

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Third Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1927

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

SENATE

Wednesday, February 23, 1927

Senate called to order by the President.

Prayer by the Rev. H. A. Clark of Gardiner.

Journal of previous session read and approved.

Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

House Bills in First Reading

Resolve in favor of Ward W. Westcott of Ellsworth, for partial reimbursement for expenditures in proceedings brought against him for his removal from his office of sheriff of Hancock County. (H. D. 55)

An act relating to Opportunity Farm Association. (H. D. 111)

An act to incorporate Trustees of St. Peters By-the-Sea Protestant Episcopal Church. (H. D. 110)

The following bills, resolves, petitions, etc., were received and on recommendation by the committee on reference of bills were referred to the following committees:—

Judiciary

By Mr. OAKES of Cumberland,—An Act to provide for the filling of vacancies in the office of constable in cities. (S. P. 355)

Sent down for concurrence.

Ways and Bridges

By Mr. MITCHELL of Aroostook—Petition of C. W. Pipes, of New Limerick, and 41 others in favor of State Aid for the maintenance and repair of the "Lake Road" in the town of New Limerick. (S. P. 298)

Sent down for concurrence.

Reports of Committees

Mr. DUNBAR, from the Committee on Claims, on Resolve in favor of the town of Athens, for reimbursement for sheep killed by dogs (S. P. 23) reported that the same ought to pass.

The same Senator, from the same Committee, on Resolve in favor of Mrs. Daniel Jewett ((S. P. 63) reported that the same ought to pass.

The same Senator, from the same Committee, on Resolve to reimburse the city of Bath for support of William A. Griffin, a former resident of

Malaga Island (S. P. 124) reported that the same ought to pass.

The same Senator, from the same Committee, on Resolve to reimburse the town of Smyrna for support of John Pomeroy, a Civil War Veteran (S. P. 99) reported that the same ought to pass.

The reports were severally read and accepted and the resolves laid upon the table for printing under the joint rules.

Passed to Be Engrossed

An Act to provide for the marking of the Maine and New Hampshire Boundary line. (S. D. 109)

An Act relating to taking of clams in Cutler. (S. D. 120)

An Act to amend Section Seventy-Seven of Chapter two hundred and eleven of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-one, relating to reserved automobile registration numbers. (S. D. 96)

Resolve in favor of the Cobbosseecontee Fish and Game Association. (H. D. 144)

An Act to repeal Acts incorporating the Kendalls Mills Village Corporation and the Fairfield Village Corporation. (S. D. 26)

An Act to regulate fishing in Twin Brooks, so-called, tributaries to Aziscohos Lake, in the county of Oxford. (H. D. 145)

Resolve, authorizing the Governor to receive from the Secretary of War of the United States such "Other Funds," remaining to the credit of the National Guard of this state and to distribute them for the benefit of said National Guard. (H. D. 146)

An Act granting Charles H. Scott the right to maintain a ferry across Eggmoggin Reach in Hancock County. (H. D. 147)

An Act to obtain the benefit of Credit allowed under Federal Estate Tax. (H. D. 58)

An Act to authorize towns of Bridgton and Harrison to assist in the preservation of railroad service to and from said towns. (H. D. 78)

An Act relating to the charter of the Norway Water Company. (H. D. 151)

An Act in relation to the Buckfield Village Corporation especially to establish a municipal water system for said Corporation. (H. D. 152)

An Act to prohibit fishing in Lily Pond, in the town of Rockport, county of Knox. (H. D. 149)

An Act relating to the unauthorized use of insignia of War Veterans. (H. D. 150)

Orders of the Day

Upon motion by Mr. Morrison of Franklin, the Senate voted to take from the table An Act for the protection of life from peril of fire in public buildings used for purposes of education, mercy, correction, and theatres, (H. D. 96), tabled by that Senator February 16, pending reference and upon further motion by the same senator the bill was referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs in non-concurrence.

Upon motion by Mr. Carter of Androscoggin, the Senate voted to take from the table An Act in relation to the bridge built across the Kennebec River between Bath and Woolwich, (S. P. 315), tabled by that Senator February 17, pending reference.

MR. CARTER: Mr. President, I am about to make a motion changing the reference of this bill and I would like to speak in support of that motion before making it.

The state of Maine from the early days, back when Fernando Georges first came over to the Province of Maine has been in the forefront through its citizens and its pioneers in the history of our nation. Its men, its sons and daughters are of historical prominence. The events in which Maine's sons and daughters have figured since before 1620 are too numerous to mention. They are indelibly written into the history of this country. In each war which the sons of Maine and their daughters have participated since this country was first settled, Maine men and Maine women have shown indomitable courage and activity in standing by the province, the state, and the nation. These deeds are not known to many of us. In this hurly-burly life, it is seldom that the active man has time to sit down and refresh his mind, through histories, of the really wonderful part Maine has taken in the making of this country.

