

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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



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

8102  
Personal



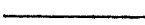
# LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

# Seventieth Legislature

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE.



1901.

**SENATE.**

Augusta, February 28th, 1901.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Plummer of Hallowell.

Journal read and approved.

Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

At this point, the President called Mr. Whitehouse of Sagadahoc to preside.

The following bills petitions, etc., were presented and referred. (Private legislation received under suspension of the order).

**EDUCATION.**

By Mr. Bryant of Somerset—Petition of E. D. Pratt and 20 others of Newport, in favor of bill relating to superintendent of school.

**INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME.**

By Mr. Staples of Knox—Resolve in favor of adding specimens to the State Museum.

**TAXATION.**

By Mr. Fernald of Androscoggin—Petition of E. R. Thurston and 59 others for equalization of taxation.

**READ AND ASSIGNED.**

An act to provide for voting by machines. House amendment A. to this bill was adopted in concurrence.

Resolve in favor of Nancy Mayberry of Gray. House amendment to this bill adopted in concurrence.

An act to fix the salary of the judge of probate for Kennebec county.

An act to close the tributaries of Upper and Lower Stone ponds in the town of Stoneham.

An act to repeal the organization of Perkins' plantation in Franklin county.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.**

Mr. Whitehouse for the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses, on Bill, an act to extend and amend the charter of the Castine Railway and Navigation Company, reported same ought not to pass.

Also, on Bill, an act to amend chapter 186 of the Public Laws of the year

1897, relating to railroads, reported same ought to pass. Bill tabled for printing under the joint rules.

Mr. Weeks, for the committee on judiciary, on Bill, an act to establish a municipal court in the town of Pittsfield, reported same ought to pass. Bill tabled for printing, under the joint rules.

Also, on Bill, an act relating to and amendatory of chapter 254 of the Special Laws of 1891, entitled An act to incorporate the Mousam Water Company, reported same in new draft, and that it ought to pass. Bill tabled for printing under the joint rules.

Mr. White for the committee on the judiciary, on Bill, an act to establish municipal court in the town of Fairfield, reported same ought to pass. Bill tabled for printing under the joint rules.

Also, on Bill, an act to authorize the Great Northern Paper Company to increase its capital stock, reported that same ought to pass. Bill tabled for printing under the joint rules.

Mr. White, for the Androscoggin county delegation, on Bill, an act in relation to the probate court of Androscoggin county, reported the same in a new draft under same title, and that it ought to pass. Tabled for printing under the joint rules.

**ORDERS.**

On motion by Mr. McFarlane of Piscataquis—Ordered, that a message be sent to the Governor, requesting return to the Senate of resolve in aid of navigation on Sebec Lake.

On motion by Mr. Burns of Cumberland—That the Governor be requested to return to the Senate, House Document 174, resolve in favor of Allegash Road; also House Document 176, resolve in favor of repairing the road between Patten and Grand Lake; also House Document 178, resolve in favor of roads in Perkins Plantation.

On motion by Mr. Bryant of Somerset—Ordered, that a message be sent to the governor, requesting a return to the Senate of House Document 152, resolve in favor of bridge over the St. Croix river in the town of Masardis.

The president subsequently announced the return of the above House and Senate documents, and,—

On motion by Mr. Burns of Cumberland the vote was reconsidered whereby House Documents, Nos. 174, 176 and 178, above enumerated were passed to be engrossed; and, on the further motion of that senator, the same were laid upon the table.

On motion by Mr. McFarlane of Piscataquis, the vote whereby resolve in aid of navigation on Sebec Lake was passed to be engrossed was reconsidered, and on the further motion of that senator, the same was laid on the table.

On motion by Mr. Bryant of Somerset, the vote whereby resolve in favor of bridge over the Saint Croix river in the town of Masardis was passed to be engrossed, was reconsidered; and on the further motion of that senator, the same was laid on the table.

On motion by Mr. Virgin of Cumberland, it was ordered, that a committee of five be appointed to arrange for suitable memorial exercises to be held in the Senate chamber on Wednesday, the sixth day of March, in order that senators may pay their tributes of respect to the memory of the late Joseph Y. Hodsdon.

