

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

**Seventy-First Legislature**

OF THE

**STATE OF MAINE.**

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1903.

**SENATE.**

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1903.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Plummer of Hallowell.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

Papers from the House disposed of in concurrence.

Bill, An Act to amend Section 47 of Chapter 77 of the Revised Statutes relating to the times of holding the terms of the Supreme Judicial Court in Knox County. This bill came from the House reported by Mr. Littlefield for the Committee on Judiciary, in new draft under same title and that it ought to pass. Report accepted in concurrence. The bill took its first reading. On motion by Mr. Staples of Knox the bill took its second reading under suspension of the rules and was passed to be engrossed.

An Act to authorize the Biddeford and Saco Water Company to issue bonds and for other purposes. This Act was passed to be engrossed in the Senate, and sent to the House. It was returned from the House with Amendment "A." It was voted by the Senate to reconsider the vote whereby the bill was passed to be engrossed, and House amendment "A" accepted by the Senate, and the bill as amended was passed to be engrossed.

The following communication was received from the office of the secretary of State:

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

I have the honor to transmit herewith report of the Maine State Prison for 1902.

Very Resp'y, Your Obedt. Servant,  
(Signed) BYRON BOYD,  
Secretary of State.

which was referred to the committee on State Prison.

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

**Judiciary.**

By Mr. Goodwin of Somerset: Bill, An Act to amend Chapter 46 of the Revised Statutes of 1883, relating to

the duties of Treasurers of Corporations.

By Mr. Wing of Androscoggin: Bill, An Act to prevent the waters of Lake Auburn from polluting.

By Mr. Maddocks of Lincoln: An Act to amend Section 2 of Chapter 56 of the Private and Special Laws of 1895 relative to the water supply of Boothbay Harbor.

**Legal Affairs.**

By Mr. Philbrook of Oxford: Bill, An Act to make valid certain doings of the Assessors of Norway for the year 1902.

**Railroads, Telegraphs and Expresses.**

By Mr. Wilson of Washington: Bill, An Act to incorporate the Cherryfield and Milbridge Street Railway.

By Mr. Morse of Waldo: Petition of D M. McFarland and 36 others of Montville in favor of a charter for the Camden and Liberty Street Railway.

Also: Petition of J. J. Walker and 38 others of Liberty in favor of same.

Also: Petition of Arthur Ritchie and 43 others of Liberty in favor of same.

Also: Petition of V. A. Simmons and 43 others of Searsmont in favor of same.

Also: Petition of L. S. Sylvester and 27 others of Montville in favor of same.

Also: Petition of C. S. Adams and 35 others of Montville in favor of same.

**Banks and Banking.**

By Mr. Stetson of Penobscot: Bill, An Act to incorporate the Merrill Trust Company of Bangor.

**Towns.**

By Mr. Dudley of Aroostook: Petition of F. A. Webber and 31 others in favor of the incorporation of Castle Hill.

**Public Charities and State Beneficiaries.**

By Mr. Morrison of York: Petition of B. C. Jordan and 34 others of Alfred for Maine Home and school for feeble minded.

By Mr. Stetson of Penobscot: Petition of Mrs. James Adams and 52 others of Bangor for the establishment of a home for the feeble minded of the State.

### Temperance.

By Mr. Dudley of Aroostook: Remonstrance of L. E. Carter and 37 others of Cary and Amity against resubmission.

By Mr. Burns of Cumberland: Remonstrance of Rev. Bowley Green and 162 others against resubmission or prohibitory amendment.

### Somerset County Delegation.

By Mr. Goodwin of Somerset: Bill, An Act to authorize the County commissioners of Somerset County to borrow a sum of money with which to build an extension to the Court House at Skowhegan, in said county.

