

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Seventy-Sixth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1913

SENATE.

Thursday, January 9, 1913.

Senate called to order by the President.

Prayer by Rev. John W. Steele of Hallowell.

Journal of previous session read and approved.

Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

"Resolve proposing an amendment to the Constitution changing September election to November," came from the House, by that Branch referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Mr. Morey of Androscoggin, the Senate non-occurred in the reference of the resolve to the Committee on Judiciary, and upon further motion by the same senator, the resolve was referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs and sent down for concurrence.

The following communications came from the office of Secretary of State:

Annual report of the University of Maine for the year ending June 30, 1912.

Referred to the Committee on Education on motion by Mr. Conant of Waldo.

Forty-fourth annual report of the insurance commissioner of the State of Maine for the year ending December 31, 1911.

Referred to the Committee on Mercantile Affairs and Insurance on motion by Mr. Chase of Piscataquis.

The following communication was received from the office of the State auditor:

Tabulation of estimated expenditure and income of the several departments, State institutions, commissions, corporations, boards, charitable associations and individuals, for 1913-14.

On motion by Mr. Morey of Androscoggin, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

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

Judiciary.

By Mr. Hagerthy of Hancock: Bill, an act to repeal Section 6 of Chapter 298 of the Private and Special Laws of 1876, and to amend Sections 5 and 7 of Chapter 285 of the Private and Special Laws of 1903, entitled.

An Act in relation to the Ellsworth Municipal Court.

By Mr. Hersey of Aroostook: Bill, an Act for the better regulation of the practice of Dentistry in the State of Maine, and to reorganize the Board of Dental Examiners. (Tabled for printing on motion of Mr. Hersey).

By Mr. Hagerthy of Hancock: Bill, an Act to amend Section 5 of Chapter 5 of the Revised Statutes, entitled "An Act in relation to Boards of Registration of Voters."

Legal Affairs.

By Mr. Dutton of Kennebec: Bill, an Act relating to the relief of poor debtors.

By Mr. Burleigh of Aroostook: Bill, an Act relating to Fort Kent Electric Company. (Tabled for printing pending reference on motion by Mr. Smith of Penobscot).

By Mr. Morey of Androscoggin: Bill, an Act to incorporate the Jackman Water, Light and Power Co.

By Mr. Burleigh of Aroostook: Petition of C. H. Dickey and others of Fort Kent relating to the Fort Kent Electric Company.

By Mr. Flaherty of Cumberland: Bill, an Act relative to untrue and misleading advertisements. (Tabled for printing pending reference by Mr. Flaherty).

Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

By Mr. Morey of Androscoggin: Resolve in favor of the Hayes Young Women's Home of Lewiston.

By Mr. Dutton of Kennebec: Resolve in favor of the Augusta General Hospital.

By Mr. Murphy of Cumberland: Resolve in favor of the Holy Innocents Home for Infants.

By Mr. Morey of Androscoggin: Resolve in favor of the Healy Asylum of Lewiston.

By Mr. Burleigh of Aroostook: Resolve in favor of the Northern Maine General Hospital, Eagle Lake.

By Mr. Burleigh of Aroostook: Resolve in favor of the Northern Maine General Hospital, Eagle Lake.

Education.

By Mr. Murphy of Cumberland: Bill, an Act to prevent the organization or existence of secret societies in the public schools.

Military Affairs.

By Mr. Morey of Androscoggin: Resolve in favor of Rosa Prentiss of Lewiston.

Interior Waters.

By Mr. Bailey of Penobscot: Bill, an Act to incorporate the Pine Stream Dam and Improvement Co.

By Mr. Moulton of Cumberland: Bill, an Act to further enable the Sebago Lake, Songo River and Bay of Naples S. B. Company to construct and maintain wharves along its route in the county of Cumberland.

By Mr. Moulton of Cumberland: Bill, an Act to regulate the use of Songo Lock by steamboats, vessels, or other boats.

By Mr. Moulton of Cumberland: Resolve in aid of navigation on Sebago Lake.

Claims.

By Mr. Dutton of Kennebec: Resolve in favor of Michael Burns.

Insane Hospitals.

By Mr. Dutton of Kennebec: Resolve in favor of Maine Insane Hospital for maintenance and support, 1913, \$204,000.

By the same Senator: Resolve in favor of Maine Insane Hospital for maintenance and support, 1914, \$210,000.

By the same Senator: Resolve in favor of the Maine Insane Hospital for complete renovation of the third female wing including a three-story veranda and every expense except furnishings.

