

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventieth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1901.

SENATE.

Augusta, Jan. 11, 1901.

Senate met according to adjournment and was called to order by the President.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Leshar of Augusta.

Journal read and approved.

Papers from the House passed in concurrence.

The President announced as his appointment for the Committee on Year Book, on the part of the Senate, Messrs. Wilson of Washington, Rankin of York and Buck of Hancock.

The President then read the following message:

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

I have the honor to transmit herewith the report of the Board of State Assessors for 1900.

BYRON BOYD,
Secretary of State.

On motion of Mr. Stearns of Oxford the said report was referred to the Committee on Taxation.

The following bills, petitions and resolves were presented and referred:

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Morrison of York: Petition of H. Fairfield and 8 others in favor of uniform legislation in regard to negotiable instruments.

By Mr. Weeks of Somerset: Petition of C. G. Totman and 18 others in favor of uniform legislation in regard to negotiable instruments.

By Mr. Hodsdon of Cumberland: Bill, An act to amend chapter 295 of the Private and Special of 1895, entitled an act to amend the charter of the Yarmouth Water Company.

By Mr. White of Androscoggin: Bill, No. 1 referred to Committee on Judiciary and tabled pending its reference, referred to Committee on Judiciary.

RAILROADS, TELEGRAPHS AND EXPRESSES.

By Mr. Vickery of Kennebec: Bill, An act to extend the charter of the Kennebec and Franklin Railroad.

MERCANTILE AFFAIRS AND INSURANCE.

By Mr. Virgin of Cumberland: Bill, An act to amend chapter 106 of the

Public Laws of 1899, entitled an act additional to chapter 237 of the Public Laws of 1899 relating to life and casualty insurance on the assessment plan.

WAYS AND BRIDGES.

By Mr. Staples of Knox: Bill, An act to amend chapter 18 of the Revised Statutes of 1893 as amended by chapter 329 of the Public Laws of 1897 and by chapter 22 of the Public Laws of 1899.

TAXATION.

By Mr. McFadden of Lincoln: An act providing for taxation of railroad companies according to the value of the capital stock thereof.

On motion of Mr. McFadden said act was laid on the table to be printed, pending its reference to the Committee on Taxation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

The Committee on Legal Affairs to which was referred Bill, An act to regulate the liquor traffic in Maine, referred from the last Legislature, having considered same, ask that the bill be referred to the Committee on Temperance and the bill was so referred.

ORDERS.

Mr. Staples of Knox: Yesterday I put in an order that the trustees of the Eastern Maine Hospital be directed to furnish to the Senate an itemized account of the expenditures made by them in construction, what for, and to whom paid. That order was passed. I find that the trustees had nothing to do with the expenditures of the money, and I now move to reconsider that order, and that the order be indefinitely postponed. The motion to reconsider and indefinitely postpone was passed.

By Mr. Staples of Knox: Ordered, That the Governor and Council be requested to furnish the Senate an itemized account of the sums of money expended in the construction of the Eastern Maine Hospital.

By Mr. Morrison of York: Ordered, That the use of the Senate Chamber be granted the electors of President and Vice-President of the United States on Saturday, January 12, and Monday, January 14, 1901.

By Mr. Vickery of Kennebec: Ordered, that the use of the Senate Chamber be granted the Maine Press

Association for its meetings on Wednesday evening, January 30, and Thursday afternoon, January 31.

READ AND ASSIGNED.

Senate Document No. 3, An act to regulate the fishing in Thompson's Pond in Oxford, Casco, Poland and Otisfield. Second reading on Tuesday, Jan. 15th.

Senate Document No. 2, Resolve in favor of the Eastern Maine Hospital for the Insane.