### Orders.

On motion of Mr. Manley of Kennebec, it was, Ordered, that the sixth paragraph of rule 22 of the rules of the Senate be amended by striking out all after the word "committees," in the first line so that the paragraph as amended shall read: "6th. Reports of committees." On motion by Mr. Rankin of York, it was: Ordered, that, the House concurring, there be printed for the use of the Legislature, each Wednesday and Friday, the usual number of copies of the weekly report of the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.

### Read and Assigned.

An Act to extend the charter of the Eastport Bridge.

An Act to amend Section 4 of Chapter 91 of the Revised Statutes, relating to notice of foreclosure on a mortgage of personal property.

Resolve in aid of the temporary home for women and children at Portland.

An Act to incorporate the city of Camden.

An Act to incorporate the Squirrel Island Village corporation.

An Act to incorporate the Pepperell Trust Company.

An Act to incorporate the International Trust and Banking Company.

An Act to amend Chapter 145 of the Private and Special Laws of 1895 entitled An Act to incorporate the Winn Water and Power Company.

### Reports of Committees.

Mr. Manley for the committee on the Judiciary, on Bill, An Act to grant ad-

ditional powers to the Vickery Realty Company, reported ought to pass. Report accepted. Bill tabled for printing under the joint rules.

Mr. Staples, for the committee on Inland Fisheries and Game, on Resolve for the purpose of operating a fish hatchery and feeding station for the protection of fish, reported ought to pass. Report accepted. Resolve referred to committee on appropriations and financial affairs, and sent to the House for concurrence.

Mr. Philbrook, for the committee on towns, on Petition of H. F. Williams and others, praying that a law be enacted compelling residents moving from town to town to notify town clerk of same reported legislation inexpedient. Report accepted.

### Passed to be Engrossed.

An Act to authorize the State Land Agent to convey to the Fish River Railroad Company rights of way over public roads owned by the State.

An Act to authorize the Bangor and Aroostook Railroad Company to extend yard tracks across a way in Houlton.

An Act relating to the width of the location of the Fish River Railroad.

An Act to ratify certain doings of the Elliot Bridge Company.

An Act to regulate the placing of permanent moorings in harbors.

An Act to establish a street sewer commission for the city of Bath.

### Orders of the Day.

On motion by Mr. Burns of Cumberland, Senate Document No. 44, An Act to amend Chapter 204 of the Private and Special Laws of 1883, entitled "An Act to establish a Municipal Court in the town of Westbrook," was taken from the table; and, on further motion of the same senator, the bill was referred to the committee on legal affairs in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Wilson of Washington, Senate Document No. 43, An Act relating to the franchise rights and privileges of the Milbridge and Cherryfield Electric Railroad Company, was taken from the table. On further motion by the same senator, the bill was referred to the committee on railroads, telegraphs and expresses, in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Staples of Knox: Bill, An Act relating to the salaries of Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, was taken from the table. The same senator thereupon moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. GOODWIN of Somerset: Mr. President, Is it possible for that motion to be made in the present condition of the bill, under the joint rule? The rule provides that:

Every act and resolve appropriating money, shall be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and when the same has been reported back to the branch in which it originated, it shall then be referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; and no further action shall be had thereon in either branch until the same shall have been reported back by said last named committee. No act or resolve shall be referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, until the same shall have been considered and reported by the appropriate committee as above provided.

The PRESIDENT: I think the point is well taken by the senator from Somerset, and shall sustain it. No further action can be had on the bill until it is referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.

Mr. GOODWIN of Somerset: If the senator from Knox has prepared a speech and desires to make it now rather than later when the time of the Senate may be more valuable, I will move that the unanimous consent of the Senate be granted to the senator from Knox to make such remarks as he may please at the present time.

The motion of the senator from Somerset prevailed, and the senator from Knox was granted the unanimous consent of the Senate to speak at this time on the bill.