By the same Senator: Resolve in favor of the Maine Insane Hospital for the erection of piazzas on Harlow and Sanborn wings. \$15,000.

By the same Senator: Resolve in favor of the Maine Insane Hospital for complete renovation of the second male wing with granite additions. 1913, \$30,000; 1914, \$50,000; total \$80,000.

By the same Senator: Resolve in favor of the Maine Insane Hospital for new building for nurses' home. 1913, \$20,000; 1914, \$40,000; total \$60,000.

By the same Senator: Resolve in favor of the Maine Insane Hospital for improvement of grounds, roads and sidewalks; improved and modern coal hoist; additional mangle for laundry; erection of river front wall. 1913, \$12,500; 1914, \$2500; total \$15,000.

Library.

By Mr. Boynton of Lincoln: Resolve providing for the purchase and distribution of the book, "Makers of Maine," together with statement of facts.

Orders of the Day.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair lays before the Senate first under orders of the day the order tabled, yesterday, and especially assigned for, this morning, introduced by the gentleman from Androscoggin, Senator Morey, and tabled on motion of the senator from Oxford. I will read the order. "In Senate, January 8th, 1913. Ordered. The House concurring, that a joint select committee consisting of three on the part of the Senate and seven on the part of the House be appointed to investigate the causes of the high price of coal at the present time and during the last year in this State, and report fully thereon to this Legislature. Said committee shall have the power to summon witnesses, examine books, papers and documents, and shall be attended by the attorney-general as counsel in conducting the hearing."

Mr. STEARNS of Oxford: Mr. President: When I tabled this order, yesterday morning, I did so in order that I might more fully understand and comprehend the scope, the purpose and the meaning of this order. I had the impression then, I thought at that time and I still think, that the seat of the trouble which the Senator from Androscoggin seeks to discover and to assist in placing right, lies far beyond the confines of the State of Maine.

I thought then and I still think that the key to this situation is in the hands of those who are far beyond the reach of any investigation which we may be able to here set in motion through any committee appointed by this Legislature. I was inclined to think that it was a matter more properly to be handled by the federal government, perhaps, and that it might be reached in some such manner as was employed by a great President a few years ago, when he took the coal barons by the scruff of the neck and shook them until they released their hold upon the throat of the people.

who were suffering from the scarcity and the high price of coal. Yet, if there is anything that we can do in this Legislature to relieve the present situation I see no reason why we should not take up some measure looking to that end.

We must understand, of course, that an investigation sufficiently searching and pungent to accomplish any good whatsoever must necessarily be more or less expensive, and must necessarily take considerable of the time of this Legislature. However, if the senator from Androscoggin, Mr. Morey, has information which leads him to believe, and he honestly does believe that there is some unlawful combination among the coal dealers of this State, and if he will co-operate with a committee to be selected in this Legislature to the end that that condition be reached and remedied, I feel that I would favor the order which the senator from Androscoggin has introduced.

I would be pleased to know what the views of the senator from Androscoggin may be upon this proposition, and if they be along the lines suggested, as I assume they must be, then I feel that this order should have a passage.

MR. MOREY of Androscoggin: Mr. President: This order was introduced expecting its passage and expecting that from the investigation facts would be disclosed that would settle a subject in our State, that during the present year, saying nothing of previous years and different times, of a combination to unnecessarily raise the price of coal within the borders of this State, and to such an extent as to make it a hardship upon the majority of the families of the State. Published statements of the operatives disclose that there is no reason, except an advance of twenty-five cents a ton, why the price of coal in this State should be increased. No further increase is justifiable from the printed statements, and they deny the responsibility for the increased cost of this product in this State. Perhaps there will be no less than 20 or 30 localities, already heard from, in

which such conditions exist as would lead anyone to suspect and to believe that a local organization, composed in this State, certainly was assisting in maintaining prices if not actually creating them.

In response to the inquiry of the senator from Oxford, I will say that the evidence, when produced, should a hearing be established, will show that in some cities, or in one city in particular, coal has been from nine to ten dollars a ton, and at the same time that coal was retailing at that price and hard to get, small quantities only being served, in a city no farther away than Bath the price was \$7.50 per ton. At Biddeford at that time the price was between seven and eight dollars. At Monmouth, east on the line of the Maine Central, the price in one instance, to my personal knowledge from a man who bought the coal, was \$7.50.

A member of this Legislature, the representative from Readfield, informed me, only yesterday, of the condition at Readfield; that less than a week ago he purchased two tons of coal and the price was \$10.25 a ton at the depot at Readfield, 12 miles from Augusta. When they desired to obtain some coal, several chubbing together, at Waterville they were informed they could buy no coal except through the local dealer.

