

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Acts and Resolves

As Passed by the

Seventy-Ninth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1919

Published by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Resolves of the Legislature
approved June 28, 1820, March 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

KENNEBEC JOURNAL CO.
AUGUSTA, MAINE
1919

6939

GOVERNOR MILLIKEN'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

(Jan. 2, 1919)

Gentlemen of the Seventy-ninth Legislature:

I shall not attempt to summarize the great events that have occurred since I stood before the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislature in this very hall twenty-one months ago and requested action on their part which should authorize the State of Maine to cooperate in every possible way with the Federal Government in the great war.

I shall not even review the great part which our State has played through our fighting men on land and sea, in the loyal devotion of the busy men and women who have given time and energy without stint in the various organized war activities, in the rigid voluntary observance by our citizens of every conservation request made by our Government, in the generous response by all our people to every financial appeal of the Government and the war-work agencies for welfare and relief. Maine has a proud war record, in some particulars unique in all the nation, and in its total unsurpassed by that of any other state. It is a glorious and thrilling history, but it is history, it is fresh in your recollection, and information regarding the State's official activities will come to you in the reports of the various departments.

You are concerned with that period only that you may apply its lessons and carry over its results to the solution of the intricate and perplexing problems of the epoch-making days of reconstruction upon which we are now entering.

From military and naval service, from munition plants and other war industries no less than eight million men must be turned within the next few months into the ordinary employments of peace. Vast manufacturing plants must be abandoned or converted to other uses. Just as the nation's participation in the war required the most prodigious mobilization of manpower and material resources in the history of the world, so the reverse process of adjustment to the ordinary conditions of peace will compel corresponding changes equally far-reaching and even more sudden. Within a few months' time, we must change over our immense industrial and commercial structure from a munition plant to an ordinary factory turning out the usual products which will find a market in time of peace. This must be done without undue shock to industry, without excessive strain on credit, without subjecting labor to the hazard of non-employment and, above all things, without doing violence in our own national life to those

principles of freedom and equality of opportunity which we have successfully maintained by force of arms.

As a nation we approach this gigantic problem of reconstruction as we approached the sudden emergency of war: almost completely innocent of preparation. The problem will be solved as the problems of the war were solved, not for the most part by legislation, but by the adaptability, resourcefulness and business genius of the nation. We cannot build an artificial reconstruction program in legislative halls any more than a gardener can construct a grape-vine by any art or process of his own. But just as the gardener seeks to provide a proper trellis and train the growing vine upon it, so in all your deliberations this winter it should be your constant purpose to aid in every feasible and proper way the great process of readjustment which is going on in our nation.

What should the State do for the family of the soldier while he remains in service and for the soldier himself as he returns to resume his place in civilian life? What legislation regarding the welfare of workers, the education of children and the care of the dependent and unfortunate is rendered especially appropriate by the peculiar stress of this crisis? And what shall be the business policy of the State in the management of its ordinary departments during this transition period? I ask you to approach your legislative program with these questions constantly in your mind.

Dependents of Soldiers

Maine was one of the very few states in the Union to make financial provision for the dependents of soldiers, sailors and marines beyond the amount which might become available from the Federal Government. That financial aid has been more liberal, considering our resources, than the appropriations made by any other state.

In the case of privates in the army or marine corps or common seamen in the navy who enlisted from Maine and whose dependents were receiving aid when the armistice was signed, the arrangement should continue so long as the man remains in the service and so far as his real dependents are in actual need beyond their Federal allotment. The dependents of a soldier, sailor or marine killed or totally disabled in the service should continue to receive aid so long as actual dependency exists. The present law limits this period to one year.

