

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Ninth Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 4.

STATE OF MAINE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
AUGUSTA, January 12, 1899.

*To the Honorable President of the Senate and Speaker of the
House of Representatives:*

I have the honor to transmit herewith the second biennial report of the Board of Commissioners for the promotion of uniformity of legislation in the United States, which Board was created by authority of an act of the Legislature of 1895, (Chapter 138, Public Laws of that year.)

LLEWELLYN POWERS.

To His Excellency, Llewellyn Powers, Governor of Maine:

The undersigned, who were appointed commissioners for the promotion of uniformity of legislation in the United States, in pursuance of Chapter 138 of the Laws of 1895, beg leave to submit their second biennial report.

Since the last report, submitted in January, 1897, your commissioners have attended two national conferences, the first held at Cleveland, Ohio, August 23 and 24, 1897, the second at Saratoga, New York, August 15, 16 and 17, 1898. Printed reports of both those conferences, which include copies of all acts which have been recommended, are herewith presented as a part of this report. Three states have appointed commissioners since 1897, viz: California, Kentucky and Ohio, so that thirty-two states and one territory have now established commissions. The most important work of the commission is represented in the "General Act relating to Negotiable Instruments," which was adopted at the conference held in 1896. This act has become law in the following states, in the order named: Connecticut, New York, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, Virginia, and Massachusetts. It has also been passed by the national house of representatives for the District of Columbia, and has been favorably reported in the senate. This act was introduced into the last legislature of Maine, but action upon it was postponed by reference to the present legislature, awaiting its adoption by the larger commercial states. The importance of this bill to the great commercial interests of the country is apparent when we consider the enlarged functions that bills and notes now perform in the business world, and the necessity of uniform laws relating to these instruments of commerce. The bill is modelled on the English Bills of Exchange Act, passed in 1882, and when adopted by the several states of the Union will bring under one law the two greatest commercial nations of the world, whose institutions and laws rest on a common basis, and whose future ascendancy is now manifest.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES F. LIBBY,
FRANK M. HIGGINS,
HANNIBAL E. HAMLIN.

Commissioners.

December 27, 1897.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 12, 1899.

On motion by Mr. HAMLIN of Hancock, laid on table to be printed,
pending reference.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.