The chair appointed as such committee, Messrs. Virgin of Cumberland, Fernald of Androscoggin, Noble of Franklin, Plummer of Penobscot and Staples of Knox.

On motion by Mr. Adams of Penobscot, the vote whereby the report of the committee, ought not to pass, on bill an act to extend and amend the charter of the Castine Railway and Navigation Company, was accepted; and, on the further motion of that senator, the bill was tabled, pending the acceptance of the report.

#### **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.**

An act to authorize the Maine and New Hampshire Granite Company to maintain a tramway across a county road in the town of Jay.

An act amendatory to section 20 of chapter 242 of the Special Laws of 1895 entitled, An act to incorporate the city of South Portland.

An act additional to chapter 91 of the Revised Statutes relating to liens on wharves and piers.

An act to extend the charter of the Bluehill Water Company.

An act to authorize the town of York to supply light for public uses.

An act to amend section 2 of chapter 406 of the Private and Special Laws of 1850, entitled An act creating the Norway Village Corporation.

An act to amend an act to incorporate Madison Village Corporation.

An act to incorporate the Pownal and Yarmouth Railroad Company.

An act to amend chapter 123 of the Public Laws of 1899, entitled An act in relation to foreign banking associations and corporations.

An act to authorize Manly Morrison to erect and maintain booms and piers in the Sebasticook river.

An act to close Sandy stream and tributaries and the tributaries of Unity pond in the town of Unity.

An act to close a portion of Sandy river and certain of its tributaries against fishing.

An act to close the tributaries of Duck pond in Cumberland county.

An act to protect lobsters in the waters adjacent to the shores of the towns of Lubec and Trescott.

An act authorizing and empowering the register of deeds for the county of Cumberland to make a true copy of the contents of Vol. one of the Cumberland county records of deeds; and to certify that it is a true copy of said record.

Resolve authorizing the compilation and publication of the insurance laws of Maine.

On motion by Mr. Weeks of Somerset, this resolve was laid on the table, pending its passage to be engrossed.

An act to amend the charter of the Portland Gaslight Company.

On motion by Mr. White of Androscoggin this bill was laid on the table pending its second reading.

An act to prevent the throwing of sawdust and other mill refuse into streams lying wholly, or in part, in the towns of Naples and Raymond.

On motion by Mr. Virgin of Cumberland, this bill was laid on the table pending its second reading.

#### **PASSED TO BE ENACTED.**

An act to provide for the retirement of commissioned officers of the militia of the National Guard of the State of Maine.

An act to increase the authority of the judge of probate in Kennebec county for a certain purpose.

An act to amend chapter 172 of the Private and Special Laws of 1891 relating to the consolidation of certain railroad corporations.

An act to prevent the throwing of saw-dust and other refuse stuff into the waters of McGraw, Ellis, East, North, Great, Long, Little and Snow ponds and their tributaries, situated partly in Kennebec and partly in Somerset county.

An act to authorize the Lewiston and Auburn Electric Light Company to supply electricity for power.

An act to authorize the construction of a foot bridge over tide waters in Boothbay Harbor.

An act to authorize the town of Roque Bluffs to maintain a wharf.

#### FINALLY PASSED.

Resolve providing for the expenses of Company M, First Infantry, Company C, Second Infantry, and the Signal Corps, National Guards, State of Maine, while attending the ceremonies incident to the inauguration of President-elect McKinley, in Washington, March 4, 1901.

Resolve in favor of the permanent employment of a cataloguer in the Maine State Library.

Resolve in favor of Howard Whittier for an increase in State pension.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY.

On motion by Mr. Staples of Knox, Senate bill No. 65, An act relative to the employment of superintendents of schools by cities and towns, was taken from the table, and, on the further motion of that senator, the same was referred to the committee on education.

On motion by Mr. Bryant of Somerset, the vote whereby Bill, an act to authorize Manly Morrison to erect and maintain booms and piers in the Sebasticook river, was passed to be engrossed, was reconsidered; and on further motion of that senator, the same was laid on the table.

