

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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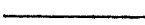
LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventieth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.



1901.

HOUSE.

Wednesday, Feb. 13.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Quimby of Gardiner.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Senate bills read and assigned:

An act to authorize the Portland Railroad Company to acquire certain street railroads and make certain extensions of its street railroad system.

On motion of Mr. Deering of Saco this bill was read the third time and was passed to be engrossed under a suspension of the rules.

An act relating to academies.

On motion of Mr. Walker of Starks this bill was laid on the table pending assignment of a time for its third reading.

The following petitions, bills, etc., were presented and referred:

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Pike of Lubec—Petition for law for better observance of the Lord's day.

By Mr. Farnsworth of Beddington—Petition of citizens of Deblois for change in relation to the April term of the S. J. C. in Washington county; of citizens of Steuben for same.

By Mr. Hix of Rockland—Remonstrance of Sarah C. Glover and 74 other tax-paying women of Camden against a charter for municipal water works in that town.

By Mr. Shaw of Bath—Bill, An act to amend Chapter 27 of the Revised Statutes relating to inn holders and victuallers.

By Mr. Haskell of Lewiston—Bill, An act to amend Chapter 310 of the Public Laws of 1897 relating to political caucuses in cities.

By Mr. Randall of Portland—Petition of merchants of Portland against abolishing days of grace on sight drafts. (Received under suspension of the rules).

LEGAL AFFAIRS.

By Mr. Williams of Sangerville—Bill, an act amendatory of Chapter 507 of the Pricate and Special Laws of 1889, entitled, An act to establish the Dover municipal court. (Received under suspension of the rules).

By Mr. Haskell of Windham—Bill, An act to amend Section 145 of Chapter 82 of the Revised Statutes as amended by Chapter 174 of the Public Laws of 1893.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

By Mr. Lawrence of Gardiner—Resolve in favor of the city of Gardiner for money expended for soldiers of the late war. (Received under suspension of the rules.)

INTERIOR WATERS.

By Mr. Fellows of Bucksport—Remonstrance of G. W. McAlister and 60 others, citizens of Bucksport, against the passage of bill, an act to incorporate the West Branch Driving and Reservoir Dam Co.

By Mr. Hill of Belfast—Remonstrance of Cooper & Co. and 115 others of Belfast against same.

By Mr. Hutchings of Brewer—Remonstrance of B. B. Merrill and 250 others of Brewer against same.

By Mr. Parkhurst of Bangor—Remonstrance of John Curran and 152 others, laborers on the Penobscot river, against same; of Edwn Lora and 236 others, laborers on the Penobscot river; of Walter A. Danforth and 44 others, citizens of Bangor; of W. L. Higgins and 126 others, citizens of Bangor; of Wm. H. Bradford and 178 others, citizens of Bangor; of John L. Parker and 167 others, citizens of Bangor, all against same.

By Mr. Hinkley of Jonesport—Petition of Ira L. Preble and 95 others asking for a law prohibiting the use of purse of drag seines in the town of Addison. (Received under suspension of the rules.)

By Mr. Pattangall of Machias—Bill, an act to authorize the Machias Lumber Co. to purchase the rights and property of the proprietors of the Machias boom. (Received under a suspension of the rules.)

INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME.

By Mr. Hurd of Berwick—Petition of George E. Bragdon and 51 others of North Berwick, Sanford and Wells for an act to prohibit fishing in Bauneg Beg and "L" ponds.

By Mr. Lawrence of Gardiner—Remonstrance of Henry A. Gray and oth-

ers against any change in the law in regard to duck shooting.

By Mr. Shaw of Bath—Remonstrance of George E. Thompson and 39 others against any change in the law on woodcock.

SHORE FISHERIES.

By Mr. Pike of Lubec—Remonstrance of W. E. Owen and 27 others against seining herring in waters of Lubec and Trescott.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

By Mr. Carr of Oldtown—Bill, an act to regulate the rights of membership in the Penobscot tribe of Indians. (Received under suspension of the rules.)

TEMPERANCE.

By Mr. Fuller of Kennebunk—Letter of Prof. Harris and 100 others, in relation to resubmission of 5th amendment.

By Mr. Jackson of Jefferson—Remonstrance of Rev. J. Pettengill and 41 others of Jefferson and Nobleboro, against resubmission.

By Mr. Pike of Lubec—Remonstrance of Congregational church of Perry, against same.

TAXATION.

By Mr. Cushman of Sherman—Petition of Benjamin H. Towle and 38 others, in favor of equalization of taxation.

By Mr. Farnsworth of Pembroke—Petition of Luther L. Dorr and 16 others of Columbia, in favor of an increase tax on corporations of the State; of L. H. Chapman and 39 others; of J. T. Perkins and others of Castine; of A. B. Sanborn and 7 others of North Bald of Steuben; of Frank P. Washburn and win; of Alphonzo Mayo and 35 others; 24 others of Perry; of E. G. Kilborn and 97 others of Bethel; of J. W. Leighton and 44 others of Columbia Falls; of Geo. E. Savage and 42 others of North Anson; of John P. Walker and 47 others of South Hancock—all for same.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY DELEGATION.

By Mr. Sturgis of Standish—Petition of Edwin L. Poor and 9 others of Sebago, for open time on deer in Cumberland county; of L. H. Jordan and 29 others of Raymond; of Charles W. Irish and 17 others of Sebago; of W. P.

McKenney, 2nd., and 12 others of Sebago; of Henry W. Blake and 30 others of Sebago; of Wm. Thomas and 22 others of Portland; of H. G. Parker and 12 others of Gorham; of J. E. Hayden and 12 others of Raymond; of Frank M. Hawkes and 25 others of Raymond; of F. P. Merrill and 13 others of Bridgton; of Benjamin W. Gibbs and 36 others of Bridgton—all for same.

PENOBSCOT COUNTY DELEGATION.

By Mr. Dunn of Orono—Petition of members of grand jury for court house at Bangor.

A communication was received from Charles Hamlin, reporter of decisions, reporting the receipts and expenditures made by him, in compliance with the House order, which communication was tabled for printing on motion of Mr. Plummer of Portland.

A communication was also received from J. W. Wakefield, State liquor agent, which was tabled for printing on motion of Mr. Plummer.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Haskell, from the committee on Towns, on petition of F. E. Mitchell and others that said Mitchell and his estate be set off from the town of Litchfield and annexed to the town of Wales, reported that the petition be referred to the committee of counties.

Mr. Chase, from the committee on the judiciary, reported ought not to pass on bill, an act to amend Section 2 of Chapter 118 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 133 of the Public Laws of 1887.

Mr. Burrill, from the committee on mercantile affairs and insurance, reported ought not to pass on bill, an act to authorize the Maine State Relief Association to admit to its membership members of the various fraternal organizations.

