoint a committee of conference.

The motion was agreed to, and the Speaker appointed Messrs. Drew of Portland, Dudley of Augusta, and Ross of Bangor.

From the Senate: An Act relating to the Norway municipal court.

On motion of Mr. Pettengill the vote was reconsidered whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed, Senate amendment A was adopted, and the bill was then passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

From the Senate: An enabling act for the annexation of the city of South Portland to Portland.

On motion of Mr. Curtis of Portland, the vote was reconsidered whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed, Senate amendment A was adopted, and the bill was then passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

From the Senate: An Act for the protection of shore birds.

On motion of Mr. Sewall of Bath the vote was reconsidered whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed and Senate amendment A was adopted. Mr. Sewall offered House amendment A by adding after the word "Brunswick" the words "and Harpswell." On motion of Mr. Sewall the vote was reconsidered whereby Senate amendment A was adopted, House amendment A to Senate amendment A was then adopted and Senate amendment A as amended was adopted. Mr. Sewall offered House amendment B to the bill by inserting in line 13 after the word "birds" the words "in the counties

and towns above named." The amendment was adopted and the bill was then passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

From the Senate: An Act relating to political caucuses.

On motion of Mr. Barker of Bangor, the vote was reconsidered whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed, Senate amendment A was adopted and the bill was then passed to be engrossed as amended.

From the Senate: An Act relating to the taxation of mortgages.

This bill comes from the Senate, that body insisting and asking for a committee of conference.

Mr. Burrill of Ellsworth moved that a committee of conference be joined on the part of the House.

The motion was agreed to, and the Speaker joined Messrs. Burrill of Ellsworth, Putnam of Houlton and Potter of Brunswick.

From the Senate: Resolve in favor of an electric lighting plant for the Maine State prison.

This resolve comes from the Senate, that body insisting and asking for a committee on conference.

Mr. Hinckley of Lisbon moved that a committee of conference be joined on the part of the House.

The motion was agreed to, and the Speaker joined Messrs. Hinckley of Lisbon, Littlefield of Rockland and Newcomb of Eastport.

From the Senate: An Act preventing the throwing of sawdust and other mill waste into all tributaries of Seven Tree pond and Crawford pond in Union and Warren.

This bill comes from the Senate, that body insisting and asking for a committee of conference.

Mr. Littlefield of Rockland moved that a committee of conference be joined.

The motion was agreed to, and the Speaker joined Messrs. Littlefield of Rockland, Barker of Bangor and Sturgis of Standish.

From the Senate: Report of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs reporting "ought not to pass" on order providing for extra compensation for the Senate stenogra-

pher. In the Senate the order was substituted for the report.

Mr. Thornton of Ashland, moved to substitute the order for the report in concurrence.

On motion of Mr. Briggs of Auburn, the motion was laid on the table.

From the Senate: Report of same committee reporting "ought not to pass" on resolve in favor of the Eastern Maine General Hospital. In the Senate the resolve was substituted for the report.

On motion of Mr. Barker of Bangor, the House concurred with the Senate, and on further motion by Mr. Barker the rules were suspended, the resolve received its two readings and was passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

From the Senate: Report of same committee reporting "ought not to pass" on resolve in favor of the Bangor Children's Home. In the Senate the resolve was substituted for the report.

On motion of Mr. Barker of Bangor, the House concurred with the Senate, and on further motion by Mr. Barker the rules were suspended, the resolve received its two readings and was passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

The following Senate bills and resolves on first reading, received their several readings and were passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules:

An Act to provide for the preservation of town records of births, marriages and deaths previous to the year 1892.

Resolves in relation to the publication and distribution of the Revised Statutes.

Resolve in favor of Drew Plantation.

Resolve in favor of the Maine Insane hospital.

Resolve in favor of the town of New Sharon.

An Act to authorize steam railroad corporations to build and operate street railroads and purchase or lease said railroads. (Senate amendment A to this bill was adopted and the bill was then passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence).

An Act to incorporate the Farmers Telephone Company.

An Act to correct clerical errors and make plain the meaning of and amend Chapter 30 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by Chapter 42 of the Public Laws of 1899, and as amended by Chapters 222 and 278 of the Public Laws of 1901 and Chapter 326 of the Private and Special Laws of 1901, and acts reported from the committee on inland fisheries and game, relating to inland fisheries and game.

An Act for the protection of squirrels and chipmunks in the county of Knox. (Tabled on motion of Mr. Drew of Portland).

Resolve in favor of paying the unexpired licenses of hawkers and peddlers. (Referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs).

From the Senate: Majority and minority reports of the committee on inland fisheries and game on resolve for screening lakes.

On motion of Mr. Oakes of Auburn, the minority report was substituted for the majority report. The minority report was then accepted, and on motion by Mr. Oakes of Auburn the rules were suspended, and the resolve received its two readings.

On motion of Mr. Thompson of China, the resolve was laid on the table.

Majority and minority reports of the committee on taxation on bill, An Act to repeal Section 28 of Chapter six of the Revised Statutes, in relation to taxation of corporations. (Reports tabled, pending the acceptance of either).

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, the rules were suspended and that gentleman introduced bill, An Act providing temporarily for the payment of wardens for their services. (Read three times and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules).

On motion of Mr. McIntire of Waterford, the rules were suspended and that gentleman introduced resolve to reimburse the town of Waterford. (Read twice and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules).

On motion of Mr. Morrison of Eden, the rules were suspended and that gentleman introduced resolve in favor of a bridge in the town of Mariaville.

(Read twice and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules).

On motion of Mr. Allen of Sanford, the rules were suspended and that gentleman introduced a resolve in favor of the illustrated lectures on Illustrated Maine. (Read twice and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules).

On motion of Mr. Sewall of Bath, the rules were suspended, and that gentleman introduced remonstrance of Arthur J. Dunton, O. W. Fulsom and 72 others of Bath, against the passage of the bill presented by Mr. Thompson of Orono, transferring the responsibility of imposing jail sentences upon violators of the criminal law from the judges to the jurors. (Placed on file).

Orders.

On motion of Mr. McGregor of Enfield,

Ordered, The Senate concurring, that there be appropriated and paid to Fred E. Blake, secretary of the Committee on Salaries, the sum of fifty dollars, for services of clerk to the Salaries Committee.

On motion of Mr. Maybury of Saco,

Ordered, That the State Treasurer be directed to pay to William J. Smith, first assistant messenger, the sum of twenty-five dollars for extra services rendered before the session commenced.

On motion of Mr. Sutherland of Biddeford,

Ordered, The Senate concurring, that the State Treasurer be authorized to pay to William J. Maybury the sum of thirty dollars for services and expenses as secretary of the Committee on Military Affairs during this session.

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield,

Ordered, That the Senate be respectfully requested to return to this House, House document No. 504.

On motion of Mr. Page of Skowhegan,

Ordered, That the Treasurer of State be directed to pay the pages of the House in addition to their regular amount the sum of twenty-five dollars for extra services during this session of the Legislature.

Reports of Committees.

Mr. Page from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, on Bill, An Act providing for a bounty on bears in Oxford county, reported ought to pass.

Mr. Foss of Hancock, offered amendment A, relating to lynx and wild cats.

Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, raised the point of order that the amendment is not germane to the bill.

The Speaker rules that the point was well taken.

Mr. Weeks then offered amendment B, to strike out in the third line the word "state" and insert in place thereof the word "county," also to strike out in the eighteenth line the word "state," and insert the word "county;" also to strike out under schedule A the words "State of Maine," and insert "county of Oxford."

The question being on the adoption of amendment B, a division was had and the motion to adopt the amendment was lost by a vote of 32 to 57.

The bill was then read a third time and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.

Mr. Eaton from the Washington County Delegation, on petitions of Warren F. Pope and 112 others of East Machias, C. H. Tarbell and 95 others of Machias and S. N. Tobey and others of Machiasport for aid in repairing the East Machias and Machiasport toll bridge, reported that petitions be referred to the next Legislature.

Mr. Burrill from the Hancock County Delegation, reported in a new draft and ought to pass bill, An Act in relation to the salary of the register of probate for the county of Hancock. (Read three times and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules).

Mr. Sewall from the Sagadahoc County Delegation, reported in a new draft and ought to pass Bill, An Act to enable the county of Sagadahoc to rebuild the Merrymeeting Bay bridge, accept Arrowsic bridge and maintain both bridges free, to accept the People's Ferry, and to acquire in conjunction with the county of Lincoln or town of Dresden the ferry between Richmond and Dresden, to operate the

same and to reduce the tolls by at least one-half. (Read three times and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules).

First Reading of Printed Bills and Resolves.

An Act for the assessment of a State tax for the year 1903, amounting to the sum of \$970,475.70.

