

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

Seventy-Fifth Legislature

SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF MAINE

1912

LEGISLATIVE RECORD

SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE---SPECIAL SESSION.

SENATE.

Wednesday, March 29, 1912.

In obedience to a call from the Governor of the State, convening a special session of the Legislature, Senators met in the Senate Chamber at the hour designated in the Proclamation, being ten o'clock in the forenoon, and were called to order by the President.

Prayer by Rev. Henry E. Dunnack of Augusta.

By direction of the President the Proclamation of the Governor was read by the Secretary, as follows:

STATE OF MAINE.

By the Governor.

A PROCLAMATION.

Our laws relating to the conduct of elections, the making of returns to the Governor and Council, the tabulating of such returns and the declaration of the result thereof are uncertain in their wording and inadequate in substance. There is no provision in our statutes for an official inspection or recount of ballots or even for the depositing of such ballots in a place of safety. These defects in the law became startlingly apparent after the special election of last September. They afforded opportunity for over-riding the will of the people as expressed at the polls. It is imperative that before we enter into another State-wide election a careful and thorough review of these important laws should be made by the Legislature.

In order to comply with the requirements both of our State law and of the act of Congress concerning the division of the State into congressional districts it is necessary that the Legislature should pass a re-districting bill before we again elect representatives to the national Congress.

The situation with regard to the prohibitory law and its enforcement is the cause of universal complaint and criticism. No thinking man in Maine is satisfied with present conditions. Those who are pleased with the law are dissatisfied with the manner in which it is enforced. Others regard the law itself

as impracticable and incapable of State-wide enforcement. The problem is vital and pressing. The Legislature should find a means to solve it or, at least, should be able to submit to popular vote some one or more possible solutions of it.

In consideration whereof, I, Frederick W. Plaisted, Governor of the State of Maine, by virtue of the power vested in me by the constitution, convene the Legislature of this State, hereby requiring the senators and representatives to assemble in their respective chambers, at the Capitol, in Augusta, on Wednesday, the 29th day of March, 1912, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, in order to receive such communications as may then be made to them, and to consult and determine on such measures as they may consider will best promote the welfare of this State.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the State to be affixed.

Done at Augusta, this 29th day of December, in the year of our Lord, 1911, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 136th.

FREDERICK W. PLAISTED.

By the Governor.

Attest:

CYRUS W. DAVIS.

Secretary of State.

The roll being called the following named senators responded to their names: Messrs. Herbert H. Allen, F. N. Blanchard, Leslie Boynton, Fred A. Chandler, Nathan Clifford, Howard W. Dodge, Albert F. Donigan, Henry Farrington, Horatio G. Foss, Lewis F. Fulton, Edward F. Gowell, Francis W. Hill, Athill E. Irving, W. Scott Kellogg, Burke Leach, Byron H. Mayo, Carl E. Milliken, Charles W. Mullen, Reuel J. Noyes, W. M. Osborn, John H. Sanborn, George H. Smith, Lindley M. Staples, Albert J. Stearns, Dana L. Theriault, Howard Winslow, and 26 senators having answered to their names, a quorum was declared present.

The following communication was received from the Secretary of State:

STATE OF MAINE.

Office of the Secretary of State,
To the Secretary of the Senate:

I hereby certify that the following are the names and residences of the Senators-elect to the 75th Legislature to fill vacancies in the following Senatorial Districts, as appears by the report of the Governor and Council under date of March 15, 1912:

First Senatorial District—Cecil F. Clark, Hollis.

Fourth Senatorial District—Roscoe C. Reynolds, Lewiston.

Thirteenth Senatorial District—Edgar F. Hanson, Belfast.

In testimony whereof I have caused the seal of the State to be hereunto affixed, at Augusta, this nineteenth day of March, A. D. nineteen hundred and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and thirty-sixth.

(Signed) CYRUS W. DAVIS,
Secretary of State.