Mr. Haskell, from the committee on pensions, to which was referred that part of the Governor's address relating to pensions, reported that they have recommended an appropriation for pensions sufficient to meet the probable necessary calls for assistance to needy soldiers and their families.

Mr. Russ, from same committee, reported ought not to pass on resolve in

favor of Matthias A. Cullman of Belfast.

Mr. Parkhurst, from the committee on the judiciary, on a bill, an act to incorporate the trustees of the Springfield Normal school, reported ought to pass in new draft bill, an act to incorporate the trustees of Springfield Normal school.

Mr. Beal, from the committee on financial affairs, reported ought to pass on resolve in favor of the Society of the Sisters of Charity, for the use of the Healy Asylum of Lewiston, Maine.

Some gentleman from same committee reported same on resolves in favor of the Eastern Maine General Hospital.

Mr. Hix from same committee, on bill, an act for the arrest and punishment of criminals, reported ought to pass in new draft, bill, an act for the arrest and apprehension of criminals.

Same gentleman from same committee, reported ought to pass on resolve in favor of Young Women's Home at Lewiston.

Mr. Page, from same committee, reported ought to pass in new draft under same title, resolve in favor of the Hospital of the Society of the Sisters of Charity of Lewiston, Maine.

Mr. Bennett, from the committee on education, reported ought to pass on resolve in favor of the town of Waterboro.

Mr. Thompson, from the committee on agriculture, reported ought to pass on resolve in favor of the State Pomological Society.

Mr. Hodgkins, from the committee on mercantile affairs and insurance, reported ought to pass on bill, an act additional to Chapter 49 of the Revised Statutes, relating to insurance.

Mr. Haskell, from the committee on towns, reported ought to pass on bill, an act to repeal the organization of Perkins plantation in Franklin county.

Same gentleman from same committee, reported same on bill, an act to set off Calf island and West Black island from the plantation of Long island in the county of Hancock, and annex the same to the town of Swan's island.

Mr. Thompson, from the committee on claims, reported ought to pass on resolve in favor of O. B. Clason of Gardiner, Maine.

Mr. Haskell, from the committee on pensions, reported ought to pass in new draft under same title, resolve in favor of Howard Whittier for an increase in State pension.

The reports were accepted and bills and resolves ordered printed under joint rules.

Resolve in aid of the Temporary Home for Women and Children at Portland.

Was reported from the committee on bills in the third reading, read the second time and passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

Resolve in favor of the Saint Elizabeth's Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum of Portland.

Was reported from same committee and pending second reading tabled on motion of Mr. Thornton of Ashland, and Tuesday next assigned for its consideration.

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Bill, an act to ratify the purchase of the Sagadahoc Light and Power Company of the property, rights and franchises of the Bath Electric Light and Power Company, Bath Gas and Electric Company, and the Bath Gas Light Company, and to give further rights to the said Sagadahoc Light and Power Company.

Bill, an act to authorize the Androscoggin Railroad Company to convey its interest in the Androscoggin Railroad to the Maine Central Railroad Company.

Bill, an act to extend the charter of the Ellsworth Street Railway Company.

Bill, an act to authorize the Skowhegan & Norridgewock Railway and Power Company to extend its line to and into the town of Smithfield.

Bill, an act to prohibit the sale of trout in Hancock county.

Bill, an act to extend the rights, powers and privileges of the Eastport Street Railway Co.

Bill, an act granting Alexis Morneau the right to erect and maintain piers and booms on the St. John river in the town of Grand Isle.

Bill, an act relating to fishing for togue through the ice.

Bill, an act to merge the Knox & Lincoln Railway in the Maine Central Railroad Co.

Bill, an act to regulate fishing in Grand Lake stream and at the outlet of Grand Lake, Washington county.

Bill, an act to incorporate the Lincoln Electric Railway Co.

Bill, an act to amend Chapter 203 of the Private and Special Laws of 1895, entitled an act to enable the proprietors of the Bangor bridge to dispose of their bridge property.

Resolve in aid of navigation on Sebect lake.

Resolve for an appropriation for the use of the commissioners of sea and shore fisheries.

Resolve in favor of Joseph Sepsis, representative of the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians.

Resolve in favor of Thomas Dana, representative of the Penobscot tribe of Indians.

Resolve in favor of the Bangor Children's Home.

Resolve in favor of the Children's Aid Society of Maine.

Resolver making appropriation for Penobscot tribe of Indians.

Resolve making appropriations for the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians.

PASSED TO BE ENACTED.

An act to incorporate the trustees of Leavitt Institute in the town of Turner.

An act to prohibit the killing of deer in the town of Isle au Houté in the county of Hancock.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

On motion of Mr. Carleton of Winthrop, bill, an act to fix the times of holding terms of the law court, was taken from the table, and on further motion by the same gentleman it was referred to the committee on judiciary.

On motion of Mr. Carleton, bill, an act pertaining to inland fisheries and game, was taken from the table.

The bill was then passed to be enacted.

SPECIALLY ASSIGNED.

Majority and minority reports of the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses, reporting respectively ought not to pass and ought to pass on bill, an act to amend Chapter 207 of the

Private and Special Laws of the State of Maine, for the year 1895, as heretofore amended, relating to the Eastern Telephone Company.

Mr. BEAL of Bangor: Mr. Speaker, I move to substitute the minority report for the majority report and in making that motion, I will give briefly my reasons for doing so. Something like 20 years ago there came to this State a powerful, wealthy corporation known as the Bell Telephone Company. They came to the Legislature and asked for a charter, which was readily granted them. They came here protected in a monopoly by letters patent of the United States, but in the wisdom of the United States government they saw fit, as they always do, to place a limit on the time when such patents shall cease to be private property. That was the case here. That time has elapsed. Now, telephoning business is the business of the world. During their monopoly and since then, they have been asked by many localities to render to them the assistance of putting in telephones and connecting them with the outer world. Almost invariably they will ask for assistance in the way of paying part of the bills and for a guarantee that they shall receive a certain remuneration from the business conducted. I have in mind now one locality which asked of that company year after year to give them a telephone to the outer world. Their answer to those gentlemen was "You give us \$10,000 and guarantee us \$3000 interest, and we will do so." That was prohibitive, the community could not stand such a pressure, they did not get it but they did appeal to some of their friends, citizens of Maine, to render them some assistance. Those citizens of Maine came to this Legislature and asked for a charter for a telephone to be strung through certain parts of the State. It was granted to them and they proceeded upon the construction. They found when they had it constructed down to this locality that it cost \$15,000, \$10,000 remember was asked from the locality which would have cost the Bell Telephone Company \$5000 and for which they wished to be guaranteed \$3000 interest each year. The friends of Maine, who got the telephone line and placed it there, found it was

remunerative to a great degree. They also extended their line and have extended it and in 1897 they came to this Legislature and asked for a charter that they might go into any part of the State as is granted to all companies. The New England Company, having one of the broadest charters ever granted by the State, they have asked for a similar one. The charter of the New England Telephone Company reads like this: "Said New England Telephone and Telegraph Company is hereby authorized to construct, maintain and operate its telephone lines through the length and breadth of this State with as many wires and branches as they may see fit, commencing and terminating at such point or points as they may select." There is no broader charter that could be given anything. These people got the charter that they asked for as they supposed. They went on constructing their lines until they reached the city of Auburn. There it was suddenly discovered that, by some inadvertence, there was a word in there that would prohibit their going any further in all probability and it was taken to the courts to construe the meaning of that charter. It is now in the hands of the courts. It has been said that we ought not to interfere with the court. I disclaim the intention of this Legislature to do anything of the sort but I do say that, if this Legislature intended to give a charter and through some inadvertence on the part of someone, a word crept in there that prohibits the charter from being what it was intended to be, it is incumbent on this Legislature to rectify the wrong. It is not only incumbent upon us but it is our duty.