Mr. PRINCE of Oxford: I am requested by the committee to ask that the rules be suspended and that Senate Document No. 2 pass to its second reading and to be engrossed; and I make that motion. Of course it is well understood that there has been a large sum of money devoted to the Eastern Maine Hospital, some \$450,000, and it is necessary that this sum now provided for be available at once in order that the establishment may be put in condition to receive patients. I understand that the hospital across the river is in a congested condition on account of its being so crowded. It has accommodation for only about 550 patients, I think and there are now 774 patients there; and it seems to me that if there is any appropriation that we ought to make to become available as soon as possible, it is one designed to relieve the sufferings of those unfortunate people. Of course they are so closely crowded that the atmosphere becomes pregnant with poisonous matter so that it is impossible to secure proper ventilation and the committee ask that action be taken upon this bill now. If there is any farther information that the Senate desires, the Senator from Penobscot, a member of the committee, and the Senator from Kennebec who is a member of the Board of Trustees, will be able to give the Senate such knowledge as they may need.

Mr. McFADDEN of Lincoln: Mr. President, I think \$60,000 is a large sum to vote in a lump with so little information as we have upon the subject; and I understand the only information which the committee had was the statement made before them that the trustees had made a careful estimate, and that this was the sum required. If the trustees have made a

careful estimate they have made an estimate in detail, for no other estimate could be a careful one; and if they have made such an estimate it might have been submitted to the committee, and it certainly could be submitted to this body and to the whole Legislature. It seems to me that this resolve should lie upon the table until the Legislature is furnished with a detailed estimate showing what it is for;—that is, the items, and the estimated cost. Sixty thousand dollars! Why, at the present price of plain furniture, such as is used in a hospital, it would fill those walls so full that there would not be any room for the patients. It seems to me it would, and I do not believe there is any necessity for rushing this thing through the Legislature. I move that it lie on the table, and that a detailed estimate be furnished by the trustees.

Mr. VICKERY of Kennebec: I am very sorry that in drawing this bill there was not an accompanying detailed statement of facts. A draft, not a detailed statement of the several items, was submitted to the committee, which, so far as it goes is a detailed statement of the several items. If the Senate were to have a detailed statement of what the \$60,000 is to be appropriated for, you will not be much better off. That \$60,000 provides not only for furnishings but for everything in, and in connection with the hospital. It is to buy horses and carriages and other things for the stable; and then we have got to depend on that appropriation to run it at least three months, until the money be available for that purpose, no one can tell what it will cost to run that. No one can estimate anywhere near. But it is right here—this money has got to be appropriated. It won't cost a dollar more to appropriate it today than next month, next week or next year. It must be done. The Senator does not know the condition of this hospital. If my brother Senator had a wife there, a son or a daughter, and knew the condition of affairs existing there, he would not rise to object to the expenditure of this amount by the trustees of the hospital. I believe they are fairly honest people, including myself; and that they cannot accomplish what

is necessary for a less amount. I have been over this matter with all those intimately interested and believe that we have a very close estimate.

There is a great deal of furnishing to be done, the different departments to be supplied, and these things cost money, and it has been figured down closely by the superintendent of the hospital and has been gone over by the committee and the trustees, and cut down, and shaved down. We cannot tell what it will cost. We are not getting money that way for fun. It is business, and the condition across the river is terrible. Everybody knows it is terrible, the deaths two a week and a little over the past year—107 during the last year. Twenty-five per cent. of those deaths are owing to the condition of that hospital. I am trying to get that hospital arranged so as to relieve those poor people over there—the wards of the State that we ought to take care of properly. There is no giving an estimate, but there is need of money. If we have more money than we require for furnishing, that excess is not gone, or lost, it goes forward to help carry on the hospital for quite a while. There is no revenue for perhaps four or five months; but at the start we should be limited to that amount. We have already in the hospital a year's supply of coal. We have to pay for the engineer, the firemen and others at work there. A superintendent is under pay today, and it won't cost very much more so far as heating is concerned. But what we are trying to do is to relieve these poor people over there, for whom the State ought to expend money willingly.

Mr. STAPLES of Knox: Will the Senator from Kennebec allow me to ask a question? If the \$60,000 is appropriated today when would the Eastern Maine Hospital be ready for occupancy?

Mr. VICKERY of Kennebec: It ought not to take over six weeks. It should be equipped so that the committee can go over there early in March, and see the hospital, and see the patients there with good accommodations.