On motion of Mr. Manson of Pittsfield, the rules were suspended, this bill was given its three readings and was passed to be engrossed.

An Act to amend section 112 of chapter 11 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter 37 of the Public Laws of 1891 and by chapter 121 of the Public Laws of 1895, and by chapter 308 of the Public Laws of 1897, relating to normal schools and the Madawaska Training School.

On motion of Mr. Gagnon of Van Buren, the rules were suspended, the bill was given its three readings and was passed to be engrossed.

An Act to amend section three of chapter 30 of the Private and Special Laws of 1872, relating to the Godfrey Falls Dam Company.

On motion of Mr. Hill of Buxton, the rules were suspended, the bill was given its three readings and passed to be engrossed.

An Act to create the Maine Mining Bureau.

On motion of Mr. Williams of Williamsburg, the rules were suspended the bill was given its three readings and was passed to be engrossed.

An Act to authorize William C. Farrel and Henry A. Gagnon to construct a dam or dams across Hammond Brook in Aroostook county, and build and maintain piers in said brook, and improve said brook for driving purposes.

On motion of Mr. Gagnon of Van Buren the bill was given its three readings and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.

An Act for the assessment of a state tax for the year 1904, amounting to the sum of \$979,475.70.

On motion of Mr. Manson of Pittsfield, the bill was given its three readings and was passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.

Messrs. Burrill and Putnam, a majority of the House committee of conference, to which was referred bill, An Act relating to the taxation of mortgages, reported that the house adhere.

Mr. Potter, presented a minority report of same committee on same bill, reporting that same be referred to the next Legislature.

The pending question being on the acceptance of the majority report.

Mr. Putnam of Houlton, moved that the majority report be accepted.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Putnam further moved that the House adhere.

The motion was agreed to.

Resolve in favor of the town of Park-

man, came from the Senate, that body non-concurring with the action of the House and substituting the resolve for the report.

On motion of Mr. Sargent of Brewer, the House receded and concurred with the Senate, and on further motion by Mr. Sargent the rules were suspended the resolve was given its two readings and was passed to be engrossed.

An Act relating to the taxation of telegraph and telephone companies, came from the Senate in accordance with a previous request of the House.

On motion of Mr. Howe of Canton, the vote was reconsidered whereby this bill was referred to the next Legislature, and on further motion by Mr. Howe, the bill was indefinitely postponed.

From the Senate: An Act to amend the Public Laws of 1893, relating to treasurers and collectors, came from the Senate indefinitely postponed in concurrence with the House.

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, the vote was reconsidered whereby this bill was indefinitely postponed, and on further motion by the same gentleman it was laid on the table.

Passed to be Enacted.

An act to amend chapter 279 of the Public Laws of 1897, as amended by chapter 240 of the Public Laws of 1901, relating to the packing of sardines.

An Act to repeal so much of chapter 30 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section five of chapter 42 of the Public Laws of 1899, and as amended by chapter 379 of the Private and Special Laws of 1901, as closes Oakes Pond in Cornville to ice fishing.

An Act closing Cupsuptic river and its tributaries to all fishing above the foot of the first falls near its mouth, from July first to May first.

An Act to protect smelts during their spawning season in tributaries of Dam-ariscotta river.

An Act to regulate fishing in the tributaries of Wilson Lake in Wilton in the county of Franklin.

An Act to prohibit the use of boats or launches of any kind propelled by steam, naphtha, gasoline or electricity, while hunting sea birds in the waters of Frenchman's Bay, so called, on the coast of Maine.

An Act to prohibit the dumping of herring and all fish offal in the waters of Jonesport and Addison.

An Act to prohibit all ice fishing in Lake Webb or Weld pond, so called, in the town of Weld, county of Franklin.

An Act relating to the new iron bridge over the Presumpscoot river in the town of Falmouth.

An Act to permit the Longwood Real Estate Company to construct a wharf in Long Lake in the town of Naples.

An Act to extend and amend the charter of the Bluehill Trust and Banking Company.

An Act to amend chapter 174 of the Public Laws of 1901, relating to a franchise tax on sleeping and palace cars. (Tabled

on motion of Mr. Butler of South Thomaston, pending its passage to be enacted.

An Act relating to bonds given by collectors of taxes.

An Act to amend chapter 286 of the Public Laws of 1901, relating to taxation of interest bearing deposits in trust and banking companies.

An Act to authorize the Phillips and Rangeley Railroad Company to purchase or lease the property and franchises of the Madrid Railroad Company.

An Act to extend time of construction of Boothbay Railroad.

An Act to amend chapter 51 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the duties of railroad commissioners.

An Act to fix qualification for participation in party caucuses in the city of Augusta.

An Act to provide for the assessment and expenditure of the income arising from the permanent school fund in certain towns.

An Act to incorporate the Maine Coast Telephone Company.

An Act relating to defense of actions brought against administrators and executors.

An Act to amend the charter of the Augusta Trust Company.

An Act relating to actions for libel or slander.

An Act to legalize the acts and doings of Nashville Plantation, Aroostook county.

An Act for the protection of deer and moose in the county of Sagadahoc.

An Act to incorporate the Kibby Dam Company.

An Act to incorporate the Ashland Trust Company.

An Act to incorporate the Dirigo Electric Light Company of Dexter.

An Act to incorporate the Naples Water Company.

An Act to incorporate the Augusta Water District.

An Act to prohibit the throwing of sawdust and other refuse into Norton, Brown or Heath brooks or their tributaries, in the towns of Shapleigh and Limerick.

An Act to incorporate the Brooks Village corporation.

An Act to amend section four, section eleven, section nineteen of chapter eighteen of the Public Laws of 1891, as amended by chapter 154 of the public laws of 1895, relating to returns of vital statistics.

Finally Passed.

Resolve in favor of the trustees of the University of Maine.

Resolve in favor of Lee Normal Academy.

Resolve in relation to the early York deeds.

Resolve in favor of the Norcross Transportation Company.

Resolve in favor of Castine State Normal School.

Resolve in favor of the Navigation of Moosehead Lake.

Resolve in favor of Colby College.

Resolve in favor of A. A. Burleigh, chairman of the committee on interior waters.

Resolve laying a tax on the counties of the state for the years 1903 and 1904.

Resolve fixing the valuation of Reed Plantation in Aroostook county, and Drew Plantation in Penobscot county.

Resolve in favor of the town of Maria-ville.

Resolve in favor of the clerk and stenographer and the messenger of the judiciary committee.

Resolve in favor of the re-establishment, where necessary, of the boundaries of the lots reserved for public uses in the several plantations and unincorporated places.

Resolve to pay for the printing and binding of the report of John A. Morrill, commissioner for revision and consolidation of the public laws.

Resolve providing for an epidemic or emergency fund.

Resolve in favor of the town of Anson.

Resolve in favor of the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital.

Resolve in favor of the town of East Livermore.

Resolve in favor of the town of Cutler.

Resolve in favor of the stenographers to the presiding and recording officers of the Senate and House.

Resolve providing for a fund for completing the records of the Clerk of Courts of Lincoln county.

Resolve in favor of Lyman E. Smith, of Brunswick, for attendance before the agricultural committee, 1901.

Resolve abating a part of the state tax of the town of Bowdoinham for the years 1903 and 1904.

Resolve in favor of the Maine State Library.

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, the House adjourned until three-thirty o'clock this afternoon.

Afternoon Session.

On motion of Mr. Morrison of Eden, the rules were suspended and that gentleman introduced An Act in regard to the use of the roads in the town of Eden. (Read three times and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.)

Mr. Page from the committee on appropriations and financial affairs, on bill, An Act to regulate the salary of the justice of the superior court within and for the county of Cumberland, reported ought not to pass as the subject matter is contained in a different bill.

Mr. Potter of Brunswick, moved to reconsider the vote whereby the House passed to be engrossed An Act in regard to the use of the roads in the town of Eden.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Swett from the committee on appropriations and financial affairs, on bill, An Act establishing the salary of

the county attorney for the county of Knox, reported ought to pass. (Read three times and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.)

First reading of a printed bill: An Act to amend an act entitled "An Act authorizing Washington county to sell its stock in the Washington County Railroad Company and authorizing the sale or lease of said railroad, approved, March 10, 1903." (Read the third time and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.)

Salary of Attorney General.

Special assignment: Majority report of joint select committee on salaries, reporting that bill on act to fix the salary of the attorney general be referred to a committee appointed to determine the salaries of all State and county officials, and minority report of same committee reporting "ought to pass" in new draft under same title.

Mr. SEWALL of Bath: Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the committee on the part of the House, and one who signed the minority report, I wish to state briefly the reasons which caused the minority of the committee to make the report which they did. Two bills were introduced here by eminent members of the legal profession, eminent in their services to the House, personal friends and long political associates of the officials whose salaries and emoluments would be affected by the bill. The hearings were advertised and held and the committee received the information in regard to the matter, and after hearing the arguments the minority members of the committee felt moved to make this report, believing that their measure was right and that it should have the approval of the people of this State, submitted the minority report.

