

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventy-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1917

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HOUSE.

Monday, April 2, 1917.

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Layton of Augusta.

Journal of previous session read and approved.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

From the Senate: An Act to amend Chapter 295 of the Public Laws of 1915, relative to compensation to employees for personal injuries. In the House this bill was passed to be engrossed in non-concurrence. The bill comes from the Senate that body insisting on its former action in the acceptance of the majority report "ought not to pass."

On motion by Mr. Descoteaux of Biddeford, the House voted to insist on its action in passing the bill to be engrossed and that a committee of conference be appointed.

The Chair appointed on such committee Messrs. Descoteaux of Biddeford, Williams of Portland and Hanson of Saco.

From the Senate: Resolve in favor of the State School for Girls for furnishings and equipment for the new central building for the year 1918. In the House this resolve was finally passed on March 27. This comes from the Senate, that body voting to indefinitely postpone the resolve in non-concurrence with the action of the House.

On motion by Mr. Cole of Eliot, the House voted to recede from its former action and concur with the Senate in indefinitely postponing the measure.

From the Senate: An Act to incorporate the Casco Water, Electric Light and Power Company. In the House this bill was passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendments A and B. This comes from the Senate, bill read twice, House Amendment A

adopted. House Amendment B indefinitely postponed and the bill passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment A in non-concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Baxter of Portland, tabled and especially assigned for tomorrow.

From the Senate: Resolve in favor of the General Knox Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Thomaston, Maine, and the Knox Academy of Arts and Sciences. In the House, this matter was referred to the next legislature. Comes from the Senate that body voting to insist on its former action and appoint a committee of conference. The members appointed on the part of the Senate were Senators Butler of Knox, Walker of Somerset and Holt of Cumberland.

On motion by Mr. Baxter of Portland, the House voted to insist on its former action in referring the matter to the next legislature and join in the committee of conference.

The Chair named as such committee Messrs. Baxter of Portland, Williams of Auburn and Messer of Union.

From the Senate: Resolve relating to the equestrian statue of Major General Oliver O. Howard and Brevet Major General Joshua L. Chamberlain at Gettysburg. In the House this resolve was referred to the next legislature. Comes from the Senate that body insisting on its former action and appointing a committee of conference. The President of the Senate appointed as members of such committee Senators Butler of Knox, Walker of Somerset and Holt of Cumberland.

On motion by Mr. Rounds of Portland, the House voted to insist on its former action and join with the Senate in appointing a committee of conference.

The Chair appointed as such committee Messrs. Farrington of Augusta, Eaton of Rumford and Barnes of Houlton.

From the Senate: Senate Report. The committee on judiciary on An Act to amend Section 20, Chapter 144 of

the Revised Statutes of 1916, relating to the commitment of girls to the State School for Girls, have had the same under consideration and ask leave to report that the same ought to pass. Came from the Senate, report read and accepted. Bill given its two several readings. Senate Amendment A adopted. Bill passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment A.

Senate Amendment A to Senate Document Number 341.

Amend said bill by inserting after the word "girl" in the 21st line the following words: "If the officer to whom the mittimus or order of commitment is addressed is not a woman." Comes from the Senate adopted March 30.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the House voted to adopt Senate Amendment A in concurrence and on further motion by the same gentleman, the rules were suspended and the bill given its three several readings and passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment A in concurrence.

Senate Bills on First Reading.

Senate 411. An Act to repeal all special and private laws relating to the taking of migratory fish in Dennys River.

Senate 412. An Act to amend Section 13 of Chapter 45 of the Revised Statutes of 1916, relating to the regulation of the lobster industry.

Senate 170. An Act to amend Section 23 of Chapter 26 of the Revised Statutes of 1916, relating to the registration of motor vehicles.

The rules were suspended and the bills were given their three several readings and passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

From the Senate: Majority and minority report from committee on judiciary. Majority report. The committee on judiciary to which was referred Resolve in favor of Deforest Keyes have had the same under consideration and ask leave to report the same ought not to pass. Signed, Messrs. Barnes, Gurney, Hutchins, Davies, Cole, Gillin, Dearth. Minority report of same committee on same subject matter, reporting "ought to pass," signed Messrs. Baxter, Farring-

ton, Deering. In the Senate, the majority report was accepted.

On motion by Mr. Jordan of Baileyville, the House voted to accept the majority report in concurrence.

From the Senate: Final reports of committee on interior waters, committee on public health.

The reports were accepted in concurrence.

From the Senate: Message from the Governor.

(For text of message see pages 1143 and 1144)

Orders.

Mr. ALLAN of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for a suspension of the rules of this House in order that I may introduce an emergency measure pertaining to the city of Portland. I do not know whether it is in order for me to explain about this pending the motion, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair rules that it is.

Mr. ALLAN: As the gentlemen of the House will remember, there is now going on at Washington a conference with reference to the policy of this nation in the future, whether we shall have war or not, and what action this country will take if there is war. If war shall occur, many of the cities and towns of our State will be exposed to its ravages; among others the city of Portland. The city of Portland now is the terminal of the Grand Trunk Railroad System of Canada, and is in direct connection with London and Liverpool,—a very essential factor in case war should break out between this country and Germany. The Grand Trunk Railroad Company maintains large docks and wharves at Portland. It also has large grain elevators there for the purpose of storing grain until it is transported. In the event of injury to any one of these docks in case of war with any power, the result will be very bad to ourselves and to our country. Furthermore, I am informed from reliable sources that sinister influences are now at work in Portland. We heard from one

of them in one of the forts a week or so ago. I understand from these sources that the detective officers of the city are being spied upon, and in many cases they have been followed about from place to place in the city of Portland by persons unknown to them or to anyone else. There is also a great apprehension of fires in the city, involving the populous sections of our city as well as the Grand Trunk property.

At the present time, our police force is occupied with its regular work so that it is almost impossible to place guards at the Grand Trunk Station or public places and to do whatever else should be done of that nature. For that purpose, and in order to cover this matter, I am requested by the executive officers of the city of Portland to present this emergency matter providing for the appointment of a reserve police force to consist of such numbers of men as the mayor and board of aldermen of the city of Portland deem necessary, to be called into effect only in case of emergency or in time of great danger. The act provides for the appointment of these men by the mayor and board of aldermen, to serve at the pleasure of the mayor and board of aldermen, and to act in conjunction with the regular police force of the city of Portland, and all to be under the direct control of the mayor of our city. It also provides that members of the police force who shall join the reserve force shall have the benefit of the Workmen's Compensation Law if injury results to them while they are in the employ of the city; and any member of the regular police force who may be appointed to act as an officer of the reserve shall still retain his position on the regular force. It has no effect whatever on the regular police force of the city of Portland, and simply provides for such additional number of men to protect the city and its property.

I move you, Mr. Speaker, that this emergency bill be received without reference to a committee and that it take its first, second and third readings and be passed to be engrossed under a suspension of the rules.

The motion was agreed to.

Bill, An Act to create a volunteer po-

lice reserve force in the city of Portland, then had its three several readings under a suspension of the rules and was passed to be engrossed.