On motion by Mr. Noble of Franklin, House Document No. 135, An act to repeal the organization of Perkins plantation in Franklin county, previously tabled by that senator pending the acceptance of the report, was taken from the table.

The report of the committee was accepted in concurrence, and the bill took its first reading.

On the further motion of Mr. Noble of Franklin, this bill was amended, by adding to section one the following: "provided, however, that the corporate existence, powers, duties and liabilities of said plantation shall survive for the purpose of prosecuting and defending, all pending suits and causes of suits to which said plantation is or may be a party, and all claims and demands subsisting in favor of or against said plantation, and all needful processes growing out of the same, and for the further purpose of providing for payment of any judgment which may be recovered against said plantation; and provided further that said plantation or the inhabitants thereof, when said plantation shall have been disorganized shall be liable for the payment to the State treasurer of all moneys raised by the plantation, or received from the State, or from any other source for the support of common schools and not legally expended at the date of the expiration of the organization of said plantation.

The bill was then assigned for its second reading.

At this point the President resumed the Chair.

On motion by Mr. Burns of Cumberland, Senate Document No. 16, An act relating to the Malison Power Company was taken from the table and, on the further motion of that Senator, the same was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. BURNS of Cumberland—I do this inasmuch as another bill has been substituted for this.

On motion by Mr. Virgin of Cumberland, Senate Document No. 54, communication from the State treasurer, relative to the income of the State for 1901 and 1902, was taken from the table; and on the further motion of that Senator, the same was referred to the committee on financial affairs.

On motion by the same Senator, Senate Document No. 59, a communication from the State printer, relating to printing done for the State was taken from the table; and on his further motion the same was referred to the committee on financial affairs.

On motion by Mr. Staples of Knox, House Document No. 79, An act to provide in part for the expenditure of government for the year 1901, was taken from the table, the same having been specially assigned for today.

Mr. STAPLES—Mr. President, perhaps no bill has come before this body during this session of so great moment as this bill. Probably no bill will come before this Senate during this session, that interests so many people as does this document for an appropriation for the years 1901 and 1902. The size of the bill, which is \$1,800,000, being \$200,000 more than it was two years ago, makes it necessary in my mind for us to consider it carefully; and I do it from no partisan standpoint. I ask the co-operation of the minds of every Senator in this body, to vie with me in devising some means whereby these appropriations can be lessened; because we are appalled today at the variety and immense quantity of appropriations that are being asked for, by the people that come to this Legislature; and it is time for us to throw away all party prejudice, and stand up here as men, laboring for the welfare of the people of the State of Maine, whether they belong to one party or another. I beg to say, gentlemen, that it is farthest from my mind. The remarks that I may make upon this question have no political significance whatever. If I belonged to the majority party in this Senate, I should speak the same as I do now; because when I find that the appropriations and the debt of this State since 1891, when we had a surplus in the treasury of several hundred thousand dollars, when I find we are debt today between \$700,000 and \$800,000, when I consider that the appropriations already asked for by this Legislature are \$268,000 in excess of what they were two years ago, it is time that we call a halt in this matter, and see whither we are drifting.

We are already, gentlemen, up to our constitutional limit; and I beg leave to read to you a certain section of the constitution before I go on with my remarks. I call your attention to section 14 of article IX. of the constitution, which reads as follows: "The credit of

the State shall not be directly or indirectly loaned in any case. The Legislature shall not create any debt or debts, liability or liabilities, on behalf of the State, which shall singly or in the aggregate, with previous debts and liabilities hereafter incurred at any one time, exceed three hundred thousand dollars, except to suppress insurrection, to repel invasion, or for the purposes of war; but this amendment shall not be construed to refer to any money that has been or may be deposited with this State by the government of the United States, or to any fund which the State shall hold in trust for any Indian tribe." Now, Mr. President, and gentlemen, we have already reached that constitutional limit; and if that is correct, and I apprehend that every senator within the sound of my voice, does not expect nor wish to exceed that constitutional limit. Now, the figures that make up that debt which has brought us to that constitutional limit, are as follows:

