

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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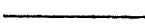
LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventieth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.



1901.

SENATE.

Augusta, February 14, 1901.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Quimby of Gardiner.

Journal read and approved.

Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

Petition of F. E. Mitchell and others that said Mitchell and his estates be set off from the town of Litchfield and annexed to the town of Wales. This petition came from the House referred to the committee on counties.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: Mr. President, I presume there are members of the committee on towns present; and I would like to know why that subject has been referred to the committee on counties.

Mr. MORRISON of York: Mr. President, I would say that the hearing on the matter shows that it changes the county lines to a large extent, and we thought it ought to be referred to the committee on counties, on that ground.

Mr. WEEKS: I have no objection, Mr. President, acting as a member of the committee on counties, to this matter going to that committee; but I think it has always been the custom in the past, wherever a change of town lines is involved, to have the matter settled by the committee on towns, even though, incidentally, it carries with it a change in the line of counties. I have no objection to the reception of the report this morning.

Mr. MORRISON: This is a matter that involves only one man, and the committee can very easily settle it.

House report on the foregoing accepted in concurrence.

READ AND ASSIGNED.

An act to ratify the purchase by 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.

Resolve in favor of the Bangor Children's Home.

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

An act to authorize the Androscoggin Railroad Company to convey its interest in the Androscoggin Railroad to the Maine Central Railroad Company.

An act to extend the charter of the Ellsworth Street Railway Company.

An act to authorize the Skowhegan and Norridgewock Railway and Power Company to extend its line to and into the town of Smithfield.

An act to extend the rights, powers and privileges of the Eastport Street Railway Company.

An act to merge the Knox and Lincoln Railway in the Maine Central Railroad Company.

An act to incorporate the Lincoln Electric Railway Company.

An act granting Alexis Momeault the right to erect and maintain piers and booms on the St. John river in the town of Grand Isle.

Resolve in aid of navigation on Sebec lake.

On motion by Mr. Adams of Penobscot the foregoing resolve was laid on the table.

An act to prohibit the sale of trout in Hancock county.

An act relating to fishing for togue through the ice.

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

Resolve for an appropriation for the use of the commissioner 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 making appropriations for the Penobscot tribe of Indians.

Resolve making appropriations for the Passamaquoddy tribe of Indians.

Bill, an act to amend chapter 208 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.

This bill came from the House reported by the Bangor delegation ought to pass.

Mr. PLUMMER of Penobscot: This matter comes from the Penobscot delegation. That delegation did not, as I understand it, advertise for any hearing of parties in interest upon this matter or the citizens of the county, before the matter was considered in the delegation meeting. No outside parties appeared before the delegation to express their wishes in regard to the matter; and it has come to my knowledge that citizens of the county desire to examine the bill, and propose making their wishes known in the shape of a remonstrance, or in some other way for the information of the Senate in regard to this measure. It is a measure which requires the county of Penobscot to borrow \$12,000 for the purpose of assisting the cities of Bangor and Brewer in making free the bridge which now connects those two cities and has for a great many years; hence, you will see it is a matter of importance to the citizens of Penobscot county and a matter upon which they have a right in one way or another to be heard. I have here a remonstrance from the single town in which any effort has been made to secure a remonstrance, signed by Hon. John Morrison and 52 others, citizens of Corinth, against the passage of the measure. I have a telegram here, which I will read, addressed to myself: "Please table the Bangor bridge bill for one week, and mail me copy of the act, (Signed) John A. Peters," the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State. For these reasons, I move that the bill be tabled until Friday of next week.

The motion prevailed, and the bill was tabled until Friday of next week.

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.

This bill came from the House accompanied by two reports, a majority of the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses reporting thereon, ought not to pass, and a minority of said committee reporting thereon ought to pass, the minority report accepted in the House.

