

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventy-Ninth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1919

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HOUSE

Thursday, January 16, 1919.

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Layton of Augusta.

Journal of previous session read and approved.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Mr. Rounds of Portland asked leave to introduce the following order out of order under suspension of the rules:

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn they adjourn to meet Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 21, 1919, at 4.30 o'clock.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will take this opportunity to state that it believes the Legislature is ready for business and that it ought to consider carefully before it adjourns today under this order. We can advance the work of the session by remaining here until tomorrow, and the Chair feels that we then should adjourn to Tuesday at 10 o'clock, and begin our regular sessions. We are entering upon the work and the Chair believes that we ought to get busy, and takes the opportunity to make this statement. Of course the matter is in the hands of the House. All those who are in favor of passing the order as read will say aye; those opposed will say no.

A viva voce vote being doubted, a division of the House was had. Nineteen voting in favor of the order and 38 voting against it, the order failed of passage.

The following bills and resolves were presented and, on recommendation of the Committee on Reference of Bills, were referred to the following committees:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

By Mr. O'Leary of Bangor: Re-

solve in favor of the Eastern Maine Orphans' Home of Bangor.

By Mr. Baxter of Portland: Resolve in favor of Holy Innocents' Home of Portland.

Claims

By Mr. Brown of Abbot: Resolve appropriating money to reimburse in part the town of Abbot on account of the cement bridge at Upper Abbot over the Piscataquis River and on the State road to Moosehead lake.

Education

By Mr. Weatherbee of Lincoln: Resolve in favor of Lee Academy.

Judiciary

By Mr. Holley of No. Anson: An Act to amend Chapter Eighty of the Revised Statutes relating to title by descent.

By the same gentleman: Resolve, proposing an amendment to the constitution of the State of Maine empowering the Legislature to authorize towns to divide into voting districts for purposes of holding elections. (500 copies ordered printed.)

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton it was voted that 1500 copies be printed.

Pensions

By Mr. Maher of Augusta: An Act to provide for retiring and pensioning employees of State Insane Hospitals. (500 copies ordered printed.)

By Mr. Leathers of Hermon: Resolve in favor of Olive A. Hamm.

Public Utilities.

By Mr. Wilson of Presque Isle: An Act to extend the charter of the Quebec Extension Railway Company.

By Mr. Reed of Bangor: An Act to grant additional corporate powers to Maine Title and Utility Company.

State Lands and Forest Preservation

By Mr. Small of Brewer: An Act to amend sections 53, 54 and 55 of Chapter 8 of the Revised Statutes requiring a permit for the burning of brush or slash near woodlands and providing for the better enforcement of the Slash Law.

By Mr. Buzzell of Belfast: Resolve providing for the completion of

the book of Plans of Waldo County and appropriating money therefor.

By Mr. Audibert of Fort Kent: Resolve authorizing the State Land Agent to sell certain lots in Fort Kent, in Aroostook County.

By the same gentleman: Resolve authorizing the State Land agent to sell certain public lots in St. Francis Plantation in Aroostook County.

Ways and Bridges

By Mr. Flint of Monson: Resolve in favor of a roadway in townships numbered five and six, in the ninth range, N. W. P., in the county of Piscataquis.

Tabled by Mr. Flint of Monson for printing pending reference.

By Mr. Hisler of Windsor: Resolve in favor of the town of Windsor to aid in grading Vining Hill.

By Mr. Peabody of Richmond: Resolve in favor of Richmond-Dresden Ferry.

Orders

On motion by Mr. Baxter of Portland, it was

Ordered, the Senate concurring that the time for the reception of bills for private and special legislation be limited to Friday, January 31, 1919, and that all such petitions and bills presented after that day be referred to the next Legislature; that the Clerk of the House cause copies of this order to be published in all the daily and weekly papers of the State until and including Thursday, January 30th, next.

Orders of the Day

On motion by Mr. Allan of Portland, it was voted that the joint resolve providing for the creation of a commission to investigate the entire question of ownership and development by the State of the undeveloped powers within the State, and all issues necessarily involved therein, be taken from the table, and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was re-tabled for the purpose of printing, and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

From the Senate: The report of the committee on appropriations and

financial affairs on the three bonds of State Treasurer Joseph W. Simpson came from the Senate, read and accepted.

The report was accepted in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: Is there anything further to come up under orders of the day?

Mr. Cowan of Winterport then presented the following resolution:

Resolution requesting the Maine delegation in Congress to undertake some appropriate action, to prevent, if possible, the debarkation of homecoming troops at the port of New York, while William R. Hearst remains a member of the committee of welcome to homecoming troops.

Resolved: That whereas, the Imperial German government, in the year 1914, undertook to subjugate Europe and the world by means of which included the breaking of solemn treaties, the deliberate infliction of brutal crimes on the helpless civilian populations of invaded lands, and the sinking of unarmed passenger steamships by torpedoes in mid-ocean without warning, all in violation of the rules and usages of warfare among civilized nations:

And whereas, one William R. Hearst, by means of editorials published in the New York American, the Boston American, and other newspapers owned and circulated by him throughout the United States, commended and encouraged Germany in her wanton disregard of private and neutral rights, especially in the sinking of the Lusitania, whereby 114 American men, women and children were deliberately drowned, and has, furthermore, so conducted himself, at intervals, since the entry of the United States into the war, as to excite reasonable doubts, in the minds of the American people, as to his whole-hearted personal loyalty to his government;

And Whereas, the soil of France was drenched with the blood of men of Maine, and of her sister states, whose lives were sacrificed by thousands without stint or regret that an outlaw among nations might receive her just deserts for the commission

of those wicked deeds in which she received the active, moral support of said William R. Hearst, be it therefore

Resolved, by the people of Maine, through their representatives in Legislature assembled, that the action of the present mayor of the city of New York in appointing said William R. Hearst to membership on the Committee of Welcome to home-coming troops, is a positive insult to these soldiers who have so honorably upheld the principles of true Americanism, and particularly, to those who nobly died in foreign lands that those principles might live.