We declined and I decline to discuss here the question involved on any other basis than that of principle and interest to the State. We eliminated in our hearing, and I want to eliminate here every element that would or should be introduced reflecting in any way upon the officials involved. It was admitted without contradiction that they have performed their duties of their high offices with great ability. It was certainly so in regard to the at-

torney general and as regards the other officials. You, gentlemen, know as well as I and can testify in regard to his painstaking care, his courtesy, his hospitality, his versatility and character which have won for him the friendship of us all. Therefore, knowing the feeling of the minority towards these officials, I think I have a right in their behalf to object and at this time to utter my protest against the words interjected by the majority of the committee, unnecessarily, it seems to me, into their report, conveying almost an imputation, that the minority of the committee were not actuated by as high motives as we are ready to admit to the majority. The majority of the committee end their report by saying, "believing it to be in the spirit of fairness and justice that the act fixing the salary of the attorney general be referred to said committee." Those are sweet and fair praises, Mr. Speaker, but we have heard in our High school days that patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel. And so, here, giving the majority of the committee full credit for all honesty of intention—but, if the language they used there is used, as I believe it will be used in the next two years to procrastinate and delay investigation and settlement of the situation well nigh intolerable to the people of the State, it will not be the first time that such high sounding praises have been deposited to such an end.

What is the situation? You all know it. We have been brought up to it in this State. The political atmosphere has been surcharged with it during every political campaign. The minority party has made use of the weapon in attacking the party in power. It is that we have a system of fees beginning with the minor county offices and extending up through the conspicuous offices in the State. The majority says that I single out these two officials and put them on salary and take their fees and return them to the State. They are the only officials brought before you by the bills referred to your committee, and therefore the situation as regards these two officials was considered very different. These officials were not singled out by us—they were singled out for us, singled out by the

organic act which put them into office, singled out by the bills which were brought before our committee, singled out because the eyes of the people of the State have been upon those two high officials alone. And whenever the question was agitated over the fees of the county officials, which we admit are far beyond what should be received—and which deserve your attention now or at some other time—but whenever an effort has been made to reach those county officials there have been many people disapprove entirely of the fee system, who have said: "Yes, it is right to reach out after them, but we will not move until you reach out after more conspicuous offenders;" and I use the term in no offensive sense—that these two State officials named in these bills have been left in office and have kept emoluments which have increased far beyond their expectations or the expectations of anybody. The fact that they have been left there has been used and will be used as an argument against doing anything else in any direction.

What were the facts as demonstrated before the committee? The bill under discussion, as I understand, is the bill regulating the salary of the attorney general; but the principle involved in both these bills is the same; but I shall confine my discussion to the office of the attorney general. What are the facts established there? The gentleman near me, my friend from Waterville (Mr. Davis), had the information long before I did, owing to his greater astuteness and alertness in those matters. I have them now, and since he has kept his several months buttoned up in his coat and has not used them, I would like to inform this House what these figures are, and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that I will not by doing so deprive the gentleman of the just pleasure he might take two years from now in using them with greater effectiveness elsewhere. (Laughter).

The corporations organized in 1800, of which the attorney general gets what is called an initial fee of \$5, numbered 630, giving the attorney general who occupied that office at that time—and I do not remember now whether the present incumbent or his predecessor—giving him \$3150. In addition to that, in 1800 there were 200 excuses filed, excuses of corporations who had failed to give their returns, at the rate of \$5 an excuse, making \$1000. These sums added together make \$4150, which, added to the salary of \$1000 gave him \$5150 for the salary and emoluments of the attorney general in the year 1800. In 1801 there were 400 excuses filed, making \$2000; the number of corporations was 869, giving him \$485, and these sums together with the salary of \$1000 makes a total of \$7345 as salary and emoluments of the attorney general for the year 1801. These are the lowest figures, gentlemen, and when I give you these figures they are presumably the under figures; not that anything was kept back, but that something might have been valuable that was not asked for. In 1802 the number of corporations organized

was 1267, the initial fees of which amounted to \$6335; the excuses filed numbered 224, equal to \$1120, and these two amounts together with the regular salary make an amount of \$8450 as salary for last year. And \$450 is added for expenses of the attorney general, as you will see in the last report of the attorney general, making the amount of \$8900 as the salary and emoluments of the attorney general of the State of Maine for the year 1802.

We are of course interested as to the future. We can judge perhaps to what we are coming by getting at the estimate for next year by the ratio of the increase in the number of corporations formed in this State. In 1800 the number of corporations formed in this State with a capital of \$325,000 or less were 505; in 1801 the number was 660, an increase of 74 per cent. In 1802 the number was 940, and the total capitalization of these corporations in 1800 was something over \$170,000,000, and in 1801 it was something over \$358,000,000, and in 1802 it was \$513,555,140.

I submit that if you do not act favorably by substituting this minority report in place of the majority report the lowest estimate of the salary of the attorney general together with the emoluments will be \$1120 for excuses and \$8505 as initial fees, with the salary of \$1000, making a total of \$10,625.

On those figures it was argued by the minority members of the committee whether the principle of putting these two great offices on a salary basis was not a just one. It was admitted that it was a just one. The only question seemed to be the question of devising a salary which would be sufficient and which would be generous enough, and to fix a date which would be fair to all the parties concerned. And in the spirit of compromise and in a fair spirit towards all parties, I placed the time as 1804 when this rule would go into operation. The only objection offered by the report of the attorney general was that 1805 would be a fairer year to have this law go into operation.

Gentlemen, the attorney general in this State began with a salary of \$500, and since that time the salary has gradually increased.

Do you think, gentlemen of the House, that you will not be able to get the legal ability required for this office at a salary four times that for which these men were willing to serve? Do you think that you cannot get that talent for the salary for which the judges of our supreme court have been serving until we recently raised their salary? Do you think that the time given by the attorney general of this State to the business of the State cannot receive ample compensation in a salary of \$4000 a year? Do you fear that you will have difficulty in getting gentlemen to fill this position? Do you fear that gentlemen occupying these positions will resign if you act upon this bill according to the recommendations of the minority of this committee? I think not. I see right here on the floor before me two gentlemen, candidates for this office of attorney general, and who would fill it creditably, and since the agitation of this subject I have not

heard of either of them contemplating a withdrawal from the fight. It may be said that it is unfair. Everything will be said this afternoon that can be said on the other side. Mr. Speaker, because this matter has been thoroughly canvassed in the committee, and I fear that it has also been canvassed outside of the committee. You will have all the possible objections urged against the adoption of this report. It will be said that it is not fair to take two men elected or appointed for a term of years and cut down their salaries or emoluments before that term has expired. That is an argument that has been addressed individually to the members of our committee; it has been the argument addressed by none less than the attorney general himself.

They will tell you finally that you have appointed a commission to settle all these matters, and that by the appointment of that commission you took it out of your own hands to reach these high officials. They will say that the contemplation of that resolution providing for the appointment of that commission was that all the offices should be surveyed and that action should be taken on all simultaneously, if taken at all.

Gentlemen, the people of the State of Maine are just—they are thoroughly just and fair, they are generous and desire to be generous in the matter of salaries, generous even beyond their means. They would scorn to take from any man labor or work for which they do not give full and abundant pay. But in the position in which they are today, a simple, hardy, sturdy people, with no great amount of wealth, they ask you to do with these officials as you would do with men in your own house, however near or dear they are to you, or a man in your own employment in business life; they are ready to pay generously, and I am ready as a signer of that minority report—I am ready here and now to accept an amendment if the House sees fit, which will increase their salary; but the people of this State want to know what they are paying their officials, and what their public officials get while they are conducting the public business, and they have a right to that information, and they have a right to ask you to act and to act now; and they will say to you that as long as these conditions last they want their public officials paid a just salary, and the increasing surplus will be turned over to the treasury of the State and to the people for whom we are here to act as trustees. (Applause).

Mr. DAVIS of Waterville: Mr. Speaker, I am a great admirer of specious argument. When that argument has weight, fact, axiom, syllogism, behind it, then I admire it still more. I have always been afraid of sudden conversions and spasms of righteousness. When my friend from Bath (Mr. Sewall) has been in distant lands looking after his constituents and himself, there have been many of us who have

been trying to stem the tide of misappropriation in the State of Maine; and the fact that an attack has been made, that officials of the State have been called "offenders," that the system has been called up and attacked here, has nothing to do with this matter at all. We have, today, to deal with the simple facts as they are presented to this House, today, by these reports; and as a signer of the majority report of the committee, it may be advisable for me to state my position, and incidentally the position of the other members who signed the majority report.