The Eastern Maine Insane Asylum has a deficit of last year, \$36,000; topographical survey deficit, \$5,077.08; printing deficit, \$15,526.32; temporary loan, \$200,000; interest on debt, \$80,000, which makes \$336,000, saying nothing about the deficit that we find in the Maine State's prison today of \$27,000, and the Insane Asylum of \$5,640, and the beneficiary deficit of \$2,716.20, that will carry us up beyond the constitutional limit. Now, if that be correct, and I think I am correct from these figures, because I have taken them from the State treasury, then I say we must call a halt, and devise some means whereby we can make the necessary appropriations. No senator will find me opposing a legitimate appropriation. I am aware as well as you are, that it is necessary to have funds to properly carry on the government, but we must crop off needless expense. If there is an office that we have created in the past that the people can get along without, let us cut it down, let us abolish it. If there are any expenditures that we can get along without, however meritorious, perhaps, they may be if we were not up to our constitutional limit, then I ask you to

agree with me in this matter, and I know of no other way to do it, Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Senate, after I have gone through with these appropriations, from my standpoint. If you think they are worthy, let this bill be referred back to the committee on financial affairs, with such recommendations as you in your wisdom shall dictate.

I say we are up to our constitutional limit. Let us see wherein we can make any change in the appropriation bill—wherein we can cut it down—so that we can save many thousands of dollars in this appropriation. There are appropriations and resolves yet to be acted upon by this Senate that are meritorious—that ought to pass; and if I am correct in my premises and we are up to our constitutional limit, then we cannot pass them unless we violate the constitution of Maine. Now, I hope every senator has upon his table House document 79. If not, I wish the clerk would place before every senator a copy of that document. Now I wish to refer to such offices as in my judgment might be abolished—where we might cut down the expeditures, and I submit them to you for your consideration.

On page 7, I find "Maine State cattle commission, contagious diseases, deficiency, \$3475.55," at the top of the page. I find in another place where the appropriation asked for the same cattle commission is \$5000 and some dollars. Now, I represent an agricultural part of the State of Maine. That makes somewhere about \$8000 that we are asked to appropriate for a State cattle commission. I am not one of those, Mr. President, that believe that it is worth the powder for us to appropriate \$5000 for a State cattle commission, because I do not believe that it does \$500 worth of good, or ever did, in the State of Maine; and I submit to you that that can be cut off as an appropriation and the farmers of the State of Maine will be just as well off four years from now as they are today. They will never know the difference, and that is an appropriation which I say is useless and ought to be cut off.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: I think if the senator will allow me to correct him—I call his attention to the last

item on the 6th page, "Maine State cattle commission, contagious diseases, \$7500.00."

Mr. STAPLES of Knox: I thank you for the correction.

Now, I refer you to page 4, bureau of industrial and labor statistics, \$3500. If we were out of debt, and not up to our constitutional limit, if we had money that we could expend as well as not, if our funds were not needed for other purposes, then I would not so seriously object to this bill of \$3500 for a bureau of industrial and labor statistics; but I say to you that we have got to commence somewhere. Tell me, how much good do you suppose this \$3500 for labor statistics has ever done to the State of Maine. I for one do not believe that it is worth that amount of money to the people of the State of Maine. I think we can well—for this year at least—in the future when we get into better circumstances, if you want to create the office I won't have any objections; but that is one thing that I ask the finance committee, with the co-operation and advice of this Senate, to repeal. Of course many of these things are fixed by law, and the finance committee, with other aid, will be obliged to repeal those offices if they go into effect—that can be done easily.

Now, the State board of health, \$5000. That is a large sum of money. I would cut that down to \$3000—that is on page 4. I believe that there is extravagance in that office. I believe \$3000 would be a large sum judiciously expended, and that is enough and as much as they ought to have.