I am going to say further that you cannot buy coal in Lewiston and Auburn unless you buy through the local coal dealers. In another city, the city of Rockland, the senator from Knox has had experience within a few days—at tide water where the vessels easily discharge their coal, so that it cannot be held that the inland freight is affected—we know what the freight is from Portland to Lewiston—at Rockland the price of coal was \$9 per ton. At Augusta the price is \$8.

When you come to analyze the situation in this State, it will be found to be in accordance with the fact, that in many places where the high price of coal exists, it is impossible to purchase coal except through the local dealer, and that the price of coal is two or three dollars in excess of what the mining operators

say there is any reason for.

Now, then, in reply to the further question of the senator from Oxford—that if the conditions exist in the different cities of the State, the different portions of the State, as I have mentioned, it is not a subject for federal interference, if the trouble lies from the shipment into the State. If when the coal gets to the confines of the State the price is way up and due to the agency of the operators before getting into the State, then we do not have anything to do with it. The operators say that they can land coal for so much—twenty-five cents beyond the ordinary is sufficient—and the retailers say that it is the fault of the wholesalers. The responsibility is divided and there is no power to place it. While I do not think that the expenses of an investigation would be a great deal—there is nobody to receive a salary, it will be attended by the attorney general of the State, and when we get done, if it is a fact that there is an unconscionable price charged, simply an arbitrary laying upon all to the detriment of the people of our State, who cannot afford to bear it, for the benefit of the few interested, and this Legislature can afford relief, I think it will be a practical move that will do much and perhaps more than any other one thing for the householder in the State of Maine that we can possibly accomplish at this session.

The evil is widespread. The arbitrary increase is put upon all and there is no escape from it. A great public commodity, one of the prime necessities of life, held up, and if on disclosure it is brought within the purview of the Acts of our State, I have no doubt that the attorney general would be more than pleased to see that the penalties for a combination in the unlawful restraint of trade and on a commodity that affects public policy, in the interests of the people of the State, should be visited on the persons responsible within the borders of our State, to the end that the unlawful combination, prohibited by the Statute shall not longer continue.

I do not see any other practical way to get at it, and I trust I have answer-

ed the questions of the Senator from Oxford, and with these remarks I have nothing further to say.

Mr. HERSEY of Aroostook: Mr. President: I feel as the senator from Oxford did, yesterday, when he tabled this measure, that I want more light. And I have been disappointed, this morning, in the senator from Androscoggin in not giving us the light we ought to have upon the matter. Not because the senator from Androscoggin has not the ability to present his case here, but it seems to me that he has failed to satisfy the Senate that we ought to have a committee of this kind appointed by this Legislature, with the expensive investigation that would follow, without arriving at any practical result to the benefit of the people of our State.

I understand from the Senator from Androscoggin that the information given to him is this: That there is in this State of ours today a high price of coal. We all know that, every one of us. He states further that there is in some localities a price of \$10.00 a ton or so, and in others \$8.25 or \$8.00, which does not show any combination that is very widespread, but I think it is true, as the Senator states, that the price of coal is unreasonably high in Maine, and I think that an investigation from any committee appointed by this Legislature would disclose that as a fact. The Senator has made a statement here in regard to the prices over the State which I have no doubt an investigation would show to be true. But admitting that that investigation, which if it is made should be a thorough investigation,—it should not be any half-way investigation— with authority given that committee authorizing them to summon witnesses all over the State to investigate the coal matter in Maine, to make the investigation thorough and complete, would be very expensive in the procuring of witnesses at some central point in this State where the committee could meet and hear evidence. And after that committee has made that thorough investigation, which must be very expensive to the people of this State by making it complete and ex-

haustive, and taking the time of the Legislature to do it, and if that committee should find the facts as the Senator has disclosed them here this morning, which he believes to be the facts, if they find everything as the Senator has found it, what relief is there for the people of Maine? That is a practical question. Unless this Legislature, on the report of the committee can give the people some relief, unless we can arrive at some practical business ending of the same, then the appointment of the committee would be one of the most absurd matters that could be done by this Legislature.