Now, these gentlemen have not come here asking for a new charter. Nothing of the kind. In fact, they believe they have a charter that is good for the entire state but this question arises as to whether it shall be a continuous line from where it starts or whether it may be broken in other places like all charters. They come here and ask us to set them right as citizens of the State. It is now our duty to consider well whether we will rectify that wrong or whether in the interests of monopoly and trusts, we are going to hold those

gentlemen down to what we never asked any other corporation in Maine to comply with. Since 1880 this Legislature has granted something like telephone and telegraph charters and we have several before us now which we are to act upon before this Legislature closes so it has been the custom of granting to all these companies the rights to do business and to make competition for the people of the State whereby they may get their telephones for one-half the price they are now paying. Now, my idea of the New England Telephone Company is that it is a gigantic monopoly. It is a trust of the first water. The citizens of Maine this last fall proclaimed against such a thing. I believe that the New England Telephone Company is simply a rich man's luxury. I believe that the Eastern Telephone Company is the poor man's friend. (Applause).

Mr. HARRIS of Auburn: I disagree with the gentleman from Bangor that the Eastern Telephone Company is necessarily the poor man's friend. I rise to object and oppose the motion to substitute the minority report for that of the majority. In the first place it would seem to me that the gentlemen composing the Eastern Telephone Company are relying upon their eminent respectability and trying to obtain from this Legislature something that they ought not to have. They ask on the one hand for the best we have to give and they withhold the statement of their condition. Any academy which applies for an appropriation files a statement of facts and corporations are required by Statutes to file annual returns so that we may know and the Legislature may know what is going on, how much money they have got invested and where it is. It would seem to be proper that they should file the annual return that was due last November. The statute says that they shall annually make return to the secretary of State, value, stockholders, their residents, amount of stock owned by each and the whole amount of stock paid in on the first day of November and that the secretary shall lay the same before the legislature.

As far as the Eastern Company is concerned, we have not go that information. They have not filed their annual return for the last year. The return of the previous year shows that they had a capital stock of \$77,500, 775 shares. Of this amount, 564 shares are in the name of their stockholders, 112 shares of a Massachusetts citizen, 451 shares are in the name of two State of Maine people as trustees. Now, it looks to me somewhat speculative as though these men entered upon this undertaking—and we don't know where the money comes from or how much has been invested, or whose money it is—that they are claiming to do the public a great service in the reduction of rates but the real motive and the real expectation is to get a valuable franchise from the State of Maine and dispose of it.

Now, as to the history of this Eastern Telephone Company. It was chartered in 1895 as a local corporation and it was very proper that Vinal Haven and Rockland and the isles of the bay should have connection by telephone with the mainland. That was the purpose of this charter. It was named the Rockland and Vinal Haven Telegraph and Telephone Company. This was a purely local company with a capital stock not exceeding the sum of \$50,000. They constructed their line from Vinal Haven to Rockland and at that time, it was a purely local company. They did not consider that it gave them the right to extend their lines throughout the State of Maine and at this time when they had their charter amended and, as they now claim, obtained their extended rights which are in question in court, they reduced their capital stock to \$15,000 on the face of it. The capital stock of the company shall be \$15,000 but the corporation may hereafter from time to time increase the same by a majority of the stockholders when ever it shall be deemed necessary. Now, that is the broadest and most unlimited proposition that I have ever seen in any charter granted by the State of Maine and I can only account for it on the belief that the Legislature considered that this was a local institution to perform local service and it certainly had this appear-

ance when they reduced from \$50,000 in the previous charter to \$15,000, but the general law limits the amount of capital stock of a corporation at home but this corporation is unlimited in the amount of capital stock it may issue.

Then the next step was two years ago to change the name from the Rockland and Vinal Haven Telegraph and Telephone Company to the Eastern Telephone Company. They evidently had believed that they might be able under their charter to do business throughout the State and they wished to give the name a broader significance and I know of no broader name that could have been given to it than the one they have chosen—The Eastern—that is broaded than the New England. Now, with this condition of things and with this right to issue capital stock to such an amount as the directors may vote and with their name changed to the Eastern Telephone Company, they ask permission to exercise the powers and carry on the business and do all acts pertaining thereto in any state of country. They have gradually worked this matter up to a corporation of the most extensive power and to a charter which we are now asked to grant them which, if granted, will give them as unlimited powers as any corporation that was ever chartered by the State of Maine. The progress towards it has been gradual and the conditions are not such as will warrant this Legislature in granting to these gentlemen these extensive powers. It is not the policy of the State of Maine and never has been to give public service corporations unlimited powers of charter, any number of them to do business over the same territory. Take the steam and electric railroads, it is not the policy for them to be allowed to parallel their lines and so with all other companies; water, gas, street railways, etc.

I don't think you ought to be led astray with the idea that the New England Telephone Company or the service that it has already established throughout the State is necessarily a monopoly—a grinding monopoly. The service which it performs is to be considered and if this service is to be impaired, so much the worse for the citizens of Maine. As far as we are concerned in

Auburn, we don't want two telephone companies. The Eastern Telephone Company in its charter ask that they may be authorized to construct, maintain and operate lines between any and all the cities, towns and islands thereof, etc., commencing and terminating at such points as they may determine. This would give the Eastern Company the right to pick out the cream of the business in the State of Maine and impair the service that is now rendered by the New England Telephone Company. I believe that this move is simply made to get a valuable charter that it may trade upon and if the New England people are forced to buy it the time for low rates is so much deferred, if we create this company. The tendency of the times is toward consolidation. We make so much more material for that consolidation and in that way we cut our own fingers because the public have to pay.

Now this Telephone Company comes in with an entirely new proposition for a charter, giving them unlimited rights throughout the State, claiming that by so doing, the rates may be reduced to the citizens of Maine. Well, they started out with a \$15,000 capital to do that and they have not filed their return to show us how much we ought to have. I claim that they do not present a fair proposition to this Legislature for the extensive rights which they now ask and that they ought not to have them.

