

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Fourth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1929

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Wednesday, January 16, 1929.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Brown of Gardiner.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

From the Senate: Ordered, the House concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee for this session on State Lands and Forest Preservation be authorized to attend the New England Sportsmen's Show now being held in Mechanics Building in Boston, Mass.

In the Senate read and passed.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Kitchen of Presque Isle the order was tabled, pending passage in concurrence.

From the Senate: Ordered, the House concurring, that a Joint Select Committee to be designated Committee on the Revision of the Statutes be appointed, consisting of three on the part of the Senate and seven on the part of the House.

In the Senate read and passed, with the following members appointed on its part: Senators Weatherbee of Penobscot, Oakes of Cumberland and Murchie of Washington.

In the House read and passed in concurrence, and the Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House:

Representatives Aldrich of Topsham, Laughlin of Portland, McCart of Eastport, Stone of Biddeford, Holman of Farmington, Williamson of Augusta, and Burkett of Portland.

The following bills, resolves and petitions were received, and, upon recommendation of the committee on reference of bills, were referred to the following committees:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

By Mr. Campbell of Leeds: Resolve providing for erection of equestrian statue at Gettysburg in

memory of Maj. Gen. Oliver Otis Howard. (H. P. No. 29)

(500 copies ordered printed)

Claims

By Mr. Tucker of Sanford: Resolve in favor of Millard E. Nickerson for reimbursement on damaged automobile. (H. P. No. 30)

By Mr. Farris of Augusta: Resolve in favor of Silas L. Barrows of Waterville. (H. P. No. 31)

(500 copies ordered printed)

Inland Fisheries and Game

By Mr. St. Clair of Rockland: An act to regulate the trapping of fur-bearing animals. (H. P. No. 32)

(500 copies ordered printed)

By the same gentleman: An act to continue the Game Sanctuary in Knox County known as the Knox County Game Preserve. (H. P. No. 33)

On motion by Mr. St. Clair of Rockland

(500 copies ordered printed)

Judiciary

By Mr. Jones of Winthrop: An act relative to the service of process upon non-residents. (H. P. No. 34)

(500 copies ordered printed)

By Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth: An act authorizing towns, cities and villages to make by-laws and ordinances. (H. P. No. 35)

(500 copies ordered printed)

Legal Affairs

By Mr. Burkett of Portland: An act relative to the bringing of actions for injuries causing immediate death. (H. P. No. 36)

(500 copies ordered printed)

By the same gentleman: An act relating to the inspection of buildings and the authority and duty to remedy fire hazards. (H. P. No. 37)

(500 copies ordered printed)

Public Utilities

By Mr. Williamson of Augusta: An act to extend the charter of the Quebec Extension Railway Company. (H. P. No. 38)

On motion by Mr. Aldrich of Topsham

(500 copies ordered printed)

Salaries and Fees

By Mr. Burkett of Portland: An act relating to the salary of the

Judge of the Municipal Court of Portland (H. P. No. 39).

Sea and Shore Fisheries

By Mr. Blaisdell of Franklin: Petition of Milton Torrey and others for repeal of close time on lobsters in waters of Winter Harbor, Hancock County (H. P. No. 40).

By the same gentleman: Petition of Gilbert E. Gerrish and others in favor of same (H. P. No. 41).

By the same gentleman: Petition of Milton Torrey and others in favor of same (H. P. No. 42).

Ways and Bridges

By Mr. Blodgett of Bucksport: An act to incorporate the Penobscot River Bridge Company (H. P. No. 43); (1000 copies ordered printed).

By Mr. Anderson of New Sweden; Resolve in favor of the town of New Sweden (H. P. No. 44).

By Mr. Wing of Kingfield: Resolve for the repair of the "Valley Road" in Freeman (H. P. No. 45).

By the same gentleman: Resolve for permanent improvements and rebuilding of Foster Hill Road in Freeman (H. P. No. 46).

Orders

On motion by Miss Laughlin of Portland, it was:

Ordered, that the Superintendent of Buildings be directed to purchase for the House Reporter a typewriter for the preparation and completion of the Legislative Record, both during the session and after, and charge the same to legislative expense.