Mr. ROUNDS of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I have a resolve that I would like to introduce at the present time under a suspension of the rules and out of order.

Permission being given, the following resolve was introduced:

"Resolve relating to pay for the National Guard and Naval Reserve.

Resolved, that there shall be paid from any funds in the State treasury to each person who shall enlist and each person now enlisted in the National Guard in the State of Maine, and who shall be mustered into the service of the United States on the quota of this State, the sum of one dollar for each and every day that he shall be in the service of the United States during the existence of war or during the existence of a state of war. Such sum be paid to such person at the expiration of his service upon the cessation of the state of war; or, if such person shall have any person or persons dependent upon him for support, said sum shall be paid monthly to such dependents as the soldier shall designate."

Mr. ROUNDS: Mr. Speaker, of course at this time we all want to see justice done to everybody. A good many young people have got to go away to war and they have got to leave their dependents behind them. Those who went down to Mexico last spring left a good many not able to take care of themselves. Therefore I move that this resolve have a passage.

Mr. BARNES of Houlton: Mr. Speaker, The committee of one hundred which met at the Falmouth Hotel in Portland the last of last week appointed sub-committees to accomplish the various works which devolved upon them and among other sub-committees there was a legislative committee appointed, the secretary of which has been in the city for the last few days; and they are aiming to accomplish the same object that the gentleman from Portland (Mr. Rounds) seeks

to accomplish in his resolve. I rise now to inquire if there will be any objection on the part of the gentleman from Portland to table his measure until the so-called Military Laws are drafted.

Mr. ROUNDS: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House: I have no objection to tabling the order for a reasonable time; but this is a time when we have got to act. We have got to do something to get these young men to enlist, and, if we do not do it, we are not going to get our quota. In the city of Portland Saturday night they were over 200 short, and I expect every town in the State is. The young men are loath to enlist when they have those who are dependent upon them. Therefore I think it is no more than right that we take steps to look after them, and take some action so that we may get these matters in such shape that Maine will be on deck with her quota. I therefore do not want it tabled for any length of time for somebody to hem and haw over. Let's act now and we will know where we are. If the gentleman wants to table it for 24 hours, I am perfectly willing he should do so, but I do not want to table it longer at this late stage of the session. We want to get them to enlist now. We do not want to wait until some later time. (Applause).

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the resolve was tabled and assigned for tomorrow.

On motion by Mr. Farrington of Augusta, it was

Ordered, that when the House adjourn, it adjourn to meet at nine o'clock Tuesday morning, April three.

Mr. BARNES of Houlton: Mr. Speaker, I move the rules be suspended in order that I may introduce a resolve on the prevalent topic of water storage and water power that it may be under discussion together with the other matters of a similar nature tomorrow.

Unanimous consent was given and Mr. Barnes of Houlton introduced out of order under suspension of the rules the following resolve:

"Resolved, the Senate concurring, that it is the opinion of

the 78th legislature of Maine now in session that the storage reservoirs and basins in this State should be conserved in some manner for the benefit of the people and the industries of the State and that no step should be taken that will discourage capital from continuing old industries or establishing new ones in this State or that will make it more difficult for the people of the State to be supplied with light and power; and that it is the opinion of the legislature that steps should be taken to determine what rights of ownership if any the State has in storage reservoirs and basins and in water powers and that the State should not part with its rights in any water power or reservoir or basin except after investigation and report by some competent authority acting for it.

In pursuance of the foregoing, the Public Utilities Commission is hereby directed and ordered to make a careful and thorough investigation of both the developed and undeveloped water powers and of the water storage reservoirs and basins of this State to see what rights remain to the State thereunder and what are the possibilities of development and the probable cost of the same; and the said Commission is hereby directed and ordered to take up and continue the work begun by the State Water Storage commission which was created by Chapter 212 of the Laws of Maine for 1909.

And the said commission is further directed to make a full report with such recommendations as it may deem advisable to the next legislature, and it is further ordered that the sum of \$5000 is hereby appropriated for the year 1917 and the sum of \$5000 for the year 1918, to be used by the said Public Utilities Commission in carrying out the purposes of this resolution."

On motion by Mr. Baxter of Portland, the resolve was received, 500 copies were ordered printed and it was assigned for consideration tomorrow morning, April third.

Reports of Committees

Report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing action of the two branches of the legislature, on resolve in favor of Freeman Boynton of

Boothbay Harbor for money paid in lieu of military service; (House No. 391), reporting that they are unable to agree;

(Signed) Conant, Butler, Grant, committee on part of the Senate; Rounds, Harris Larrabee, committee on part of the House.

On motion by Mr. Rounds of Portland, the House voted to accept the report.

Mr. ROUNDS: Mr. Speaker, I move if it be in order, that we insist, and that another committee of conference be appointed.

A viva voce vote being had, The motion of the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Rounds, prevailed.

The Chair appointed as the new committee of conference Messrs. Cole of Eliot, Washburn of Perry and Packard of Rockland.

Mr. Nicholas, from the committee on appropriations and financial affairs, on resolves in favor of the committees for expenses of committee incurred during the session of the 78th legislature R. L. Bussabarger, secretary, committee school for feeble minded, fifty-five dollars and forty-eight cents \$55.48;

W. J. Driscoll, secretary, committee state prison, eighty dollars \$80.00; F. S. Packard, secretary, committee State sanatoriums, fifty-five dollars and twenty cents \$55.20;

F. P. Washburn, secretary, committee on education, four hundred fifty-three dollars and twenty-eight cents, \$453.28;

F. I. Brown, secretary, committee school for boys, and women's reformatory, eighty dollars \$80.00;

E. T. Hartwell, secretary, committee Indian affairs, thirty-three dollars, \$33.00;

J. D. Phillips, secretary, committee insane hospitals, thirty-eight dollars, \$38.00;

C. S. Brown, secretary, committee special, fourteen dollars and thirty-five cents, \$14.35.

Reported the same in a new draft, under title of "Resolve in favor of the secretaries of the committees for ex-

penses of committees incurred during the session of the 78th legislature," and that it ought to pass.

(The rules were suspended and the resolve had its two readings and was passed to be engrossed.)

Same gentleman, from same committee, on resolve in favor of securing plans for a State library building, reported same in a new draft, under same title, and that it ought to pass;

(The rules were suspended and the resolve had its two readings and was passed to be engrossed.)

Mr. McNally, from the committee on inland fisheries and game, on remonstrances of Harry Ritchie and 14 others and James G. Brown and 29 others, of Perry, against the passage of resident hunters' license act; reported that the same be placed on file;

Mr. Spiers, from the committee on public grounds and buildings, reported "ought not to pass" on resolve appropriating money for the purpose of installing a hot water system in the State House lavatories;

Majority and minority report of the committee on temperance.

Majority report of the committee on temperance, to which was referred bill entitled "An Act to prohibit the importation of intoxicating liquors into Maine for beverage purposes", reporting the same "ought not to pass". Signed Peterson, Longley, Allan, Patten, Pendexter, Bragdon and Holt of Cumberland. Minority report of the same committee on same subject matter, reporting "ought to pass"; signed Andrews, Welch.