The Returning Soldier

In considering what can be done for the returning soldiers themselves, we must face the prospect that a small percentage of them will be wholly or partially unfit for the ordinary work on account of shell shock, blindness, tuberculosis or serious wounds. The Federal Government will un-

doubtedly undertake to rehabilitate such cases so far as possible by appropriate medical treatment or vocational training. It is evident, however, that both the men themselves and their relatives or friends would prefer, if possible, to have the process of medical treatment or vocational training made available near their own homes rather than in such centralized institutions as might be provided by the Federal Government in distant parts of the country. I suggest, therefore, your serious study of our present resources for vocational training in connection with our public school system; for treatment of shell shock and tuberculosis at our State hospitals and sanatoriums and for education of the blind, in order that, if possible, a co-operative plan may be worked out with the Federal Government so that these facilities may be offered to returning Maine soldiers within their own home State.

In the mercy of God, most of our boys will return to us sound and whole, mentally alert, physically vigorous and with ambition quickened by travel and contact with the world. They have played the man's part and done their work. They are intent now on getting back home and slipping back into the old places, or finding the larger ones for which they feel themselves fitted. They are even more resourceful than when they went away; they will not want us to pamper them; most of them will not expect us to find jobs for them. They do not expect to remain a specially favored class, but they look forward to taking their places again in the field, at the office, in the shop or schoolroom and resuming the tasks that were interrupted by the challenge of the world's need.

Our debt of gratitude can never be repaid to them and you will quickly avail yourselves of every opportunity to express that sense of obligation. I urge you to co-operate with any reasonable plans which the Federal Government may work out for facilitating the return of soldiers to industry or encouraging their establishment upon farms. I hope especially that you will take proper measures to impress upon the Federal Government the importance of utilizing existing farms for returning soldiers before embarking upon expensive drainage or reclamation projects. We probably have two thousand such farms in Maine suitable for the purpose and ready for immediate occupancy.

But any temporary expedient for inducing soldiers to settle upon farms or to enter any other occupation falls far short of the duty of the State and Federal Governments to returning soldiers. On the whole we can best serve the interests of the soldier himself by doing our utmost to improve the living and working conditions in the trade or occupation which he may choose to enter.

Agriculture

The war has emphasized with startling force the vital importance of food production. Beneath all temporary expedients for stimulating food

production lie certain fundamental and essential conditions. If sufficient people are to remain upon the farms to supply the world's need for food, farm life must be made convenient, attractive, wholesome and prosperous. The farmer should be protected so far as possible from the loss occasioned by preventable diseases of animals, plants and human beings. Wasteful methods of marketing should be eliminated, and the wide gap between the price paid by the consumer and that received by the farmer correspondingly reduced. Market roads should be improved and a serious effort should be made to carry to rural communities the advantages of electric light and power now enjoyed by the cities and the larger towns.

I have no legislative panacea to propose, but the same war emergency which intensified the need has provided, at least, a useful hint toward the solution of the problem. The answer, in one word, is "co-operation"; in the first instance between farmers themselves, and also between all organizations and agencies which touch rural life at any point. I will not enumerate the forms of co-operation which developed during the stress of war conditions which should be continued to meet the problem of reconstruction; but the most fundamental need of all is the encouragement of frequent conferences at which all State departments and other organizations dealing with rural welfare shall be represented. Such conferences would make possible a united policy with reference to agriculture, avoiding duplication of effort and planning the activities of each department or organization in harmony with the central policy thus agreed upon.

The so-called Farm Lands Loan Act passed by the last Legislature should be made somewhat more liberal and should especially be called to the attention of returning soldiers who desire to establish themselves upon farms. You should give careful attention to recommendations which will be made to the legislatures of all New England states regarding such important matters as the packing of apples and the standard requirements of milk.

The increasing importance of the sheep industry revives the ancient controversy between the freedom of the dog on the one hand and the welfare of the sheep on the other. The law regarding the licensing of dogs should be strictly enforced, and I ask you to consider whether, without injustice to the owner of the dog, some more adequate protection to sheep cannot be devised. The ravages of disease are much more serious, however, than the depredations of dogs and wild animals among the sheep. The State and Federal Governments together have sought to meet this situation by providing trained experts whose services have been made available to the farmers without charge. This program should be continued and enlarged and the spread of disease should be further checked by giving the live stock sanitary commissioner and the commissioner of agriculture authority to promulgate regulations forbidding the sale of diseased cattle or sheep.