I am, first, last and all the time in favor of straight salaries, from the Governor down to the humblest official in this State. I have been outspoken in this, not only here at this session, but for years in the past. I have been outspoken against it because I believed the system was wrong and that the people of the State should know, and that it was their duty to know, what their officials were receiving. And that sentiment, that has been growing in the State of Maine, has crystallized in this House, and the outgrowth of it is a commission made up, as I believe it will be made up, of honorable gentlemen in the Senate and the House, whose duty it will be to consider the fee system and the salaries paid in this State, and whose duty it will be to report that those fees shall no longer be paid.

Coming to the question in all candor, we were asked to single out at this time two officials of this State and place them upon a salaried basis at this time, in spite of the fact that we have had 25 years of increasing fee system—in spite of all the record of the past we have been asked to make this tremendous break at this time. Now what were the facts? The gentleman from Bath has been asked, and he has not satisfactorily answered the question, why he recommended \$4000 as an equitable salary for the attorney general of the State of Maine. He was asked if he knew what the duties of the attorney general were. There has been no satisfactory answer. The only information that we could get was that the duties were arduous, that there were opinions given for which no

charges were made, that he was constantly consulted by those organizing corporations, that he had much to do aside from simply approving or disapproving of a corporation or excusing it; and we believe that with the meager information that was had it was manifestly unfair to begin now and cut this man off from his salary and his fees, but that it was fair to say to that man, "A commission has been appointed and your case, and every other case in the State of Maine where fees are received, will come before it"—and before the next Legislature convenes those fees will be dug out, the facts governing that office will be known, everything will be made public, and at that time a proper report will be made that you can act upon intelligently.

Now as to this item of \$4000. Suppose in the near future you add to the corporation tax 25 per cent. more than you have it, today, and you will drive the corporations that are coming here, to New Jersey, or West Virginia, or some other State, and the result would be that your attorney general would not earn \$2000. Why fix it at \$4000? In all fairness let us put the whole box and dice together and let us determine by actual investigation what these positions are worth, and then let us fix the salary and make it commensurate with the service performed. I am not afraid of the results. I am opposed to the fee system. It is a relic of barbarism. And one year, and I fancy two, are none too many to give this commission time to investigate carefully these offices and put them on a basis where you will know that they are receiving. Why decapitate this man and the other man, today, before you know what you are doing? Do this thing honorably and in decency and in order, and then, when the fee system goes, let it go altogether. (Applause).

Mr. LIBBY of Mechanic Falls: Mr. Speaker, I believe that much of the information which the gentleman from Bath has given to this House, must be new to the members. It certainly is a revelation to me. If I had known that the attorney general's place in this State was paying the amount of \$9000 or \$10,000, I admit I would have been after it years before this (Laughter). I believe that the people of this State

feel, today, that a salary of \$4000 for this place is adequate. Whether they do or not, I believe it, personally, and that a salary of \$4000 is sufficient to secure the services of any man who is desirous of occupying this position. And I want to call attention to one thing further. This position is worth something to any man in the legal profession outside of the money compensation which he receives. When a man engaged in the practice of law has been complimented by being permitted to hold this high office, when the people have said that his abilities are sufficient to occupy this place which has been occupied by such noble men in the past, I say it is worth something to him in his professional life besides the mere remuneration of the salary attached to it. And that is something that ought not to be lost sight of in this discussion.

The gentleman from Waterville has confessed that he is an admirer of specious arguments, and I apprehend that no confession was necessary in the case. It might go without saying. The argument which the gentleman has produced here on this proposition, it seems to me, is in and of itself a confession. I have heard the gentleman from Waterville time and time again inveigh against this proposition of a fee system in this State; and he practically reiterates it here. This thing is a relic of that which we have been trying to obliterate for years. And in standing here today I occupy no new position. The members of this House who were here two years ago will remember that on the floor of this House I took the same stand on this proposition. I understand it to be one of the cardinal principles of the Republican party in this State that they are against the fee system and that they are in favor of knowing what compensation their men receive. As has been said, no man in this State proposes to be niggardly or small in the matter. It is proposed to give every man a good, fair, round compensation for his services, and when the amount is fixed in this bill at \$4000 is considered, I say that that is a full, fair and round compensation, and is sufficient to attract the attention of legal gentlemen throughout the length and breadth of this State, and I believe the field will not grow any smaller if this bill is passed—I mean as far as candidates is concerned. If, however, it should happen to dwindle down to one, I can assure you that that one will not leave the field. (Laughter).

The fee system should be wiped out, and the sooner the better. Why, then, wait two years? We shall have no further information, and the next Legislature will have no further information in regard to the compensation of the attorney general than it has today. Why, then, wait for the report of a commission that can give us no more light than we now possess? The only thing that we shall gain in the way

of new light will be the fact that there will be an increase in the corporation business of the State, estimated by the best lawyers engaged in that business to be at least 20 per cent., we shall still at that time know only this much more—that the income for this place has been increased to that extent. What advantage will that be to us or to the people to know that at that time? It will be simply and solely continuing this place another two years or another year, according as you fix the time when this act shall take effect at a compensation of \$10,000 or more, \$5000 of which I believe honestly ought to go into the treasury of the State. What comfort will the gentleman from Waterville derive from the fact that his action today if followed out will simply put out of the treasury of the State \$6000 or \$12000, according as it may be one year or two years, and give it to a private individual? The people of this State ought to have that money, and in good conscience nobody ought to take it from them—I mean so long as we leave the compensation of the office which we are discussing at a good round, reasonable figure.

The judges of our supreme court are as hard worked, as eminent, as able, as conscientious men, probably, as we have in the State of Maine, and until recently when by your action you increased their salary, they have scarcely been receiving one-half the compensation that the attorney general of this State has been receiving. Do you call that a fair and equitable arrangement? But it is proposed to postpone the effect of this thing for two years. Let us for a moment examine the equity involved in that proposition. It is admitted that the corporation business in this State is increasing, that 20 per cent. more will be received from it, 20 per cent. more work to be done under it at the end of two years than is called for at the present time. How will these two propositions dove-tail together? At the end of two years increasing the work of the incoming attorney general 20 per cent., and at the same time cut down his compensation 50 per cent. How do these things look to you as a proposition in equity? I do not know who the gentleman, fortunate or unfortunate, may be to have this additional burden thrust upon him at the end of two years, but how about the proposition of putting 20 per cent. more work upon his shoulders and at the same time cutting down his compensation 50 per cent.? If there is any merit in it, perhaps I fail to see what it is. I fail to see the equity. At the end of two years if this corporation business increases 20 per cent. there will be more equity, after having fixed this compensation upon the present basis at a reasonable rate, to increase it according to the work that is done, if it is necessary to increase it at all.

I did not intend to occupy any time in this discussion. It seems to me too plain to need any lengthy argument before a body of men intelligent, strenuous observers and practical as are the members of this House. I believe that we are prepared today to act upon this proposition without waiting upon the motion of any

commission which after two years can simply bring this thing back with the same amount of knowledge and the same amount of light that we possess today, so far as this place is concerned; and I hope, without trespassing longer upon the attention of this House, that this thing will be decided here and now. I have an abiding faith and confidence in the good judgment and good sense, the practical business ability of the members of this House to do this business and do it right—not only do it and do it right, but do it at the present time. (Applause).

Mr. SEWALL of Bath: Mr. Speaker, since the two bills—that relating to the salary of the attorney general and the one relating to the salary of the secretary of State—are very much interwoven, and the second is to come up after this and is on the same principle, of my own motion and without reference to my colleagues on the minority report I shall offer at the proper time, when the bill bearing on the salary of the secretary of State comes up, an amendment increasing that salary to the same amount as that of the attorney general.

Mr. Allen of Sanford moved that when the vote is taken it be taken by the yeas and nays.

The question being on substituting the minority report for the majority report, the yeas and nays were ordered.

YEA:—Allen of Sanford, Bailey, Barker, Blanchard, Briggs, Bussey, Butler, Buxton, Campbell, Carleton, Coburn, Cole, Cook, Cordwell, Davidson, Dilling, Downing, Dudley, Eaton of Calais, Eaton of Wells, Farnsworth of Pembroke, Foss, Furbish, Gardner, Greenleaf, Haskell, Hawkes, Hill of Brownfield, Hill of Buxton, Hill of Winterport, Hinkley, Howe, Howes, Hubbard, Jones, Josselyn, Kelley, Knowlton of New Portland, Leavitt, Libby of Mechanic Falls, Libby of Newfield, Little, Manson, McIntire, McKusick, Mead, Merriam, Nash, Nelson, Newcomb, Nickerson, Oakes of Auburn, Page of Drew Pl., Page of Skowhegan, Patterson, Peaslee, Perkins, Pettengill, Pike, Poor, Potter, Putnam of Danforth, Putnam of Houlton, Randall, Rice, Ross, Sargent, Savage, Sewall, Shackford of Harrington, Shackford of Poland, Shaw, Snowe, Swett, Tapley, Tartre, Thomas of Harpswell, Thompson of China, Thornton, Todd, Tripp, Twambly, Waterhouse, Watson, Weatherbee, Wentworth, White—87.