Mr. HIX of Rockland: When called upon to decide which of two policies is best for the public good, we have had a chance to observe the practical working of each policy within the State. I hope to be able to interest some member of this House by bringing to him direct evidence as to the working of the two telephone systems in Knox county and possibly state a few facts which may of use in arriving at a decision in this matter. And I do so from no personal motive, but simply because the conditions in our county have made me believe that the fullest and most complete telephone system obtainable is essential to the development of the varied industries of this State, second only to its transportation facilities.

In 1897, we had in the city of Rockland 140 telephones of the New England Co.'s system. They were hardly satisfactory; they were hard to talk with, and with the exception of two or three for which a rental of \$75 a year was paid, were practically worthless for long distance service. And this, I understand, is the condition throughout a large part of the State, today. For that service we paid \$25 a year for house telephones, and \$40 to \$75 a year for business telephones. The towns in the county had a few telephones and the villages usually one. In 1898 the Eastern Co. established its lines and commenced operations. I will not attempt to review in detail the growth of our telephone business during the past four years. Suffice it to say that the Eastern Co. managed by some of our most competent business men, fixed their charges at practically one-half the rates we were then paying. They said then and they say now that that is a normal price at which plants may be established and operated all over this State at a fair profit. The result of this price is that business has increased and the number of telephones has risen from 140 to 965 in the city of Rockland alone, and throughout the county there are 1500 telephones. Thus you will see that the value of our service has increased six or seven times, and we are paying half as much. Today I can sit in my office and receive word from Boston or Portland that some article of produce which I handle is short in the market and is wanted at higher prices at immediate delivery, and without leaving my desk I can telephone to dealers and farmers in half a dozen different towns, some of them three miles from the village, and within 24 or 36 hours have that produce at a point where it is wanted or well on its way. The farmer gets the benefit of the quick market and advanced prices, the dealer gets the additional business. I cannot conceive how the people of this State could look with anything but condemnation on a Legislature that would refuse to grant this charter. And further, I believe that it would be doing a grave injustice to the people of this State if by act of ours we should pre-

vent or hinder them from receiving the best results of modern science in their economical and industrial development. (Applause.)

Mr. THOMPSON of China: I wish to voice not only my own sentiments in relation to this matter, but the sentiments of 19 out of 20 of the people throughout the State, as far as I have been able to determine. I live in a community where forests of telegraph poles and networks of wires are not the greatest grievance we have to deal with. This is a large State and I believe that this industry is only in its infancy. I have nothing against the New England Telephone Co. I have nothing against monopolies as a whole. Monopoly may be necessary, but it can or may produce evil in the State, but I do know that we need more telephone lines in the rural sections of this State, and I also know that competition is demanded by the people and that there is a strong sentiment throughout this State that this charter should be granted this Eastern Co. to extend its lines into the country as well as into the cities. The necessity for this extension of business is felt throughout our rural sections of the State. It is true that the people located in the cities and perhaps well served by the telephone company that they already have, but you will remember that this is a large State and that we are only beginning this industry, and I hope that the motion of the gentleman from Bangor (Mr. Beal) will prevail.

Mr. WALKER of Starks: Why should I vote against the charter of the Eastern Telephone Co. so they may do a telephone business anywhere in the State of Maine without any legal liability? It is a company composed of State of Maine men. The capital to be invested is State of Maine capital, the business to be done is business which State of Maine people want. They have already invested in the State more than \$100,000. They have given to the county of Knox the best telephone service which there is in any county in the State. What is good for the people of the county of Knox is good for the people of any other county in the State of Maine. Why, then,

should I vote against this measure? On one side are the people of Maine asking for better telephone service at lower rates. On the other side, the Bell Telephone Co., asking that a perpetual time be extended for them to enjoy the telephone service of which they have practically had a monopoly for the past 20 years. My people are for this measure. The people of the State, the business men, the common people, want better telephone service at lower rates. Why, then, should I vote against giving to the people this service when nineteen-twentieths of them, as has been remarked, and I believe that estimate is low, are in favor of it—why should I vote against helping the people of our common State? (Applause.)

Mr. FOSTER of Oakland: If I knew nothing about the merits of this question, it seems to me that what I have heard since this discussion began is enough to enable me to come to a decision. It seems to me that the matter reduces itself to this: Whether or not this Legislature will urge a monopoly against a healthful competition, and that in the line of the necessities of our modern civilization. It seems to me that is the only question; and I hope for the adoption of the minority report.

Mr. SCAMMON of Franklin: The people of this country make and unmake Presidents and Governors, legislators and incidentally secretaries of the board of agriculture. It seems to me that this question ought to receive widespread discussion. It is a question of great moment. It is something that has not, up to the present time, nor will it today, receive that consideration which it should. It has occurred to me since coming here this morning, that there was a very large proportion of those here who will not vote correctly on this matter. I do not doubt that they will vote honestly and according to their ideas of the merits of the question. Whatever may be the sentiment of others, whatever course others may take, it seems to me that there is but one course for me. It seems to me that no oratory, however brilliant, no personal argument can prevent a determined and aroused people from expressing their sentiments on this

matter; and I have no doubt that when this matter comes to a vote, this charter of the Eastern Telephone Co. will receive its rights.

Mr. COOK of Vassalboro—One more rural district would like to be heard from on this question. (Laughter). There is no question in my mind as to the result, when we come to vote on this measure, but that we will sustain the Eastern Telephone Company, but it is important that we give a large majority, that there should be a vote in favor of that company of nearly every member in this House. And I want to warn gentlemen that when they go back to their constituents, having voted against the extension of this charter, they will go up against something that they little thought of before. (Laughter and applause). This question is broader than has been argued here, today. It is more than a question between the Bell Telephone Company and the Eastern Telephone Company—it is the people against the monopoly. That is the time to cheer. (Laughter and applause). Mr. Speaker, you remember in the last political campaign how the Democratic party tried to make the most out of the trust business, how they declaimed throughout the length and breadth of this country against trusts, and why they did not prevail was because there was no reason or sense in it, the one party was not more responsible for trusts than the other; but if you, today, turn down this Eastern Telephone Company, William J. Bryan, the next time, will have something to talk about. (Laughter and applause). We have here against the people of Maine one of the most powerful and extortionate monopolies that there is in this broad land. If I mistake not, the immortal Blaine caused his telephone to be torn out because of the extortion of the company, not because he minded the little money involved but because of his indignation at their extortion. And it has been so all the time since that company has been so all the time since that company has been in the State of Maine. They want you to build their telephone lines and then pay them two prices on one end of that, and every young lawyer or young physician, or business man who has opened a fish market, or anything of that kind—(Laughter)—that was not the

place to cheer. (Applause and laughter). Well, when he opens this fish market, the telephone is almost a necessity, but he is beginning business and he has not a great deal of money, and the telephone tariff makes it almost impossible for him to meet the expense. It is the same way with the young lawyer and young physician. He must have a telephone in order to be in the swim, but he cannot pay for it. But when this Eastern Telephone Company gets abroad in this country, with its half price, then we can all afford to have it and you will hear the "Hello" back in the cornfields in the country. The time will come when the farmer's wife can call up her neighbor a few miles away and ask who went home with whom from the last husking. (Laughter).