Mr. WHITE of Androscoggin—Mr. President, I rise, at this time, to make a motion that this matter be tabled with the idea that an assignment be made for some consideration of this matter, later on. I assume that a motion of this kind would prevail ordinarily as a matter of course and that a matter of this nature would be tabled and an assignment made when the matter can be discussed more fully, perhaps more satisfactorily under an open assignment of it for a day certain. There is, however, in this matter such an air of expectancy about this chamber, and it has been a matter which, in one form and another has attracted the attention of the public to some extent. It has been a matter which has attracted more or less attention throughout the State and has been a subject of discussion in the House. Certainly the parties on the one side and the other of this question seem to be very greatly interested in it. They seem to have a very deep interest in it. It perhaps may be said that this question has already been discussed and considered and weighed sufficiently so that it should go along rapidly and be disposed of and got out of the way. I wish to say, Mr. President and Senators—and I think, in the time which I have been a member of this Senate that I have not consumed much of your time in speaking, and it is not my purpose to do so now—I do feel, however, that this is a subject of very considerable importance. I feel that this is a measure that ought not to be hastily decided. I do feel that it is a measure in which no harm could come to either of the contending parties before this Legislature, if there is a very full, fair and deliberate discussion of the pending measure. And, Mr. President and Senators, I do think that it is a question where the State, where the people of the State cannot be robbed of any rights if the subject is thoroughly discussed, fully considered, carefully weighed and then deliberately determined. Perhaps these remarks are unnecessary; but, from the excitement which has attended this question in one form and another, I had deemed it proper,

in making this motion at this time that the matter should be tabled and that it should be assigned, and I express to the Senators the feeling which I have upon the subject; and I wish to say that it is with no purpose, and no desire, on my part, to ask a delay to hinder or impede the legislation upon this subject, or upon any other. I desire only that it shall be fully, frankly, freely and openly considered and discussed; and I desire that it should be deliberately determined and with such diligence as the importance of the subject demands. I therefore move, Mr. President, that this matter be tabled and assigned for next Wednesday. I am not insistent upon the day, but I should like to have it for some day nearly to the middle of next week, at a time when there will be a full representation of the subject.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset—Mr. President, I am aware that this motion to table, and assign to a special day, or that part of the motion relating to tabling this matter is not debatable. However, the Senator from Androscoggin has been permitted to make a statement, accompanying his motion to table, and therefore I ask the unanimous consent of the Senate to make a short statement in favor of the position taken by the friends of the Eastern Telephone Company in this Senate. It is not designed by the friends of the minority bill to shut out debate. It is not the purpose of those who favor this bill to hinder discussion; but it is the purpose to press this matter forward, under all the circumstances, to vote, as soon as possible. This matter is not new to any of us. It comes to us through various sources. We had notification through the public press that an amendment to the charter of the Eastern Telephone Company would be asked for during the present session of the Legislature, long before the present session began. We have known through this entire session that this matter was pending before the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expressos. I have heard it intimated, although I have not run up against it so very much that there were three or

four gentlemen who were here in the lobby, representing the interests upon the one side and the other and that they had received the attention of members of the Legislature and members of the House and members of the Senate.

I think we are all filled with information upon this matter. I think we have all made up our minds how to vote. I think that any speech-making would not, probably, influence one vote in this Senate; but that is not any excuse, perhaps, in undertaking to shut off debate. We are not undertaking to cut off debate. We welcome the freest and most open debate on this matter. All that we want is that the business of this Senate shall be done in a proper and orderly manner, and as expeditiously as possible. Now, we think we can take this matter up this morning and that parties may discuss it, if they see fit, and that we can dispose of it this morning. We certainly have as full a Senate as we shall have, in my opinion, next week. I understand that arrangements have been made where four of the senators are paired, so, in that case that covers four of the absent senators. If there is any absent senator who is in favor of the majority report of the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expressos who is not paired, I myself will pair with him. Now, it seems to me we might as well take this matter up, because it has been before the public and this Legislature a long time, and might as well be disposed of this morning, as to wait until next Wednesday. I, therefore, Mr. President, when the time comes, will move to concur with the House in the acceptance of the minority report, and for the present, I hope the motion to table will not prevail.

Mr. VIRGIN of Cumberland: Mr. President, I understand that debate on the motion to lay on the table is strictly out of order; but by unanimous consent, I hope I may be able to say one or two words. As I understand history of the Senate of the State of Maine, it has been considered a deliberative body, a dignified body, one that was not moved by prejudice or emotion; and that when matters of im-

portance came up for discussion, that effected the welfare of any of the citizens of the State, it was customary and proper when the matter reached the Senate, to assign a day for its consideration; and I see no reason for any departure from that rule, or any haste in this matter. Judging by the appearance of this chamber, this morning, there is great interest in the matter now before the Senate, and that is only proof, to my mind, that the Senate should not hurry this matter. It should take all of the time necessary for deliberation, that those senators who desire to speak on the matter may have ample time to discuss it and look up such authorities and to hear such testimony and to make such preparation as they may desire to present their views to this body. I do not know how they would vote if they were present. I have not asked them; but I do desire that when this matter is to be decided that all senators possible may be present and vote as their conscience may dictate; and I have no doubt they will vote in that way. For that reason I ask the senators not to hurry this matter, but in an orderly and deliberate way to assign a day for its consideration in the ordinary and usual way. That was what the House did, and while we are not bound by the rules of the House or the action of the House, whatever it does in its own branch, still, I think it is proper for us to assign a day and then take the matter up and discuss it and vote on it as we see fit. I hope the motion to lie on the table until next Wednesday will prevail.