Mr. ADAMS of Penobscot: I hope the Senator from Lincoln will not insist upon his motion to lay this matter upon the table. The Senators present who are familiar with this subject, and I guess the most of them are, at any rate the older members are, realize the necessity of prompt action in this matter. I also realize the fact that there is no steal in it, that there is no salvage in it, there is no way for anybody to get a commission out of it. The whole thing is done under the eye and care of the Board of Trustees in whom the State have perfect confidence. We must have confidence in them. We have in times past and shall in times to come, because they have proved themselves worthy in the past, and we know they will in the future. Now, as I understand this matter, as the Senator from Kennebec has stated, this appropriation, it matters not whether much or little, except that it be enough to furnish the building and get the paraphernalia necessary to set them at work, is necessary. That should be done immediately, as soon as it is possible to get at work, then, whatever balance there is left is on hand to pay the running expenses, so far as it may go. I can see no occasion for delay in the matter. There certainly can be no mouse under this meal. It is a straight, square thing. We who have been here year after year and have become familiar with it, understand it all, and I hope the gentleman from Lincoln will not insist upon his motion.

Mr. McFADDEN of Lincoln: Mr. President, I recognize the honor of the Board of Trustees of the hospital. I do not question that; but the whole history of this poor world has shown, and shows upon every page that the only way of dealing with honest people and upright people is by the same rule as that with which you deal with rogues; and it does not imply any insinuation that they are dishonest, to apply that rule in dealing with them. If this board of trustees has made an estimate, they have figured it this way, so many beds at an estimated cost per bed, so many chairs, so many rugs, and so many of this, that and the other in the furnishing of these

wards or rooms. I do not know how else they could arrive at any estimate at all, unless they guess at it. Now an officer in this State, for instance, a collector of customs, who submits an estimate to the treasury department for furnishing and repairing his custom house is required to furnish a detailed statement before his call would be honored, or considered, and those things are generally small compared with a sixty thousand dollar demand. Then there is another phase of this matter. I understand this estimate is not only to furnish but to cover the first three months. I know that the bills in payment won't come in until the end of three months, then the patients who are there as beneficiaries of town or State support, their bills will be paid, \$2.50 a week, I believe it is from towns and \$1.50 is from the State for each patient that is not supported properly. Well, if that money is appropriated by the State, how is it, will the State be required at the end of the quarter to pay it again?

Mr. ADAMS of Penobscot: Do they usually do that, do they usually pay bills a second time? Make two appropriations for the same thing?

Mr. McFADDEN of Lincoln: The towns would not pay it; at the same time the State furnishes money to run it three months and then the towns, at the end of three months will be called upon to pay the bills of the several patients chargeable to the towns. I think my motion was a reasonable one. I do not want to dictate to the Senate. I am perfectly willing the voice of the Senate should be taken upon it.

The question being put upon the motion of Mr. McFadden of Lincoln, that the resolve, pending assignment for second reading, lie upon the table, was declared lost, and the original motion of Mr. Prince of Oxford that the resolve take its second reading at the present time and pass to be engrossed under suspension of the rules, prevailed, and the resolve was read a second time, and passed to be engrossed.

By Mr. Staples of Knox: There were three bills introduced yesterday—what are called resubmission bills. Two on the part of the House were referred to

the Committee on Temperance; and, on the part of the Senate a bill was referred to the Committee on Legal Affairs. I move, Mr. President, that the order of the Senate referring the bill to the Committee on Legal Affairs in the Senate be withdrawn and that the same be referred to the Committee on Temperance. The bill relates to resolve providing for repeal of the 5th amendment of the Constitution of this State, and on the part of the House was referred to the Committee on Temperance. I move to recede and concur. The motion to recede and concur was passed.

From the House: Ordered, the Senate concurring, that when the House adjourn it be to Tuesday, January 15th, at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

On motion by Mr. Burleigh of Aroostook the foregoing order was amended to read as follows:

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that when the Senate and the House adjourn it be to Tuesday, January 15th at 10.30 o'clock in the forenoon.

The President subsequently announced that the amendment had been concurred in by the House and

On motion by Mr. Wilson of Washington the Senate adjourned.