On motion by Mr. Andrews of Warren, tabled pending the acceptance of either report.

On motion by Mr. Allan of Portland, the rules were suspended and the above reports were assigned for Thursday, April 5.

Mr. Besse, from the committee on ways and bridges, reported "ought not to pass" on Resolve amending Article 9 of the Constitution, so as to provide for a bond issue for permanent improvement of highway;

(Tabled by Mr. Wilson of Portland pending acceptance).

Same gentleman, from same committee, reported same on the following resolves:

Resolve in favor of the town of Houlton;

Resolve in favor of repairing road in the town of Pembroke;

Resolve in favor of repairing and rebuilding road in the town of Stetson, county of Penobscot;

Resolve appropriating money to aid in building a road around Chick Hill, so called, in the town of Amherst in Hancock county and the town of Clifton in Penobscot county;

Resolve appropriating a certain sum of money for the repair and permanent improvement of highway in Ellsworth;

Resolve appropriating a certain sum of money for repair and permanent improvement of highway in the town of Trenton.

Resolve in favor of the military road in the town of Mattawamkeag;

Resolve appropriating money for the repair of the highway in Lexington plantation in Somerset county;

Resolve in favor of aid in repairing highway in the towns of Salem and Freeman;

Resolve appropriating a sum of money for aid in building a road in the town of Oxford;

Resolve appropriating money for aid in repairing the road leading from Leonard bridge to Winnecook station in the town of Eurnham;

Resolve appropriating a sum of money for the repair and permanent improvement of the highway leading from Jones Bridge to plantation No. 21, in the town of Mariaville;

Resolve appropriating certain sums of money for building a road around Chick Hill in the towns of Amherst and Clifton. (with accompanying petitions.)

Resolve in favor of a roadway in townships No. 5 and 6, Ninth Range N. W. P., in the county of Piscataquis, (with accompanying petitions).

Resolve appropriating twelve hundred dollars to aid the town of Frenchville in straightening and reducing the grade of St. Luce Church hill. (with accompanying petition);

Resolve in favor of rebuilding a highway in the town of Phillips;

Resolve in favor of rebuilding a highway in the town of Weld;

Resolve in favor of relocation of a portion of the Houlton road in the town of Baileyville, county of Washington, (recommitted). (Tabled by Mr. Dutton of Bingham, pending acceptance).

Mr. Hammond, from same committee, reported same on Resolve amending article nine of the Constitution so as to permit an increased bond issue for construction and improvement of State and State-aid highways;

(Tabled by Mr. Redman of Ellsworth pending acceptance).

Mr. Messer, from same committee, on bill "An Act to amend Section 23 of Chapter 26 of the Revised Statutes relating to registration of motor vehicles;" reported that the same ought not to pass, as subject matter is contained in bill previously reported "ought to pass";

Mr. Sawyer, from the same committee, which was instructed by an order of the Legislature to inquire into the expediency of directing the State Highway Commission to file with the legislature an itemized statement of all expenditures incurred by it during the past two years, which statement should include particularly and in detail the amount expended in actual road construction, exclusive of surveys, inspection, salaries, etc., as well as a detailed statement of all other expenditures; reported that legislation thereon is inexpedient;

Same gentleman, from same committee, reported "ought not to pass" on bill "An Act to amend Chapter 319 of the Public Laws of 1915, entitled 'An Act to provide for State and county aid in construction of highway bridges;'"

Mr. Stubbs, from same committee, reported same on bill "An Act to amend Section 26 of Chapter 25 of the Revised Statutes of 1916, relating to patrol maintenance;"

Same gentleman, from same committee on the following:

Resolve appropriating money to repair the bridge connecting the town of Bucksport with the town of Verona;

Resolve in favor of the town of Warren for repair and maintenance of bridge across tidal water (called the "Toll Bridge") at South Warren;

Resolve in favor of the construction of a bridge across Cousin's river in the town of Yarmouth;

Resolve in favor of repair and reconstruction of a part of Lower Bridge across Belfast Bay in the city of Belfast;

Resolve in favor of aid in repairing "Long Bridge", so called in the town of Plymouth;

Resolve in favor of an appropriation for the construction of a bridge across the Taunton river, between the towns of Sullivan and Hancock, in the county of Hancock;

Resolve appropriating a certain sum of money to aid in the reconstruction of a bridge in the city of Ellsworth;

Resolve for aid in the repair of a highway bridge over the New Meadows river near the New Meadows Inn, so called, and connecting the town of West Bath, in the county of Sagadahoc, with the town of Brunswick in the county of Cumberland;

Reported that the same ought not to pass as the purposes of these resolves can be obtained by complying with the provisions of Chapter 319 of the Public Laws of 1915, being "An Act to provide for State and county aid in the construction of highway bridges:"

Same gentleman, from same committee, reported "ought not to pass" on bill "An Act to provide for the freeing of Eliot toll bridge and authorizing York county to maintain that part lying within said county;"

Same gentleman, from same committee, reported same on the following:

Resolve in aid of rebuilding Racoon Gully bridge and repairing Racoon Gully hill in the town of Lyman;

Resolve in aid of rebuilding bridge in the town of Alexander located on the Calais and Alexander road;

Resolve in favor of bridge in Reed plantation in the county of Aroostook;

Resolve in favor of building bridge across Allagash river in the plantation of Allagash;

Resolve reimbursing the county commissioners of Penobscot county for the cost of repairs to the State bridge

across the Penobscot river between the city of Old Town and the town of Milford;

Resolve appropriating money for the construction of a highway bridge across Pleasant Pond Stream in Caratunk plantation in Somerset county;

(Tabled by Mr. Dutton of Bingham pending acceptance).

Mr. Washburn, from same Committee, on Remonstrance of A. J. Preston and six others, and Seth E. Gray and six others, against the passage of Senate Bill No. 151, taking the control of the highways from Township No. 14 in Washington County, and Remonstrance of Edw. R. Hart and thirty others, against the passage of the Resolve relating to repairing the road at Kidders Hill, so called, in the town of Holden, reported that the same be placed on file.

Same gentleman from same Committee, reported "ought not to pass" on bill "An Act relating to vehicles, motor cars and trucks."

The reports were accepted.

Mr. BREWSTER of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I want to move for a suspension of the rules, and I would like to state my purpose in so doing. The gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Murray, very kindly extended to the House an invitation for Wednesday. He has not yet reached the House today; but I understand that the plans have been somewhat more matured in regard to the trip to Bangor, and I move that the rules be suspended and that the House extend an invitation to Senator Gillin to speak before it at this time, as it will give us the only means of securing the information. He is now in the House. (Applause.)

The SPEAKER: The House hears the motion of the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Brewster, that, by unanimous consent, Senator Gillin of Penobscot County be given leave to speak in this body for a member of his delegation, Mr. Murray, who has not yet reached the city.