And it is further resolved, that the members of the Maine delegation in Congress be, and hereby are, requested to undertake appropriate action to prevent, if possible, the use of the port of New York as a debarkation point for troops returning home from overseas, while said William R. Hearst remains a member of said committee, in order that men of Maine may reenter their native land without enduring the humiliation and mockery of an official reception at the hands of a committee on which conspicuous place is given to one whose sympathy for their cause is of such doubtful character as to be still the subject of official investigations.

Mr. COWAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House for a few minutes on the matter of this resolution.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Winterport, Mr. Cowan.

Mr. COWAN: Gentlemen, we, of course, are all familiar with the facts about the case of Mr. Hearst, but in these war matters some of us are likely to grow tired of hearing trite repetition of matters which have taxed our attention for so long. The cause being now removed, we are apt to feel that no responsibility remains, and neither does it to so great an extent; but still, gentlemen, we ought not to forget that if those American troops of ours, many of whom are still over across, had not performed that duty which they were sent to perform so vigorously and thoroughly we would still be eating war

bread and enduring all the privations and hardships of war work which we have endured for so many months. Had it not been for the heroic deeds performed by our troops in July over in France the Germans would have broken through to the coast, and we can imagine what the results would have been. Now along comes Mr. Hearst, this spectacular, hypocritical, conscienceless demagogue, this man who is utterly opposed to the principles of Americanism, who has been so aptly termed our champion "star-spangled shammer," and who endeavors now to parade himself before the public as the patron of these troops who are coming home in order to rehabilitate his political capital. When the war broke out Mr. Hearst enlisted with Germany, although, so far as I know, he is not German-born and not of German extraction. He did this for the purely selfish reason that he believed the Central Powers would prevail. Even so late as January 1, 1917, he declared in a publication of his printed in the German language, now suppressed as I understand it, that "the final victory of the Central Powers is just as sure as the amen in church." Mr. Hearst's friends now come forward and say that the reason why he has supported Germany throughout this war is because of his intense hatred of England. He has no more cause for hatred toward England, gentlemen, than you or I. His only reason for such hatred is that when he was a boy he read in his school history that the United States beat England in two wars; but since August, 1914, until the entering of the United States into this war, he made it his business to minimize the atrocities committed by the Germans on the inhabitants of those invaded lands of France and Belgium and to exert every pressure at his command against England. Whenever a merchant ship bound with provisions for Germany was seized and brought into an English port and brought before a prize court, that was a very wicked thing; but whenever a submarine drowned a whole shipload of passengers that did not amount to very much; and so on through the entire war he tried his best to keep us out, and then when we did get in he retired to his

second Hindenburg line and tried to prevent our doing the Allies any good, first by advocating that we keep all our foods and munitions on this side, and that we send no ships across and no troops. Then, after we had been in the war several months he claimed that we were merely a cat's paw for England and that our men were being sent across as a bloody sacrifice.

Mr. GILMOUR of Westbrook: May I be allowed to interrupt the gentleman? He has substituted the word England for Great Britain. It is not England.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state that the gentleman (Mr. Gilmour) is out of order.

Mr. COWAN resuming: I stand corrected, Mr. Speaker. When the infamous Zimmermann note was exposed by the attorney general of the United States, Mr. Hearst called the attorney general's exposure in the papers a forgery, and he held to that as long as he could. In the meantime he was praising the Bolsheviki in Russia as honorable men, men who were freeing their country from an awful curse, and praising their agents and leaders who brought about that shameful treaty of peace with Germany. Then he tried to prove his loyalty to his country by decorating his papers with the American flags, trying to show by that symbol that because he puts a flag on his paper he is a loyal-hearted American. He did this deliberately, gentlemen, not only for the purpose of trying to prove that he was a loyal American, but to sell his papers, as shown by this telegram to the New York American dated March 3, 1917, as follows:

"If situation quiets down please remove color flags from first page and little flags from inside pages,

reserving these for special occasions of a war-like or patriotic kind. I think they have been good for this week, giving us a very American character and probably helping sell papers, but to continue effective they should be reserved for occasions. Hearst."

Now, then, as I say, he was trying to prevent bloodshed by keeping our soldiers here at home; but you will remember, gentlemen, not so very long ago he was advocating that we go down and conquer Mexico even if we had to raise a million or two million men to do it, and march them right straight through that country from the northern border to the Isthmus and annex Mexico with all her troubles to our nation; and this because he was the owner of great ranch and oil properties in that country and wanted to bring his properties under the protection of the American flag. The only reason why he sided with Germany in this war was because he expected Germany would be the winner and he would profit by her victory. Now then, gentlemen, this is not exactly a novel proposition that I have brought before you, for the Legislature of South Dakota just a week ago today unanimously passed a similar resolution, and I move the passage of this resolution, and that it be printed.

On motion by Mr. Cowan, under suspension of the rules, it was voted to receive this resolution at this time out of order; and on further motion by the same gentleman, it was voted that the resolve be tabled for printing pending its adoption.

On motion by Mr. O'Connell of Millinocket,

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.