You know how the cities depend upon the country for brain and muscle to push the interests of this country, how the Presidents and everybody down, have come from the country, a large per cent. of them. The fact is that this city life after generations of it, especially on the part of the women, does not produce such giants as are needed (Laughter) to do the work of the country. The young people are leaving the farms and flocking to the cities and the farms are becoming abandoned, but you put a telephone in there, and it makes such a change, it increases the social privileges so much on these farms that more of these young men will stay on the farm. They tell us that this Eastern Telephone Company will sell out to the other companies, that there will be a consolidation. That is not our business. We do our part, and if we don't, shame on us; and if they sell out, after we have helped them, and put up their rates, shame on them. (Applause and laughter).

Mr. PATTANGALL of Machias: It may be that there is but little to add to the debate that has taken place this morning, but it seems to me possibly that in some respects the discussion has drifted away from the actual issues involved before the House, and before voting it might be well enough to take a sober view of what we are really voting upon. I was much interested in the remarks of my friend from Bangor (Mr. Beal) and also the re-

marks of my friend from Vassalboro (Mr. Cook), and after listening to those two eloquent gentlemen, in their somewhat remarkable speeches, I read anew the bill under consideration by the House, this morning, and found to my surprise that I was not wrong in my first reading of it, and that the Eastern Telephone Company was a corporation and not a farm. I found that the bill which the House is asked to pass, this morning, was a bill not restricting the rights of any corporation, or of any monopoly, but enlarging the rights of a Maine corporation, giving it as sweeping a charter as the Legislature of Maine could give to any corporation on earth and making it in fact a monopoly in telephoning in the State of Maine. No argument in favor of free competition in telephoning in Maine can be fairly made on that bill. Under the laws of the State of Maine today, passed wisely or unwisely, I will not undertake to say, no telephone corporation can start in Maine provided any other company has either lines in operation or a charter giving it the right to operate in that locality without the consent of the existing company or a special act of the Legislature. Pass this bill and no telephone company can be started in the State of Maine without the consent of two telephone companies the consent of the Legislature, and, gentlemen who desire free competition in telephoning had better hesitate before they pile monopoly upon monopoly and compell a new company to gain the consent of two great corporations instead of the consent of one. That seems to me a matter worthy of consideration. I find, by referring to the charter of the Eastern Maine Telephone Company granted in 1897, in Chapter 207 of the Laws of 1897, that Section 3 of that charter gives them the right of eminent domain, and in the last few days before the committees of this House, and many of the members of this House, it has been argued over and over again that we, who were here representing the people ought to be chary of granting that great right to any corporation. And yet, the extension of this charter gives to the Eastern Telephone Company the right of eminent domain,

not in the limited locality where they first acquired it, but from Kittery to Fort Kent, throughout the length and breadth of the State of Maine, the absolute right of eminent domain. It might be well that some restrictions should be placed on the great telephone corporation now existing in Maine. It may be that it has been granted too great powers in the past. But that cannot be remedied by granting like powers to another great corporation. If the past Legislatures did go too far and did grant too much power to the New England Telephone Company, the right way to remedy it is to restrict those powers and not give like powers to another corporation. Does any gentleman here who has studied the question carefully and thoughtfully honestly believe that there will ever exist all over Maine two great telephone companies competing with each other for business? Do not gentlemen know that competitive telephoning is something that never has and never can exist on a large scale in a community situated as Maine is?—that the inevitable result of two great corporations being chartered would be to place in some localities in Maine certain telephone lines operating at a profit and some lines operating at a loss, and that a rate war would ensue, and just as sure as the sun rises and sets, those corporations must amalgamate? The law of business compels them to do it, and when they do, the business men, the lawyer, the doctor, the young man starting his fish market, must all pay extra telephone rates to pay dividends on the stock that the existing company accumulated, because the Legislature forced it to accumulate it. That is the business side of the situation. It has been the policy of this State for years to monopolize public rights. The word "Monopoly" seems to some men like a red flag in a bull's face, but it has been the policy of this State, and I venture to say it will be forever the policy of this State to monopolize public rights. No man here would advocate paralleling the great lines of railroad that go across this State, and yet the monopolizing of these railroad lines allowing the single lines to run across the State creates

a monopoly in freights, and freight rates bear harder upon the farmer than do telephone rates. But it is a wise policy, and any man who examines it must agree that two parallel lines of railroad could not exist across Maine. One line does exist, a monopoly, but a monopoly restricted by the courts of this State, restricted by the power of the Legislature of this State, so it can never charge you an unfair rate for freight, neither can a telephone company ever charge you an unfair rate for services but what you have full recourse to the courts, and, if you like, can here in the Legislature by law restricting the rates. Will the gentlemen advocating this charter for the Eastern Maine Telephone Company advocate the removal of all restrictions on telephone competition? Will they join in a general law restricting telephone rates to a certain figure forever? I think not. I think such a law would not bring forth applause from all the members, who favor this bill although it would from some of them.

Now it seems to me that there is danger that the House may pass this charter and adopt the minority report of this committee without fair and honest consideration, under the impulse of the moment, and with the idea that we are doing something that is called for by nineteen-twentieths of the people of the State of Maine. Well, gentlemen, I represent the people of the State of Maine as much as any other man on the floor of this House. I represent personally as intelligent a constituency as any man on the floor of this House. But I venture to say, and I believe that the gentlemen of the House know it is so, that nineteen-twentieths of the people of the State of Maine, despite their intelligence and newspaper reading, don't care a cent what the vote is on this charter and have not interested themselves in it. Is there any public call in any section of the State of Maine for the passage of this act? I have not heard it. And it seems to me that gentlemen take upon themselves an authority that should not lightly be assumed when they undertake to say on the floor of the House that nineteen-twentieths of the people of the State

are in favor of this minority report. The people of this State have had no opportunity to judge of this matter. It has never been discussed in public, it has never been fairly discussed prior to this discussion even so far as the State Capitol is concerned. Gentlemen had upon their desks the other morning this interesting pamphlet (showing) bearing on the question of the Eastern Maine Telephone Company. It struck me as a good idea so far as getting votes in the House was concerned, it struck me at first as an original idea until it occurred to me that it must of necessity have been borrowed from the Democratic literature of the last campaign in Knox county and in all probability some such circular was circulated there where my friend from Rockland (Mr. Hix) saw it. It seems to me that this pamphlet was a borrowed idea and that it might apply in many directions as well as in the direction in which it was intended to apply. Don't make a mistake in this matter today. No general fight is on against monopolies, no general fight is discovered in this bill against trusts, it is purely and simply an attempt to gain by vote in this House greater powers than a corporation now has and to create in the State of Maine a monopoly in telephoning more powerful than now exists or ever has existed in Maine.

