

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Seventy-Sixth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1913

SENATE.

Monday, January 13, 1913.

Senate called to order by the President.

Prayer by Rev. John Gibson of Augusta.

Journal of previous session read and approved.

Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

From the House: An Act to amend Section 1 of Chapter 151 of the Public Laws of 1905, relating to clerk hire in the registry of probate of Kennebec county.

This bill came from the House in that Branch referred to the Kennebec county delegation, and was tabled by Mr. Dutton of Kennebec.

Mr. DUTTON of Kennebec: Mr. President: I move to lay this bill upon the table and will say in explanation of this motion that I desire to investigate as to whether or not similar measures have been introduced, or are to be introduced, relating to practically the same subject matter, and that should be referred to a joint committee, rather than to the Kennebec delegation.

The following communication was received from the Executive Department:

STATE OF MAINE.
Executive Chamber.
AUGUSTA.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I herewith enclose a communication from the Honorable Duncan U. Fletcher, president of the Southern Commercial Congress, accompanied with papers, for your consideration.

(Signed) WILLIAM T. HAINES,
Governor.

January 13, 1913.

The communication follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE.

Washington, D. C., January 10, 1913.

Hon. William T. Haines,
Governor of Maine,
Augusta, Maine.

My Dear Governor: The American Commission for the study of European systems of Co-operative Rural Credits

will leave New York, April 26, for a 90-days tour. The commission has received the endorsement of the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome; the President of the United States; the Senate of the United States; the Department of State; the Governors in conference in Richmond; the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America; the American Association of Commercial Executives; the National Farmers' Congress; the National Drainage Congress; the National Grange; and the Southern Association of Agricultural Workers.

It is important for your State to be represented. Let me urge you to send a special message to the Legislature, recommending the appropriation of twenty-four hundred dollars to cover the cost of two delegates. Enclosed you will find a copy of the bill that is to be introduced in the Legislatures of many states, and also a copy of the credentials that the Governors will be asked to furnish their delegates.

Under separate cover I am sending you Senate Document No. 967 which contains President Taft's letter to the Governors, Ambassador Herrick's report, "The Way Out of the Rut," by David Lubin, which includes the itinerary, etc., the "Outline of the European Systems of Agricultural Finance," a translation from the French, and the House Document, No. 891.

Please favor me with a prompt reply in order that I may know that you will give your active co-operation in providing for the State of Maine.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) DUNCAN U. FLETCHER,
President Southern Commercial Congress.

On motion by Mr. Emery of York, the communication with accompanying papers was referred to the committee on banks and banking.

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

Judiciary.

By Mr. Hersey of Aroostook: An Act to amend Chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes relating to the regulation and conduct of elections.

Mr. HERSEY of Aroostook: Mr. President: I wish to say to the Senate that the joke is on me. I think Senate Document No. 3 is a bill with a similar label which came into the Senate with my endorsement, was tabled and printed and referred to the committee on Judiciary. I had my attention called, yesterday, to the fact that I had fallen from grace in advocating a Massachusetts ballot law for two sessions, and now going back to the Connecticut law. When I put in Bill No. 3, I went down into the library to get a copy of the bill, and finding only one printed bill on file, No. 11, being labelled the same, I took it to be the Massachusetts ballot bill, and had the stenographer in the office make a copy for me to present here. I found after the bill had been printed and referred to a committee, to my committee, that I had made an error, and had had printed the Connecticut ballot law, which you will remember was introduced in the Senate, two years ago, by Senator Donigan, and a bill that I did not favor very much, that went to the Judiciary committee and was reported unanimously ought not to pass, and the bill I have been standing for, that was reported from that committee favorably, had been left out of the proceedings, and I find that the little foundling of Senator Donigan has been left on my door steps and I am its foster father. I wish to do my duty and I will say to the committee that under the circumstances I will furnish the cigars, and I will say, as far as Senator Donigan is concerned that when I meet him I expect him to treat me, although I don't smoke. (Laughter.)

I move that the bill be tabled for printing pending reference to the committee.

The motion was adopted.

By Mr. Stearns of Oxford: An Act to increase the capital stock of the Maine Telephone and Telegraph Co. and to ratify, confirm and make valid certain doings of said company.

By Mr. Dutton of Kennebec: An Act granting additional rights to married women.

Legal Affairs.

By Mr. Boynton of Lincoln: An Act in relation to the Lincoln County Jail.

By Mr. Hersey of Aroostook: An Act to create and establish a public utilities commission and prescribing its powers and duties to provide for the regulation and control of public utilities.

Mr. HERSEY of Aroostook: Mr. President: I wish to say to the Senate in explanation of this bill, that we had a utilities bill before the last Legislature and it went to the Legal Affairs committee. A sub-committee acted with the Judiciary committee and divided reports were made to the House and Senate. After a long discussion that bill was rejected by the House and passed by the Senate. I see that an attempt has been made in the other Body to resurrect this old bill, which neither Democrats or Republicans at that time approved. And I do not think it ought to be the basis for action by this Legislature. I hope to see a bill go through this Legislature that meets the approval of both Democrats and Republicans in the Senate and in the House. Both parties have it in their platform that such a bill should go through, and I wish such a bill to go through without any attempt to revive any old partisan measure, and I present here the Rhode Island bill as a basis to act upon. Rhode Island enacted a public utilities bill, a year ago, this month, the latest bill enacted by any Legislature. After a careful examination of all bills in the United States I have adapted that bill to Maine. I think it is a splendid bill. Further, any bill that goes through this Legislature will have to be carefully considered, and will not of course be exactly the bill put in.

I ask that this bill lie upon the table for printing pending reference to a committee.

The motion was adopted and the bill was tabled.

Orders of the Day.

On motion by Mr. Stearns of Oxford, Senate Document No. 11, An Act to

amend Chapter 131 of the Public Laws of 1911, entitled "An Act relating to taxing insurance companies not authorized to do business in Maine," tabled for printing, was taken from the table.

On further motion by the same senator the bill was referred to the committee on mercantile affairs and insurance in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Packard of Knox, Senate Document No. 13, An Act to provide for a board of road commissioners in towns in which there is not already a board of public works, was taken from the table.

On further motion by the same senator the bill was referred to the committee on ways and bridges.

On motion by Mr. Hersey of Aroostook, Senate Document No. 10, An Act for the better regulation of the practice of dentistry in the State of Maine, and to re-organize the Board of Dental Examiners, was taken from the table.

On further motion by the same senator, the bill was referred to the committee on judiciary.

On motion by Mr. Hersey of Aroostook, Senate Document No. 14, An Act to amend Chapter 297 of the Private and Special Laws of 1907, entitled: "An

Act creating the Fort Kent Village Corporation," was taken from the table.

On further motion by the same senator the bill was referred to the committee on legal affairs in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Smith of Penobscot, Senate Document No. 8, An Act relating to the Fort Kent Electric Co., was taken from the table.

On further motion by the same senator, the bill was referred to the committee on legal affairs.

On motion by the same senator, Senate Document No. 15, An Act for the abolishment of grade crossings of railroads, was taken from the table.

On further motion by the same senator, the bill was referred to the committee on railroads and expresses.

On motion by Mr. Packard of Knox, Senate Document No. 12, An Act to provide for the cutting of bushes and weeds within the limits of any highway or townway adjoining cultivated land, was taken from the table.

On further motion by the same senator, the bill was referred to the committee on ways and bridges.

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