NAY:—Allen of Wellington, Benner, Blake, Boyd, Brewster, Burrill, Buzzell, Clarke of Nobleboro, Clark of Prospect, Curtis, Davis, Dodge, Drew, Farnsworth of Tremont, Favour, Gagnon, Gannett, Hayes, Irving, Kimball, Knapp, Maybury, McGregor, Mewer, Morrison, Norton, Parrott, Pooler, Purinton, Reynolds, Smith of Hartland, Smith of Presque Isle, Stearns, Sturgis, Sutherland, Thomas of Topsham, Thompson of Orono, Thurlow, Williams—40.

ABSENT:—Abbott, Albert, Bodwell, Cameron, Daniels, Hall, Knowlton of Camden, Lamb, Libby of Oakland, Littlefield, Low, McFaul, Mills, Oakes of Milford, Ruggles, Spear, Stover, Sweeney, Taylor, Tremblay—20.

PAIRED:—Smith of Madison, No; Weeks of Fairfield, Yes.

So the motion prevailed and the minority report was substituted for the majority.

The minority report was then accepted, and on motion of Mr. Sewall of Bath, the rules were suspended, the bill received its three readings and was passed to be engrossed.

Special assignment: Majority report of joint select committee on salaries, reporting that bill, An Act to fix the salary of the secretary of State be referred to a committee appointed to determine the salaries of all State and county officials, and minority report of committee, reporting "ought to pass" in new draft, bill under same title.

The pending question is motion to substitute minority for majority report.

Mr. Davis of Waterville, moved that when the vote is taken it be taken by the yeas and nays.

The motion was agreed to and the yeas and nays were ordered.

YEA:—Allen of Sanford, Bailey, Barker, Blanchard, Briggs, Bussey, Buxton, Campbell, Carleton, Coburn, Cole, Cook, Cordwell, Davidson, Dilling, Downing, Dudley, Eaton of Calais, Eaton of Wells, Foss, Furbish, Gardner, Greenleaf, Haskell, Hawkes, Hill of Brownfield, Hill of Buxton, Hill of Wintport, Hinckley, Howe, Howes, Jones, Josselyn, Leavitt, Libby of Mechanic Falls, Libby of Newfield, Little, Manson, McIntire, McKusick, Mead, Merriam, Nash, Nelson, Oakes of Auburn, Page of Drew Pl., Page of Skowhegan, Patterson, Peaslee, Perkins, Pettengill, Pike, Poor, Potter, Randall, Rice, Sargent, Savage, Sewall, Shackford of Harrington, Shackford of Poland, Shaw, Snowe, Swett, Tapley, Tartre, Thomas of Harpswell, Thompson of China, Todd, Tripp, Twambly, Waterhouse, Watson, Weatherbee, Wentworth, White—76.

NAY:—Allen of Wellington, Benner, Blake, Boyd, Brewster, Burrill, Buzzell, Clarke of Nobleboro, Clark of Prospect, Davis, Dodge, Drew, Farnsworth of Pembroke, Farnsworth of Tremont, Favour, Gannett, Hayes, Irving, Kelley, Kimball, Knapp, Knowlton of New Portland, Maybury, McGregor, McNamara, Mewer, Norton, Parrott, Pooler, Purinton, Putnam of Danforth, Putnam of Houlton, Reynolds, Smith of Hartland, Smith of Presque Isle, Stearns, Sturgis, Sutherland, Thomas of Topsham, Thompson of Orono, Thurlow, Williams—42.

ABSENT:—Abbott, Albert, Bodwell, Butler, Cameron, Curtis, Daniels, Gagnon, Hall, Hubbard, Knowlton of Camden, Lamb, Libby of Oakland, Littlefield, Low, McFaul, Mills, Morrison, Newcomb, Nickerson, Oakes of Milford, Ross, Euggles, Spear, Stover, Sweeney, Taylor, Thornton, Tremblay—29.

PAIRED:—Smith of Madison, No; Weeks of Fairfield, Yes.

So the motion prevailed and the minority report was substituted for the majority report.

The minority report was then accepted.

Mr. Sewall of Bath, moved that the rules be suspended and the bill receive its three readings at the present time.

The motion was agreed.

The bill was then read twice.

Mr. Sewall of Bath, offered House amendment A, to strike out "three" in the third line before the word "thousand," and insert "four."

Mr. Davis of Waterville, moved that a yeas and nays vote be taken on the adoption of the amendment.

The motion was lost.

The question being on the adoption of the amendment, Mr. Davis called for a division, and a division being had the amendment was adopted by a vote of 35 to 26.

The bill was then read a third time and was passed to be engrossed as amended.

Special assignment: Majority report of committee on appropriations and financial affairs, reporting "ought not to pass" on bill to provide for the appointment of a commission to investigate the causes of floods and overflows of rivers, etc., and minority report of same committee, reporting "ought to pass" in new draft bill under same title.

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, the reports were tabled and tomorrow morning assigned for their consideration.

Special assignment: Majority and minority reports of the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses on bill, An Act to provide for the comfort and safety of persons and property in Old Orchard, in the county of York, during the months of June, July, August and September of each year.

On motion of Mr. Mewer of Old Orchard, the minority report was substituted for the majority report.

The minority report was then accepted, and on motion by Mr. Mewer, the rules were suspended, the bill received its three readings and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Drew of Portland, bill to amend Chapter 96 of the Public Laws of 1899, entitled "An Act to prevent incompetent persons from conducting the business of pharmacist, was taken from the table.

Mr. Oakes of Auburn, offered House Amendment A to Section 1, by striking out in line 17 the word "shall" and inserting in place thereof the word "may," and by striking out the words "unless in the opinion of the Governor said persons are manifestly unsuitable or incompetent," in lines 19 and 20, and inserting the words "provided that this shall not affect the term of the present members of said board."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Shaw of Bath, moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. OAKES of Auburn: This bill has been satisfactorily arranged with the persons whom I supposed represented the opponents of it, and the amendment was made by agreement.

Mr. SHAW of Bath: My only reason for making the motion was because I think the bill is entirely unnecessary.

Mr. OAKES of Auburn: The substance of the bill is that the members of the examining board of pharmacy shall be put upon a per diem, instead of getting their pay by fees as at present, and that the

Maine Pharmaceutical Association, which includes a very large majority of the druggists in the State of Maine, shall have the privilege of presenting six names as nominees in the future, from which the Governor may select if he sees fit, the future members that may be appointed to the board. It does not affect the present board. It is the desire, as I understand it, of the Maine Pharmaceutical Association.

The question being on the motion indefinitely postpone the bill a division was had and the motion was lost by a vote of 28 to 49.

The bill was then read the third time and was passed to be engrossed.

Mr. Swett of Portland, moved to take from the table report A of the committee on appropriations and financial affairs, reporting ought to pass in new draft, resolve in favor of the Western State Normal school at Gorham, and report B of same committee, on resolve in favor of the Western State Normal school at Gorham, reporting the same be referred to the next Legislature.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SWETT of Portland: Mr. President, I move that report A be accepted. I desire to call the attention of the House to what I think is a manifestly fair proposition, and which I believe will appeal to the sense of justice of the members. The committee on education has reported favorably on appropriations for all the Normal schools except Gorham. The House has passed an appropriation establishing a Normal school at Presque Isle, and giving them what they ask for, and very properly doing so. It had my hearty support, for I recognize the growing needs of that section of our State and that they are richly entitled to what they need in the matter of education, but the Normal school at Gorham was for some reason which I have not been able to understand, referred to the next Legislature. Now, that is one of the oldest established schools in the State. It has done most excellent work. Pupils from that school have always commanded ready positions at liberal salaries; and it is an act of simple justice to that section of the State that report A should be adopted, and I trust that this House will act favorably upon it.

Mr. MEAD of Bridgton: Mr. Speaker, as a member of the committee on education, I would like to say that seven members of this committee visited Gorham and studied the needs of that school, and it was the unanimous decision of the committee that the resolve asked for ought to pass. In times past the Gorham Normal school has had the use of the old Gorham Academy building for three grades of its practice work. During this session of the Legislature we have passed certain acts looking toward the re-establishment of that old academy. Under those conditions the trustees refused longer to lease to the Normal school this building which they have been using. This will practically send three grades of that school into the street unless some provision is made for them. The resolve asks for

means to build an addition to this school with suitable accommodations for practice work. The Normal school is more valuable than any other school. The principal of this school, who has a lifelong interest in educational matters and who has given to this particular school the ripe years of his manhood, in his declining days is lying at the present time dangerously sick at his home in Gorham. He has taken great interest in this proposed addition, for he better than any other man, has realized the necessity of it. Should report B be accepted I trust that no report of your action will reach that sick room. I sincerely hope that report A will meet with your approval, and I trust that our action will not come to him at too late an hour to receive his appreciation. I hope that report A will be accepted. (Applause).