Unanimous consent being granted, Senator Gillin addressed the House as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Representatives: I was in hopes that Brother Murray would be present; but I got a communication from the chairman of the entertainment that is to be given, and the demonstration, over in Bangor which I was to convey to him, in order that it might be conveyed to your honorable body this afternoon, giving you in detail what they purpose doing, and this will take me but a moment. The mayor of our city, the chairman of all the different committees, and the people of Bangor, extend to the House of Representatives an invitation to leave Augusta Wednesday morning at seven o'clock on a special train which the City of Bangor will furnish you; and the members of the House, together with the members of the Senate, will be entertained—all of them—at the Tarratine Club on their arrival at Bangor, under special committees appointed for that purpose. That was a part of the details which you did not have; and I wish to extend to all of the Representatives here the cordial invitation of the people, through the Mayor, and particularly all the people of Penobscot County and the eastern section of the State.

Mr. Speaker and Honorable Representatives of the people of the State, allow me to thank you for the courtesy and consideration which you have extended to me. I thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Applause.)

First Reading of Printed Bills and Resolves.

House 712. An Act to revise, collate, arrange and simplify the Inland Fish and Game Laws of the State, both general and public and private and special, and the rules and regulations of the Commissioners of Inland Fisheries and Game now in force

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the bill was given its third reading and passed to be engrossed.

Mr. FARRINGTON of Augusta: Mr. Speaker, I move that we table House Document 712 and I will state briefly to the House my reason for doing so. There is pending before the legislature a bill which has not yet been acted on in the Senate, with reference to a

change in the law relating to commissioners. It might become necessary to amend this by changing the word "Commissioners" to "Commissioner." I therefore move that we reconsider the vote whereby House bill 712 was passed to be engrossed.

The motion was agreed to.

On further motion by Mr. Farrington, the bill was tabled pending passage to be engrossed.

House 718. An Act to authorize the County of Piscataquis to reimburse the town of Brownville to the extent of thirty per cent. of its disbursements in the construction of a bridge across Pleasant River.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the bill was given its third reading and passed to be engrossed.

House 720. An Act to amend Section 60 of Chapter 4 of the Revised Statutes of 1916, relating to the creation of a sinking fund by cities and towns.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the bill had its third reading and was passed to be engrossed.

House 721. An Act to amend Sections 92, 93 and 94 of Chapter Two of the Revised Statutes relating to the estimated income and expenditures of the State departments and institutions.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the bill had its third reading and was passed to be engrossed.

House 722. An Act to authorize the county of Aroostook to enlarge and repair the court houses at Houlton and Caribou in said county.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the bill had its third reading and was passed to be engrossed.

House 724. An Act relating to qualification of judges of municipal and police courts.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the bill had its third reading and was passed to be engrossed.

House 713. Resolve in favor of Rena Cooley.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the resolve had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

House 715. Resolve in favor of Mary S. Hillman.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the resolve had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

House 716. Resolve in favor of the official reporter of the House for services of assistant reporter, typewriter operator and additional assistance in the preparation and completion of the Legislative Record, including installation and rental of dictating machines.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the resolve had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

House 717. Resolve appropriating money to pay Ethel M. Wade, stenographer and typist to the clerk of the House.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the resolve had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

House 719. Resolve in favor of certain employees of the House of Representatives.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the resolve had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

House 723. Resolve appropriating money for the care and maintenance of Fort William Henry in the town of Bristol.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the resolve had its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

Passed to be Enacted.

An Act to provide for discharge of record attachments of real estate which have lapsed.

An Act to extend the time within which the provisions of Chapter 186 of the Private and Special Laws of 1915, providing for reorganization or consolidation of the railroad companies constituting the Boston and Maine Railroad system, may be exercised.

An Act authorizing the Biddeford and Saco Water Company to increase its capital stock and to hold securities in other corporations.

An Act to amend Section 5 of Chapter 117 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the expenses of the justices of the supreme judicial court.

An Act to amend Section 17 of Chapter 8 of the Revised Statutes, relating

to the sale of timber on reserved lands in all townships or tracts.

An Act to amend Section 42 of Chapter 117 of the Revised Statutes, relating to expenses of county commissioners.

An Act to amend Section 1 of Chapter 285 of the Private and Special Laws of 1854, relating to the erection of wooden buildings in the city of Portland.

An Act to amend Paragraph 1 of Section 4 of Chapter 72 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the appointment of guardians.

An Act to secure information relating to the yearly cut of timber from the wild land townships.

An Act in addition to Sections 44, 45, 46 and 47 of Chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes, relating to attachment of property mortgaged or pledged.

An Act providing for monthly payment of salaries of county officials.

An Act to amend Section 1 of Chapter 11 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the collection of taxes and the commitment of poll taxes in incorporated places.

An Act to prevent discrimination against soldiers and sailors in the service of the United States or State of Maine, on account of their uniform.

An Act to amend Section 58 of Chapter 64, of the Revised Statutes, relative to the licensing of children's homes and maternity hospitals.

An Act amending Section 14 of Chapter 65 of the Revised Statutes, relating to custody of minor children of divorced parents.

An Act to amend Section 79 of Chapter 57 of the Revised Statutes, relating to speed of trains over and obstruction of grade crossings.

An Act to incorporate the Summer Harbor Water Company.

An Act to amend Section 19 of Chapter 86 of the Revised Statutes, relating to service of writs on corporations.

An Act to amend Sections 12 and 13 of Chapter 37 of the Revised Statutes relative to the inspection of milk, and to provide a penalty for interference with inspectors appointed by cities and towns in the performance of their duties.

An Act to provide for the expenses of

the Legislature, for salaries fixed by law, for departmental expenses of the State government and for the maintenance of the several State institutions during the period of the biennial sessions of the Legislature.

An Act to amend Section 4 of Chapter 76 of the Revised Statutes, relating to notices upon petitions for sale of real estate.

An Act to incorporate the Investment Insurance & Guaranty Company.

An Act to amend Chapter 213 of the Private and Special Laws of 1915, relative to the granting of licenses for certain businesses and purposes by the municipal officers of the city of Portland;

An Act to amend Section 20 of Chapter 117 of the Revised Statutes, and increasing the salary of the chief clerk in the office of State superintendent of public schools;

An Act to amend Section 28 of Chapter 45 of the Revised Statutes, relating to violations of the lobster law;

An Act to provide for card index for probate registry of Aroostook county;

An Act to amend Section 8 of Chapter 65 of the Revised Statutes, relative to time of hearing of libels for divorce;

An Act amending Section 17 of Chapter 45 of the Revised Statutes, relative to granting lobster licenses;

An Act to amend Section 32 of Chapter 117 of the Revised Statutes, increasing the salary of the clerk of the board of State assessors;

An Act relating to the place of payment in this State of dividends declared by foreign mutual fire insurance companies;

An Act to amend Section 16 of Chapter 117 of the Revised Statutes, increasing the salary of State treasurer;

An Act in relation to the duties of county attorneys;

An Act to amend Chapter 452 of the Private and Special Laws of 1897, relating to the trustees of the fund for the support of the Episcopate of the Protestant Episcopal church in the diocese of Maine;