It has been sad here that the New England Telephone Co. was charging such enormous rates and refusing to go into new country unless the people acceded to such exorbitant demands that you could not get them to go anywhere. The New England Telephone Co. has gone into Washington county. It went in without a guarantee of a dollar's worth of business. It established exchanges in every town of any size in the county. Three years ago I paid in my office, the first telephone ever set up in Machias, \$48 a year for a long distance telephone. Today I pay \$25 for the same telephone, the same service, and there has been a mite of competition to bring these rates down. I paid \$30 for my house for a long distance telephone, and today I pay \$18. If that is monopoly, if that is taking the public by the throat and demanding of them anything unreasonable, I do not know

anything about business. These rates have been voluntarily reduced in that county and all over that county. They have been voluntarily reduced in York county as I know, and I believe in every other county in the State, and the service has been excellent.

As to the telephone being the rich man's luxury and the poor man's friend, I confess that seems to me a little aside from the question. I have found the telephone to be the business man's necessity. It is not the rich man's luxury. The people who are using the telephone in my county are business people, and any time that they have to pay one dollar more than they believe to be fair return to the New England Telephone Company, that moment the courts are open to them for redress and the Legislature has a right to legislate rates down if it sees fit; but not legislate them up by adding to the stock of the New England Telephone Company as the passage of this bill invariably would. I do not care whether the capital back of the New England Telephone Company is Maine or Boston capital. We need outside capital. That capital whether Maine capital or foreign capital, has but one right under the laws of the United States, and that is the right to receive a fair return upon the actual money invested. They may water their stock and it makes no difference. The courts will hold them down when you make a demand for cheap rates.

Now a joint committee of the House and Senate consisting of ten men, representing as truly the people of the State of Maine as do the gentlemen who have addressed the House this morning, have considered the subject with some care, considered it at length had extended hearings, went into the question in all its bearings more carefully than you and I go into it this morning, and that committee by a majority vote report that they deem it inadvisable to grant to this corporation this great and sweeping charter. I think that report should have great weight, and before gentlemen carried away by a spasmodic attempt to do something against monopolies and trusts, carried away by the old Democratic war cry of the last cam-

paign, carried away by populist argument—and if you study that bill and find anything populist in it I would be glad to see it, vote to give this charter, let us carefully and honestly and reasonably consider whether we may not be creating, not restricting, a great monopoly, and whether when we go back to our constituents and they find what we have done they may not say to us, "Why didn't you leave the thing as it was, only one telephone company to look out for in the courts?" Instead, you have united foreign capital with domestic capital and united under one roof the two strongest elements of politics in Maine."

Something has been said of the foreign corporations. A foreign corporation is a great bugaboo sometimes in debates of this kind. I call attention to Section 10 of House bill 111—this corporation is authorized to exercise its power, carry on its business and do all acts pertaining thereto in any other state or country. In other words, gentlemen, you have declaimed eloquently against foreign corporations that are doing everything that lies within their power to make this a foreign corporation as to every other state in the Union and as to every other nation on earth. What a horrible thing is a foreign corporation unless you can get to be one yourself. (Laughter and applause.) It is said that you want something for the farmers. If there is anything in that bill that is going to add anything to the blessings of the farmers of Maine, please point it out to me. I have not found it yet. I do realize that the farmers of Bangor and Rockland are interested in it. (Laughter.)

Now this is a business proposition, to my mind. Don't believe Mr. Bryan is going to be elected President even if the Eastern Telephone Company had never existed. It does seem to me that there is no politics or sentiment in it, or any particular reason why a man voting not to give this charter should feel ashamed of himself or be afraid to go back to his constituents. It seems to me that the square business proposition which is before this Legislature is this: Are you going to permit competition in quasi-public corpora-

tions, or preferred competition? Are you going to establish in the State of Maine two telephone monopolies instead of one? Are you going to place it beyond the power of any man to ever start a telephone line in Maine without the consent of two great corporations instead of one? Are you going to pass a bill in regard to this New England Telephone Company that you would not look at in regard to any other corporation in Maine? If you are, why are you going to do it? Look at the thing as a business proposition with an eye to the best business interests of this State, and I think that you will come to the belief that the right policy of this State is to leave the New England Telephone Company where it is, and by law and by court restrict its rights so that it gives the people of Maine the best possible public service. (Applause.)

Mr. LIBBY of Poland: As I believe that every man should be able to give a reason for the hope that is in him I rise to state my position. I do not regard this primarily as a fight between any two telephone companies. I regard this matter as something deeper and broader and more important to the interests of the State of Maine at this particular juncture of affairs than any question of telegraph or telephone companies or any other companies. For the first time to my knowledge in this State a great monopolistic corporation comes before the Legislature with a large lobby to prevent a corporation being formed in the State of Maine for the purpose of carrying on a competing business in the State. It has been argued here that it is the policy of our State to make monopolies of these things. I do not so understand it. Will any gentleman point to any charter, any word or phrase which indicates that our State has ever adopted that policy, or where our courts have said a word in favor of it? I understand the policy of our State on the other hand, is to be antagonistic to the idea of setting up monopolies upon our territory whether they be foreign or not.

Now this New England Company, while it may attract our sympathies by its name, is a New York corporation and is entitled to none of those senti-

ments which cluster around the name of old New England. This Bell Telephone Company, the origin of this New England Company, incorporated by the Legislature of Maine in 1885, had sold out its entire outfit from top to bottom to this New England Company of New York. Incorporated into that charter which was given to the Bell Telephone Company were the words, "Nothing in this act shall authorize the National Bell Telephone Company to interfere with any existing rights or lines or prevent any other parties from building, maintaining or operating lines of telephone in any part of the State." And I would ask you, gentlemen, if that sounds like undertaking to set up a monopolistic business in the very first telephone charters which were granted by the Legislature of this State? Does it not, on the other hand, rule out the New England Telephone Company from any standing in court here today to be pressing this matter of no competition? Why are they here? Why are they standing in the lobbies of this House to protest against the demand of the competitor here, when by the very charter under which they live and exist, so far as this State is concerned, they have bound themselves never to prevent any other party from operating and maintaining lines of telephones in this State? (Applause.) So much for the original idea. And I deny that the State of Maine by its policy has ever adopted that motion.

But there are different ways of creating monopolies. It is true that under the general law of this State—how it got there I don't know—there is a provision that where one company of this kind is in operation in a town, another cannot go there without its consent or the consent of the Legislature. A party cannot obtain the permission of the other fellow who is in for him to enter into competition, and therefore these people have to come here to the general court of the State, the only place where they can be heard and the only place from which they can receive the right to compete; and that is why they are here. Now the Bell Telephone Company, which is merged in the New England Company of New

York, is a monopolistic concern. It obtained a charter which allowed it to roam at will over the length and breadth of this State. It can commence at any point, it can leave off at any point it sees fit. There is nothing to control it but its own sweet will anywhere. But there is another consideration. If this charter cannot and will not be granted by the Legislature of this State, you might just as well set up your policy here and now and let it be known and advertise it to the world, that you are in favor of the monopoly and against competition; and that to my mind is the real and the only question here. The other is only an incident and not really to be considered.