I believe in paying everybody a fair compensation for what they do. The trustees of the Insane Hospital get \$2500. Well, now! that is more of an honorary position than anything else. Men are appointed to that position who would be glad to take it and do the service if they did not get any pay. The pay is not much of an object to them, but it is quite an item to the tax-payers of the State; and I suggest that as another point where we can cut off \$1000, perhaps. Our expenses increase from time to time; and I do not wonder at it, when I look upon page 5th, and find "Water for State Prison, \$2500." I say that was a gigantic

steal, when it was made, and that when any company is paid,—this Rockland company,—when it is paid \$500 for watering the Maine State prison, they are getting all it is worth. You cannot change that, gentlemen, because it is enacted by the Governor and Council for ten years; and that \$2500 I find was to be paid in advance to this Rockland Water company. This company that has had its lobby over here, and fought poor Camden from having water! Is it any wonder that they can employ lobbyists to come here and try to kill an enterprise like that? Let me refer,—and I feel it my duty to do so, that the thing mal not be done over again perhaps,—to this light for the State's prison, \$4500, on page 5th, for 10 years, making \$45,000 to this same Rockland Water company, because the Rockland Water company and the Electric Light company are one and the same thing. They belong to a place down there in Rockland that we call "Robbers' Row" (laughter.) They came up here five years ago and took from this State a contract for \$4500 a year for lighting the State's prison, and you are bound by it for the next five years. Any electric company will say to you that when they get a thousand dollars for lighting the Maine State's prison they are making \$500 out of that. You only pay for lighting this whole State House \$1800.

I do not know,—I listened for a little while, yesterday, to the testimony before the agricultural committee. While I believe in farmers,—I am something of a farmer myself,—I would not take from them anything that aids them, because if there is any class of people that needs the State's aid it is the farmers in the State; and when I listened to the testimony there, I submit to you wouldn't it be well for us to strike out that appropriation for the secretary of the State board of agriculture, for this year, at least? (Applause.) I believe if we cannot have that office conducted honestly we would better abolish it, and the farmers of this State would say "Amen" to it.

Mr. STEARNS of Oxford: Would you strike out the whole board?

Mr. STAPLES: I would strike out the whole board, until we can get a better board. (Applause.)

I submit to you, gentlemen, whether that would not be a wise thing, under the circumstances?

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: I would like to ask the Senator where we can find that item.

Mr. STAPLES: "Agricultural Societies \$8,534.00," "Board of Agriculture \$407.50," "Maine State Agricultural Society \$1000," "Maine State Agricultural Society, for industrial exhibits, \$1000. I think I heard something yesterday about industrial exhibits in the testimony; and I submit to you it was butter, I think,—the main thing was. Now, I do not believe that the dairy interests of this State,—I do not believe that the farmers of this State,—are interested in this. I believe you can strike that out,—that \$1000, for agricultural purposes by the agricultural society; and you will save a thousand dollars without detriment to the State of Maine. There is another \$1000.

Now, as to the question of printing. I find there is a deficit of \$15,526.32. The appropriation asked for is \$35,000, and \$10,000 is \$45,000, and five is \$50,000. It has increased to an alarming extent. I believe we should devise some plan whereby the State printing should be let to the lowest bidder. I think we should try some plan where a contract should be made. I know that no man can do it,—the State printing for one or two years, because it costs a great deal for the plant; and whoever does the State printing should have it for a term of years; and I do not believe in giving it to one but the Governor and Council should be empowered to let the State printing to the lowest bidder for a term of years, making the best contract with whom they can; and I believe if you take that course you will save to this State \$20,000.

Now, there is another thing. On page 3, Stenographer to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, \$1500. Now, everybody in this body knows that that was created at a time that our respected Chief Justice Peters was upon the bench,—when his eye-sight failed him, the State gave him the benefit of a stenographer, because he needed it. One of the grand old men of Maine,—one of the ablest judges that ever put on the judicial ermine,—and he is out of office now. The



chief justice of today does not ask for that office, I apprehend,—and the necessity have his stenographer just the same as the other judges of the supreme court get theirs; and let them get their pay in the same way. There would be \$1500 that we could save in that respect to the State of Maine.