An Act to amend Section 24 of Chapter 53 of the Revised Statutes, relating to unclaimed baggage and merchandise transported by street railways;

An Act to accept the benefits of an Act of Congress to provide for the promotion of vocational education;

An Act to amend Sections 4, 5 and 7 of Chapter 95 of the Revised Statutes, in relation to mortgages of real estate;

An Act providing for the control of the white pine blister rust and other fungus and insect pests;

An Act to authorize the town of Yarmouth to supply gas and electricity;

An Act to amend Section 36 of Chapter 26 of the Revised Statutes, fixing a fee for registering motor cars in neutral automobile zones;

An Act to amend Sections 37 and 45 of Chapter 117 of the Revised Statutes, increasing the salaries of county attorney and assistant county attorney for Cumberland county and to provide for clerk hire in said county attorney's office;

An Act to amend Section 3 of Chapter 384 of the Private and Special Laws of 1907, increasing the salary of the recorder of the Old Town municipal court;

An Act amendatory of and additional to Chapter 44 of the Private and Special Laws of 1887, relating to the Skowhegan Water District;

An Act to amend Sections 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61 and 62 of Chapter 16 of the Revised Statutes, to provide for the formation of unions for the employment of superintendents of schools;

Mr. JORDAN of Baileyville: Mr. Speaker, I move this act be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. DUTTON of Bingham: Mr. Speaker, I believe there are a great many interested in this measure who are not here. I move that it lie on the table until tomorrow.

A viva voce vote being taken,
The motion to table prevailed.

An Act relating to the department of electrical appliances of the city of Portland;

On motion by Mr. Farrington of Augusta, An Act to revise, collate, arrange and simplify the inland fish and game laws of the State, both general and public and private and special, and the rules and regulations of the commissioners of inland fisheries and game, now in force, was taken from the table.

Mr. FARRINGTON of Augusta: Mr. Speaker, I find that the matter that I had in mind has been all taken care of, and I move that this bill be passed to be engrossed.

The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House An Act to amend Chapter 117, Section 18, Revised Statutes, relating to the insurance department, tabled by Mr. Cole of Eliot, pending third reading, being House Document No. 657.

Mr. COLE of Eliot: Mr. Speaker, I move the indefinite postponement of that measure. I understand, Mr. Speaker, that when that measure was introduced it was thought that the salary of the insurance commissioner, which was then \$2000, should be reduced to equalize that salary with those in other departments; but this present legislature has raised the salaries of the other departments to a sum above that amount, so that if this matter should go through, the insurance commissioner would be the only man in the State at the head of a department whose salary had been cut and who was not receiving the same as the clerks in other departments such as the State board of charities and the public utilities. Still, I have no interest, but it seems to me he ought not to be made a target and his salary cut when he others are raised. If the others had been left alone and he had been reduced to equal them, it would have been all right, but certainly he ought not to be reduced and the others raised. I will yield to the gentleman from Stonington, Mr. Harman.

Mr. HARMAN of Stonington: Mr. Speaker, I simply wish to second the motion.

The pending question being the motion of the gentleman from Eliot, Mr. Cole, that the bill be indefinitely postponed,

The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House An Act to regulate the operation of jitney busses or any other steam or motor driven vehicle, House

Document No. 678, tabled by Mr. Descoteaux of Biddeford, pending third reading.

Mr. Descoteaux of Biddeford offered House Amendment A as follows and moved its passage:

"Section 1 of House Bill No. 678 is hereby amended by striking out in the fifth line the words 'passengers or' so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 1. The State highway commission may, upon proper application in writing, grant permits for the operation of jitney busses, so-called, or any other steam or motor vehicles making regular schedule trips for the carriage of freight from one point to another, over any street, highway or bridge, and may make regulations limiting the rate of speed of such vehicles, their weight, the load they may carry, and the time of year during which they may operate, and any other regulations which in the opinion of said commission are necessary for the protection of said streets or highways, and no such jitney buss, or other steam or motor driven vehicles shall be so operated on any highway or townway without such permit.

'Sect. 2. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this act shall be liable to the penalty provided by Section 14 of Chapter 26 of the Revised Statutes, except that in the case of damage to any street, highway or bridge, any fine shall be paid into the State Treasury and shall be used for the repair of the street, highway or bridge so damaged.'

Mr. CLASON of Lisbon: Mr. Speaker, I hope that this amendment will not be accepted. If it is, it will spoil the purpose of the bill. The purpose of this bill was to take care of or regulate jitney busses travelling through long sections of the State and highway roads, where they go through these roads and over them during the wet season early in the spring before the frost goes out and late in the fall after the hay is cut. On account of having schedule trips, they make them rain or shine, and as a result they are destroying in some sections our trunk lines and State aid roads. If the word

'Passenger' is omitted as this amendment asks, of course it will destroy the bill. There are very few of these busses which travel for freight purposes only, and I hope the amendment will not be adopted.

Mr. DESCOTEAUX of Biddeford: Mr. Speaker, my object in offering the amendment is this: In the city of Saco there is a shoe shop on the outskirts of the city which employs about 600 hands. This shop is situated about two miles and a half from the city of Biddeford and most of the help live in Biddeford, and the only way they can get there is either to walk or ride in the jitney busses morning, noon and night.

I have also here a letter from parties in Sanford and I will read it.

"Mr. Descoteaux: There is a bill coming up in the House in regard to regulating jitneys. The bill if passed would make it bad for the jitney line here which line has been satisfactory to the public, especially the working people who ride back and forth to their work. As it is now, the jitneys save the workmen a thousand dollars per year in their car fare. They also get home to eat many dinners and are let out almost at their door yards."

I think, Mr. Speaker and gentlemen, if these jitneys are cut out during this part of the year, these people would be unable to get back and forth to dinner, and they would have hardly any time to eat. I think, myself, if they cut out the word "passengers," the bill would be all right. There is another bill here which covers as I understand what the gentleman has just said. There is a bill presented by Mr. Redman of Ellsworth, An Act relating to the operation of traction engines and motors upon highways. It seems to me that bill covers that matter. I hope that the amendment will be accepted. It says in the bill "over any street." That means public streets in the cities. I hope my amendment will be accepted.

Mr. CLASON: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say in reply to the gentleman from Biddeford, Mr. Descoteaux, that I do not think that bill would cover it when you stop and realize the thousands

of dollars of damage that these busses are doing in the early spring and late fall. It seems to me some legislation ought to be passed in regard to that. I do not believe there is any one who has charge of this bill who will do anything to deprive the people he refers to from travelling back and forth over these streets or roads which are in a fit condition to be travelled upon. We should look out for the interests of the many anyway, regardless of the few.

Mr. DESCOTEAUX: Mr. Speaker, if I am allowed to say another word, Biddeford and Sanford are not the only two places where they have got shoeshops which are situated on the outskirts of the city. Another thing, it is my opinion—perhaps I am wrong—but it is my opinion that there is something else behind this bill. As I understand it, the jitney busses in Sanford are interfering with the electric car interests and they do not like it. I think the only reason why this bill was put in was so they could drive the jitney busses out of there.