Social Insurance

Our quickened impulse toward the ideals of human brotherhood combines with the economic stress of the war itself to show us with increasing clearness the complete inter-dependence of all the elements of human society upon one another. The ancient truth that "no man liveth unto himself, and no man dieth unto himself" is more evident than ever before. An accident to a workingman is not merely a misfortune for the individual; it is a definite loss to the State. The same is true of sickness. Not only do these actual misfortunes cause suffering and loss to workingmen and their families, but the fear of either of them lessens the efficiency of the toiler while he is actively employed. The relation between employer and employee is not simply a dual contract; both parties to the agreement are accountable to society for the proper discharge of their mutual obligations. Society, therefore, through organized forms of government, has the right to protect itself against any conditions which tend to impair the efficiency of the toiler or to create friction between the worker and his employer.

The so-called workmen's compensation law, for example, is an attempt to assess upon each industry as a whole the economic loss resulting from accident, instead of leaving these losses to be borne by the families of the individual sufferers alleviated only by public or private charity. Our Maine law has made a good beginning but requires some revision in order to bring it up to the ideal standards. I suggest especially that the maximum limit of weekly compensation be increased by at least fifty per cent., that the compensation be made two-thirds instead of one-half the average weekly wage, that the waiting period be reduced from fourteen days to seven days, or else reduced on a sliding scale depending upon the duration of disability, and that the provision for payment of doctors', nurses' and hospital fees be made more liberal. The above-mentioned changes with others that may occur to you will make the amount of compensation more adequate, but it is important also that payments be certain and that they be made with the utmost possible promptness. To hasten the promptness and certainty of payments, I suggest that the chairman of the Industrial Accident Commission be authorized to receive depositions; also that in cases involving questions of law he be authorized to certify the facts directly to the Law Court by some procedure similar to that followed in contested election cases.

A complete social insurance program would concern itself with the sickness of industrial workers as well as with accidents resulting from their occupation. I do not suggest legislation at this session providing for health insurance. It is in force in many foreign nations, but there has been little experience in our own country by which we could be guided and the period of the average legislative session is not long enough to work out a satisfactory law. I do, however, urge you to arrange for a

formal study of this subject, the results of which may be presented to the next Legislature.

In all forms of social insurance the question arises whether compulsory insurance should be furnished by the State or purchased from insurance companies. I hold it to be a sound general rule that commercial business should be done by private enterprise regulated as far as may be necessary by the appropriate agencies of the government. Only urgent and controlling reasons involving the public interest can justify an invasion by the State or National Government of the proper field of private commercial enterprise. It is apparent, however, that the State by insisting upon compulsory insurance assumes the obligation of guaranteeing that the insurance will be provided at a reasonable rate. That portion of the expense of operation of an insurance company which represents the cost of soliciting business is not a justifiable charge against insurance which is made compulsory by law. A comparison of the premiums paid to insurance companies with the amounts actually paid for compensation to workmen in our own and other states indicates what seems to be a large margin in the case of compulsory insurance. I recommend that the Industrial Accident Commission be given authority to fix the rates of insurance to be charged by casualty companies doing business in Maine, and that optional State insurance be provided for unless you feel certain that the authority to fix rates will in itself be a sufficient guarantee against excessive rates.

In order that the State may set a good example to private employers, I suggest that general authority be given for the retirement of employees of the State with pensions after long periods of continuous service and for the payment of sick benefits within such limits as may be provided in the law and with the approval of the Governor and Council upon the recommendation of the head of the department concerned.

Dependency

The main purpose of social insurance is to prevent dependency and it is possible that a complete program operating under ideal conditions might avert dependency altogether. Meantime the relief of dependency in its various forms is a proper and humane charge upon the public treasury. The last Legislature enacted a law providing for State aid to the mothers of dependent children. This law has amply justified itself and has been admirably administered by the State Board of Charities and Corrections. Its terms should be made somewhat more elastic in the amount of aid allowed in individual cases, and the age limit for the dependent children should be raised to sixteen years. I am satisfied that the present method of caring for neglected children through county agents could be improved.