All corporations of this kind hold their franchises in trust, not alone for their stock-holders, but for the benefit of the people, and in the language of the late Judge Walton, they must exercise those franchises faithfully, impartially and at reasonable rates. What the people of the State have to complain of in this matter, as against this New England Telephone Company, is the well-known fact that they are paying exorbitant rates in order to pay dividends upon their watered stock, and that is not a faithful administration of the franchises of their charter. That is where the people complain. If their stock were down where it belongs, if their rates were only obliged to be charged on the basis which would give a fair return on the actual investment of cold cash, where do you suppose those rates would be today in comparison to where they are now? It is this unfaithful stewardship, this inflating of stock and values, and this trying to keep out competition—it is this that the people are opposed to.

It is said there is no politics in this. I do not believe there is. But I will say this, that both the Democratic and Republican national platforms in the last campaign published to the people of this country that they were opposed to monopolies and trusts and to every combination which had for its object the raising of prices to the common people. The Republican State convention in this State ratified, endorsed and reaffirmed every word of that platform.

As a matter of morals can we go back on that proposition when we have declared ourselves fairly and squarely before the people and asked and obtained their suffrages on that proposition? Every man of the two great parties endorsed such a proposition as that, and every Democratic orator throughout the country, so far as I ever heard, was declaiming from the stump about the octopuses and hydra-headed monsters—and my brother says "Yes." (Laughter.) It cannot be denied. Now, gentlemen, at that time we were preaching; today we are met here to practice. Here is the dividing of the ways. The policy of the State is to be judged from the action that we take here on this proposition today. It will be understood fairly and squarely from this vote upon this question whether this Legislature says that the policy of this State henceforth shall be in favor of monopoly or in favor of competition. I was surprised to hear the gentleman from Auburn (Mr. Harris) suggest that if this Eastern Telephone Company should incorporate here it would simply compel the New England Company to buy them out. Mysterious proposition! It is a threat on the part of the New England Telephone Company that competition is to be squelched and throttled and not allowed to have a footstep upon this planet in this State. (Applause). That means simply that the New England Telephone Company proposes to keep its hand upon the throats of the people where it now has it and never to allow competition in this State. That is what it means.

I hope that gentlemen before they cast their votes upon this measure will take into account some of these considerations. I yield the floor. (Applause.)

Mr. KNOWLTON of Farmington:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the House:

In justice to my constituency, in justice to myself and to my sense of right, I feel it my duty to say a word upon this question. The telephone is one of those great and useful inventions which the 19th century has given to us, and it came to us during the last quarter of that wonderful century. Prof. Bell had an exhibition at the Centennial Exposition in 1876 his telephone, and from that time forward the telephone came rapidly into use in the large cities and commercial centers, and

for the next 17 years the Bell Telephone Company controlled absolutely the telephone business of our country by virtue of his letters of patent. After the patents expired in 1883, independent companies began to be organized but they were compelled to labor under great disadvantages. The Bell Company had fortified itself with nearly 2500 detail patents covering the telephone art, and there did not at first seem to be any single avenue of escape from the monopoly which had so long held sway over the industry. In addition to this the Bell Company controlled nearly all of the practical knowledge on the subject, having in their employ all who had any experience in the construction and maintenance of telephone systems, the electricians and others familiar with the art. Notwithstanding all this, lines began to be established and the growth of the independent telephone industry has been marvellous, considering the short time since the field was open for their operation by reason of the expiration of the original patents.

You will be surprised when I say to you that in seven years they have increased from their humble beginning until there are in the United States between 3500 and 400 independent exchanges, these ranging in size from that at Cleveland, Ohio, which now has an installed switchboard capacity of over 10,000 lines, down to the many little village exchanges, some of them having perhaps not more than ten or a dozen lines. These with the vast number of private lines and exchanges employ in the neighborhood of 1,700,000 telephones. The independent movement has not only brought about cheaper but better and more universal telephone service to the country at large. Cheaper, because the independent companies could and would operate for less money. Better, because of the spirit of competition it brought with it. More universal, because it has reached out to hamlets and farm districts to which the Bell or New England Company did not see fit to extend. The independent companies now have established large exchanges in Cleveland, Detroit, St. Louis and many of the Western cities, and are about to establish them in Boston and New York and other cities on the Atlantic coast. I mention these facts simply to show that it has not been the policy of other states and sections of our great country to shut out the independent companies.

Now the company that is before us, today, asking an amendment to its charter, is a home company composed of State of Maine men and represents Maine capital. And what do they ask of us at this time? Simply that an uncertainty which exists in the interpretation which may be put upon the language of its present charter may be removed. The present charter under which they are operating (and which they believed gave them the right to go into any town in the State) reads as follows: "Said corporation is hereby authorized to construct, own, maintain

and operate lines of telegraph and telephone between Vinalhaven and any or all of the islands in Penobscot bay and the city of Rockland in Knox county, or any of the other cities or towns on the main land, and to maintain and operate said lines," etc. Now there is a question whether the "main land" means the State of Maine or whether it means the cities and towns along the coast of Penobscot bay. It is a question upon which legal gentlemen differ in opinion, and it is to settle this question and relieve them of this uncertainty as to their rights that they ask this amendment, that they may do business in the State on an equal footing with the New England Company so far as any rights which this Legislature can confer. Why should we refuse to grant this privilege? Do the people of the State oppose it? Is there any voice coming from the people in opposition? Do they ask that the telephone business of the State be given to any monopoly? The only opposition there is comes from the New England Company. We come here and we find one of the strongest lobbies which this company with their unlimited means can procure. Shall we listen to the protest of this great corporation, backed by millions, who wish to usurp the rights of our citizens? Shall we yield to the influence of their paid attorneys or shall we listen to what I know to be the voice of the people and vote against monopoly and trusts? If we do not do this the consequences will be upon us. I know something about the manner in which this Eastern Company does business. Soon after the expiration of the Bell patents a company was organized in my town who built up an exchange in our county which was a great convenience and of much value to our citizens. About two years ago the Eastern Telephone Company purchased the rights and franchise of our system and immediately began to improve and extend the same, and, today, we have an exchange there with more than 200 subscribers, covering a circuit of 40 or 50 miles. They are giving us excellent service, both night and day and at a reasonable price. Our people appreciate it and want to see the Eastern Company prosper.