Mr. BUZZELL of Belfast: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may be able to say just a word that will give my colleague, Mr. Descoteaux, a little light on this proposition. There is or was no ulterior motive in drafting this bill. It is for one purpose only, and while it was drawn to cover that purpose, other insertions were made so as to cover other things besides streets. Now before I go further I wish to read this bill.

"The State Highway Commission may, upon proper application in writing, grant permits for the operation of jitney busses, so-called, or any other steam or motor vehicles making regular schedule trips for the carriage of passengers or freight from one point to another, over any street, highway, or bridge, and may make regulations limiting the rate of speed of such vehicles, their weight, the load they may carry, and the time of year during which they may operate."

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is as far as I care to go because what I have read will cover the ground.

In the town of Rockland in Knox County and Camden in the same county on to Bangor last year was established

a jitney line. Now by that I do not mean a line that was run by Ford touring cars or anything of that sort. These cars were very large and very heavy, and they carried from twenty to twenty-five passengers and, when they were loaded, weighed thousands of pounds, in fact several tons. Now the people do not find any particular fault with the way the road is cut up in the early spring because it does no great harm, and these do not do any great damage during the summer time, but there is a little time in the late fall that the Highway Commission might control the operation of these busses. By the way, one of them is steam operated and the other one is operated by gas. Last year they destroyed thousands and thousands of dollars' worth of road in that section. The ruts were very deep and it will require a great deal of money this spring to repair them.

Now this bill was not introduced to affect any small jitney buss line from Saco to Biddeford or anything of the kind. I have shown to the Highway Commission and fully explained the proposition to them, and at once they agreed with me on the necessity of such a measure. There is no street railway interested in this measure. I have never heard from one. When my friend from Biddeford introduces such an idea at this time in connection with this measure, I simply want to inform him that he is very much mistaken and that this measure is simply to save our streets.

And, incidentally, when the measure was being drawn I thought it well enough to speak of the loads they might carry and the speed they might employ.

Now, after this explanation, I do not see how anyone can take exception to the bill, and I hope that the amendment of the gentleman from Biddeford, will not be adopted. Why, if the word "passengers" was taken out of that act, it would be a joke and I should not want to see it go any farther. I hope that this amendment will not go any farther.

Mr. GRANT of Hope: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to Mr. Buzzell's argument that it ought to be made about three times as strong as he made

it. They completely ruined that new road put through there at a great deal of expense, and it was passenger busses that did it.

Mr. NEWCOMB of Scarboro: Mr. Speaker, when an act is once passed and incorporated in our laws it is pretty hard work to tell what decision the court may make on it. Now in Scarboro we have several quite large hotels, and the steam railroad does not go within—the nearest hotel is two miles and a half. We have lots of summer cottagers at Higgins Beach, and hotels, and a hotel at Scarboro Beach, and several hotels at Prout's Neck and a lot of cottages. The only method of getting the passengers from Scarboro Beach Station down to those summer resorts is by automobile. Now I hardly think that it would be just to those people who drive passenger wagons there from the station and the trains to the several cottages and hotels to oblige them to appeal to the highway commission for a right to do it, and it seems to me as though this law might be construed so as to apply to very public driver of a Ford car even and to make him take out a license to drive to those hotels. Many of the hotels own their own automobiles that they send to the station for passengers. It seems to me it would be rather an injustice to those people there in that part of the State to pass this law.

Mr. BUZZELL: Mr. Speaker, I will say that I think this section of the act takes care very nicely of the objection made by the gentleman from Scarboro: "Or other steam or motor vehicles making regular schedule trips." Now the trips that these motor vehicles make down there in the sections that I have described extend over a distance of some fifty or sixty miles. They leave one place at such a time and are scheduled to make another town at such a time, and to go on from there to the next town at such a time. Now I will submit, gentlemen, to your good judgment and common sense whether you think that that would apply to a \$390 Ford or a touring car going from one cottage to another.

The pending question being on the adoption of House Amendment A.

A division being had,

One having voted in the affirmative and forty-eight having voted in the negative, the amendment was lost.

Mr. CLASON of Lisbon: Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment which I wish to introduce here and explain, if permissible. By some mistake in printing under Section 2 no provisions were made whereby the fines, if paid, could be used on these roads. What was omitted was this statement "which is under the jurisdiction of the State highway commission."

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Lisbon, Mr. Clason, moves the adoption of House Amendment B as follows:

Section 2 is hereby amended by inserting after the word "bridge" in the fourth line thereof, the following "which is under the jurisdiction of the State highway commission," so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

"Whoever violates any of the provisions of this act shall be liable to the penalty provided by Section 14 of Chapter 26 of the Revised Statutes, except that in the case of damage to any street, highway or bridge which is under the jurisdiction of the State highway commission, any fine shall be paid into the State Treasury and shall be used for the repair of the street, highway or bridge so damaged."

The amendment was adopted.

The bill was then given its third reading and passed to be engrossed as amended by House Amendment B.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House An Act to insure the collection of taxes in unorganized townships, House Document No. 685, tabled by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, pending third reading.

Mr. BARNES of Houlton: Mr. Speaker, may I inquire what the report of the committee was?

The SPEAKER: The committee reported "ought to pass." The pending

question is on the third reading of the bill.

Mr. BARNES: Mr. Speaker, were there two reports?

The SPEAKER: One.

Mr. BARNES: Mr. Speaker, I move that it be given its third reading at this time.

Mr. ROUNDS of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I don't understand just what that would do. It looks to me as though it is hitting different cities and towns in this State pretty hard. It says "unorganized townships," and as I understand it the tax goes to the State instead of going to the cities and towns. Am I right? I should like to ask Mr. Barnes through you, Mr. Speaker, if I am right.

The SPEAKER: Will the gentleman from Houlton answer the question?

Mr. BARNES: Mr. Speaker, for the information of Mr. Rounds from Portland I will say this: Personal property on unorganized lands the first day of April 1916 under the present law is taxed or should be taxed to its owner in the city or town where he lives, and this statute provides that the party having control of personal property on unorganized lands the first of April shall report to the State assessors. The State assessors will then ascertain whether it is taxed in any city or town and, if it is taxed in any city or town, nothing is done; if it is not taxed—if it has been passed over by the assessors of the city or town—then the State assessors shall assess what they determine to be a just and equitable tax thereon.

Mr. ROUNDS: And turn it over to the cities and towns?

Mr. BARNES: No; I understand their proposition before the committee was that they would tax the State and county tax only. Just one word more and then I am through. If the assessors of the city or town where the man who is operating in the woods lives assess a tax upon him, the State assessors have nothing to do with it, and it applies—in addition to what is in the mind of the gentleman from

Portland—it applies also to personal property in whole villages—I think now of one you all go through when you go up through Penobscot county—whole villages, houses, lands, farms and cattle and all manner of personal property which is not taxed at all now because it is in an unorganized township, and there are several in the State. It also applies, the gentleman will understand, to a camp erected on a wild land township on leased land, and some of them are put up at the expense of sixty or seventy-five thousand dollars.