Mr. PERKINS of Wilton: Mr. Speaker, as a member of the committee on education who visited the Normal school at Gorham at the first of this session, just as those from the school at the hearing before the committee represented it—that is to say, those who appeared before the committee represented the position just as we found it. Now, the fact is that the dormitory of this institution is lighted by kerosene. The lamps are numerous. They claim that they need and should have, for the simple effect of safety, electric lights in the building.

We were taken as a committee over the school building, and I can assure you that it would be plain and clear to anybody who was there and who noticed the number of scholars, which I am informed was about 167, that the accommodations for the different classes in recitations were very incomplete. A teacher in the school showed us about the building and told us of their needs in the way of additions. There are practically no recitation rooms in the school—only a few. Now, there is on one corner of the lot a piece of property which at the present time can be bought for \$1000 by giving the owners the privilege of taking the buildings off. Across this piece of property the trustees of the normal schools of the State hired a right of way, a walk, over which the students have gone. This piece of property if obtained by the trustees of the normal schools must be secured before next June. Furthermore, to show that this school does not appeal simply to Gorham and vicinity, it is fair to state that only four of the students there are from Gorham. The greater majority of the scholars come from all over the State of Maine. So it is a matter which interests us as a state, not Gorham locally; and I sincerely hope that the report A recommending \$5000 this year and \$10,000 next year will prevail.

The question being on the acceptance of either report, Mr. Swett of Portland, moved that report A be accepted.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Drew of Portland, moved that the rules be suspended and that the resolve take its two readings.

The motion was agreed to and the resolve was read once.

Mr. Purinton of Gorham, offered House amendment A, striking out the word "five" in the second line, and insert the word "ten."

The amendment was adopted, the resolve was then read a second time and was passed to be engrossed as amended.

On motion of Mr. Davis of Waterville, the vote was reconsidered whereby bill, An Act to authorize steam railroad corporations to build and operate street railroads, was passed to be engrossed.

Mr. Davis of Waterville, moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed, and further moved that it lie on the table until the evening session.

The motion was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Pettengill of Rumford, report of committee on taxation, reporting ought to pass on bill appropriating one-half of the taxes received from trust and banking companies to the school fund, was taken from the table.

The report of the committee was then accepted in concurrence with the Senate, and on motion of Mr. Pettengill, the rules were suspended, the bill received its three readings and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Barker of Bangor, bill, An Act to amend Section 55 of Chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes, relating to taxation of express companies, was taken from the table, and on further motion by Mr. Barker the bill was indefinitely postponed.

On motion of Mr. Drew of Portland, bill relating to protection of squirrels and chipmunks in Knox county, was taken from the table.

The bill was then read a second time, and on motion of Mr. Drew the rules were suspended, the bill received its third reading and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Thornton of Ashland, bill to incorporate the Munsungun Telephone Company, was taken from the table.

Mr. Thornton offered House amendment A to Section 5, by striking out the words "one hundred" and inserting in place thereof the word "fifty."

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

On motion of Mr. Snowe of West Gardiner, bill to amend Section 4 of Chapter 256 of the Public Laws of 1893, relating to the sale and analysis of commercial fertilizers, was taken from the table, and on further motion by the same gentleman the rules were suspended, the bill received its second and third readings and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. White of Dyer Brook, Adjourned until 8 o'clock this evening.

Evening Session.

On motion of Mr. Hinckley of Lisbon,

Ordered, That the Senate be requested to return to the House resolve in favor of the Maine State prison.

On motion of Mr. Howe of Canton, report of committee on appropriations

and financial affairs, reporting ought to pass on resolve in favor of State House employes, was taken from the table. Resolve was then read a second time and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Thurlow of Cutler,

Ordered, The Senate concurring, that the sum of \$50 be paid A. W. Butler for clerk hire and expenses as secretary of the committee on commerce, on county estimates and bills on third reading.

On motion of Mr. Smith of Presque Isle,

Ordered, That Moses R. Spear of Warren, be and hereby is excused from all further attendance upon this session of the Legislature, and that the clerk be and hereby is directed to make up his pay and travel in full to the end of the session.

On motion of Mr. Thompson of China,

Ordered, The Senate concurring, that the State treasurer be authorized to pay Charles R. Hill, secretary of the committee on temperance, the sum of \$50, the same being for stenographic and clerical help during the session.

On motion of Mr. Farnsworth of Pembroke,

Ordered, That the report of the committee on appropriations and financial affairs, reporting referred to the next Legislature, resolve to provide for a geological examination of the State for possible supply of coal, be taken from the files.

On motion of Mr. Barker of Bangor,

Ordered, That Mr. Williams of Williamsburg, be excused on and after March 27, from further attendance at this session of the Legislature, and that the clerk be instructed to make up his pay with usual mileage to the end of the session.

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Waterville, resolve in favor of the town of Canton, was taken from the table.

Mr. Howe of Canton, moved that the rules be suspended and that the resolve take its two readings at the present time.

The motion was agreed to.

The resolve was read once.

Mr. Weeks offered House Amendment A by adding to the resolve "same to be paid in 1904."

The amendment was adopted, and on motion of Mr. Howe, the resolve was laid upon the table.

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, bill relating to compensation of examining boards, was taken from the table, and on motion by Mr. Maybury of Saco, it was indefinitely postponed.

On motion of Mr. Bailey of Bradford, bill, relating to repair of highways, was taken from the table.

Mr. Bailey moved that the bill be substituted for the report.

Mr. Smith of Hartland, moved that when the vote is taken it be taken by the yeas and nays.

On motion of Mr. Pike of Lubec, the bill and report was indefinitely postponed.

On motion of Mr. Thompson of China, the majority and minority reports of the committee on taxation upon bill to repeal Section 28 of Chapter 6, in relation to taxation of corporations, was taken from the table.

Mr. THOMPSON of China: Mr. Speaker, this bill proposes to repeal Section 28 of Chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes. This is an obsolete statute. The legislative committee of the State Grange propose this bill. When it came before the taxation committee, the committee of the State Grange presented their arguments an array of lawyers, representing the corporate interests of the State, came before the committee, and with falacious arguments, not applying to this case at all, they began to ask the question as to whether stock in manufacturing corporations ought to be taxed. That is not the question at issue. It is taxed; and I appeal to you whether this section, an obsolete section, whereby people are escaping taxation, should not be repealed, or else the law taxing those corporations be repealed.

The farmers are carrying more than their part of the burden of taxation; and when you attempt to tax the railroads, for instance, it is said, "It won't do to tax them, they are quasi-public corporations, if you put up your tax on your railroads the people will have to pay for it." Of course the people pay for it. This money comes from the people and goes back to the people. What is not a quasi-public corpora-

tion? That argument would apply to your farms as well as to your railroads. If homes were not taxed, your lands would be cheaper. Admitting the fact that if manufacturing corporations, railroads or any other corporations paid more taxes, the people would have to pay, don't you know that the State has a right to collect its taxes as it pleases? When the government wanted money it put a cent stamp on every bunch of matches. The price of the matches went up, and the government collected its tax from the people in that way. If you put up your taxes on the express companies it would not hurt the express companies, if they put up their rates, and we chose to collect our taxes in that way. It is precisely the way the government is collecting its taxes, and there is no argument whatever why we should not tax where we please in this way.

Two years ago the legislative Grange committee came before this House with quite a number of tax measures. Corporate interests of the State appeared before the committee and opposed the measures proposed by the Grange. We were successful in passing eight of the nine bills that were introduced which gave to the State a revenue of from \$250,000 to \$300,000 a year. Is the State sorry that the Grange advocated those tax measures and put the State on such a fine financial basis. Does anybody now claim that there should not be a tax on trust companies and on some of those corporations, that we worked so hard for two years ago? And here is simply another measure that proposes to repeal this section and leave the law as it was intended to be; and if this House, and if the committee on revision of the statutes, turn this law down, I assure you that you will hear from it later.

Gentlemen, I hope that the motion that I shall make will prevail, and I move that the minority report of the committee be substituted for that of the majority. (Applause.)

The motion was agreed to, and the minority report was then accepted.

On further motion by Mr. Thompson of China, the rules were suspended, the bill received its three readings and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Clarke of Nobleboro, bill relating to Wiscasset bridge was taken from the table. On further motion by Mr. Clarke, Senate amendment A was adopted. The bill was then read the third time and was passed to be engrossed as amended in concurrence.

On motion of Mr. Howe of Canton, Resolve in favor of the town of Canton was taken from the table.