The Senator has said that if this investigation discloses the facts as he states them here that the attorney-general might proceed to do something under the trust laws of this State. Well, I think the trust law of this State is correctly quoted in the Kennebec Journal, this morning, Page 9,—I compared it with the Statute, and the trust law of this State is this, in substance: That any incorporated company or persons organized for the purpose of manufacturing, producing, refining or mining any article or product, which enters into general use and consumption by the people to form or organize any trust is an unlawful organization, and that this State has authority to deal with such organizations. Coal is not a product that is mined or refined or manufactured in the State of Maine, therefore it does not come under the trust laws of Maine, and we have no authority over any combination that is formed outside the State of Maine for the purpose of mining or manufacturing coal.

If, Mr. President, an investigation of this kind should disclose—which I do not believe the Senator believes to be a fact—that there is any such organization in Maine, an unlawful combination for the purpose of manufacturing coal, mining it, then we can deal with it, but until the Senator discloses some such combination, some such organization in the State of Maine, over which we have jurisdiction, then anything this Legislature

may do or law we may enact cannot reach the disease.

Further, Mr. President, it seems to me, as the Senator from Oxford said, that the trouble is outside the State of Maine. If a few men, one or more, combine in the State of Maine to raise the price of coal in Maine we have no law that meets that. If the Senator can show to me that we can enact any law that will reach such a matter as that, I will work with him to that end. We have no such law today. I have no doubt men in Maine are the same as everywhere. In localities where they have coal on hand and there is a shortage of coal in that locality, the price will go up. That has been the law of trade in all ages and that is the law of trade in Maine today. If here in Augusta coal is \$8.00, and over in Lewiston it is \$10.00, it is due to the shortage in Lewiston and plenty in Augusta. And men in a locality where there is a shortage of coal and they can corner the market, will raise the price and over that raise this Legislature has no control, and the laws of this State cannot control it.

It seems to me, Mr. President, before we appoint committees of this Legislature and go to the expense of an investigation of this kind we ought to understand and realize that there should come out of it some practical result. Congress is in session and we have the Sherman law and other laws against unlawful combinations. If anyone can meet it, they can and not this Legislature of Maine. And I say with the Senator from Oxford that I would be only too ready to go with the Senator from Androscoggin in such an investigation, and heartily and warmly support him if I thought there could be any practical outcome in the matter to the benefit of the people of Maine.

Mr. MOREY: Mr. President: I have listened attentively to the remarks of the senator from Aroostook, and he must have not understood my entire remarks upon this question. If a situation develops, as I am confident there will from an investigation, that there is a combination in this State to raise the price of coal un-

necessarily, then this Legislature has the power in case that our trust laws, such as we have, do not fully meet the situation, to enact a law that will operate for the protection of the people of the State.

I understand the objection from the senator from Aroostook is to this investigation, that the reason why he thinks it is inadvisable, is that the trust law would not reach the situation because of the fact that the coal is mined in other states largely. The idea was to get by the situation, if there is nothing in our Statute books, from his view point, and let us assume for the moment that to be the fact, that would protect the people of the State from a combination within this State to unnecessarily raise the price of one of the chief necessities of life, then it is time that there should be one within the State. The fact that federal law prevents the combination of great coal producing companies does not meet the situation, from the published reports of these companies, to determine what is the correct situation. If it turns out that these high prices, and they are unconscionable in many parts of our State—it is not the shortage in one town or another, it is not that—if it turns out that it is the fault of the men who operate the mines, then of course it is a matter for federal inquiry. If it turns out as I confidentially believe, that it is a combination within the State, because for instance you cannot buy coal from Portland unless you get it through the local dealers, unless you can do this, why then there is no question that the combination is within the State and we are to meet that situation. Would it be wise to say to the people of the State of Maine "Here is the most necessary thing you have for the winter. Our laws, framed many years ago, practically do not reach the situation," taking the view of the gentleman from Aroostook. Would they say "Is that to be your answer to us? Why do you not enact a law for our relief?" What would the expense of an investigation amount to, Mr. President and gentlemen of the Senate? The summoning of witnesses, perhaps, from half a dozen centers of the

State. There would not be many more witnesses than would be summoned in a good sized law suit. Frequently suits occur, occasionally occur, where fifty to seventy-five witnesses are in a case. Less than that number would be required in an investigation of this sort. The matter can be determined, and perhaps only a stenographer and typewriter to pay, with the assistance of the attorney-general. And it seems to me the witness' fees would be a mere bagatelle to meet this situation and provide for the future.

I do not think for a moment that the senator from Aroostook would do anything that he thought was detrimental to the interest of the people of this State. I know that he believes in the people of the State of Maine. I cannot see why this small expense, as it will be, establishing this fact, would not render it imperative on the part of the Legislature upon the report of the committee to enact such legislation if it is found that it is required, to limit the evil that exists in the State on this point.