Mr. ROUNDS: Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the House, I didn't know before that the bill planned to tax personal property. I have found out something since I got up. I supposed it was a tax on real estate. We have a large tax every year from different corporations that are doing business through the State and through other states in the city of Portland, as I understand it, and it is quite a large tax. I think Augusta has the same thing. I think a number of cities and towns of this State have the same thing.

To take this away is taking away from the cities and towns what they are trying to get, and the valuation of the State Assessors now is almost half a million above that of the city of Portland, and I don't think it is right. If we do not assess them, that they shall assess them, I have no objection to, but I have an objection if we cannot assess them as we do at the present time. Therefore, as the gentleman from Houlton has explained it, I have no objection to the bill going through, if we can tax them ourselves in the city of Portland.

Mr. FARRINGTON of Augusta: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire of the gentleman from Houlton, Mr. Barnes, if he is willing to answer through the Chair whether under the provisions of the bill it will apply to pulp wood, cord wood and lumber in his opinion?

Mr. BARNES: Mr. Speaker, answering the question of the gentleman, I understand it will apply to pulp wood, cord wood and lumber which is on unorganized land.

Mr. SAWYER of Madison: Mr. Speaker, House Bill No. 92 proposes a change in the present law in regard to the taxation of personal property in unorganized townships by adding thereto a pulp wood and cord wood section. Now, the town of Madison and the town of Skowhegan and a great many other towns in the State are seriously interested in this matter. At the present time, as I understand the law, cord wood and pulp wood and logs are taxed by the towns on the first of April at their point of destination and not where they are located on the first of April. I suppose that they are taxed for town, county and State purposes, and that the State will receive from the town the usual amount that they receive in such cases but, if the law is changed, that these towns will be deprived of the town and the county tax. I may not understand this correctly; I am not posted in taxation, but if that is the case, I am opposed to the passage of both these acts, not only No. 365 but also No. 92, both House Bills, for the reasons that I have given.

Mr. ALLAN of Portland: Mr. Speaker, may I say a word about these two bills? There are two acts now pending in the House, No. 92 and No. 685. We were discussing No. 92 at the adjournment of the last session and did not come to any decision on it. No. 685 was drawn expressly to hit property untaxed. It has no reference to anything that is already taxed and makes no change whatever in anything that is already taxed. It is intended to hit property not taxed in unorganized townships.

Mr. ROUNDS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the motion of the gentleman from Houlton, Mr. Barnes.

The bill was then given its third reading.

Mr. SAWYER of Madison: Mr. Speaker, I move that this bill be indefinitely postponed, House Bill 365.

Mr. BARNES: Mr. Speaker, he has the wrong number. The bill is 685.

The SPEAKER: The bill is 685.

Mr. SAWYER: Mr. Speaker, 685 I do not know anything about.

House Document No. 685 was then passed to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House An Act to amend Section 7 of Chapter 117, Revised Statutes, relating to payments of proportional parts of salaries to retired justices of supreme and superior courts, House Document No. 689, tabled by Mr. Rounds of Portland, pending second reading.

Mr. ROUNDS of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I move that that bill be indefinitely postponed.

A viva voce vote being taken,
The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House An Act to prevent public discrimination by reason of religious creed at places of public accommodation, resort or amusement, Senate Document No. 393, tabled by Mr. Rounds of Portland, pending the adoption of Senate Amendment A in concurrence.

Mr. ROUNDS of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I move you that Senate Amendment A be adopted in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will read Senate Amendment A to Senate Document No. 393. Amend said bill by striking out Section 3 thereof. Also amend Section 5 by striking out the words "not less than" in the fifth line of said section and substituting the word "more", and by striking out in the fifth and sixth lines in said section the words "not more than five hundred dollars" and by striking out in the seventh line thereof the words "less than" and substituting the word "more", and also in the same line by striking out the words "nor more than ninety days".

The amendment was adopted in concurrence.

Mr. PACKARD of Rockland: Mr. Speaker, may I inquire what the status of the bill is at the present time?

The SPEAKER: The bill was tabled

pending the adoption of Senate Amendment A. Senate Amendment A has been adopted, and the bill has already had two readings and the third reading of the bill would be in order.

On motion by Mr. Packard of Rockland, the bill was given its third reading and passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment A in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House An Act relating to casualty assessment insurance companies, House Document No. 128, tabled by Mr. Reed of Bangor, pending concurrent action with the Senate.

On motion by Mr. Dutton of Bingham, the House voted to recede from its position whereby the bill was passed to be engrossed in concurrence, and on further motion by the same gentleman, the House voted to concur with the Senate in the indefinite postponement of the bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House majority and minority reports of committee on judiciary, majority reporting "ought not to pass" and minority reporting "ought to pass in a new draft" on An Act to create the Maine Water Power Commission, tabled by Mr. Baxter of Portland, pending the acceptance of either report.

On motion by Mr. Baxter of Portland, the reports were retabled pending the acceptance of either and assigned for tomorrow, April third.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House majority and minority reports of committee on judiciary, majority reporting "ought not to pass" and minority reporting "ought to pass" on House Document No. 555, An Act to amend Section 1, Chapter 60, Revised Statutes, entitled "Transmission of electric power beyond the limits of the State prohibited", tabled by Mr. Cole of Eliot, pending acceptance of either report.

On motion by Mr. Cole of Eliot, the reports were tabled pending the acceptance of either and assigned for tomorrow, April third.

Mr. COLE of Eliot: Mr. Speaker, if it were in order, I would ask if the matter introduced by the Senator from Cumberland, Mr. Davies, has come over from the Senate to the House yet?

The SPEAKER: It has not come over yet.

Mr. COLE: Mr. Speaker, I understand that if my motion is in order it would have to be in writing, but I would suggest to the clerk that he see if that can be procured if the matter has been taken up in the Senate and be brought forward so that also can be acted upon tomorrow morning in connection with other matters.

The SPEAKER: The clerk states that he is of the opinion that that matter is on the Senate calendar. If the matter is on the Senate table, it would be impossible to get it. If it was taken off, it will come along in the regular order.

Mr. COLE: Mr. Speaker, I will state that it was on Friday's calendar in the Senate, but I do not know at what stage it was at that time—I do not remember.

Mr. FARRINGTON of Augusta: Mr. Speaker, I would state that it appears on the Senate calendar of today, Senate Document No. 414, under "Tabled and Unassigned" matters.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House House Report of committee on education, reporting "ought not to pass" on House Document No. 558, An Act to amend Section 66, Chapter 16, Revised Statutes, relating to the ages between which children are required to attend school, tabled by Mr. Jordan of Baileyville, pending acceptance of report.

Mr. JORDAN of Baileyville: Mr. Speaker, as this is of considerable importance and as the bill was drawn by the State superintendent of schools, and is of a great deal of importance to the children who have not had the best of opportunities—and we have had many examples in our village where

this bill would be of material advantage to them—I would like to have this bill retabled until tomorrow.

A viva voce vote being had,
The motion to table prevailed.

