

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventy-Ninth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1919

AUGUSTA
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1919

HOUSE

Thursday, February 6, 1919.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Perry of Hallowell.

Journal of previous session read and approved.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

From the Senate: An Act authorizing the Oxford Electric Company to discontinue the operation of its road and to dispose of its franchise and property.

This was by the House referred to the committee on judiciary. The Senate non-concurred and referred the bill to the committee on public utilities.

On motion by Mr. Wilson of Portland, the House by a viva voce vote voted to recede and concur with the Senate in the reference of this bill to the committee on public utilities.

From the Senate: Resolve in favor of Mrs. Brackett of Danforth, Washington county.

In the House it was referred to the committee on pensions. The Senate indefinitely postponed the resolve in non-concurrence with the action of the House.

(Tabled pending concurrent action by Mr. Rounds of Portland.)

Senate Bills in First Reading

Senate 44: An Act to amend Chapter 8 of the Revised Statutes by repealing Sections 30, 31, 32 and 33, relative to the control of forest fires.

Communication from Treasurer of State

"To the Honorable House of Representatives:

Gentlemen: In obedience to the order which was passed by your Honorable Body on February 4, 1919, ordering that I should furnish forthwith a statement of the receipts and

expenditures of all public moneys, I beg leave to submit the same.

Yours very truly,

J. W. SIMPSON,
Treasurer of State."

Mr. ROUNDS of Portland: Mr. Speaker, that report is not the report we expected to get. Therefore, I move that it lie on the table, because the Auditor is going to give us a report in about a week or 10 days that every man in this House can read and understand. Therefore, I move that it lie on the table, not for printing, because it will not be printed, probably, until next August.

The motion was agreed to.

The following bills, resolves and petitions were presented and, upon recommendation of the committee on reference of bills, were referred to the following committees:

Education

By Mr. Bean of Minot: Petition of H. J. Whittemore and 18 others, urging amendment of the school law so that all contracts for school supplies shall be approved by the superintending school committee, and also the board of selectmen, before the town is liable for payment.

Inland Fisheries and Game

By Mr. Stanley of Dixfield: Petition of E. G. Bassett of East Peru, Oxford county, and 13 others, residents of said county, in favor of a resident hunters' registration law.

By Mr. Cunningham of Patten: Petition of S. L. Wescott and 66 others, residents of Patten and vicinity, in favor of same.

By Mr. Allen of Sanford: Petition of H. B. Rowe and 27 others, residents of York county, in favor of same.

By Mr. Flint of Monson: Petition of George C. Orr and 32 others, residents of Portland, in favor of same.

By Mr. O'Connell of Millinocket: Petition of George W. Stearns and 64 others, residents of Millinocket and vicinity, in favor of same.

By Mr. Austin of South Berwick: Petition of E. P. Spinney and 84 others, residents of North Berwick and vicinity, in favor of same.

By Mr. Brown of Abbot: Petition of E. A. Ham of Guilford and 39 others residents of Piscataquis county in favor of same.

By Mr. Ricker of Oxford: Petition of F. Robert Seavey, secretary and treasurer of the Norway Fish and Game Association, and 10 other residents of Oxford county, in favor of same.

By Mr. Dutton of Bingham: Petition of John B. Carville and 56 others, residents of Spring Lake and vicinity, in favor of same.

By Mr. Cunningham of Patten: Remonstrance of Boyd N. Harrington and 112 others of Patten and vicinity against same.

By Mr. Conary of Bucksport: An Act to amend Section 49 of Chapter 33 of the Revised Statutes, relating to a closed season on rabbits. (500 copies ordered printed.)

Legal Affairs

By Mr. Garcelon of Auburn: An Act to amend Section 6, Chapter 5, of the Revised Statutes relating to boards of registration.

Sea and Shore Fisheries

By Mr. Love of Southport: Remonstrance of George W. Nelson and 52 others against the repeal of the law preventing seining for herring in Sheepscot river within 2000 feet of a fish weir.

Taxation

By Mr. Cunningham of Patten: An Act to amend Section 14, paragraph one, of Chapter 10 of the Revised Statutes, relating to the taxation of personal property.

(Tabled for printing pending reference and 500 copies ordered printed.)

Towns

By Mr. Ricker of Poland: Petition of N. B. Sanborn and 13 others of Greene urging the passage of House Bill No. 2, providing for elections of road commissioners of towns.

By Mr. Chellis of Porter: Petition of C. O. Barrows and seven others of Stow urging same.

By Mr. Weatherbee of Lincoln: Petition of George A. Lord and four others of Burlington urging same.

Ways and Bridges

By Mr. Mulligan of Nobleboro: An Act to amend Section 1 of Chapter 319 of the Public Laws of 1915, as amended by Chapter 304 of the Public Laws of 1917, entitled "An Act to provide for State and county aid in the construction of highway bridges."