On the third page I come to the expenses of the insurance commissioner, \$1200. You give him \$2000 a year for two years for the examination of fires,—that is an expense account. I believe if you give him that \$2000 that you can cut off at least one-half of the expense account of \$1200 which he gets in addition to his salary. I submit that to you, gentlemen, for your consideration; and I submit another thing in that line. You will recollect that I made some remarks upon this question, that the office created for the insurance commissioned in 1897, for the examination of fires was a useless office because, upon our Statute books today we have a law that is full and complete; and it only gives the insurance commissioner \$4000 in four years for the purpose of perambulating over this State and charging it to the State. I believe that the insurance companies would be just as well off; and that you can save \$4000 by abolishing that office, as I wanted it to be abolished the other day, and put in a bill to that effect.

Now, let me come to one other appropriation. Maine State cattle commission, contagious diseases, which you will find on page 7, \$3475.55. They had an appropriation two years ago, and spent that money, I do not know how we can get rid of it.

Now, let me call your attention to page 6. Militia fund, \$33,669.96. I allow no man to be more patriotic than myself. I have great faith in the people. I do not believe in the militia. The war of 1861 taught us a lesson—that the patriotism of the people is their safeguard always; and when the war broke out in 1861, we did not rely upon our militia, but we relied upon the men from the farms, from the workshops, from the academies and schools. They came up; and better soldiers never fought a battle. They were equal be-

fore the enemy to any trained soldiers that you had in the United States. Maine can furnish them today as she did in 1861. Let the State be invaded and there will go up from the hillsides and valleys of Maine 40,000 good men that will fight as valiantly as any trained or regular soldiers that you can get. Therefore, as I do not believe in a large standing army in the country, I do not believe today that we should raise \$36,000 for the militia fund. Our State musters are nothing that we can be proud of. I never attended one. I never read of one that we have had in the State of Maine for the last 20 years, that was any credit to the State of Maine. Too many of them have been a disgrace to the State of Maine. Now I say that I would cut this off, as we are in debt—as we have reached our constitutional limit—I would cut that appropriation down from \$35,000 to \$20,000. Understand me to say that I do it in the interest of economy. I say that we do not need it, that the patriotism of the people of Maine is ever efficient at a moment's notice to take care of any invasion that may come. We do not want to train soldiers. I hope there will never be any war in this country; but if war comes we can rely upon the boys of Maine upon a moment's notice to come forth, because they are patriotic. When a young man is imbued with love for his country and the old flag, he don't need any training to fight the enemy; and he is ready at all times. You saw that exemplified in 1861. You will see it again because the people today are just as patriotic as they were then. I say that I would cut down that appropriation if I did not annihilate it entirely—I would cut it down \$20,000, that would leave \$15,000 for the militia of this State. You have got to commence somewhere. I have friends who have come to me, who are interested directly, who say: "Don't you touch me, Mr. Staples, upon my appropriation." I know no friends—I know no enemies. I must do my duty as I see it; and I appeal to you, upon this one question of the \$36,000—where it has been increased really to a remarkable degree within the last five or six years within the State of Maine. Don't you think if we give them

\$15,000 and save the tax payers of this State \$20,000, that you will be doing your duty toward the people of this State?

Mr. BURNS of Cumberland: Will the senator allow me to ask him a question? I would ask you how you would do that—it is fixed by law.

Mr. STAPLES of Knox: I would have the finance committee consider this matter and vote to repeal it, and cut down the appropriation by a proper bill introduced into this Legislature, as I would for all of these offices that are created by statute.

Allow me to call your attention upon this bill, where, let me say for the information of the Senate, two years ago, for the beneficiaries of the Insane Asylum, there was \$68,000. This year you will find this bill—I haven't it under my eye at the present time—State beneficiaries, \$74,000, on page 4. Now tell me, what is the necessity of increasing this by \$6000 there. We all know that we have built an insane asylum at Bangor. We all know that we have spent vast amounts of money there. We all know that as soon as that is equipped it will take 200 patients from this asylum over the river and transfer them to Bangor, and then the increase the expense, after the next year at this asylum over here will be less than it has been before—\$68,000 two years ago, and \$74,000 is asked for now.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: I would like to ask the senator from Knox if this \$74,000 does not cover all the beneficiaries of the State—the beneficiaries of both hospitals?

Mr. STAPLES of Knox: I do not so understand it.

Mr. WEEKS: It does not say at what hospital.