Mr. STAPLES of Knox: Mr. President, I am very much obliged to my generous friend, the senator from Somerset for giving me a chance to make such remarks as I see fit upon this question. I presume, from what I learn, that most of the senators present are in favor of this bill. No one present, no lawyer in the State of Maine will go further than myself in saying that we have a Supreme Court

in Maine not excelled by any State in this Union for profound learning, integrity, and the wonderful learning they exhibit in their opinions, and second to none we have ever had in this State; but, from my standpoint, Mr. President, I do not believe that this is a good time to raise the salary of any officer. As I have stated before, I am opposed to raising the salary of any officer; also am I opposed to the raising of any sum of money unless it be for legitimate purposes. In the years gone by we have had just as good a judiciary as we have today. Maine has been fortunate in having upon the bench a long line of distinguished jurists and is proud of that line of jurists, whose learning adorns almost every page of the reports of Maine. But I am not unmindful that only a few years ago the justices of the Supreme Judicial Court were paid \$3000, and at that time we had upon the bench such men as Judge Virgin, Judge Walton, Judge Appleton, Judge Kent and Judge Cutting, a line of illustrious jurists that is not excelled by anybody that we have today upon the bench. They were content to work for \$3000; and nobody will tell me but that they have done their work admirably and well, as the pages of our Maine Reports will show. I believe we should come down to the simplicity of our forefathers; and when they tell me that a man cannot live in the State of Maine and be a judge of the Supreme Court on less than a salary of \$5000, I take exceptions. The men I have spoken of gave their entire time to the people of the State, and were content to live upon \$3000 a year, and they lived well. They were economical men. The judges of the Supreme Court of the State today should be economical men. They should set an example to the rising generation, that economy is a virtue and should be practiced everywhere, whether the man be a judge or a mechanic. I know the Republican party of Maine in their last State convention promised economy in the public expenditure of the peoples money. Do you tell me that if you had said in your platform that you were in favor of raising the salary of almost every officer in the State of Maine, that you would be in your seats today? I doubt

whether you would, Gentlemen. The majority party are always promising a great deal in their platform. It reminds me of the young man given to exaggeration, so much so that his friend told him he ought not to do it, and said to him, "When you get upon one of your high keys, I am going to blow a whistle, and when I do that, you come down from your high perch. One day they were together, and the young man got very much elated in his mind, in telling of his father's farm. "Why" he says "My father up in the country has got a farm of a thousand acres, and he has a barn eight hundred feet high." His friend blew the whistle—"and a foot and a half wide." So it is a great deal with the majority party in this Senate. When they are in convention they have a barn that is a thousand feet high, but when they get to practicing what they preach the barn is no more than a foot and a half wide. Now I believe in practicing what you preach. I recollect, two years ago, in this body, the proposition came in here to raise the salary from \$3500 to \$4000. I believe I was the only member that opposed it at that time. I supposed that would be the last of it, when it was carried through this body, but now they come here today, and ask for another thousand dollars.

Who asked for this raise of salary of the judges of the supreme court. A lawyer did not introduce the bill. My friend down to Calais who is not a lawyer, introduced the bill. It seems queer that if the salaries of the judges should be increased that some lawyer has not introduced the bill. We are living in a day of great extravagance. One brother told me today that the judges could not live upon a salary of less than \$5000, a year. Now, I apprehend if a man in the good old State of Maine is not economical enough to live upon \$4000, a year, there is something wrong somewhere. What are we coming to, if we raise the salaries all through the State. I saw the other day,—it as a matter that concerns the Hancock county delegation,—that they proposed to raise the salary of the Judge of Probate of Hancock county to \$1300, a year. The judge of probate holds twelve sessions a year—\$112 a