Her deeds are not commemorated in the state of Maine very largely. The memorials raised to Maine's valor, Maine's interest and Maine's courage are few. A few years ago there was a world war and Maine

carried on her part in the world war, in the same way that she has always rushed to the aid of the government under which she lived. After that war, at an expense, if my recollection is right, of about a million dollars, Maine joined with New Hampshire and the United States government to erect a memorial to the veterans of the world war and to those men and women who remained under the sod on Flanders' fields. This was a noble thing to do and each and every one who comes into our state from other states by automobile, passes over this memorial bridge. But so far as my recollection goes, and I have not made a research, it is the only big memorial, state memorial, to the deeds of valor and courage and loyalty and love of country of the people of Maine.

We now have nearing completion a permanent structure, a bridge across the Kennebec River, built by Maine at a cost in the neighborhood of three million dollars. This permanent structure is unnamed. This is the only structure of its kind and size that Maine has, a structure that will last forever, a structure built at a cost of three million dollars, a structure that is Maine's own, not divided with New Hampshire, not divided with the United States.

There is now before us an Act to name that bridge for one of our contemporaries, as it were, one of us now sitting in this Senate, and he was here two years ago; and all honor was due him for the work done and his interest in obtaining this bridge. But are we, present law makers of Maine, or is the Eighty-second Legislature, law-makers at that time, is any individual of us that fathers a bill that accomplishes a public good, to be compared with the great events of Maine's history in having a three million dollar bridge commemorated and memorialized to us? Shall we so treat those noble men and women of our wars, of our civilization, of our Christianity, as to disregard them with this great permanent structure in order to memorialize one of us, as it were, a contemporary?

That the commission who builds

this bridge should be perpetuated by a tablet on the bridge showing the personnel of the commission under whom the bridge is built is highly proper and I commend it, but that this great structure of Maine's the only one of its kind that Maine owns alone, should be commemorated to the father of the bill would establish a precedent which would name all other structures for the father, or mother of the bill as it now might be, which created it. Is this fair to the boys who lie under the poppies on Flanders fields? Is this fair to the heroes who went through the four years of the Civil War? Is this fair to the boys who went barefoot at Valley Forge under George Washington, whose birthday we celebrated yesterday? I could not help being impressed by this phase of the question when this act was introduced last week.

This bill is referred by suggestion to the Committee on Ways and Bridges, one of the most over-worked committees in our present legislature. To me, the name of this bridge should commemorate that which is the greatest event in Maine's history, as this is our greatest structure. What that event might be, I offer no suggestion. That event should be decided upon after careful research and study. The military, the wars, are the things that ordinarily give rise to opportunities in which great valor and dauntless courage can be shown.

I therefore felt that the Committee on Military Affairs had more time at their disposal which they could give to careful research in the history of Maine, that they might choose and recommend to this legislature some event, great in the history of Maine, great in the history of this nation, for which this noble structure of Maine's could be dedicated and that event memorialized by naming this bridge for it.

I therefore move that the Act, Senate Paper, 315, be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. DWINAL of Knox: Mr. President and members of the Senate, this bill provides for the naming of the structure which is now being completed across the Kennebec River between Bath and Woolwich and provides that it shall be known

as the Carlton Bridge and that it shall bear an inscription plate on which shall be inscribed the names of the members and officers of the 82nd legislature which passed the bill to create it.

The pending question at the present time is what committee is the appropriate committee, the committee which is best qualified to investigate this matter and report back to this legislature whether or not the efforts of former Senator Carlton toward the consummation of that great project were sufficiently unusual, conspicuous and effective to warrant giving to the bridge his name. The consideration which the Senator from Androscoggin (Senator Carter) has raised is proper for the committee which makes that report to pass upon but that is only one of the considerations that the committee must pass upon in making its report. As between the Military Affairs Committee and the Committee on Ways and Bridges, the Senate is very ably represented on both. There is certainly no reason for discrimination on that account.

When the bill was first introduced into the 81st legislature, to build the Kennebec Bridge, the bill was referred to the committees on Ways and Bridges and Public Utilities jointly. They investigated and made their report. When the bill was introduced again into the 82nd legislature it was again referred to the committees on Ways and Bridges and Interior Waters and they made a very careful and exhaustive investigation. Many of us here are familiar with the progress of that measure. The committees reported back to the legislature which acted upon that report.

From the experience which that committee has had—and I will say that the chairman of that committee in the 82nd legislature is the chairman of that same committee in this legislature and that six of the members of that committee in the 82nd legislature are members of that committee in this legislature—from the experience which that committee has had, what committee is so peculiarly fitted to pass upon the connection of former Senator Carlton with this great measure as the committee which has acted in the two previous

legislatures and has conferred upon and investigated the matter completely?

When I introduced the bill I made no request for reference and it took its natural course and was referred to the Committee on Ways and Bridges and I think that now the bill should stand upon its merits and should take its natural course and that no special treatment should be accorded it either in favor or in opposition to it.

The PRESIDENT: The question is on the motion of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Carter, that this bill with relation to the bridge built across the Kennebec

River between Eath and Woolwich be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. Are you ready for the question?

A viva voce vote was taken. The Chair being in doubt a rising vote was taken. Eighteen having voted in favor of the motion and 10 against, the motion prevailed and the bill was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

On motion by Mr. Miner of Washington

Adjourned until tomorrow morning, February 24th, at ten o'clock.