Mr. STAPLES: I do not want to misconstrue this matter. I want to talk about it just as I understand it exists. I understand by talking with the insane officials that they required \$68,000 for this asylum over the river two years ago, and that they want \$6000 more for this asylum over the river.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: The senator means the officials of the Insane Asylum, and not the "insane officials," I presume.

Mr. STAPLES: I thank the senator from Somerset. I do not know as I ought to thank him, either, for I think some of them are insane. (Laughter.) There is another appropriation to which I ask to call the attention of this Legislature. You recollect that five years ago there was \$200,000 appropriated by the Legislature for the agricultural college up at Orono. The farmers were all in love at that time with this agricultural college up at Orono; and every farmer in the Legislature, I have no doubt, thought that his sons or daughters were going to be educated in this agricultural college at Orono; and for that purpose \$200,000 was appropriated—\$20,000 a year, because it was an agricultural college; and an eclipse came over the eyes of every farmer who was a member of that Legislature and who voted for that appropriation, because it was done for an agricultural college. But the "agricultural college" part of it has ceased to exist. It is now the Maine University—the agricultural part of it was not high-toned enough. Now, I advance as a legal proposition, that not being a contract, but that, being a resolve of this Legislature, that the Legislature that passed that \$200,000 resolve cannot bind this Legislature. They cannot bind it. They are not entitled to that \$20,000. I advance that as a legal proposition to every lawyer in this body. I looked up the resolve today; and I found that there was a proviso in that resolve that this \$200,000 should be paid providing it was used for building buildings and keeping buildings in repair. I am prepared. I will be better prepared to go before the finance committee and show that \$100,000 that has already been appropriated has not been used for the purpose which the resolve provided it should be. I say that we are under no obligations—a bad promise is always better broken than kept; and that \$20,000 should be swept out. They have got a hundred thousand dollars. Let me say right here—they are going to ask you for \$25,000 more on top of the \$20,000 that they are already receiving. I deny the legal right of that Legislature to pass that resolve and bind me, or this Legislature in any way, shape or manner.

It was illegal. They cannot do it any more than this Legislature can bind the Legislature that will convene in this State of Maine two years from now. You are not bound by it. I advance this as a legal proposition; and I say, in justice to the tax papers of the State, in view of the condition in which we find ourselves, that \$20,000 should be stricken from the appropriation bill.

Now, I apprehend, as the senator very pointedly asked me the question, "How are you going to do it?" I am going to ask the finance committee, if you will recommit this bill to them, to see what offices can be abolished; and if they can be abolished without any detriment to the State and I think this House and Senate will abolish them.

Those that I have spoken of, I submit to your consideration. I do it because, let me say to you, I know that when the Governor of the State of Maine made his address, and I have the most profound respect for the honesty, honor and integrity of the Governor of the State of Maine, and I know, today, that he stands appalled at the enormous appropriations that are coming into this Legislature. There are certain things that must be provided for. Let us cut off all of these things that are not essential for the welfare of the people; those that I have referred to you, the \$20,000 for the appropriation to the Maine University you are not bound by. In good conscience, they have had enough, they ought not to have any more; and, if you will examine into the doings of that university, how they spent the hundred thousand dollars that they have already had, then you will agree with me they should not have any more. Take the insurance commissioners expense account, under \$2000 that you pay him yearly. I say to you, from my own observation and from my own knowledge of the workings of that law, that it is only a detriment to the case of incendiarism, in the examination of fires, because the towns are jealous of this thing. They wont act as long as you have that act upon the Statute Books. It is only \$4000 it is true, but \$4000 is a good deal. You have got to commence somewhere. Take the bur-