day for every day that he labors in Hancock county. In my county where I apprehend the volume of business is as great as it is in Hancock, we find as good men as they have in Hancock or any other county, willing to take the place of \$500 a year. I find that almost every county attorney in the State is asking that his salary be raised. It was only a few years ago that my friend Heath was county attorney for Kennebec county upon a salary of only \$500 a year, and I comprehend that the volume of business was as great as it is today, and still Kennebec county asks the State to pay the county attorney of Kennebec county \$1200—and so it is in other counties of the State. We had a little money in the treasury at the beginning of this session, and everybody seems to want to get some of this money. We have appropriated besides the general appropriation bills, about \$600,000. We are \$300,000, beyond our constitutional limit, because the constitution provides that we shall not create any debt, either singly or in the aggregate beyond \$300,000, at any one session. We have already done that; and I ask you, in view of the constitution of the State of Maine, how can you vote to increase the salary of the judges to \$5000. The people of this State do not ask it. The people of the State are opposed to the raising of salaries of any officer of the State Government. Four thousand dollars is a large sum; \$5000 is a larger sum—for eight judges—five times eight—\$40,000; and before this Legislature convenes again, we will have paid the judges of the supreme court \$80,000. Is anybody going to tell me that the volume of business before the Supreme Court of Maine is greater today than it was twenty years ago. Look at your reports and they will answer for themselves. Are their opinions any better? There is no law to compel a judge of the supreme court today to hold his position. I should hate to see any judge of the supreme court resign—because they are able men—they are all my friends. I have practiced before them for a number of years, and a better class of men never wore the judicial ermine; but I have great faith in the people of the State of Maine. Should

every judge resign, today, I do not think the State would go to the dogs. Where there are eight places there would be twenty men, coming in from every by-way of the State, wanting to be appointed. Do you apprehend that we do not get our best men? Why,—they tell me—they cannot afford to take it on account of the salary. Of the 2500 lawyers in the State of Maine, how many do you suppose there are that have an income of over \$4000 a year. There are some, of course,—corporation lawyers, but, on the whole, right through the State of Maine there is not 10 per cent. of them who receive the compensation of \$4000.

I do not know what you may do, gentlemen. As for me, I would not want to go back to my constituents and say to them that I voted to increase the salaries of the judges of the supreme court of Maine. I wouldn't want to say to them that I voted for any appropriation that was not necessary. There is no occasion for raising these salaries. If I was capable of being one of the judges of the supreme court of Maine, I should consider the salary of \$4000, an ample one, and I would risk but that I could support my family, and lay a little aside for a rainy day, upon that salary. There are only a few people who are prosperous in the State of Maine. A certain class are prosperous, because legislation has been in the interest of a few at the expense of the many. I know that the people of the State are groaning under unequal taxation and I know they are opposed to any expenditure unless as a legitimate expense. I do not believe that the judges need it. I don't know as they ask for it.

Today in the State of Maine one half of the property valuation of the State is exempt from taxation. When this body will vote to tax all property alike, then I won't object to your raising the salaries, but while one half has to pay the taxes of the other half, I shall call a halt every time a bill comes into this Senate asking an appropriation of the people's money which is not necessary. I believe the people are with me, but whether they are or not, I have only one light by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of equality and economy, and

I shall raise my voice against the appropriation of one dollar of the people's money, just so long as those men who vote for it deny us the right of equal taxation, while the agricultural classes are taxed so that we have beggared farms all over New England, and corporations reap the benefit.

The question being put upon the acceptance of the report, the report of the committee was accepted in concurrence, and the bill was referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs.

Bill, An Act to amend Chapter 258 of the Public Laws of 1893 as amended by Chapter 130 of the Public Laws of 1895, relating to the taxation of savings banks. This bill came up by special assignment, the pending question being upon the acceptance of the report of the committee, in concurrence. The report was accepted in concurrence.

MR. STAPLES of Knox, moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed, and said:

Mr. President, I have but a very few words to say in regard to that bill. As this Senate well knows, I was opposed at the hearing to the reduction of taxation upon savings banks—from  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a mill. I think the bill is, in 1893, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mill in 1894—If I am not correct some senator will correct me.

THE PRESIDENT: 1903 and 1904, I presume you mean?