The PRESIDENT: The question stands upon the motion of the senator from Androscoggin that this matter lie on the table and be especially assigned for next Wednesday.

Mr. PLUMMER of Penobscot: I would ask the President to state the question so that senators may know just what they are voting, and what the voting means.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair has stated that the pending question is upon the motion of the senator from Androscoggin, that this entire matter be

tabled and assigned for next Wednesday.

Mr. Plummer: And to vote yea, is to vote in favor of the New England Company and to vote nay, is to vote in favor of the Eastern Telephone Company.

Mr. WHITE of Androscoggin: I have heard it stated here that the mind of every man was made up; and if a delay of that kind is likely to influence the vote of senators—if it be true that time to deliberate is likely to change senators' minds, it seems to me a most powerful argument for some delay in the matter.

The question being put, a division was called for on motion of Mr. Weeks of Somerset, resulting in 10 votes in favor of the passage of the motion, and 14 against its passage, so the motion was declared lost.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: I now move to concur with the House in the acceptance of the minority report.

The PRESIDENT: By way of explanation, the Chair will say that those who vote aye, will vote in favor of the Eastern Telephone Co. Those who vote no, will vote against it.

The question being put, the Chair declared itself in doubt, and called for a rising vote.

Mr. PLUMMER of Penobscot: Inasmuch as several senators will pair upon this question, and would like to be recorded, I call for the yeas and nays.

A yea and nay vote was then taken with the following result:

Those voting yea were Messrs. Adams, Alden, Bryant, Buck, Burns, Dudley, Fernald, McFadden, Morrison, Peirce, Plummer, Staples of Knox, Vickery and Weeks—14.

Those voting no were Messrs. Noble, Prince, Rankin, Staples of Cumberland, Stearns, Virgin, White and Whitehouse—8.

The following pairs were announced: Burleigh, yea, Jones, No; Libby, yea, Titcomb, no; Wilson, yea, Murchie, no. Absent, Messrs. Hodsdon and McFarlane.

An the motion to concur with the House in the acceptance of the report was declared to have prevailed.

Mr. VIRGIN of Cumberland: I desire to offer an amendment; and if the Senate will bear with me for a few moments I will have it prepared.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: I would like to inquire what the object of the bill is—House Document No. 111.

Mr. VIRGIN—I listened to the debate in the House yesterday with a great deal of interest, as I wanted to be thoroughly informed on the pros and cons of this matter. During the debate reference was made to the charter under which the National Bell Telephone Co. or the New England Telegraph and Telephone Co. acts. It was stated that in that charter there was a section that prevented that company from interfering or prohibiting any other company from operating in the State. It was also suggested in debate that if this bill passed the Legislature in its present form, instead of having one monopoly we should have two. Now I do not anticipate any objection to this amendment that I am about to offer. I do not anticipate that the Eastern Telephone Co. would prohibit or prevent any other corporation doing a telephone business from operating in the territory in which it operates and will hereafter operate. I think, in justice to all the telephone companies that have been chartered, that it should be restricted by the same provision that restricts the other telephone companies, and principally the New England Telegraph and Telephone Co. In that charter it was provided that nothing in this act shall authorize the National Bell Telephone Co. to interfere with any existing rights, or any license or prevent any other parties from building, maintaining and operating lines of telephones in any part of this State, except so far as controlled by patent right; and I move a similar amendment to this charter, in those words to amend House bill No. 111, by adding thereto the following section which is of the same import as I have read.