The quality of care given to the poor in city and town almshouses has

very much improved during the past few years, but there is room for further improvement and the average cost, especially in the smaller almshouses, is undoubtedly excessive. I urge you to consider legislation permitting and encouraging the combination of towns into larger units for the care of paupers at central almshouses.

Health

The war has brought us a new conception of the value of human life and has emphasized the importance of sanitation and the prevention of disease. The last Legislature authorized a considerable expansion in our Department of Public Health and the wisdom of this course has been fully demonstrated. The influenza epidemic revealed the necessity of giving increased powers to the State department in cases of emergency. It is also exceedingly desirable that towns be induced to place themselves under the supervision of experts trained in public health and sanitation. I recommend a method analogous to that through which expert supervision of the public schools was secured; that is, the enactment of a law authorizing towns to combine into districts for the purpose of employing public health officers and providing that part of the salary of such officers shall be paid by the State.

I must also renew the recommendation made two years ago that some effective method be devised for preventing the sale of milk from diseased cows. It is absurd to go on enduring the loss of life in our State from tuberculosis and spending vast sums of money attempting to check and cure the disease without forbidding the sale of milk from diseased cows.

The most startling revelation of the war from the standpoint of public health was the fact that one-third of the young men called for service under the selective draft were incapacitated by reason of physical defects of under-development which might have been prevented by proper medical supervision and treatment during their school years. Whatever policy may be adopted regarding military training, it is clearly our duty to insist upon dental and medical examination and treatment of school children as well as proper physical exercise and playground activities under competent supervision.

Education

In addition to physical fitness, an educational program adequate for the times will lay special emphasis upon industrial and vocational training, extension of agricultural education to farming communities, reduction of illiteracy and development of Americanization.

Other languages than English will of course be taught in secondary schools and colleges for their cultural and commercial value, but the time

has come to insist that all instruction in elementary subjects be given in no other than in the English language. The Americanization program should also include further expansion of our system of evening and part-time schools for adults of foreign birth. The same method should be followed for the elimination of illiteracy.

Sufficient authority should be given at this session for any modification in the administration of State school funds which might be necessary to meet the terms of the Smith bill now pending before Congress. If this bill is passed a considerable amount of Federal money will become available for educational work in Maine and only slight modifications of our present system will be necessary.

The outstanding educational problem in Maine has to do with the conditions of rural life and is, therefore, at the same time an agricultural problem. Its complete solution requires that the type of education provided in the rural schools shall not only afford opportunities equal to those offered in the urban schools but shall educate the children towards the farms rather than away from them. Even approximate solution of this problem requires competent teachers whose special fitness has been developed by adequate training. Unfortunately for the rural district, the natural tendency of the most competent teachers is towards the well-paid positions in the graded town and city schools. I suggest that the State superintendent of public schools be authorized to offer to a certain number of selected teachers each year a special summer course of training, designed to fit them for teaching in rural communities and that the ordinary salary which they would receive during their subsequent service in rural schools be supplemented by a substantial sum to be paid by the State. As a part of this arrangement, the teachers should agree to serve as model rural teachers under the direction of their local superintendents.

Financial Program

I shall take occasion later to discuss with you in some detail the whole question of revenue and appropriations but certain general suggestions regarding expenditure and taxation may properly be made now at the very opening of the legislative session.

I urge upon you the most careful and rigid economy in appropriations. The people have been heavily burdened by the financial demands for war and are in no mood to tolerate frivolous or unnecessary expenditures.

The budget method of making appropriations should be continued. Only the adoption of the budget plan by the last Legislature combined with the loyal co-operation of heads of departments and institutions in reducing expenditures wherever possible even below the amount appropriated gave us a margin on the right side of the ledger for each of the years 1917 and 1918 in spite of the startling increase in cost of material and labor. In

pursuance of the budget plan, I hope that you will join with the Governor and Council in the immediate consideration of all requests for appropriations which have been filed with the State auditor. It is suggested that these informal joint hearings begin at once with the State departments and that, in the meantime, those committees of the Legislature which need to inspect State institutions shall complete their program of visits. The institutions can then be heard and the budget presented to the Legislature as the joint result of the judgment of the Executive Department and the appropriate legislative committees. Until this budget is before you, I hope that no resolves carrying appropriations of money will be considered.