MR. STAPLES: Yes, Mr. President. Now I am one of those that believe as you all know in equal taxation. When \$83,000,000 of property is locked up in the savings banks, it is a great deal of money paying no taxes excepting this small bank and mill tax. When \$77,000,000 of railroad property is tied up in this State and only paying one half of one per cent. upon its gross earnings, it reads funny, Mr. President, and gentlemen, to the common mind. They ask us the question whether, under our form of government, any class of property is exempt from taxation. I was somewhat amused, Mr. President, and if it had not been for that one incident, I do not know as I should have spoken on this subject, when we had a hearing before the committee on taxation in this chamber, there were, I think, fifty-one members, trustees and

directors of the savings banks, present. There was nobody but myself and Bro. Bass of Bangor, who opposed the matter before the committee; and Bro. Timberlake, who has espoused the cause of the savings banks of this State, and I will say here, publicly, that in his behalf, I believe that Bro. Timberlake is a very able, conscientious bank examiner. Against him and his methods I have not one word to say; but, when he comes in before this body and trots out that veritable old woman that hies away to the savings bank, and getting a little pittance of \$6, ties it up in her handkerchief, she has been trotted out so many times, and accomplished such grand results for the savings banks of this State, that if she is really flesh and blood, I am going to suggest to Bro. Timberlake for Heaven's sake, buy the poor old woman a wallet, hereafter, and make her a present of it; and those directors who are philanthropists, I apprehend, should donate to her a goodly sum, that she may stay at home and let those philanthropists who work for nothing go and carry their little pittance to the old woman, and let her stay at home with her family. Mr. President, there is one thing in this bill that commends itself to my judgment. I find fifty-one trustees here present; and my experience tells me that a great many of those trustees, during their business career, have been men who never spend any time, nor ever turned round in their tracks unless they had pay for it. I am surprised and gratified at their sudden conversion. As soon as they are appointed trustees of the savings banks, they give their time gratuitously when a hearing is to be had to reduce the tax on savings banks, they all come down here to Augusta, and of course pay their own expenses against the reduction of that tax; and if they have changed from being parsimonious men to men of philanthropy, then certainly some object has been gained, in their conversion.

It has been said that a great many of these people are poor people. I admit that some of them are; but when I look at the bank examiner's account I find that there are a great many men—a great many depositors who are not poor men. I have

not heard of a depositor's coming here and asking that the tax be reduced. It is peculiarly significant that nobody but the savings bank officials, having such a care for their depositors, that they come here and ask for it to be reduced—not a petition has come to my knowledge from any depositor in the State of Maine. The deposits, today, are \$15,000,000—\$7,000,000 over \$2000 and \$3,000,000 between \$500 and \$2000. Do you suppose they come like the old woman? No. But they ride up to the savings banks in their coaches, and send in their money by a colored gentleman, and get their dividend upon it, while the poor old man on the farm is at work on the rocky hillside raising a pittance to pay his taxes. Mr. President, it is said the State is prosperous. They paid three cents and two mills. Two years ago, and now they ask us to reduce that. I am not in favor of that reduction. Who gets this reduction? If your neighbor has \$5000 in the savings bank and you have a small farm and house worth \$100, are you content to say that you will build the roads and educate the children of your neighbor? All he has to do is to go to the bank and draw his dividend. Is there any fairness or justice in this? I think not. Here is a savings bank here, and a national bank there—that national bank stock pays interest in every town where the depositor lives at an average rate of 6 per cent., and he is taxed upon that just the same as you are upon your farm. The neighboring bank—the savings bank, pays no tax—when you talk about five-sixths of one per cent. it is no tax. The savings banks of the State are prosperous. I do not believe we should reduce the tax on these deposits. I am of those who would abolish, if I had my way, all the tax upon savings banks to the State. I know only one true principle of taxation—the same as they had in New Hampshire. In New Hampshire they tax the deposits. It is the only true way to do it. The supreme court of New Jersey have not yet signed the opinion, but if you will look at the report of the assessors you will find that the supreme court of New Jersey has declared unconstitutional a tax by the state upon banks, and abolished it. You will find in New York a Republican Legislature, two years ago, placed a tax upon the deposits in the savings banks of that state. We find it so in a great many of the states of this Union. In New Jersey, Connecticut, in New Hampshire, and in Massachusetts, the mother of Maine. In the West there are but few savings institutions. I think the people have a wrong idea in believing that without savings banks we could not succeed. I believe that if all the deposits of the savings banks today were withdrawn those people who have been economical enough to save that few hundred or thousand dollars would take care of it, after being under the guardianship of the coterie of directors I saw here the other day; and when Bro. Cornish says: "All rise up," 51 directors got up—and they were a good-looking set of men. But the people