Mr Aldrich of Topsham presented the following order:

WHEREAS, since 1909, it has been the policy of the State of Maine to prohibit the export from the State of electric energy generated from the inland water powers of the State; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State and the Legislature have been urged by interested parties to change the said policy of the State and to permit of the exportation from the State of electric energy so generated; and

WHEREAS, uncertainty exists as to the legal rights of the State relative to the control of such electric energy so generated if the policy of the State is so changed as to permit of exportation of such electric energy; and

WHEREAS, the possible effect of such a change of policy as has been suggested upon industrial

conditions in the State and upon the rates charged for electric energy used within the State for commercial and domestic uses is a matter of grave concern to the citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, the question of further, proper and more complete distribution of electricity to the rural and agricultural sections of the State is intimately connected with and may be seriously affected by the proposed change of policy, if adopted; and

WHEREAS, involved in the situation, if a change of policy is made, is the question of how and under what conditions industries having water powers may profitably dispose of surplus electric energy generated therefrom, which question should be thoroughly studied for the protection of such industries; and

WHEREAS, the development of the power industry in the State and the increase in use of electricity within the State induce an inquiry as to how soon all potential undeveloped hydro-electric power in the State may be needed by the normal demands of the State, the answer to which is of the highest importance to the citizens of the State; and

WHEREAS, in deciding whether or not such proposal to change the policy of the State should be granted, knowledge should be had concerning the method by which electricity to be exported from the State is to reach the ultimate consumer, and what proportion of ultimate profits from the sale of such electricity will find its way to the transmission company of this State by which the export of such electricity will be started; as well as concerning the relations which will exist among the various corporate units which will be utilized for transmitting such electricity to its destination; and

WHEREAS, before such proposed change of policy is determined information should be had as to the type and term of contract which will have to be made by a transmission company of this State to profitably export Hydro-electric energy; and

WHEREAS, if such change of policy is to be considered, an undertaking should be had as to the proportional part of the total cost of generating electric energy in the

State which is to be allocated to that part of such total electric energy as may be exported from the State, in order that rates for electric energy used within the State may be correspondingly reduced; and

WHEREAS, if such proposal is to be granted, a study should be made to determine the value of the privilege which the State would thereby grant, to the end that the State may receive adequate compensation therefore; and

WHEREAS, it is essential, before changing the present policy of the State, to have a thorough understanding of the probable effect of the proposed change in any and all ways upon the State and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the platform of the Republican party which was overwhelmingly approved by the citizens of the State at the Fall election contained a recommendation that this Legislature conduct an investigation of the Water Power Question of the State before legislating in respect thereto;

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that a recess committee consisting of ten citizens of this State to be named by the Governor be, and the same hereby is, appointed with full power to thoroughly study, investigate and consider in all aspects the question of permitting the export from the State of electric energy generated from the inland water powers of the State; and particularly to make such investigation from the viewpoint of the interest of the State of Maine. Said committee shall report the result of such investigation, with its recommendations, to a special session of this Legislature, or to the regular session of the Eighty-fifth Legislature. Any vacancies occurring in said committee shall be filled by the Governor. Said committee is here-

by empowered to employ counsel, auditors, engineers and any others who may be required to assist it in its work, or whose opinions in respect to the problem involved may be deemed of value. The members of said committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred.

Said committee shall have the power to subpoena and compel the attendance of witnesses and to compel the production of books, books of account, records and papers and writings of every description and to compel the giving of evidence by anyone so subpoenaed. It shall have the power to issue commissions for the taking of testimony within or without the State and to make rules governing the same.

Said committee shall have the power to punish for contempt for disobedience of its orders hereby authorized. Said committee shall be the sole judge of the relevancy of any evidence desired by it in connection with its investigation.

The expense of such investigation shall be paid for from funds in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Mr. ALDRICH: Mr. Speaker, in order that the members may have ample opportunity for examining and considering this order, I desire to move that the same be placed upon the table.

Mr. INGRAHAM of Bangor: Mr. Speaker. I move that one thousand copies be printed.

Thereupon the House voted to table the order, pending passage, and one thousand copies were ordered printed.

On motion by Mr. Hubbard of Plymouth,

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.