Orders

On motion by Mr. Allan of Portland it was

Ordered, that the use of the hall of the House be granted the committee on taxation for a public hearing on the afternoon of Thursday, February 13.

Report of Committees

Mr. Putnam from the committee on interior waters, on bill An Act to amend Chapter 193 of the Private and Special Laws of 1908, entitled "An Act to incorporate the East Branch Improvement Company," reported that 500 copies of same be printed, and that it be recommitted to the committee for further consideration.

Mr. Wilson from the committee on public utilities, on bill An Act to amend Section 71, Chapter 55, Revised Statutes of Maine, 1916, relating to certain public utilities, reported same with the recommendation that it be printed and recommitted to the committee for further consideration.

Mr. Anderson from the committee on railroads and expresses, on bill An Act to provide for suitable crossings across railroad tracks, when improved premises on both sides of tracks are owned or controlled by the same individual, partnership or corporation, and for other purposes, reported that the same be referred to the committee on public utilities.

Reports were read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Mr. Eaton from the committee on appropriations and financial affairs, reported ought to pass on resolve to reimburse the committee on State prison for expenses to Thomaston.

Mr. Brackett from the committee on claims, reported same on Resolve in favor of the City of Calais to reimburse said city for money expended in the care of State paupers.

Mr. Cunningham from the committee on State lands and forest preser-

vation on bill An Act to amend Section 53 of Chapter 8 of the Revised Statutes, relative to the protection of forest fire signs, reported same in a new draft, under same title, and that it ought to pass.

Same gentleman from same committee, on bill An Act to amend Sections 53, 54 and 55 of Chapter 8 of the Revised Statutes, requiring a permit for the burning of brush and slash near woodlands and providing for the better enforcement of the Slash Law, reported same in a new draft, under same title, and that it ought to pass.

Reports were read and accepted and bills and resolves ordered printed under the joint rules.

First Reading of Printed Bills and Resolves

House 98. Resolve proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Maine, empowering the Legislature to authorize towns to have more than one voting place.

House 97. Resolve authorizing the State land agent to sell certain public lots in St. Francis Plantation in Aroostook county.

House 96. Resolve authorizing the State land agent to sell certain lots in the town of St. Agatha in the county of Aroostook.

House 99. An Act to provide for the election of road commisisoners of towns."

(Tabled by Mr. Wilson of Portland, pending its third reading.)

Passed to Be Engrossed

House 88: An Act relating to the taxation of money deposited in banks outside the State. Tabled by Mr. Maher of Augusta, pending passage to be engrossed, and specially assigned for tomorrow morning.)

House 94: Resolve in favor of William R. Roix.

Passed to Be Enacted

Resolve in favor of W. W. Greaton for services as document clerk at the organization of the seventy-ninth Legislature.

Orders of the Day

Mr. SAWYER of Fort Fairfield: Printed House Bill 22 is completely exhausted, and I move that 500 more copies be printed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair suggests that the gentleman from Fort Fairfield (Mr. Sawyer) prepare an order and have it come in that form.

Mr. ROUNDS of Portland: I move that we take from the table the communication from the State Auditor, with the list of unpaid bills and accounts for which there are no appropriations. Mr. Speaker, these bills and resolves that come here, some of them while not legally entitled to be paid, morally they should be. For example, there is the bill of the Board of Veterinary Examiners, \$301.67, and that of the Commissioners of Pharmacy, \$1,611.00, making a total of \$1,912.67. I have been told by lawyers that there is no law giving them a right to spend this money—only just their income; but their income is not enough to support themselves, so they come and ask the Legislature to appropriate the money for different departments, amounting to \$3,708.45. For these bills there was no appropriation. I held them up yesterday because I did not want them to come out of our appropriations for 1919 and 1920. I find, however, that by letting this go to the committee on financial affairs, as was done in 1917, they probably will do as was then done—have resolves brought into this House that will cover these different items, and at that time it will be taken out of the contingent fund which now amounts to about \$325,000. Therefore I move that they be sent to the committee on financial affairs.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state that the motion had already been made by the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. Eaton; so when the matter comes from the table, it automatically recurs to the motion of the gentleman from Rumford, Mr. Eaton; and is it the pleasure of the House that these matters be referred to the committee on appropriations and financial affairs in non-concurrence with the action of the

Senate sending it to the committee on claims?

The motion was agreed to.

On motion by Mr. Allan of Portland, it was voted to take from the table House Document No. 95, An Act to amend Section 35 of Chapter 126 of the Revised Statutes, relat-

ing to Sunday observance; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on judiciary.

On motion by Mr. Cowan of Winterport,

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.