Mr. FARRINGTON of Augusta: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House reconsider the vote whereby it tabled House Document No. 558.

The motion prevailed.

Mr. FARRINGTON: Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the present school law providing that every child between the seventh and fifteenth anniversaries of his birth and every child between the fifteenth and seventh anniversaries who cannot read at sight and write legibly simple sentences shall attend some public day school, and so forth. This amendment adds this, that the school committee may in its discretion require the attendance of any child between the fifteenth and sixteenth anniversaries of his birth who has not completed the elementary school course, and there is apparently a unanimous report of the committee of "ought not to pass."

I want to call the attention of the House to that that the school committee under this amendment may in its discretion require the attendance of any child between the fifteenth and sixteenth anniversaries of his birth who has not completed the elementary school course.

Mr. JORDAN: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that this bill should receive some consideration. Now in our village we have some children who can neither read nor write, and we have children coming in to our village from rural sections, especially children who have perhaps been brought up on the opposite of the river and who have perhaps lived at a distance from schools, and it has been so that in some instances the children have never seen the inside of the school house. They come into our village and our public schools are open and ready for them, but they have never been to school and they have a distaste for going to school. In other words, there

are good boys that might make good, strong educated men and be a great credit to themselves and to their community, but there is nothing to constrain them to go to school, and, therefore, they are neither able to read or write in some instances. This bill is especially for their benefit. Now, gentlemen of the House, I hope that you will consider the poor unfortunate child who cannot perhaps speak real English and see that this bill receives full consideration and that it becomes a law.

Mr. FARRINGTON: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is quite fair to the House that the impression should be had that this bill is endorsed by the State superintendent of schools. I do not think that is the case. If I am wrong, the gentleman from Baileyville will correct me. I understand that the bill was drafted for him, but not with the endorsement of the State superintendent of schools. I am the last person who would stand on the floor of this House and advocate or be against anything that was for the education of the youth of Maine, but the legislature has established the ages in its wisdom, and this means that the school board in its discretion could increase that. I feel that the report should be accepted.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Auburn. Mr. Speaker, I object very much to the statement that this bill has had no consideration. It was before the members of the Committee of Education and they gave it a thorough investigation. Many of them were school teachers formerly. They said this, that a boy between fifteen and sixteen years of age who was on the streets smoking cigarettes would not do very much if they were forced into school and obliged to be associated with boys and girls who were just beginning to learn to read and write.

Mr. SNOW of Mars Hill: Mr. Speaker, I want to corroborate the statements of the gentleman from Auburn. This bill was thoroughly considered by the committee on education. It was the opinion of that committee that we had truancy law enough

on our statutes now if that law were enforced. You get a boy up to fifteen years of age, and all his companions whom he has been with have gone out of school and you force him to go then. If you had used all the law that we have had, during all those years of his life up to that time he could have been given all the advantages that we give in our schools at the present day. It seemed to the committee it was not necessary to place this on the statute books. I know what it is to be a truant officer; I have been a truant officer, and I do not think you can get very much by forcing a boy to go to school who hasn't kept along with his class after the age of fifteen years. It seemed to us that we had law enough if we have a right to enforce what we have got. I second the motion of the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Farrington.

The pending question being on the motion of the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Farrington, that the report "ought not to pass" be accepted,

A viva voce vote being taken,

The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House majority and minority reports of committee on judiciary, majority reporting "ought not to pass" and minority reporting "ought to pass" on House Document No. 322, An Act to amend Section 10, Chapter 99, Revised Statutes, relative to leases, tabled by Mr. Wilson of Portland, pending acceptance of either report.

Mr. WILSON of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I move that the minority report "ought to pass" be accepted.

Mr. FARRINGTON of Augusta: Mr. Speaker, just one word to the House, I do not think the Judiciary Committee would feel at all badly if the minority report were accepted, but before the House votes on the question, I want to say I think the real reason for the report "ought to pass" was because the provisions of the bill related to a certain form of lease making it a matter of statutory requirement that certain things should be written into the lease.

I think the committee thought it just as well not to encumber the statutes with anything of that sort, but to leave it to every man to draft his leases as he pleased. They didn't think it necessary to encumber the statutes with anything of this sort which makes a special form of lease.

Mr. WILSON of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I understand this bill is aimed to take care of what is now termed the fire clause in leases. Many of the gentlemen of this House know that on an ordinary lease, without any provisions to the contrary, if you lease a house down to the corner here and it burns down, you are obliged to go on paying rent for four or five years that the lease may run, although the house has burned down and you cannot go into it. We have a fire clause with the right in the lease provided that when the property is partly destroyed by fire the lessor and lessee may either give to the other notice to terminate the lease. Now we have in our large cities many apartment houses where people go and rent a room, and it is sometimes by what is called a lease, a very brief little document which makes no account of fires or anything else. The result is that if one of those houses should burn, a great many people would be obliged to go on and pay their rent although they would not be occupying the place. As I understand this bill, it is simply to make that so-called fire clause a part of the law so that any person who takes a lease, whether he is sharp or knows what he is getting or not, will have protection and, if the property burns, by giving notice he will not be obliged to pay the rent. That is the only object of the bill.

I understand the only objection of the gentleman from Augusta is that it encumbers the law. I do not think that is a very strong objection. I think it is equitable and fair to all concerned that when a person leases a house or a room in a building and it burns, there should be some means by which he may be excused from paying rent for that property; and this bill, if the minority report is accepted and the bill is passed

will accomplish just that purpose. It has been drawn carefully by an attorney of many years experience who has had experience in a number of these cases and who assured me that that was the object of this bill and that it would perform that office if it should become a law.

The pending question being on the motion of the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Wilson, to accept the minority report "ought to pass,"

A viva voce vote being had,

The motion prevailed.

The bill was then given its two several readings.

On motion by Mr. Wilson of Portland the rules were suspended and the bill was given its third reading and passed to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair wishes to state that all the other matters on the calendar under "Tabled and Assigned" await action tomorrow. Under the "Tabled and Unassigned" at the bottom of the page, the Chair is ready to entertain any motion.

On motion by Mr. Clason of Lisbon, House Report of the Committee on Pensions, reporting "ought not to pass" on An Act to simplify the method of payment of State pensions, was taken from the table and on further motion by the same gentleman, the report was accepted.

Mr. BAXTER of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I would make an inquiry in regard to the measures under "Tabled and Unassigned." I was under the impression that we passed an order which provided that all measures which were tabled would not be kept on the table for more than twenty-four hours and that after that date they should be put under the column of "Unfinished Business." If that is the case, it might help matters along in the next few days if we abolished this column of "Tabled and Unassigned" on all matters.

The SPEAKER: The Chair rules that the point is well taken and that any

matters now under "Tabled and Unassigned" come off today.

On motion by Mr. Allan of Portland, Senate Report of Committee on Legal Affairs, reporting "ought not to pass" on Senate Document No. 372, An Act providing for the use of school buildings for holding meetings of a social

center or a community forum, was taken from the table and on further motion by the same gentleman, the report "ought not to pass" was accepted in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Wilson of Portland, Adjourned until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.