

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventieth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1901.

SENATE.

Augusta, January 29, 1901.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Miller of Hallowell.

Journal read and approved.

Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Virgin of Cumberland—Bill, An act in relation to domestic and foreign corporations within this State and to provide for a revenue therefrom which came from the House referred to the Committee on Taxation, was tabled to be printed, pending its reference to the committee.

The following communication was received from the State Treasurer:

Jan. 29, 1901.

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

Gentlemen:—Having been elected to the office of State Treasurer for the current fiscal years of 1901 and 1902, I have the honor to transmit herewith my official bond for the consideration and approval of the Legislature, in accordance with the constitution and laws of the State

(signed) ORAMANDAL SMITH.

The same was referred to the Committee on Financial Affairs.

Mr. STAPLES of Knox—Mr. President: I notice that a bill, similar to the one which I hold was introduced into the House; and I beg you will indulge me for a few moments while I explain the purport of the bill. We have heard a great deal said about taxation, and about raising revenue for the benefit of the distressed condition of our State Treasury; but I apprehend that no taxation that is not equal is just taxation. I believe that every bit of property wherever situated, of all kinds, should be taxed equally.

We have in the saving banks and trust companies of this State \$73,000,000 of money that is idle capital. I apprehend that the savings banks of the

State perhaps are paying as much tax as they can afford to pay, but I can see no reason why the depositors in the trust companies who now pay no tax, and the depositors in our savings banks who pay only $\frac{3}{4}$ of one per cent. should not be taxed the same as other property is taxed. If we tax the railroads and raise the sum of \$100,000, it does not relieve the rural towns. It is the rural towns that are suffering from excessive taxation. They need more revenue to carry on their business, to build roads and to pay pauper bills and build their bridges. They want more property to be valued. It is true that the monied men of our towns have taken the advantage of a deposit of their money in the savings banks on account of there being no taxation upon it; and it has drained our country towns of all the surplus money. You cannot go into these towns today and borrow money from the fact that as soon as a farmer gets \$200 or \$300, he carries it to the savings bank and there deposits it. There is another hardship. I would have that money withdrawn if possible from the savings banks.

We have heard a great deal about prosperity. There can be no prosperity in our rural towns until that money, the \$73,000,000, or a large portion of it, or some portion of it is drawn from the banks and put into business that will keep our young men and young women at home. Today they have to go away to get employment because the monied men of the State in my town and your town have taken advantage of the savings bank and put their money in there when they ought to be obliged to draw it out, if we can make them, and put it into business that will give employment and enterprises throughout our country towns and keep our young men at home; and I introduce this bill, An act to tax deposits in savings banks and trust companies, and move its reference to the Committee on Taxation.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset—If there is no objection, I move that the bill lie on the table to be printed pending its reference.

Mr. STAPLES—I have no objection. The motion of the Senator from Somerset prevailed and the bill was laid on the table to be printed pending its reference to a committee.

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

JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Staples of Knox—Bill, An act to amend section 23 of chapter 137 relating to disclosure of poor debtors.

By Mr. Rankin of York—Bill, An act to incorporate the Riverside Cemetery Association.

By Mr. Byrant of Somerset—Bill, An act to establish a municipal court in the town of Pittsfield.

By Mr. MacFarlane of Piscataquis—Bill, An act to incorporate the Greenville Water Company.

By Mr. Noble of Franklin—Remonstrance of E. W. Dutton and 25 other citizens of Franklin county against extending the jurisdiction of the Rumford Falls Municipal Court over any part of Franklin county.

LEGAL AFFAIRS.

By Mr. Staples of Knox—Bill, An act to amend section 16 of chapter 12 of the Revised Statutes relating to parishes and religious societies.

Also bill, An act to amend section 23 of chapter 137 relating to disclosure of poor debtors.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset—Mr. President, I will say that the Judiciary Committee has now pending before it matters relating to disclosure commissioners, that came over from the last Legislature. I can only speak for myself as a member of that committee. I am sure I do not care anything about the subject; but if any reference is to be made and new matter is to come in touching the same subject, let one committee handle the whole of it.