Mr. Libby of Mechanic Falls offered House amendment B, "But no part of said sum shall be paid to said town of Canton until said town shall have raised and paid the balance of cost of said bridge and the same is made a free bridge.

The amendment was adopted and the resolve was then passed to be engrossed as amended.

On motion of Mr. Gannett of Augusta, the rules were suspended and that gentleman introduced bill, An Act to change the name of the Plantation of Winterville. (Read three times and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.)

On motion of Mr. Pettengill of Rumford, the report of the joint standing committee on salaries reporting ought to pass in a new draft bill relating to the compensation of the members of the government, was taken from the table.

The report of the committee was accepted.

Mr. Barker of Bangor, moved that the rules be suspended and that the bill receive its three readings and be passed to be engrossed.

The motion was agreed to, and the bill was read twice, and on motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, it was laid on the table, pending its third reading.

On motion of Mr. Sewall of Bath, the rules were suspended and that gentleman introduced bill, An Act to annex certain islands in Casco bay to the county of Sagadahoc and the town of Phippsburg. (Read three times and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.)

On motion of Mr. Gannett of Augusta, the rules were suspended and that gentleman introduced bill, An Act to authorize A. M. Goddard and others

to build and maintain a movable sidewalk. (Read three times and passed to be engrossed under suspension of the rules.)

On motion of Mr. Campbell of Cherryfield, bill to make certain the meaning of the language "timber and grass" relating to public lots, so called, in unincorporated townships in Maine, was taken from the table.

The bill was then read the third time and passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Weeks of Fairfield, bill relating to the compensation of members of the government, was taken from the table.

Mr. Weeks offered House amendment A by adding to line 34 the words, "Provided that no member of the Legislature shall receive free passes from transportation companies."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. Davis of Waterville, offered House amendment B, "Section 3. At the said next election the following question shall be printed upon the official ballot after the list of candidates in accordance with Section 10 of Chapter 102 of the Public Laws of 1891, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 286 of the Public Laws of 1893: 'Shall the salary of the Executive Council and members of the Senate and House of Representatives be increased to \$300 in place of \$150 as now provided by law, and the salary of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House to \$500 in place of \$300 as now provided by law?' The words 'Yes' and 'No' shall be printed upon each ballot above the aforesaid question so as to leave a blank space above each question so as to give each voter a clear opportunity to designate by a cross marked therein opposite the word 'Yes' or 'No' his answer to the question submitted."

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

From the Senate: An Act to regulate the police force of the city of Portland.

On motion of Mr. Josselyn of Portland, the vote was reconsidered where-by this bill was passed to be engrossed, Senate amendment A was adopted, and the bill was then passed to be en-

grossed as amended in concurrence.

On motion of Mr. Davis of Waterville, bill, An Act to authorize steam railroad corporations to build and operate street railroads and purchase or lease such railroads, was taken from the table.

The pending question was the indefinite postponement of the bill.

Mr. DAVIS of Waterville: Mr. Speaker, I want to approach this question with the utmost fairness to all concerned, and I want to ask the attention of the members of the House to the end that what I may present in regard to this matter may be fully understood and thoroughly digested; and I hope the gentlemen of the House will approach it forgetting for the moment that it has been my ill luck or misfortune to present measures that have not been popular, and also for the time being to forget the passes that may be in your inside pockets.

This bill that is now before you passed unanimously to its passage to be engrossed, this forenoon, without opposition. I am well aware, Mr. Speaker, that it will be said probably in opposition to what I will give utterance, that there has been time to consider this measure; that opposition should have been brought to the bill before this time, and that at this late hour it was not the time to bring this matter to the attention of the House and to ask that it be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that while the Legislature is in session, if it can be consistently shown that any measure proposed, up to the point of its becoming a law, or even after, is not a measure that is in the interest of the people of the State of Maine whom we represent, it is good and ample time in which to call the matter up again and to decide it again on its merits.

The question before you is an act to authorize steam railroad corporations to build and operate steam railroads and purchase or lease such railroads. This was the original form in which the measure was brought to this Legislature, the title of the bill, and the substitution of the bill was in keeping with the title. The Maine Central Railroad, with its usual acuteness, through its representative, was here taking the

pulse of the members of this House, and he discovered before the bill had long been before us that it was not the sense of this House—that, rather, it was overwhelmingly against the good sense of the House to pass this measure. There was then a revision of the title and of the substance of the bill; and the result of that revision was that amendment A was adopted and the bill in its new draft is now as it is—and the substance of the draft is the same as indicated by the title—"An Act to authorize steam railroad corporations to build and operate street railroads, and purchase or lease such railroads."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I submit that that sounds very innocent. I admit that there may be but little apparent danger as that appears before you in the new garb, but I want to show you very briefly, if I can without going too much into detail, something of the history of the electric road development in the State of Maine, the relationship that has existed between the steam railroads and the electric railroads for the past 10 years and I want to appeal to your good sense and good citizenship, and your loyalty to this State of Maine that we all love so well, to say whether a measure of this kind in its more innocent form shall become a law, or whether it shall not.

I take up the railroad commissioners' report of the year 1902, and I find that the 19 reported electric railroads in the State have an aggregate gross capital or assets of \$10,286,749.48. This does not include the railroads that were completed last year late in the season; it does not include railroads that are now in process of building, the present season, of course. I am willing, Mr. Speaker, to give the benefit, in giving you these figures, of any possible expansion of capital or marking up of assets that may appear in this statement, although I believe that these statements are all sworn to and accepted and presented in those reports. The item of \$10,000,000, in round numbers, does not by any manner of means cover the property that has been added to the State of Maine since the electric railroads began their career in 1890 and 1891. It would be impossible to esti-

mate, as the figures are not at hand to prove it, but there can be no doubt that more than ten millions of property have been added to the State of Maine along the lines of these roads during the past 10 years.

I have only to refer to the road in Waterville, one of the shortest roads of them all. Since that road was completed, houses have sprung up until what was once a field became the city of Waterville and Fairfield is now a thickly settled community. The land values have enhanced to more than four fold what they were under the old conditions; and this is equally true, Mr. Speaker, of every road and of the territory over which these roads pass in other sections of the State of Maine.

Now, something about the career of these roads, and what they have done, and what they have had to meet—and I want the gentlemen of the House to understand this point, and I want to say to you in order that you may fully understand my position, that I am interested in the development and the building of electric roads in Maine; and the roads that have been built since 1891 have, from the moment they began their career, met opposition from the leading line of the State. At every hearing when they came to the commissioners and asked for a charter they have met with this opposition, and I believe there is no exception to this—they were met by the statement from the steam roads that these lines were not needed, that the public good and the public service was met by the existing condition of things, and opposition was pushed to the very limit until the people at the hearings, and your friends at the hearings that were held demanded that the roads should be allowed their rights.

There is something else that I wish to call to the attention of the members of this House, and to show you that these roads have been your friends. From Lewiston to Bath, previous to the building of the Lewiston, Brunswick & Bath Road, the fare was \$1, and it is now 35 cents; from Lewiston to Brunswick it was 75 cents, and it is now 25; from Bangor to Old Town it was 40 cents, and it is now 15 cents; from Augusta to Gardiner it was 25 cents, and it is now 10 cents; from Portsmouth to York Beach it was 65 cents, and it is now 25 cents.

In May, 1901, at the annual meeting of the Lewiston, Brunswick & Bath Railway—and the member from Bath will correct me if what I say is not so—the road was requested to raise the fare from Lewiston to Brunswick from 25 to 35 cents, and from Lewiston to Bath from 35 cents to 50 cents. The stockholders, the interested parties, from outside the State, favored this; the stockholders within the State of Maine objected to it. From Waterville to Fairfield the rate was originally 10 cents and it is now five cents. The whole history, gentlemen, of the electric railroad business in this State has been a record of hard work to get what they have. The record of the Maine Central Railroad has been opposition to that work on the ground that the public good did not demand it. At this session of the Legislature they come here, at first, asking for the right to build and operate roads and to purchase or lease the electric railroads. Why do they do it? Why did they do it? I assume that there can be but one reason. If they were correct and meant what they said when they said that the opposition was on the ground that the public good did not demand it, then I say that their only opposition for it must be that they did not want the competition, and that in taking out those electric railroad charters and in building those lines, it is with the express desire that they might head off some of the development that you, gentlemen, have been instrumental in bringing about for your State.

Now, is there any good reason, some will ask, why this bill should not have a passage and become a law? I think I only need point you to this record, if the record of the past is that they do not believe in this development and that the public good does not demand it. Then, I assume, it is fair to presume that they are not as much interested in the development of the State of Maine along the lines of electric railroad competition and building as the men who are engaged in that work are. I say, it is fair to presume that every man in this House and every man who loves his State is interested in its development. If we grant these roads the right to take out these charters and to build electric roads, what will be the result? They will take out a charter. They may hold it one or two years; they may ask for its renewal; they may do nothing; the probabilities are that they will do nothing. One of the officials interested in those roads told me himself today that he did not intend to do much in that line.