The necessity for economy in appropriations will suggest a careful study on your part of possible reductions in the cost and in the machinery of legislation itself. I renew the suggestion made two years ago that no private or special legislation be considered in cases where the purpose can be accomplished under the general law.

By arrangement with the departments in the State House, each committee, except those requiring a full-time clerk, may have the services of a competent young woman usually having special knowledge of the subjects with which the committees will deal. This plan will not only effect a considerable financial saving, but will obviate the necessity of providing desk room for numerous temporary clerks in a building already overcrowded.

I suggest the employment of a competent lawyer to aid members in drafting public laws. He could probably be located in the legislative reference library and perhaps could also supervise the final corrections of bills before they are passed to be engrossed.

A considerable saving can be effected by placing all orders for advertising committee hearings through the State Superintendent of Public Printing.

You can save much time for the consideration of important public questions by further application of the equalization fund plan which has worked so successfully with the common school fund and was established by the last Legislature for the distribution of special aid to road-building projects beyond the amounts provided by the general law. This plan has been worked out on the theory that instead of making a large number of appropriations to different towns, individuals or institutions for purposes or projects that are under the supervision of any one department, it is better to make the appropriation in a lump sum and allow the departments some discretion in proportioning the individual appropriations to the specific needs in each case, within such general limits or restrictions as the Legislature may prescribe.

For example, we have requests from academies and secondary schools for appropriations of various amounts beyond the aid allotted to them under the general law. We cannot be unmoved by these appeals. The

response of the State should be conditioned in each instance upon the actual service rendered to education. Instead of attempting an exact appraisal of the needs of each applicant I suggest that you make a general appropriation for the purpose of supplementing State aid to secondary schools in cases of especial need and that you authorize the State Superintendent of Public Schools to administer this fund as he does the equalization fund for common schools:

By embodying in a general law the wise conditions imposed upon appropriations to hospitals and charitable institutions by the last Legislature, I believe you can make it possible to make one general appropriation also for these institutions leaving the details to be worked out by the State Board of Charities and Corrections under the supervision of the Governor and Council. Under the present arrangement no institution can receive more than it has earned by charitable work and may receive less than it has earned if its special appropriation turns out to be inadequate. Within the limits of the proposed general appropriation each institution would receive exactly its fair quota based upon its reports to the State Board of Charities and Corrections.

You will not neglect to make a liberal appropriation for State pensions to supplement the allowances by the government to veterans of previous wars. There are about three thousand of these pensioners and the allotments are distributed with great care by the pension agent after careful investigation. To single out a few cases for larger allotments than are given under the general law is unjust to all the other pensioners. I hope you will not ask me to approve any special resolves for cases to which the general law is applicable.

In providing for construction of public works such as large buildings, roads and bridges, you will do well to arrange some elasticity of expenditure so that full advantage may be taken of market conditions as to labor and material and especially so that during the period of readjustment these public projects may be useful in taking up the slack of labor and materials.

Adequate Salaries

I have urged upon you at some length the necessity for economy, but it would be a mistaken policy to pursue economy to the point of inadequate compensation for our officials and employees. We are properly requiring full-time service for full-time pay and I cannot speak too highly in commendation of the loyal and enthusiastic spirit of co-operation that my fellow-workers in the various departments and institutions have shown during the past two years. While it is difficult to forecast the trend of wages and living conditions for the next two years, it is evident that some readjustment must be made in view of the present cost of living. You can deal with this problem either by attempting to make every necessary

separate change in the salaries now fixed by law or by authorizing some sort of bonus system during the continuance of high prices, or, best of all, by fixing the salaries of heads of departments leaving all minor salaries to be adjusted from time to time by the department head within his appropriation and with the approval of the Governor and Council.