The gentleman from Auburn says the people of Auburn do not want the Eastern Company in there. Now as a matter of fact the municipal authorities of Auburn voted to admit them and the reason that the company did not commence work there and put an exchange in operation was the fact that they were restrained by process of law, instituted by the New England Company, preventing them from doing so. It is a fact which the members of this House went to remember that should this amendment be granted as asked by the Eastern Company it cannot then go into any town or municipality and erect its poles and stretch wires, without first obtaining permission of the proper authorities and obtaining a location for its poles. If the

town does not want them they can say so. Shall we say to the town that does want them, "You shall not have that privilege"?

Gentlemen, I ask you as right-feeling, honorable men having the best interests of the State at heart and desiring to protect the rights of the people, to vote conscientiously in this matter, and when you do this I know that no uncertain note shall go forth from this body and the people will know that we are in fact opposed to monopoly in this industry as well as in others.

(Cries of "Question, question.")

Mr. DEERING of Saco: It seems to me, when we look into this thing, that we can see that there is a new movement in this State towards a more perfect democracy which is to be beyond the range of mathematics and superior to all statistics. I advocate this principle, that the intelligent desires of the people, so far as they conform with the welfare of this State, are my supreme law. A great many things have been said about a monopoly here. I have no war with any monopoly, but I have war against monopolies, which are characterized by Justice Sherwood as being odious to our free institutions and repugnant to our free institutions and destructive of the opinions of our free people. The stockholder says, you shall not meddle with my vested interests, it is not right for you to take away my opportunity for making a living. If he said it correctly he would say, it is not right for you to take away my opportunity to have some one else make a living for me. That is what the monopolist would say if he said it truly. But back of all that lies the welfare of the people of this State. The New England Bell Telephone Company has made in its existence of 18 years profits of \$21,000,000 including interest, which makes a little over \$1,000,000 a year. It is incorporated for about \$20,000,000, \$3,000,000 of which is over-capitalized. I contend that over-capitalization is the twin sister of extortion. It is estimated that the charges of the New England Telephone Company for service worth from \$6 to \$20, is from \$24 to \$75. That is in the smaller places. In the larger places from \$30 to \$100, it is estimated that the New England Company gets from \$90 to \$240. I have had an opportunity to be in almost every state in this Union and in other countries as well. My personal experience has been that the telephone service in this State is the poorest there is in the world, and if there is any way to get better service I want to vote for it, and I ask the gentlemen of this House to do the same. I think if you vote against the granting of this amendment to the charter of the Eastern Telephone Company, you vote for a political and economical crime.

Mr. WALLS of Vinalhaven: I am interested in this telephone company. We live in Vinalhaven, where the Bodwell Granite Company and the fish industries are

quite large, and we wanted a connection with the main land and we applied to the Legislature for a charter. It was granted, and after it was granted one of the members of this other organization came to me and wanted to know what we intended to do. I said, "We intend to have connection with the main land," and I asked him if some arrangement could be made with this New England Telephone Company to give us connection with the main land. He informed me that it was impracticable, that the expense would be so much that it would not pay. I said, "I expect some day to go across there," and he said, "Well, when you get across there, let me know." That was the satisfaction I got at that time. After we got this last charter in 1897 they sent one of their men from Boston down to the island. I was not at home and he visited Mr. Libby and his proposition to him was that we should guarantee—it would cost \$30,000—we should guarantee them 10 per cent. on their money invested and give them \$10,000 bonus, and then they would not grant us perfect telephone service. Of course that was prohibitory, and we concluded we would put the cable across. And we put in our telephone service at Vinalhaven, and we did it for \$15,000. We have been adding to it since. That shows what they wanted, and that shows what we got and how we got it and for how much.

As to this idea of selling out—I stand here as president of the company and I never have said one word to anyone about selling out. It is the farthest thing from my mind. We found that a telephone business would pay at a reasonable rate so that all the citizens of Maine could have a telephone if they wanted it. Now we come here and we meet the strongest lobby you ever saw in this House, lawyers from all over the State, attorneys who have been retained—I hope none in this body—that are here in the interests of this telephone company, who say that we don't have a right to do business in the State. We who had the courage to put the thing across—we have invested our own money and we have in this plant about \$115,000—and we come to the State saying that we want you to protect us in our rights as well as this magnificent company that is already doing business here. We find some questions about our charter. We want it so we can start out and do business in this State. We are doing business in some of the counties, and this same company can parallel us any day where we are. They are magnificent, they want us to grow—small. (Laughter and applause.)

The question being on the motion to substitute the minority report for the majority, the yeas and nays were ordered:

Yeas—Adams, Andrews of Norway, Andrews of Rockport, Ballard, Beal, Bird, Bodwell, Boothby, Boyd, Brackett, Bradford, Brewster, Briggs of Harrison, Briggs of Hudson, Cain, Carr, Carson, Coffin, Cook, Cordwell, Crosby, Cushman, Daigle, Deering, Dunningham, Dobson,

Farnsworth of Beddington, Farnsworth of Robbinston, Farrell, Foster, Frederick, Fuller of Auburn, Gammon, Gardner, Gilmore, Hammond, Harvey, Haskell of Lewiston, Haskell of Windham, Hill of Exeter, Hinkley, Hix, Hurd, Hutchings, Irving, Jackson of Monson, Jones, Kelley, Kneeland, Knowlton, Laliberte, Libby of Burnham, Libby of Poland, Libbey of South Berwick, Little of Monmouth, Littlehale, Low, Maddocks, McNamara, Morin, Moulton of Bowdoinham, Parkhurst, Peabody, Phoenix, Pike, Powers of Fort Fairfield, Powers of Pittston, Purinton, Putnam of Houlton, Randall, Russ, Sabourin, Sanborn, Scammon, Shaw, Skidmore, Sprague, Staples, Stevens, Sturgis, Sutherland, Swett, Thompson of Bristol, Thompson of China, Tornquist, Trickey, Tufts, Walker, Walls, Walter, Weatherbee, White of East Machias, Williams, Wilson, Young—95.

Nays—Allan of Portland, Allen of Sanford, Bennett, Burrill, Dudley, Eaton, Fellows, Fuller of Kennebunk, Harris, Kaler, Little of Lewiston, Mayo, Minott, Moulton of South Portland, Noyes, Patangall, Sargent, Smith, Spofford, Webb, Weymouth, White of Naples—22.

Absent—Carleton, Clark, Cramer, Dodge, Dunn, Fay, Gooding, Greene, Hodgkins, Hoxie, Hyde, Lawrence, Leathers, Loud, McDougall, Merritt, Page, Pettengill, Porter, Putnam of Dixfield, Ross, Somes, Thomas, Vogel.

The following pairs were announced:

Mr. Chase, no, with Mr. Jackson of Jefferson, yes.

Mr. Dearborn, yes, with Mr. Plummer, no.

Mr. Hill of Belfast, yes, with Mr. Mead, no.

Mr. Pratt, yes, with Mr. Thornton, no.

The bill was then read twice.

On motion of Mr. Libby of Poland, the rules were suspended, the bill took its third reading and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Fuller of Auburn,

Adjourned.