eau of labor statistics. They never fed a child in the State of Maine, it never put clothes on the back of any poor orphan, it never does any good. Let me, right here, call your attention to another thing, where I find you can save several thousand dollars. I would have the finance committee recommend that the Maine reports that comes from the heads of every department, be cut down one-half; and if you do that, you will save several thousand dollars in that respect. A certain number of reports is all right, but where one is read, 40 are not read, as you know, and I know; and the expense of printing the reports of the heads of departments of every department in the State of Maine has grown to such a great extent, that it should be looked after and cut down. I do not ask you to abolish the reports, or their printing. I ask you to cut it down 50 per cent. of the number that are published; and do not you think the people of this State will be just as well off. You will save so much money. I speak from no party standpoint. I speak today, as a citizen of this State, I speak today as a tax payer of this State, I speak today, as a person who has as much interest perhaps, in the welfare of the grand old State of Maine as any senator that sits in this body. I love the old State. It is humiliating, when we find we are up to our debt limit; and, what has made it so? It is extravagance in appropriations. Let us, one and all, cut them down. While I regret to see any trouble in the agricultural department of the State of Maine, while there is trouble there, and it looks as though there was something "rotten in the State of Denmark," let us wipe it out entirely; and the people will say Amen, from one end of the State to the other. I have figured this up. If you take my figures in this matter, and submit this thing back to the finance committee, and I say that I have carefully considered this matter, I do not see but what the State can get along just as well without these matters that I have referred to as they can with them, and perhaps better; and if you do that, you will save to the tax payers of the State of Maine about, I think, if I have figured it correctly,

\$90,000. You have either got to do that, Mr. President, and gentlemen of the Senate, or you have got to stop making any further appropriations. Why! You have your pension bureau, that is a grand and noble thing. If I was to say anything about the State pension bureau of the State of Maine, I would add to that appropriation, rather than diminish it, because it helps the poor and the needy. I would not take one dollar from the educational departments of the State of Maine, because that is the poor man's friend. The education of the young is what we look forward to in the future to make our nation and our State grand and noble. I would not detract from them; but let us do away with useless offices which are doing no good to the people of the State of Maine. I have enumerated them to you; and my motion, Mr. President, is, that this bill, House Document, No. 79 be recommitted to the finance committee for further consideration.

The motion was seconded by Mr. McFadden of Lincoln.

Mr. VIRGIN of Cumberland: Mr. President, what is the state of the matter as it now stands before the Senate?

The PRESIDENT: The report of the committee was accepted in the House, and it had regularly come in here for concurrence and acceptance by the Senate. The senator from Knox moves to non-concur with the House, and that the matter be re-referred to the finance committee.

There were two amendments, A and B.

On motion by Mr. Virgin of Cumberland, the motion of the senator from Knox, was laid on the table until tomorrow morning.

Mr. WEEKS of Somerset: I feel oppressed by a sense of economy. I think it is in the air. I move that the Senate adjourn.

The Senate adjourned.

## HOUSE.

Thursday, Feb. 28.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Hope of Augusta.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

The following Senate bill was read and assigned:

An act to amend chapter 104 of the Revised Statutes, as it was amended by chapter 85 of the Public Laws of 1895, by adding thereto section 49, relating to the settlement of titles to real estate.

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

### JUDICIARY.

By Mr. Webb of Portland—An act to further amend section 13 of chapter 138 of the Revised Statutes as amended by chapter 66 of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to lotteries.

Also, bill, an act to repeal sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of chapter 118 of the Revised Statutes relating to the degrees of murder, and to amend section 5 of the same relating to the penalties for manslaughter.

Also bill, an act to amend sections 5, 9, 16 and 17 of chapter 127 of the Revised Statutes relating to malicious mischief.

Also bill, an act to amend section 6 of chapter 132 of the Private Statutes relating to the issuing of warrants by magistrate.

Also bill, an act to amend section 4 of chapter 132 of the Revised Statutes relating to the criminal jurisdiction of magistrates.

Also bill, an act to amend section 15 of chapter 132 of the Revised Statutes relating to appeals from magistrates in criminal cases.

Also bill, an act relating to Standish Water and Construction Company.

By Mr. Gardner of Patten—Bill, an act to prevent the use of free passes and free service by railroads, street railroads, sleeping car, telephone, telegraph and express companies.

By Mr. Kaler of Scarboro—Bill, an act authorizing the Old Orchard Water Company to issue bonds for refunding and other proper purposes.

By Mr. Harris of Auburn—Bill, an act to amend chapter 237 of the Private