Mr. HERSEY: Mr. President: I must thank the senator from Androscoggin for the frankness in which he has expressed himself in answer to my position. I think he and I agree upon this matter as lawyers that in the State of Maine, today, our trust laws are defective and do not reach this matter at all and cannot reach it, and I think I agree with him that the duty of this Legislature is now at the present time to remedy that law and make it more effective to reach this very matter if we can and do it constitutionally. And I will warmly support him in any measure he may introduce looking to that end.

Should we make an investigation at the present time, when we get through it will only prove the facts he has stated, and leave us without a remedy, accomplishing nothing. We must first have the law before we can punish the criminal. I think the practical thing would be for the senator to present a bill to the Legislature, and in this way we should have a remedy at law, and I think we will all support him in that measure.

Mr. MOREY: Mr. President: I un-

derstand I am infringing upon the rule but the situation is this: The retail dealers say that the fault is beyond the State. That is why an investigation should be held, to see whether it is beyond or within the State. When it is determined that it is within the State and the methods that are taken to establish, if at all, this coal trust, for it is so or it is not so, then a law to fit the occasion could be drafted. They say the fault is not here at all, that it is way beyond in the foreign states. How then are you going to get your information? How except by legislative inquiry can the books and papers and agreements be found out? They would snap their fingers in your faces, and the law would be looked at in wonder and astonishment in the lack of anything it could accomplish.

Mr. REYNOLDS of Kennebec: Mr. President: I do not wish to interfere with the senator from Androscoggin, but I do not see how this would result in anything different from an investigation of wood. Wood has been sold in Rockland at \$9.25 a cord for years. We have all we can burn in Maine and still it is high. Every one knows all it costs is getting it to market. I think we ought to look into something of that kind as well as coal. Lewiston telephoned, yesterday morning, for a car of wood and down in Bath they needed just as much more. I do not see why they should investigate the coal matter when a cord of wood buys a ton of coal and we know that more wood is cut in Maine every year than we can burn.

Mr. BAILEY of Penobscot: Mr. President: As the gentleman from Androscoggin said there is a rumble of discontent from one end of the State to the other in regard to the coal situation. The people feel, and they have good grounds for feeling, that in some localities there is a combination to restrain the amount of coal which is received, and also to keep down the number of dealers in a certain locality. In some places the coal has to be shipped by water, received by water, and in other places it comes by rail. The methods of transportation of coal are limited, and in some localities the landing places where coal can be land-

ed for sale are controlled by coal dealers, so that no independent dealer can go into the business to compete with prices they make by a gentlemen's agreement, so-called. I for one without infringing upon or taking the time of the Senate, believe this to be an important matter, and that there is evidence from the State of Maine which the senator from Androscoggin has learned and from what many of us know, that in certain localities there is a combination to keep the price of coal up, to keep the number of dealers down, and I heartily second the passage of the order.

Mr. MAXWELL of Sagadahoc: Mr. President: I heartily agree with the senator who has just spoken in this matter. Take it in my own town, in October, there was a barge load of coal arrived and the dealer retailed it for \$7.75 per ton. Now as late as November 1st, another cargo arrived for another dealer. He was able at that time to buy that coal in Philadelphia, bring it to Richmond and unload it at a profit at the same price that the other man sold his for bought, last spring, and delivered in October. Evidently the dealer in Philadelphia did not ask any more for coal in September than was asked the other man in the spring when the other cargo was bought to be delivered in October. I am a large user of coal. We buy \$75,000 worth a year. On the first day of October soft coal was advanced 50 cents a ton. The big dealers in Boston, in talking to me, acknowledged that there was no occasion for it, other than in sympathy with hard coal. There was an opportunity to get 50 cents more per ton and they were taking advantage of that opportunity. I am in favor of giving this matter a thorough investigation and see if some good result can be brought from it.

Mr. FLAHERTY of Cumberland: Mr. President: I wish to say a word in regard to this coal proposition. Take it in the city of Portland, a seaport town, where all the vessels come directly from the mines to the city, unload at the coal pockets, and yet the coal is sold in Biddeford, when bought at Portland, for \$1 less a ton. I agree also that this order should have a passage.