Now, gentlemen, there are men in this State whose business it is to develop the State along those lines, and they are men who will do something in the way of development. It is their business. Whether it is a feeder to some line or whether it is a line that parallels it, it does not matter; and although the line were simply a feeder from a village into their line and connecting with it, they would not put the road where the electric road has put it. The record of the past shows that. And in making this opposition to the bill, I am not doing it in opposition to them alone. I am not doing it with the desire of at-

tacking the railroad committee; I assume they did the best they could under the circumstances. But, Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the House, I am presenting this matter solely and purely on the ground that the people of the State of Maine, if they are interested in its development along railroad lines, should, as long as they can, keep separate the electric railroad building and the steam railroad building.

There is one other thing I wish to mention in the way of development that comes to our State from the electric railroads that I think will appeal to you more than all other arguments combined. Along the lines of these roads that connect the larger and the smaller villages of our State there were a large number of small country schoolhouses where only a few weeks of tuition were doled out to the pupils from year to year. A low rate, in some instances a half rate and in other instances even less than that, and in some instances a two-cent rate, has been voted to the towns for the use of the children, and they have gone from these smaller places to the larger places, and particularly at Brunswick and Yarmouth and Freeport; and they have availed themselves of the better school privileges and of the more lengthy sessions, and in that way it has been a direct benefit in the way of education that cannot be calculated.

Now, I ask the gentlemen of this House to consider this matter candidly and fairly. I ask you to forget that you have or may have an interest in any road. I ask you to forget that you may be a stockholder in the Maine Central Railroad or that you may be a stockholder or a director in an electric line. I submit that has nothing whatever to do with the question that is now before us. If you have before you the fact that the development of this State depends upon this competition, and you know what it has done in the last 10 years, if you have before you the record that the steam roads do not care for this competition, that they do not believe that the public good demands it, then it is for you, gentlemen, to put your foot down once for all and say to these roads: "Your line of business is steam railroading and the line of business for the other fellow is electric railroading."

Mr. Speaker, while this bill went through to its passage to be engrossed without opposition, the bill was not fully understood or digested. There were a large number of gentlemen who were ready to come to the hearing that was announced, and who did come to the hearing. They waited for some time, and it was announced that the full committee were not there and the hearing did not take place. The men who were most interested were unable to be there except through their attorney at a later hearing. This bill has gone along quietly and peacefully on its way without stirring up much of a ripple in its amended form—in its innocent form—and it has now come to the House, and is now before us to be accepted or to be set aside. Gentlemen, I am glad to say that although I am interested in these roads, yet the record will speak for

itself. I am glad to say that I shall not go back to my constituents and tell them that I have allowed competing steam lines to take up a line of work which they have always opposed and on principles, and say that we can do that as well as you can. I shall not go home to my constituents and say that I raised my hand to help that sort of legislation. But I shall be able to say to them that I asked the people of the State of Maine, through their representatives, to see to it that their rights in this matter were conserved and that the progress that had been begun should continue.

Mr. Speaker, the progress of this State for 10 years has been largely due to the growth that has been brought about by this business; and if we want to to grow in the future, if we want these inland towns and these resorts built up and connected one with the other, if we want these fertile acres reached and opened up, if we want the farm lands to grow in value and to be reached and to be made easy of access, and to place those lands upon the market, then see to it that no such legislation as this has a passage in this House. (Applause.)

Mr. Libby of Mechanic Falls, moved to adjourn. A division being had the motion was lost by a vote of 47 to 49.

The question being on the indefinite postponement of the bill, Mr. Clarke of Nobleboro, moved that it lie on the table until tomorrow morning.

The motion was lost.

Mr. CLARKE of Nobleboro: Mr. Speaker, as a member of the committee on railroads, to whom this matter was referred, I will endeavor in a brief way to recite the considerations which moved that committee to report as it did, unanimously in favor of the passage of this bill. In the first place, I think it would be well for me to state that in my own mind the insinuation contained in the remark of the gentleman from Waterville, when he mentioned so kindly in regard to the fact that we have passes in our pockets, is entirely uncalled for. In my opinion there are very few members of this House who would have thought of the thing at all if the gentleman himself had not reminded them of the fact. I do not believe that the members of this House are accustomed to vote upon such small and mean considerations. The arguments employed by the gentleman from Waterville would be admirable, and in fact they are practically the same arguments that the members of this House and that a member of that committee would have

urged upon this House against the consideration of the bill if it had been the bill that was originally submitted. The bill which you have under consideration now is entirely different. It is different in every way, shape and manner. Every argument employed by the gentleman from Waterville, was advanced at the time of the hearing, and I will state for the benefit of the members of the House that the hearing was fair and impartial and as open and as free to every man as any hearing that has been held here during this session.

The bill that was originally drawn provided that the steam railroads might lease, operate and purchase electric railways. The members of the committee were unfavorably impressed by the bill simply because they thought that it gave an opportunity for the large corporate interests, the railroads of this State, to get into their possession, or control, rather, of the transportation facilities of this State, and we regarded that as a result which should not be reached.

The present bill simply contemplates the building of what they term feeders for the steam railroads. We were unable to find any reason for supposing that it would enable the railroad to accomplish the undesirable result of obtaining control of the transportation facilities of the State in any way whatever. It simply enables them to build small feeders to operate in connection with their railways along the line which an independent system could not be successfully operated. We fail to see how the building of an electric railway by any concern, whatever a steam railroad or any other system of railroad, can have any other effect than to develop the resources of the State, which is a thing we all desire. It is very frequently necessary, or at times it must be necessary for railroads to build small branch lines for the transportation of freight and produce to the regular line. It would be very expensive if they were obliged under those circumstances to build a steam railroad. It is very easy for them, however, if they have the privilege of putting in a system of electric railway, to obtain the ends they desire; and we

can see no reasonable objection to their doing so. If this bill passes, the steam railroads, before they can acquire a charter, are obliged like any private individual to go before the board of railroad commissioners and state their case and obtain their charter. And also, before they can operate in any place they are obliged to go to the selectmen of the town just the same as any individual to obtain the right to operate in that town or between whatever towns they wish to operate.

Mr. Speaker, we fail to see how they prevent in any way the development of any system which has been inaugurated and which is in operation at the present time. We do not think there will be any disposition on their part to do it, and we can see no reason why there should be any.

Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the House, had this bill come before you in the form in which it was first presented I should have opposed it on the floor of the House. The present bill which you have before you at the present time has to my mind and to the minds of the committee no opposition at all so far as I have been able to ascertain. I hope that the unanimous report of the committee which was rendered after a perfectly fair and impartial hearing, after we took into consideration every possible objection, will not be turned down by the members of this House.

Mr. DAVIS: I am glad to hear the confession from the gentleman that he opposed a part of the bill in its original form. I want to ask him two questions: What guarantee does he have if they take out these charters for these small feeders along their line of which he speaks, what guarantee has he that they will use them or build?

Mr. CLARKE: As I understand it, no person can take out a charter to obstruct the building of railways for any length of time, and I do not believe that the Maine Central or the Boston & Maine or any other railway will take advantage of this bill. I cannot see for their interests, and I do not believe the members can see how it will be for their interests to do anything so foolish.

Mr. DAVIS: I want to ask another question: What guarantee have you that their road, in view of their past history, would have rates as low as the cheap rates of the electric lines, supposing they had those feeders—what guarantee have you that they will not adopt their regular tariff rates, in view of their past history?

Mr. CLARKE: I say even if they run a line right on to one of their lines where there was no electric railway, I cannot see why it should not operate to the advantage of the State if they put that line in.

What difference would it make whether they built an electric railway on one end

of their own system or a steam road? The only difference is that the cost of building an electric road is lower, and they would not build now where they might if this law is passed.

Mr. DAVIS: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to know all the foundation that presumption has, and I wish to say further that I do not have any doubt that the good sense of the people of the State of Maine will see to it that no such chances as that are taken in the development of the country towns of this State.

Mr. Speaker, I want to correct a statement which I made a few moments ago, as I supposed officially, in regard to the opposition—or rather in regard to the voters and the vote of the out-of-the-State stockholders of the Lewiston, Brunswick & Bath Road, that they advanced the rates at the Bath meeting. I was informed by one of the stockholders of the road that that was the case. I am since informed, and I believe it to be true, that this was not a vote; it was a matter of individual conversation, and I do not wish to place the stockholders from outside the State in any false position.

Mr. KELLEY of Lewiston: Mr. Speaker, this has developed into quite an important matter, and I do not believe that the members of the House should or want to vote on it at this time without giving it further thought, and I therefore make the motion at this time that we adjourn, until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

A division being had, the motion was agreed to by a vote of 53 to 47.