Now I understand that not only the Eastern Telephone Co. but the Dirigo and other telephone companies are desirous of doing business throughout the State in the cities and towns. If that is so, with the law as it stands today,

it may be necessary to prevent the very difficulties that were brought forth in argument in the House yesterday—that before any other telephone company can do business where a telephone company is now doing business and has a charter, it must either come to the Legislature or get a special permit from the telephone company doing business in any particular place at the present time. Now there are several companies that have come to this Legislature at this session, asking for charters to do business at various places. There will undoubtedly be some organized under the general law, if this bill goes through today, and it appears that it is the policy of this State to grant indiscriminately rights to telephone parties to locate their lines anywhere in the State. So, I say, there seems to be some need to prevent any telephone company with such a liberal charter as the one before this body from preventing any other corporation from doing a telephone business in the territory now occupied by it; and that is the reason why I present this amendment; and I hope it may have a passage.

Mr. PLUMMER of Penobscot: The Legislature of 1899 passed what is known as a consenting clause with reference to telephone and telegraph companies. That clause requires any person, firm or corporation desiring to operate a telephone or telegraph company in any town not only to obtain the consent of the municipal officers of that town, which is all right, and also to obtain the consent of any other company that by charter granted by the legislature, or by an organization under the general law has authority, whether it is used actually or not—has authority to operate a telegraph or telephone in that town. Now I do not believe in that provision. With regard to a similar proposition the Governor of this State in 1897, in his annual message, called the special attention of the Legislature of this State to the fact that a law of similar import relating to other corporations was in existence, and recommended that it be repealed. The judges of our supreme court have called my attention to the fact that that legislation is upon the

statute books of our State, and have denounced it in the roundest terms which they could command, and have said it was a disgrace to our State to have such legislation remain upon the statute books of the State. That is in accordance with my view, and as gentlemen of the Senate may not be aware, a bill is now in the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses, presented by a gentleman in the House, and referred by that body to them, to repeal that section of the law relating to telegraphs and telephones. I have been watching that. I know something about its inception. I have been surprised that it has not before this been reported from that committee; but I believe that in due course of time it will be so reported, and then that bill will strike at the root of this whole matter and would make this amendment of my friend from Cumberland entirely unnecessary. Consequently, I hope this matter will be deferred until that bill has been reported and the Senate and the Legislature have the whole matter, and have opportunity to pass upon the main question disassociated from any other question.

Mr. VIRGIN of Cumberland: Mr. President, I wish to join heartily in the remarks of the senator last on his feet relative to that law mentioned by him, passed some years ago. I look on it as vicious legislation. I believe it should be repealed, and from what conversation I have had with members of the court and members of the bar, and from gentlemen connected with the corporations, I know that there is a desire on the part of the members of a large number of the corporations that that law should be repealed wholly and totally. Why the bill has not been reported, I do not know; but that does not affect the status of this amendment at the present time. The very fact that that bill has been held up in the committee and not reported indicates to my mind that it may never see the light in the Senate. If it does not, that amendment should be passed unless you are going to show partiality to the Eastern Telephone Co. which you do not show to others.

I say, put them all on the same basis and do not show partiality. That is the

reason I offer this amendment. If this amendment is turned down at the present time and this law goes through and is enacted, it may be said that it can be introduced at a later day. If the other bill does not go through and is not reported, it may be so late in the session that it will not be reported in season to amend this charter, as I have asked it to be amended at the present time. I have no hostility to the Eastern Telephone Co.; but I so desire in fairness and justice to treat all telephone companies equally.

Mr. PLUMMER of Penobscot: I would like to ask the senator from Cumberland if there is anything in the charter of the New England Telephone Co. that relieves it; and if this amendment were passed, so far as the Eastern Telephone Co. is concerned if it would not still be requisite to obtain the consent of the New England Co. in case it occupied any field and a new company desired to go in there. Would it not be better to have the thing settled by the passage of a general law, repealing the section, and that would leave not only the New England and the Eastern, but all the companies in the same position.

Mr. VIRGIN: In answer to the gentleman from Penobscot, I would say that it would be well for this bill he mentioned to be passed. In my opinion, the very indefiniteness of the matter and the doubt whether it will be passed is a matter that troubles me. So far as his question goes as to the consent of the New England Telephone Co., I understand the New England Telegraph and Telephone Co. succeeds to the rights of the National Bell Telephone Co., from whose charter I have read a section now before the Senate. When they succeeded to their rights they also succeeded to their duties and were bound by the charter under which the National Bell Telephone Co. of Maine acted. I may be wrong in the matter, but that is my understanding of it. I have not had time to follow through the Legislature the granting of charters and various amendments, but that is what I have discovered in the short time I was looking into the matter this morning.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: Mr. President, I understand from statements made in this Senate primarily by the senator from Penobscot, my friend, Mr. Plummer, that there has been a bill introduced into this Legislature to repeal the law of 1895, as he calls it—am I right?