Mr. STAPLES of Knox—I have no objection. The matter was sent me by a member of the Knox county bar who asked me to refer it to the Committee on Legal Affairs. I do not know as I would have any objection to the matter going before the Committee on Judiciary. I will move to reconsider the motion to have the matter go before the Committee on Legal

Affairs, and move its reference to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The motion to reconsider prevailed and on the farther motion of the Senator from Knox bill, An act to amend section 23 of chapter 137 relating to disclosure of poor debtors was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. Burns of Cumberland—Bill, An act relating to the Madison Power Company.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

By Mr. Morrison of York—Petition in favor of Girls' Home at Belfast by John M. Burleigh and 31 others of South Berwick.

AGRICULTURE.

By Mr. Noble of Franklin—Petition of James Morrison and 24 others, citizens of Franklin county, for bounty on bears, together with statement of facts.

Also petition of G. L. Kempton and 49 others for same.

Also petition of D. M. Smith and 9 others for same.

INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME.

By Mr. Virgin of Cumberland—Petition of Harry A. Fletcher and 119 others, citizens of Portland, for close time on black duck, teal, wood duck, mallards and gray duck, from Dec. 1 to Sept. 1.

Also petition of A. W. Mitchell and 46 others, citizens of Freeport, for same.

Also petition of L. D. Snow and 76 others for same.

Also petition of Joseph M. Martin for amendment of law so as to permit the shooting of woodcock after September 1st.

Also remonstrance of L. R. Smith and 149 others against the prevention of shooting of geese, coot, mergansers, whistlers and old squaws at any time.

By Mr. Stearns of Oxford—Bill, An act to prevent fishing through the ice in Thompson's Pond in Oxford county.

Also petition of George Hazen and 6 others of Oxford for law to prevent fishing through the ice in Thompson's Pond, Oxford county.

LIBRARY.

By Mr. Weeks of Somerset—Resolve in favor of permanent employment of cataloguer for the Maine State Library, and such other assistance as may be necessary.

TAXATION.

By Mr. Noble of Franklin—Petition of C. M. French and 150 others, citizens of Phillips, for equalization of taxation.

Also petition of B. C. Powers and 55 others, citizens of Madrid and Franklin, for equalization of taxation.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: I wish to ask for suspension of the rules, and that House bill, an act which provides for a special election for a representative to the present Legislature in the city of Waterville may have its several hearings and pass to be engrossed.

I understand that this bill meets with the approval of all parties who are interested in this election and all who are liable to be. This bill passed the House of Representatives this morning under suspension of the rules, without reference to any committee; and I now ask that the rules be suspended and that this bill receive two several readings in the Senate without reference to any committee and be passed to be engrossed.

The bill, thereupon took its two several readings under suspension of the rules and was passed to be engrossed.

ORDERS.

By Mr. Vickery of Kennebec—Ordered, the House concurring, that a committee of three on the part of the Senate with such as the House may join, be appointed to take into consideration the subject of apportioning the State into districts for the choice of members of Congress, and report by bill or otherwise.

By Mr. Hodsdon of Cumberland—Ordered, the House concurring, that the State treasurer furnish to the Senate and House of Representatives as soon as possible a full list containing the names of all owners of wild lands in this State, the approximate number of acres owned by each and the amount of taxes assessed thereon; also the amount of taxes paid by owners for the last year.

READ AND ASSIGNED.

Bill, An act to amend an act entitled an act to provide for printing and distributing ballots at the public expense, and to regulate voting for State and city elections.

Bill, an act to amend and extend the charter of the Agamenticus Water Co.
Resolve in favor of the town of Bethel.

Bill, an act to amend Section 10½ of Chapter 11 of the Revised Statutes of Maine, defining the duties of State superintendents of schools.

An act to authorize the Bangor & Aroostook Railroad Co. to purchase the Bangor & Katahdin Iron Works Railroad.

An act relating to the Compressed Air Co. of Massachusetts.

An act to amend the charter of the Strong Water Co.

PASSED TO BE ENACTED.

An act to amend the charter of the Livermore Falls Light and Power Co.

An act to revive the organization of the trustees of the Parsonage Fund of Bucksport.

An act to authorize a special election to be held in the city of Waterville.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

On motion of Mr. Staples of Knox, bill, an act to prevent the shooting of human beings by persons in pursuit of game and game birds, was taken from the table and referred to the committee on judiciary.

On motion by Mr. Whitehouse of Sagadahoc, the Senate adjourned.