

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 67

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*House of Representatives, Feb. 1, 1917.*

*On report of Committee five hundred copies ordered printed,  
and resolve recommitted.*

*W. R. ROIX, Clerk.*

*Presented by Mr. Bragdon of Westbrook.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

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RESOLVE, to provide for the appointment of a Commission  
to perfect plans for the celebration of Maine's Centennial  
and the three hundredth anniversary of the Landing of the  
Pilgrims.

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*Resolved,* That the Governor be empowered to appoint five  
2 citizens to act as a board of commissioners, whose duty it  
3 shall be to perfect arrangements for the proper observance  
4 of the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of Maine  
5 to the Union and the three hundredth anniversary of the  
6 Landing of the Pilgrims, said commission to commence its  
7 labors on January 1, 1918, and continue until the close of  
8 the year 1920 and to work without pay.

*Be it further resolved,* Said commission shall be allowed  
2 for the year 1918, for necessary expenses incident to the  
3 work, including clerk hire, etc., a sum not exceeding one  
4 thousand dollars (\$1000.00).

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The forming of a committee on the part of the State Board of Trade for commemoration of the year 1920, it being Maine's centennial year, was the outcome of an address by Prof. Robert J. Sprague, then of the University of Maine, before the board in 1910, entitled "Maine's Centennial." Various meetings have been held from time to time, but with no definite result. Finally it was conceded impossible from lack of funds and otherwise to carry out in every detail the plans submitted by Prof. Sprague, and it was agreed to favor the scheme adopted in Massachusetts in their plans for celebrating the 300th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims, and thus to make it really a state matter. Accordingly, near the close of the session of the Maine legislature of 1915, a resolve was introduced in the House by Representative William B. Bragdon of Westbrook as follows:

RESOLVE to provide for a celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the State of Maine, and the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims.

*Resolved,* That a committee of seven (7) persons be appointed from this Legislature, three by the President of the Senate, and four by the Speaker of the House, to be known as the Maine 1920 Legislative Committee, whose duty shall be to confer with the State Board of Trade 1920 Committee with the view of devising a plan for a celebration by the State of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Admission of the State of Maine to the Union, and the Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims.

The committee to submit its recommendation for a fitting celebration of the events named to the Legislature of 1917 previous to January 15th of that year, whereupon its duties shall cease. Said committee to serve without remuneration.

The committee appointed consisted of Senators Emery of York, Boynton of Lincoln, Bartlett of Kennebec and Representatives Higgins of Brewer, Greenleaf of Portland, Ward of Augusta and Bragdon of Westbrook.

A meeting of this Legislative Committee, with the 1920 Board of Trade Committee, was duly called and held at the Falmouth Hotel in Portland, July 16th, 1915, at which a majority of the Legislative Committee was present and a larger number of the Board of Trade Committee than ever attended a meeting. In fact, it was a most satisfactory gathering. After considerable discussion, it was arranged that the 1920 members should select three of their number and the Legislative Committee should select two of their number to form a joint committee to formulate a plan and report at the next session of the legislature in accordance with the resolve. Accordingly the following were named: Frederic E. Boothby, Edward B. Winslow, Payson Smith, William B. Bragdon, S. C. C. Ward. By special vote, the chairman of the 1920 Board of Trade Committee to be chairman of said joint committee.

This Joint Committee begs to report as follows:

The Joint Committee recommends the appointment at the proper time, say Jan. 1st, 1918, by the governor, of a commission of five members to arrange a program for the observance of the year in question. Among other things they recommend that a meeting be held at the State House in Augusta on the corresponding day that Maine became an independent state, i. e., March 15th, and that another be held in Portland on the day of the meeting of the first legislature, i. e., May 31st. These meetings to observe the event by addresses relating to the history of the state, its educational, agricultural, and business growth, and its undeveloped resources. On the occasion of the meeting at Augusta, March 15th, it was recommended that the day be made a general holiday. Some were of the opinion that inasmuch as that meeting could be attended by only a small part of the people in the state, a similar public anniversary meeting be held on that date in every other city and town in Maine, but should this seem impracticable, that some time during the year such a meeting be held.

That the commission proceed to procure by such means as are in their power the names and addresses of all former residents of Maine, and that the governor issue invitation to each to return to his former home, during the year 1920, and advocate every city and town have a centennial week with one day set apart to celebrate their existence with proper observance regardless of the date of their incorporation.

That the Public Laws of 1903, with reference to the setting apart of an annual Old Home Week, be amended to read: "The week commencing with the second Sunday in August of each year shall be designated and set apart as Old Home Week, and the week commencing with the Sunday preceding Labor Day, shall in 1920 be known as Centennial week, and cities and towns are authorized to raise and appropriate money for the due observance thereof. In such a way, each city or town to make known their possibilities and thus help advertise the progress of our state. Also to recommend to such commission the feasibility of having during the year a grand exhibition of Maine industries in the new exhibition building in Portland, that people may have a chance to witness the improvements in the last hundred years and that other cities and towns shall hold similar exhibitions, even if not on such a large scale, showing what a wonderful and extensive line of Maine-made products is available. All exhibitions to have, among other things, an historical exhibit of Maine's industries and panoramic exhibits of the progress of Maine in education, customs, home life, wealth, etc.

That every state, county and town fair and music festivals held during the year, shall recognize the event with suitable exercises.

That clergymen, also, on the Sunday preceding Labor Day, shall preach sermons appropriate to the occasion.

That the schools, on a date to be fixed by the State Superintendent of Schools, shall devote such a day to suitable exercises, such exercises to commence in every school in the state at a certain hour. One suggestion is that the State Historian write a condensed sketch of the history of the state from the time of the Landing of the Pilgrims to the present time, and that the reading of this article be one of the features of the school day observance, together with essays, poems, singing, flag raising or other features suggestive of the day.

A new idea, as suggested by an article in a recent newspaper, is the furtherance of the movement in order to interest men of capital in all the state's manifold resources, through the medium of a great motion picture, depicting the beauty spots of Maine and the leading industries of the state.

The ladies in their clubs, federation and individually should

be a large factor in the plans for the celebration of this great anniversary.

It is also suggested that a commemorative tablet be erected in the State House.

As for the ter-centenary of the Landing of the Pilgrims, Massachusetts seems no further advanced than Maine in its plans. Various schemes have been mentioned but nothing definite accomplished. The present commission consisting of Major Henry L. Higginson, Louis K. Liggett, Frank W. Stearns, Robert M. Burnett, and Arthur Lord, recently opened headquarters in the Tremont Building, Boston, and are at work on plans and estimates for the permanent improvement and preservation of historical localities, the construction of a memorial hall, the holding of a pageant and other considerations.

In Maine, whatever exercises are planned for the observance of 1920, as a centennial of the state, might also include the ter-centenary of the Landing of the Pilgrims, or, later on we may be told by the Massachusetts Commission in just what part they would like Maine to co-operate with them.

The commission appointed to serve without pay, but to be allowed not exceeding one thousand dollars for expenses, clerk hire, etc., for the year 1918.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERIC E. BOOTHBY,  
EDWARD B. WINSLOW,  
PAYSON SMITH,  
WILLIAM B. BRAGDON,  
S. C. C. WARD,

Committee of 1920 Observance.