Upon motion the Chair appointed Mr. Gowell of York to conduct Senator-elect Clark to the council chamber to take the qualifying oath. Mr. Foss of Androscoggin was appointed to conduct Senator-elect Reynolds to the council chamber to take the qualifying oath. Mr. Mayo of Hancock was appointed to conduct Senator-elect Hanson to the council chamber to take the qualifying oath.

Thereupon the several senators escorted the senators-elect to the council chamber, and subsequently reported that they had each taken and subscribed their oath of office.

The President welcomed the new Senators.

On motion by Mr. Boynton of Lincoln it was

Ordered That the secretary inform the House, by message, that a quorum of senators is present and ready to proceed to business.

The secretary subsequently reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

On motion by Mr. Winslow of Cumberland it was

Ordered, That a message be sent to the House of Representatives proposing a convention of the two branches of the Legislature for the purpose of hearing a communication from the Governor.

The secretary was charged with the message and subsequently reported that he had delivered the message.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

A message was received from the House of Representatives, conveyed by the clerk, informing the Senate that a quorum was present and that that body was ready to proceed to business.

On motion of Mr. Staples of Knox the chair appointed Messrs. Boynton, Staples and Stearns to wait upon the Governor and inform him that in obedience to his proclamation a quorum of senators is present in the Senate Chamber, and ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

The committee subsequently reported that they had delivered the message with which they were charged.

A message was received from the House, conveyed by the clerk, that the House had received the proposition of the Senate to form a joint convention and that that body was ready to join in such a convention.

A recess was taken at this time, subject to the call of the President.

After Recess.

The time for the joint convention having arrived, the Senate proceeded to the hall of the House.

(For proceedings in joint convention see House report.)

On return of the Senate to their chamber:

On motion by Mr. Fulton of Sagadahoc it was

Ordered, That, the House concurring, when the House and Senate adjourn, they adjourn until Thursday morning, March 21, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

Sent down for concurrence.

Subsequently the order came back from the House that body having concurred in the action of the Senate.

Mr. Milliken of Aroostook offered the following resolution and moved that it have a passage and be sent down for concurrence:

Resolution.

Whereas, death, the great leveler of all human distinction, has, in the midst of his activities and usefulness, while many years of happiness and service seemed opening before him, struck down an honored ex-governor of Maine in the person of Hon. John Fremont Hill of Augusta, therefore be it

Resolved, That in the death of Governor Hill the State of Maine loses a man whose conscientious and unselfish service shed luster upon her name, and the nation a distinguished citizen who was ever ready to give his best efforts for the public good.

Resolved, That the members of the Seventy-fifth Legislature of Maine, learn with deepest sorrow of the untimely death of this honored public servant and private citizen; that the deepest, sincerest sympathy of this body be extended to the stricken family in their bereavement, and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the record of the Maine Senate and House of Representatives, and a copy sent to the bereaved family.

Adopted and sent down for concurrence.
Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Wednesday, March 20, 1912.

This being the day designated in the proclamation of the Governor for the meeting of the 75th Legislature, in extra session, the members of the House of Representatives assembled in their hall, at 10 o'clock A. M., and were called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Boothby of Augusta.

The following proclamation was then read by the clerk:

STATE OF MAINE.

By the Governor.

A PROCLAMATION.

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In order to comply with the requirements both of our State law and of the act of Congress concerning the division of the State into congressional districts it is necessary that the Legislature should pass a re-districting bill before we again elect representatives to the national Congress.

The situation with regard to the prohibitory law and its enforcement is the cause of universal complaint and criticism. No thinking man in Maine is satisfied with present conditions. Those who are pleased with the law are dissatisfied with the manner in which it is enforced. Others regard the law itself as impracticable and incapable of State-wide enforcement. The problem is vital and pressing. The Legislature should find a means to solve it or, at least, should be able to submit to popular vote some one or more possible solutions of it.

In consideration whereof, I, Frederick W. Plaisted, Governor of the State of Maine, by virtue of the power vested in me by the constitution, convene the Legislature of this State, hereby requiring the senators and representatives to assemble in their respective chambers, at the Capitol, in Augusta, on Wednesday, the 20th day of March, 1912, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, in order to receive such communications as may then be made to them, and to consult and determine on