

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eightieth Legislature

OF THE

State of Maine

1921

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SENATE

Monday, February 7, 1921.

Senate called to order by the secretary.

Prayer by Rev. M. G. Folsom of Gardiner.

The SECRETARY: I have a communication to read:

February 7, 1921.

Mr. L. Ernest Thornton,
Secretary of the Senate,
Dear Sir:

I hereby tender my resignation as President Pro Tempore of the Senate to take effect immediately.

Kindly communicate this resignation to the Senate in order that they may take due action thereon.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) F. G. FARRINGTON.

The resignation was then accepted and ordered placed on file.

The SECRETARY: The next duty of the Senate is to elect a President Pro Tempore.

Mr. THOMBS of Penobscot: Mr. Secretary and Senators of the 80th Legislature: In this twilight hour a duty falls to me that at any other time would be exceedingly pleasant. At this particular time, when our hearts are full of sorrow, and we feel to do only those things that are necessary, the most pleasant duty is a bit onerous.

At this time it is not my purpose, neither is it the time nor the place to offer any eulogy for that untimely death that has caused the people of Maine sorrow without parallel. In what I may have to say to you this afternoon, and I believe that throughout the remainder of the session, in this end of the capitol and in the other, brevity of speech and singleness to the business in hand will mark the record of this Legislature.

Senators, I believe that I knew our esteemed and lamented Governor well enough to say to you that if he could speak to us at this time he would, in that kindly way of his, ask us to take up the burden that falls upon us and carry it forward like men, serving the State of Maine to the best of our ability.

And it is in that spirit and with that feeling in my heart that I rise to address you briefly. At this time it becomes necessary for us to fill the vacancy caused by the death of our lamented Governor. Many of us, in fact, we all, are sorry indeed that such untimely events should have marred the even course of things in this Senate. And yet, I feel I voice the sentiments of the departed Governor, I feel that perhaps I am speaking for you, too, when I say that we must now take up the burden as we find it and carry it forward to a successful conclusion.

We are sorry, in a way, that our Presiding Officer has been called to other and higher duties. It was a pleasure for us to serve with him in the Senate for the few days in which we have had that privilege, but he is gone and has assumed new and higher obligations. And I know, Senators, that you join with me in wishing him God speed and every success in his most arduous and responsible position.

It is necessary for us to select from the thirty remaining senators one who shall lead us for the rest of the session. One whom we are pleased to address as President, one to preside over the deliberations of this body, to keep its business moving with dispatch, and see that the work that falls upon the Senate is quickly and well done.

It gives me especial pleasure, Senators, to present as a candidate for your consideration for this high office a dear personal friend, a gentleman who has had service in the Maine Legislature. Many of us have been privileged to serve with him, and those of us who have, have come to love him and to respect him for his true and sturdy manhood, for his zeal, his integrity, and his very evident desire to discharge those public duties falling upon him as a member of the Legislature in a spirit of honor and honesty of purpose.

I believe, Senators, it is unnecessary, and in view of what has just gone before, I cannot feel, to say those things about him of which he is deserving. And I am quite sure that he will be satisfied, and I hope and ask you to be satisfied, if, with these few remarks and on my own personal recommendation, I place in nomination for President of

the Senate pro tempore, the Hon. Charles E. Gurney of Cumberland county.

Fellow Senators, notwithstanding there are many in this body who could preside with grace and dignity, I understand that there is no other aspirant, and Mr. Secretary, if I am correct in that assumption, I will move that the assistant secretary cast the ballot of the assembled Senate for the Hon. Charles E. Gurney to serve you as President pro tempore of the 80th Legislature.

Mr. FOLSOM of Somerset: Mr. Secretary and Senators, it gives me pleasure to second the nomination of the Hon. Charles E. Gurney of Cumberland as President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and to second the motion that the assistant secretary cast the vote of the Senate.

The nomination and the motion were adopted, and the assistant secretary having cast the ballot of the Senate as directed, Hon. Charles E. Gurney was declared elected President Pro Tempore.

Senator Thombs escorted the President Pro Tempore to the Chair.

Address of the President Pro Tempore.

Fellow Senators: On the fairest page of the History of the 80th Legislature, by the side of the names of his illustrious predecessors, let us inscribe the name of Frederic Hale Parkhurst, gentleman, patriot, Governor, whose broad outlook for the welfare of his State was clouded by no unselfish thought or purpose and whose cherished memory still beams forth in the midnight blackness of death, as a beacon summoning us upward to the heights of aspiration, he himself was not permitted to reach.

Then let us record for other men of other times that he was of gentle manner, of unswerving rectitude of life, a good citizen, a devoted husband and a loving father.

His elevation to be Chief Executive of this State will ever stand as a challenge to ambitious youth, who baring his breast to adverse circumstances builds his career upon the sure foundations of right thinking, clean living and persistent effort toward the worthy goal of service.

My memory of him will endure as he stood on the morning of his inau-

gural when with uplifted hand, pledging allegiance to our Constitutions, a smile illuminating his countenance, he gave a tender glance toward his wife and beautiful little daughter, seemingly from the depths of his soul, whose mystic message came to my mind as saying, "All these things I do for you and not for myself." In his moment of gladness we were all too unsuspecting of that black gloom just arising above the horizon of the immediate future.

The tragic events that were all too soon to follow are still too deeply engraved on our hearts to allow narration, and still too heavily weigh upon me to admit of any personal exaltation of spirit in the great honor you have so generously bestowed upon me.

I should, however, appear unmindful of the dignity did I fail to tell you in simple words of my profound gratitude for this manifestation of your confidence.