Mr. PLUMMER: The law of 1889 in regard to telegraphs and expresses, 1895 with regard to telephones, etc.

Mr. WEEKS: And that that bill has been referred to the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses. Now, the senator from Cumberland, my friend, Mr. Virgin, rises and says there is no probability that it will ever see the light of day again. I understand by that, he means to say that the bill will be buried in all probability in the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses, and will not be reported back to the Senate or to the House. Now, then, the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses is a committee authorized by this Legislature, empowered by this Legislature, to take charge of the matter properly referred to it. Now, is that committee above this Legislature? I will join hands with the senator from Cumberland, or with any other senator in this body, and ask that the committee report back its findings; and if not, I will join hands with the senator from Cumberland, my friend, Mr. Virgin, and under an order of the Senate and House, give proper time for that committee to consider the question of repealing the law of 1895, and report it back to this Legislature. We are ready to handle this subject in a general way, and we do not want the Eastern Telephone Co. specially signed out this morning by the senator from Cumberland, and especially signalled out by an action of this character. I believe the amendment should be defeated and then the whole question comes up in this Senate, as it may by report from the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses, then we might consider it, and we will consider it fully, and vote upon it.

Mr. WHITE of Androscoggin: Mr. President, I would like to ask the senator from Cumberland a question in

order that I may be certain of his position. Do I understand that the amendment you offer imposes upon the Eastern Telephone Co. any duties or obligations that are not imposed by law upon the New England Telephone Company?

Mr. VIRGIN of Cumberland: The purport of the amendment was that the Eastern Telephone Co. should be put on the same footing with the New England Telegraph and Telephone Co.—that it should not interfere with other persons or corporations desiring to erect telephone lines and maintain them in the territory now occupied by the Eastern. That is the sole purpose. I have no ulterior design of any kind, but simply to put both corporations on the same footing, as I understand they are.

Mr. WHITE: Then, Mr. President, if this amendment is adopted, instead of the corporations being put upon the same footing, the Eastern Telephone Co. is given rights and privileges greater than those possessed by any other telephone company in the State.

Mr. VIRGIN: That is what I am trying to prevent, Mr. President.

Mr. PLUMMER of Penobscot: Mr. President, I do not want to have this question befogged by any hair-splitting on the part of attorneys or lawyers, rather, who happen to be members of this body, as to the construction of charters, and as to the present Bell Telephone Co., and how far this charter covers, controls and restricts the New England Telephone Co. That is a question for the court, one I am not prepared to go into; but, as a matter of fact, does any senator undertake to deny that in those towns and localities where the New England Telephone Co. has its service today, any corporation can go in there and set up poles and establish a telephone service without the consent of the New England Telephone Co.? If that is so, this amendment would only put the Eastern on a par with the New England Co. If it is not so, leaves the New England with an advantage over the Eastern in that matter.

Mr. VIRGIN: Mr. President, I do not wish to take up the time of the Senate unnecessarily, nor to weary them

or you by any extended discussion of this matter. I want to say, though, in connection with this amendment, that no one but myself knew anything of this amendment, or that I should offer it, or that I had discovered the necessity for it until I rose on my feet in this chamber. I did not discover it myself until I went into the Law library just before the session convened to look up the history of the telephone legislation of this State. Now I think there is force in what the senator from Androscoggin has stated, that if this amendment is turned down, the Legislature in adopting the charter as it is now presented of the Eastern Telephone Co., may and probably will grant to that company greater powers than any other telephone corporation has in the State of Maine. I am told that the Eastern Telephone Co. bought the Franklin Telephone Co., which operates in Franklin county. I am also told that the New England Telephone Co. desire to operate in Franklin county where the Eastern Telephone Co. now operates, but that owing to the position of the Eastern Telephone Co., the New England Telephone Co. can only open and only has one pay station in Franklin county. Now I may be misinformed. That is information that comes to me. I say, if that is a fact, I do not know why the Eastern Telephone Co. should be granted any greater rights under this bill than any other telephone company has, whether it is the New England or the Maine, or the Dirigo or any other; and, for that reason, I move to amend the bill by the amendment now in possession of the Senate.