of the State of Maine were not able to come here—they had no money on deposit—they were unable to hire attorneys, as the savings banks have hired attorneys to come here, and have had them employed for the last two years, going from one end of this State to the other importuning every member elected to this Legislature to reduce the tax upon savings banks. If you reduce that tax upon the savings banks to one-eighth of 1 per cent. on these little earnings of the small depositors, recollect that you give to that class of men who have taken advantage of the good legislation that was originally had, and what was intended to be right—that the savings banks of this State should be the depository of widows and orphans; but the monied man of the State comes in; and when the bank examiner reports that there are only 345—I think the number is—who have an excess of \$2000, he does not stop to consider that there are men in this State who have over \$40,000 in the different banks of this State—that in one bank to my knowledge there is ten—yes, fifteen thousand dollars in the savings bank—not in the name of one man—they put it in in the names of their wives, their sons, their daughters—and the common people are paying the taxes in the place of those men who have taken advantage of the savings banks, who are able to pay. Eighty-three million dollars tied up in the savings banks of Maine. I know in one town, not a hundred miles from where I stand, that there is \$60,000 in two families that is paying no tax at all, excepting this five-sixths of 1 per cent. The voters of that town protest against it. What we want to do is to do something for the interest of local taxation. We do not want to do is to do something for the interest of local taxation. We do not want to centralize it in the hands of a few at the expense of the many. If it was to give to the widow, that would be a different thing—but whatever you reduce on this tax goes into the hands of the depositor. One man told me only day before yesterday that he had 13 bank books—a wealthy man, aggregating some \$40,000 in the savings banks of the State of Maine, not paying a dollar of taxes. Is it any wonder when money accumulates in that way, that our interior towns are growing poorer all the time? It is a fact that our interior towns are becoming depopulated—that they have less and less in valuation as time rolls on; and it is just such legislation as this that, as you ride over the hills and through the valleys, shows you the deserted farm; and if you keep on giving the rich advantage over the poor you will find more vacant houses than you find now in the State of Maine. Now, as the two are allied together, and as I had a bill which I shall not speak upon, I will do it all at this time. I believe that these rich men—if you refuse this—if it is a fact as the bank examiner predicts, that if you do not reduce this tax these rich men will withdraw their deposits—I thank God for

that suggestion. I would like to see that \$15,000,000 that is in the savings banks of Maine, put there by the wealthy class, taken out of the savings banks—let those who have it in your town and in my town take it out and put it into business and give employment to the young men and young women—build up industries in the interior and make the State prosperous. In the West the money is going into industries which are growing up everywhere, while down here every dollar that a man gets he places in the savings bank because he has to pay no taxes on it. I admired the fairness of a man in my office, last Saturday. He has perhaps \$1500 or \$2000 in the savings bank. He said: "It ought to be taxed. I am willing to pay," and I have faith to believe that a majority of those men who have this large sum in the savings banks are willing to pay a tax on it. Don't be afraid of sentimentalism. I respect the poor. I would not take a jot or tith from them, and while you are voting to take the tax off of the banks you are not voting to better their condition. What we want is diversity of wealth throughout the whole State of Maine; and when we have that we can enter upon an era of prosperity in Maine that will make the people good. I received, and meant to have brought them up here with me, a couple of anonymous cards—but I haven't them with me—threatening me if I espoused equal taxation. It makes no difference, gentlemen. From beginning to the end, you may count on me, if I stand all alone, to vote for equal rights to the common people.