Taxation

The heavy burden of taxation resulting from the war has focused our attention with added clearness upon some glaring inequalities in the application of our State tax laws. Broadly speaking, about three-quarters of our people are paying taxes enough, but the other twenty-five per cent. including the largest holders of intangible personal property are bearing far less than their proper share of the common burden; in fact intangible personal property probably to the value of several hundred millions of dollars escapes direct taxation by the State and municipal authorities. Several years ago the people adopted an amendment to the Constitution for the express purpose of permitting legislative action to correct this inequality. I renew my recommendation of two years ago that a law be passed providing for the separate classification of intangible personal property for purposes of taxation. In order to forestall the opposition of certain gentlemen who appeared two years ago with various ostensible objections, but actually in the interests of large holders of personal property, I urge you to preface this much-needed reform by first enacting a drastic listing bill requiring under heavy penalty that all personal property be listed in an inventory filed under oath to the assessors for the purposes of taxation.

Banking Laws

The last Legislature provided for considerable expansion in the State Banking Department and the wisdom of this action has been emphatically shown by the various financial problems that have arisen during the war. Ample provision should be made for sufficient force to bring the standard of our examinations up to the full requirements of the Federal Reserve Board, and a careful revision should be made of laws governing the investments of savings banks.

I concur with the recommendation of the bank commissioner that savings banks be permitted to invest a certain proportion of their funds in acceptances that are eligible for re-discount by the Federal Reserve Bank.

In line with the policy which the Federal Government is following in the attempt to protect holders of Liberty Bonds against unscrupulous promoters I suggest that the scope of our Blue Sky Law be extended in the same direction.

Fish and Game

I need not enlarge upon the value and importance of our fish and game interests. The preservation of this great natural resource depends upon the adequate enforcement of the fish and game laws. For the purpose of aiding in this enforcement and at the same time reducing the danger from careless hunters, I recommend a law requiring registration of resident hunters who carry firearms within the limits of the Maine Forestry district.

Sea and Shore Fisheries

The food shortage occasioned by the war directed especial attention to the importance of the sea and shore fisheries by which so many of the people along our coast obtain their livelihood. Splendid progress is being made in this department towards helping the fisherman and at the same time protecting the industry by impartial and rigid enforcement of the laws. No special changes in the laws are suggested except such as may be advisable in the interest of clearness. The most urgent need of the industry is the passage of the bill now pending before Congress which would forbid the transportation in interstate commerce of fish or lobsters taken in violation of the laws of any state.

Forestry

In order to maintain the high efficiency of the present forest patrol service a substantial increase in the tax levied in the Maine Forestry District may be necessary. Owners of clearings desiring to set fires near wild lands should also be required to secure permits from the State Forest Commissioner.

Centennial and Memorial

The last Legislature authorized the appointment of a commission to propose plans for the celebration in 1920 of the centennial of Maine's admission to the Union. Because of the unsettled conditions occasioned by the war, it was thought best not to appoint this commission but to present the whole matter to you for consideration. There is also a well-defined and proper sentiment among our people for some sort of memorial to be constructed by the State in honor of those who have lately made the supreme sacrifice for the freedom of the world. If a public edifice is to form any part of either of these programs it is desirable that the structure be useful as well as dignified and beautiful.

In this connection, I call your attention to the plans that have been made by a Maine and New Hampshire joint commission for a new bridge between Portsmouth and Kittery in place of the present insecure and inadequate toll bridge. On account of the Navy Yard at Kittery it is hoped

that the Federal Government will assume a liberal share of the cost of such a bridge. In that event Maine and New Hampshire might agree upon this bridge as a joint memorial to the soldier and sailor dead. Especially appropriate would such a memorial be because of the fact that most of the overseas casualties from both states were in the matchless 103d Infantry composed of Maine and New Hampshire men.