To the distinguished senator from Penobscot county, Senator Thombs, who has accorded me such knightly courtesy, I offer my sincere appreciation and regard; but here my voice must be silent by the consciousness of the sorrow, as sincere as it is universal, that still oppresses our fellow citizens who deeply deplore the sad occasion that gives rise to the necessity for this change.

To the duties of the position I come with a spirit of humility and dependency of one who enters the sanctuary.

Errors will inevitably be made, but they will be errors of the mind and not of the heart. It shall be my constant endeavor to hold the scales with an even hand, unmoved by fear, uninfluenced by favor, and to render to every senator the fullest measure of justice and consideration.

Whatever emotions may strive for utterance, our first care is to consider the work before us with the steadfast loyalty to our State that animated him whom we mourn but who still lives to inspire us in the eternal hour of God.

Fitting, indeed, was this expressed by our associate from York county, the talented Senator Spencer, who in his poem, born of this time of sorrow, entitled *The Recall*, says:

Into the depths, to us unknown,
The voice supreme has called its own—
Back from the dignity of State,
Back from its cares both small and
great.

For him, there is no fear of change,
He simply rises to a range
Of highest service, greater deeds,
And fuller wisdom, that he needs.

For us, the earth drives on apace,
There is no pause in time or space;
The constellation where we cling
Is still a mystic, restless thing.

And so our paths now lead apart,
Yet close together—to the heart
Of that vast universe, divine
As well as human, in design.

The PRESIDENT pro tem: The
Chair awaits your pleasure.

Journal of previous session read and
approved.

Mr. THOMBS of Penobscot: Mr.
President, I move that the rules be
suspended, and that a message be sent
to the Governor informing him of the
election of Hon. Charles E. Gurney
of Cumberland as President pro tem-
pore of the Senate.

The motion was agreed to and the
Chair designated Senator Thombs to
deliver the message. The senator re-
tired and subsequently reported that
he had delivered the message with
which he was charged.

Mr. SPENCER of York: Mr. Presi-
dent, I move that a message be sent
to the House informing that body of
the election of Hon. Charles E. Gur-
ney of Cumberland as President pro
tempore of the Senate.

The motion was adopted. The se-
cretary conveyed the message and sub-
sequently reported that he had deliv-
ered the message with which he was
charged.

Papers from the House disposed of
in concurrence.

From the House: An Act to amend
Section 14 or Chapter 16 of the Revised
Statutes, as amended by Chapter 62 of
the Public Laws of 1917, relating to
the provisions for heating, lighting,
ventilating and hygienic conditions in
new or reconstructed school buildings.

An Act for the improvement of
sanitary conditions in school build-
ing toilets.

These bills came from the House
referred to the committee on Educa-
tion. On motion by Mr. Cobb of
Kennebec, pending reference in con-
currence, they were tabled for print-
ing and 500 copies of each ordered
printed.

The following bills, petitions, etc.,
were received and on recommenda-
tion of the committee on reference
of bills were referred to the following
committees:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

By Mr. Emerson of Aroostook: An
Act appropriating money for the
Retracing and Defining of the Lines
of the Public Lots.

Claims

By Mr. Farrington of Kennebec:
Resolve in favor of Lena I. San-
born, an employee of the Board of
State assessors in 1918.

By Mr. Parent of Androscoggin:
Resolve reimbursing the St. Mary's
General Hospital of Lewiston for
services rendered in the care of cer-
tain patients during the calendar
year 1919.

By Mr. Adams of Kennebec: Re-
solve in favor of Stephen Blaisdell
for materials furnished in the con-
struction of the Central School
Building for the Maine State School
for Girls.

Legal Affairs

By Mr. Garcelon of Androscoggin:
An Act to amend Section 98 of
Chapter 82 of the Revised Statutes
relating to the exchange of Justices
of Superior Courts. (300 ordered
printed.)

Military Affairs

By Mr. Garcelon of Androscoggin:
An Act to amend Sections 2 and 3
of Chapter 264 of the Public Laws
of 1919, extending the provisions for
applicants for the Soldiers' Bonus.
(500 ordered printed.)

Ways and Bridges

By Mr. Baxter of Sagadahoc: Re-
solve appropriating money to aid in
maintaining a Ferry across Merry-
meeting Bay in the County of Saga-
dahoc.

Orders

On motion by Mr. Cobb of Kennebec, it was

Ordered, that 300 additional copies of House Document No. 9, An Act to regulate and license operators of slaughter houses, be printed for the use of the Legislature.

On motion by Mr. Sargent of Hancock, it was

Ordered, that 100 copies of the journal of the Senate of the present session be printed and bound under the supervision of the secretary of the Senate, and that the State librarian be directed to furnish one copy of said journal to each member and officer of the Senate, the balance to be deposited in the State library for exchange purposes.

On motion by Mr. Allen of York, it was

Ordered, the House concurring, that the limit for the reception of petitions and bills for private and special legislation be extended one week so that the same shall be limited to Thursday, February 17, 1921, at four o'clock P. M., and that such

petitions and bills presented after that date be referred to the next Legislature; that the secretary of the Senate cause copies of this order to be published in all daily and weekly papers of the State until and including February 16, 1921.

Sent down for concurrence.

Orders of the Day

The Secretary read the following communication:

February 7, 1921.

To the Honorable Senate:

I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the following committees: Judiciary, education, claims and military affairs, to take effect immediately.

Respectfully,

(Signed) CHARLES E. GURNEY.

On motion by Mr. Farrington of Kennebec the resignation was accepted and ordered placed on file.

On motion by Mr. Thompson of Knox,

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.