Mr. WING of Androscoggin: Mr. President, I hope the president and senators will pardon me for encroaching upon the session of the senator from Knox. It seems that our Governor in looking the situation over—the business situation of the State—felt impelled to call the attention of the Legislature in his annual message to the fact that nearly one-third of the population of Maine are depositors in our savings banks; and also, in looking over the matter in a business way, that they were unjustly taxed; and called the direct attention of the law-making power to the fact that that tax ought in good conscience and fairness to be reduced. This matter was brought to the attention of the committee—an appropriate committee—and a public hearing was had. Now, that there can be no politics, it is fair to suggest that the chairman of the State assessors, himself a Democrat, urged the reduction of the tax. The committee itself, composed of gentlemen of experience and having the responsibility of the matter upon their own shoulders, unanimously reported in favor of it; and their action is criticised; and the gentlemen who came here to represent their views, as representing the savings banks, are also criticised. Who should come if the savings bank officials should not? They represent the depositors; and it is known that they represent them without compensation; and they came here as having

the interests of the depositors at hand and at heart, and made their appearance before the committee and were heard. Now, it is barely possible that the Governor, the State assessors, the committee to whom this matter was referred, were entirely devoid of sense, of feeling, of justice as to the propriety of their action, but they made a unanimous report; and I submit that it is entitled to the respect of this Senate, and it should be unanimously adopted; and I hope it will be.

Mr. GARDNER of Penobscot: Mr. President, I have somewhere read or heard it said of a certain distinguished man that he possessed the faculty of adapting himself with fluidity to diverse circumstances and condition; and, as I have followed the proceedings of this honorable body from day to day, it seems to me that this description is particularly fitting to the senator from Knox, with perhaps the added statement that at times the fluidity of his adaptability is inadequate to the requirements of the extensive field of his activities. By this I mean no disrespect to the honorable senator, and I assure him that I have followed his activity with wonderment, and, on the question of salaries, and in view of his earnest, determined, emphatic and, may I say, futile efforts to correct the errors and nullify the mistakes of the joint committees of this Legislature; and in view of the strenuous life he is leading, as one against thirty, I have contemplated the introduction of an order at the close of the session that his salary should be in the proportion of thirty to one; and I trust if this order should receive a passage it would serve as a balm for any lack of courtesy at our hands by reason of the fact that we are most often right and he wrong. I feel it incumbent upon me, in a feeble way, to defend the report of the committee on taxation; and by that I mean that it is proper and right. If there are objections to the report of the committee and it is desired that the committee should explain the reasons which led them to the conclusion they arrived at, and while I will say that I shall not attempt a speech, I will simply say that the committee on taxation carefully and conscientiously listened to all that was said for and against this measure; and at our hearing we had no opposition to the idea of reduction of the tax on savings banks except from the senator from Knox. In view of the fact that the Governor of this State, the bank examiner, the trustees of the savings banks, the State board of assessors, and indeed that, even, in a way, the treasurer of the State of Maine favored the idea; and after looking into it very carefully the committee on taxation very unanimously decided that this was wholesome and wise legislation and unanimously reported that the bill ought to pass; and I trust, gentlemen of the Senate, that our action will be upheld by this body, and that the motion of the senator from Knox will not prevail.

The question being put upon the motion of the senator from Knox that the bill be indefinitely postponed, the motion was lost.

The bill thereupon took its first reading and was assigned for second reading.

Bill, An Act to establish a street sewer commission for the city of Bath, came from the House reported by the committee on judiciary in new draft, and that it ought to pass. The report was accepted in concurrence and the bill took its first reading. On motion by Mr. Hyde of Sagadahoc, the bill took its second reading under suspension of the rules, and was passed to be engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Burleigh of Aroostook, the Senate adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock A. M., Wednesday, February 11, 1903.