Water Powers

We are agreed that Maine water powers ought to be reserved for the use and benefit of Maine people, that no public right in these powers should be surrendered to foreign or private interests, that the property rights of those who have invested largely in a development of water powers within our State should be scrupulously protected and that the further development of water powers should be encouraged for the purpose of furnishing light and power at reasonable rates not only to industry and for domestic use in cities and towns but also along country roads and upon the farms. But is there any positive program of legislative action which can be relied upon to produce these results? Frankly, I have none to propose. The financial obstacles in the way of State ownership make such a course for the present absolutely out of the question, whatever merit it might otherwise have. But in the meantime, while studying the whole problem diligently, we can safely follow the course that has been for ten years our established policy: hold on to the rights in water powers that we now possess and refuse to authorize transmission outside the State of hydroelectric power generated in Maine.

Acting under authority of the last Legislature, the Public Utilities Commission has prepared and placed before you an admirable and exhaustive report upon the water power resources of Maine. This report furnished the facts which must serve as the raw material for any constructive water power program. I recommend that you provide for further study looking toward the development of such a program. Such a study should consider the prospective use of Maine water powers as one of the features of the whole broad program of business and industrial expansion during the period of reconstruction. This study might well be entrusted to a commission which would consider all the special problems of a readjustment and perform a service analagous to that which was so splendidly rendered by the Committee on Public Safety during the war.

Equal Suffrage

Woman's fitness for an equal share in the responsibility of government has been further demonstrated by the heroic part she has played in the activities and sacrifices of the war, and the strong impulse toward demo-

cratic ideas all over the world has served to emphasize the injustice of denying her the right of suffrage. Furthermore, the governmental problems of the next few years will have to do largely with questions of improved education, welfare of workers, care of dependents and protection of children. With problems of this type, women are especially well qualified to deal. I urge you therefore, to take whatever action seems to you best calculated to hasten the adoption of equal suffrage in the State and nation.

Prohibition

Standing in this place two years ago I promised to use faithfully every resource at my command for the enforcement of the laws against the liquor traffic and kindred evils. That promise I have scrupulously kept. It now seems likely that early in the winter, the policy in which Maine was the pioneer will become national through the ratification of the prohibition amendment by the requisite number of states. I know I do not need to urge ratification upon you, but I do remind you that the sooner it is done the greater will be Maine's influence upon the action of those states where the liquor interests are organizing to oppose ratification.

I also urge prompt legislation making the definition of "intoxicating liquor" uniform with that of the United States Government and suggest that if the necessary information becomes available before you adjourn you enact suitable State laws to supplement the Federal code which will put National prohibition into effect.

Conclusion

Gentlemen, we are sent here by the people of Maine to express their will in terms of formal legislative acts. We accept this grave responsibility in the midst of one of the great crucial periods in all human history. The issue is the full realization throughout the world of those ideals of freedom and self-governing democracy of which our flag is the truest symbol among mankind.

The crisis has by no means passed with the overthrow of military despotism. The menace of mob rule and Bolshevism still threatens. Races long oppressed under military tyranny must be guided and protected while they develop the capacity for self-government. Our country must accept a place of leadership in this world-task and our own national life must not fall short of that democracy which the newly awakened world expects us to exemplify. Democracy is unselfishness organized for the common good. Its basic enemy is selfishness and despotic government is not the only form assumed by this age-old adversary. Wherever in our own land privilege or power seeks to oppress the poor, wherever greed threatens the welfare of the weak, there selfishness, the arch enemy of democracy is

entrenching itself across the path by which America must lead the way to the full light of day. We must mobilize against such enemies the same national spirit of devotion and self-sacrifice which sent clear-eyed boys to melt their fresh youth in the white flame of chivalry on Flanders fields.

Trusting in the wisdom of Almighty God let us answer the mighty challenge of the hour by helping to bind up the wounds and heal the scars of sacrifice by seeking with new vision and sympathy the welfare and relief of the unfortunate, in short, by striving to realize a bit more closely in the affairs of government the ideals of Him who came to bring among the nations the Peace of Justice and Good Will.

(Signed) CARL E. MILLIKEN,

Governor.