Mr. STEARNS: Mr. President: I have been interested in and instructed by the discussion that has taken place on this question. I am not fully convinced by the suggestions and by the arguments of the senator from Aroostook that it might not be an advantage and of value to the State to have this investigation take place at this time, even admitting the possibility that our present trust laws may be inadequate to reach the situation. I believe that there is, as has been expressed here, today, a great interest in this question. We are all interested in it. There is a feeling all over the State of Maine that they would like to have the light let in on the dark corners, and I am inclined to think that it would be of sufficient satisfaction to the people of the State of Maine to know whether such a condition of affairs as has been suggested really does exist to warrant such an expense as will be necessary to have this investigation as is provided in the order. If it is true that such concerns as Randall, McAllister Co. in Portland, and such men as control its affairs, by any secret intrigue or unlawful means are defrauding the people of the State of Maine, then I believe the people would like to know about it, and I favor the passage of the order as presented by the senator from Aroostook.

Mr. PACKARD of Knox: Mr. President: As we all understand the situation in my section it is impossible for a new man to start in the coal business. In Rockport, a few years ago, a man with a small capital built a small wharf and coal shed. He tried two different years to buy coal but could not get it. The other dealers had it fixed so that he could not get coal. The wharf and shed are beginning to tumble down. In the city of Rockland a man started in and got his coal for one year, but they put him out of the business.

Mr. MOREY: Mr. President: I move that when the vote be taken that it be taken by the yeas and nays.

A sufficient number having arisen the yeas and nays were ordered and the secretary called the roll.

Those voting yea were: Messrs. Allan, Bailey, Boynton, Burleigh,

Chase, Colby, Cole, Conant, Dutton, Emery, Flaherty, Hersey, Jillson, Mansfield, Maxwell, Milliken, Morey, Moulton, Packard, Reynolds, Richardson, Smith, Stearns, Wing—24. Absentees: Messrs. Allen, Clark, Hegerthy, Hastings, Murphy, Patten, Walker—7.

And so the order was given a passage and was sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Stearns of Oxford the order limiting the time for the reception of bills and petitions to January 1st was taken from the table.

On further motion by the same Senator the order was amended by striking out the words "Friday, January 31," and substituting therefor the words "Wednesday, February 5."

The question being on the adoption of the amendment offered by the Senator from Oxford, the amendment was adopted, and on further motion by the same Senator, the order as amended, was given a passage and sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Emery of York unanimous consent was granted and he presented the report of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs upon the bond of State treasurer Joseph W. Simpson for the years 1913-1914, that the bond be approved by the Legislature and deposited in the office of the secretary of State.

The report of the committee was accepted and its recommendation was adopted.

On motion by Mr. Colby of Somerset it was

Ordered, That on Tuesday next, January 14, 1913, at 12 o'clock noon the Senate shall proceed to vote for a senator to Congress for a full term from March 4, 1913, in accordance with the laws of the United States.

On motion by Mr. Hersey of Aroostook Senate Document No. 3, An Act to amend Section 10 of Chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by Chapter 135 of the Public Laws of 1905, and to amend Section 24 of said Chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the regulation and conduct of elections, was taken from the table, and upon further motion by the same

Senator, the bill was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Mr. Dutton of Kennebec, Senate Document No. 2, Resolve ratifying an amendment of the Constitution of the United States, providing that the United States senator shall be elected by the people of the several states, was taken from the table, and upon further motion by the same senator was referred to the committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Mr. Hersey of Aroostook, a communication from the Executive Department transmitting a communication by the postmaster general and secretary of agriculture of the United States in relation to a plan for national aid for the improvement of postal routes was taken from the table, and upon further motion by the same senator was referred to the committee on Ways and Bridges.

Mr. BURLEIGH of Aroostook: Mr. President: I ask unanimous consent to present at this time a petition in relation to the Van Buren bridge. The reason I ask for this is in order to have it reach the committee in season for the hearing. Unless it is received, this morning, it will not reach the committee in time.

Consent was granted and the senator presented a petition of Allen E. Hammond and others for the Van Buren Bridge Co.

On further motion by the same senator the petition was referred to the committee on Railroads and Expresses.

On motion by Mr. Hersey of Aroostook, Senate Document No. 4, An Act to amend Section 46 of Chapter 106 of the Revised Statutes as amended by Chapter 9 of the Public Laws of 1909, relating to the appointment of surveyors in real actions, was taken from the table, and upon further motion by the same senator was referred to the committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Mr. Stearns of Oxford, that senator presented, by unanimous consent, Resolve declaratory of certain amendments to the Constitution of Maine. Upon further motion by the same senator the rules were suspended and the resolve was given its two readings and was passed to be engrossed.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Mansfield of Washington, adjourned until tomorrow morning, at 10 o'clock.