Mr. PLUMMER of Penobscot: Mr. President, inasmuch as this amendment introduces a new matter upon which members of the Senate have not had opportunity to think, or investigate, inasmuch as my friend, the senator from Cumberland, himself, says it originated with him since he came into this chamber—

Mr. VIRGIN: That is the fact.

Mr. PLUMMER: It seems to me that it might be well to have more time to consider the question of the amendment, and see how it would leave these two companies under their charter.

For one, I am disposed to treat them exactly alike. I am disposed not to have a hand in giving to one more powers than the other may have; but I do not want to cripple or restrict or limit the one, and leave the other with all its extended powers. I do not believe either of them should have those powers; but if one has them, in equity and justice, both should have them. Now, on my own responsibility, alone—not representing anybody nor any interest, as I am not at all in this matter, I move that the amendment presented by the senator from Cumberland lie on the table and be printed for the information of the Senate.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: I understand that that does not carry the minority bill?

The PRESIDENT: If the motion lies on the table, I understand that the bill also lies on the table.

Mr. VIRGIN: I so understand it, Mr. President.

The question being put on the motion of Mr. Plummer to lay the amendment on the table, a division was called for, and the motion to lay the amendment on the table was lost by a vote of 11 in favor of the motion to 12 opposed.

The question being put on the adoption of the amendment submitted on motion of the senator from Cumberland, the motion was declared lost.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: I move that the rules be suspended and that the bill take its second reading at the present time and pass to be engrossed.

The question being put, a division was called for by Mr. Virgin of Cumberland, resulting in a vote of 16 in favor thereof and six opposed.

The bill having had its first reading took its second reading under suspension of the rules and was passed to be engrossed.

Bill, entitled an act to amend Section 42 of Chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes as amended by Chapter 166 of the Public Laws of 1893, relating to taxation of steam railroads, came from the House, accompanied by report of the committee on taxation, ought to pass.

On motion of Mr. McFadden of Lincoln, the bill was laid on the table until tomorrow.

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

INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME.

By Mr. Vickery of Kennebec—Remonstrance of S. D. Edwards and 55 others, of the town of Oxford, against closing any part of Thompson's pond from perch fishing.

TAXATION.

By Mr. Staples of Knox—Petition of Fred A. Leighton and 16 others of Union, relating to taxation of railroads upon their value.

READ AND ASSIGNED.

Resolve in favor of Maine school for the deaf.

Resolve in favor of the Central Maine General Hospital.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. Weeks, for the committee on judiciary, on report of attorney general for the years 1897 and 1898, reported same back without action thereon, and with the recommendation that it be referred to the committee on legal affairs as the matters therein referred to are already under consideration by that committee.

Mr. Titcomb, for the committee on manufactures, on report of topographical commission of the State of Maine, reported that same be referred to the committee on financial affairs.

Mr. McFadden, for the committee on pensions, on resolve in favor of Nellie Flanders, reported same in new draft; and the same was laid on the table to be printed under the joint rules.

Mr. McFadden, for the committee on pensions, on resolve in favor of Benjamin Smith, reported same in new draft under title of resolve in favor of Benjamin Smith, and that same ought to pass. Tabled for printing under the joint rules.

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Resolve entitled resolve in favor of Maine General Hospital.

An act to amend Section 21 of Chapter 122 of the Revised Statutes, relating to falsely assuming to be a justice or officer.

An act to extend the charter of the Bluehill and Bucksport Railroad Co.

An act to authorize the Augusta, Hallowell and Gardiner Railroad Co.

to sell or lease its property and franchises.

Resolve entitled resolve to complete the improvements of Songo and Chute rivers.

Resolve providing for epidemic and emergency fund.

Resolve in favor of Maine Home for Friendless Boys.

PASSED TO BE ENACTED.

An act to amend Chapter 30 of the Revised Statutes as amended by Chapter 42 of the Public Laws of 1899, pertaining to inland fisheries and game.

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

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

An act authorizing the Portland Railroad Co. to make certain exchanges of its street railroad system.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

On motion of Mr. Wilson of Washington, an act in relation to the appointment of special fish wardens, was taken from the table and referred to the committee on sea and shore fisheries.

On motion of Mr. Staples of Knox, Remonstrance from full boards of the selectmen and 44 citizens in the towns of Warren, Hope and Union, against granting a charter to the town of Camden for water works, assigned for today, was taken from the table and referred to the committee on judiciary in concurrence.

On motion of Mr. Plummer of Penobscot, the Senate adjourned.