

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Second Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1925

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Wednesday, January, 14, 1925.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. McWhorter of Augusta.

Journal of previous session read and approved.

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

At this point the Speaker announced as follows: The Clerk wishes me to state that he has started a new system of numbering documents. Every bill or resolve on its introduction into the House is to have a number which is called the House Paper Number. If the document is later printed, it will have an additional number as a printed document; but in order that the Clerk may keep track of all bills and resolves introduced into the House, he will give them this House Paper Number at the time of their introduction.

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

By Mr. Campbell of Kingman: Resolve in favor of Patten Academy for Building and Equipment. (H. P. No. 6).

Commerce

By Mr. Harriman of Readfield: "An Act in relation to Standard Time". (H. P. No. 7). (500 copies ordered printed).

Judiciary

By Mr. Hale of Portland: "An Act providing for the Regulation and Taxation of certain Advertising Signs". (H. P. No. 8). (1000 copies ordered printed).

Legal Affairs

By Mr. Atwood of Portland: "An Act to provide for the Settlement of Estates of Absentees". (H. P. No. 9). (500 copies ordered printed).

Maine Publicity

By Mr. Spear of Portland: Resolve to Compile and Publish Data of the Resources of the State. (H. P. No. 10). (1000 copies ordered printed).

Ways and Bridges

By Mr. Campbell of Kingman: Resolve in favor of bridge in the town of Kingman. (H. P. No. 11).

By Mr. White of Bowdoinham: Resolve providing for a Commission to investigate and make report to this session of the Legislature, relative to the construction of a Combination Railroad and Highway Bridge over the Kennebec River and the relative merits of a location for the bridge between the City of Bath and the Town of Woolwich, and a location between the Towns of Richmond and Dresden as a site for said bridge. (H. P. No. 12). (500 copies ordered printed).

Orders of The Day

On motion by Mr. Hale of Portland, it was voted to take from the table the order tabled by that gentleman on Thursday last, relating to the allowance of postage to members.

Mr. Hale presented amendment A, as follows, and moved its adoption.

House Amendment A to House order relative to postage for members.

Amend said order by striking out "ten dollars" in the last line thereof, and substituting therefor "five dollars", so that the same shall read as follows:

"That the Secretary of State be directed to furnish each member and officer of the House with postage stamps to the amount of five dollars."

Mr. CUMMINGS of Portland: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me, in view of the fact that members of this Legislature only receive four hundred dollars for their services here, it is entirely unnecessary to deprive them of ten dollars' worth of postage stamps. There are many members who come here at considerable sacrifice—sacrifice of time, money and business—and you are all aware that the compensation we receive is indeed very small. In the State of Massachusetts I believe it is fifteen hundred dollars. At the present time, as you are all well aware, expenses of all sorts connected with living on this planet are very much higher than they used to be. The four hundred dollars was very small then and it looks very much smaller now. It seems to me that the ten dollars that the order calls for is a thing there is no necessity of cutting down. For myself, personally, I have been spending postage and money, money for books that I need to inform myself

in regard to matters that are coming up before this Legislature. I will guarantee that I have already spent in that way—do not misunderstand me, not wholly for postage,—but what I have bought to try to inform myself, I have already spent more than ten dollars. A great many of us are not born with a silver spoon in our mouths, and I think that we are entitled to ten dollars worth of postage, and I hope that the amount will not be reduced. I do not regard it as a petty graft; I do not think that at all. I think it is merely a small item which the State allows us owing to the fact of the extremely small amount which we receive for our services. (Applause).

MR. BOODY of Windham: Mr. Speaker and members: The town that I represent considers money in the treasury as a sacred trust. Every dollar and every penny is carefully guarded in the protection of the taxpayers of my town, and you will find with me the same methods will be extended as to State expenditures as in the town I represent. When I saw these things going through, I was ready to get on my feet and table this thing that the gentlemen from Portland (Mr. Hale) has tabled. I come here, and you come here, sacrificing no doubt financial interests; but I hope that when we pass through these doors we may be able to say that we have eliminated unnecessary expenditures to the utmost. You will find my mind reaching to the farthest points of the State in my liberality. Mark those words! But you will find my hands clean of things that I will take for myself. I am surprised that this thing has been going on, although habit is a great factor in this world. I am radically opposed to such things, and, therefore, I shall oppose this to the utmost; and when I pass through these doors, I shall endeavor to do so with as clean a record as I have been able to keep in my town for the past forty years.

I have had a conference with the gentleman who introduced this order, and with the gentleman who laid it on the table, and for fear that there may be some of you who may need the things pertaining to the administration of the State including postage. I am willing to concede what the gentleman from Portland (Mr. Cummings) has claimed, but know that I shall not use one dollar's

worth of them. I believe that five dollars taken from the State Treasury—and nobody knows from what labor contributed—although I shall not receive one penny for stamps in any way, is enough. I am here to devote my thoughts and interests to the State of Maine, and I sustain the gentlemen who asks for five dollars. On motion by Mr. Stitham of Pittsfield, the amendment was tabled, pending adoption.

The SPEAKER: The Chair presents the communication from the Ex-Governor, tabled by the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Oakes.

Mr. OAKES of Portland: I move, Mr. Speaker, that the veto take its ordinary course, and in doing so I think I should explain why I asked that it be laid on the table. The reason was largely a matter of procedure. One veto was on a bill providing for an appropriation of twenty thousand dollars for the Girls' Reformatory. The amount was deemed insufficient by Governor Baxter, and he therefore, did not use the appropriation, and, as I understand, it lapsed; so that the veto is merely a matter of clearing up a record.

The other veto was for an engine for a motor boat for the Sea and Shore Fisheries, but this was provided for from some other fund; so that measure is unimportant.

The question of procedure was whether, under the Constitution, the veto, which was a new matter, was properly before the House. Several of the lawyers spent considerable time on it, and, differences of opinion developing, it seemed wise to lay it on the table until the matter could be sifted out and a decision arrived at among the various lawyers who had been working on the matter. The procedure might, in some instances, be of far-reaching importance. I now move that the veto be sustained and the matter take its ordinary course.

Mr. HAMILTON of Caribou: Mr. Speaker, it seems proper that we should understand just what we are voting on. Perhaps two years ago, when we did not sustain some of the vetoes we did not understand, but this time there is no question but what we should understand the situation. Personally, I am opposed to having certain things done by other departments of this State, taking the

money therefor from the contingent fund. I believe it is taking away a right that belongs to the Legislature; but in these particular instances that will come before you—there are five different ones—after careful investigation I find that they were all provided for by the Legislature. The first instance, the putting in of this engine in the "Pauline", was provided for in the appropriation by the last Legislature, and the money was not taken from the contingent fund. Therefore, in these particular instances, I see no reason why we should not unanimously sustain the Governor's veto.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state that the remarks of the gentleman from Portland (Mr. Oakes) and the gentleman from Caribou (Mr. Hamilton) are applicable to both of these matters. They will be voted on separately. The first one is the Resolve appropriating money to purchase and install a new engine in the State boat "Pauline". The question before the House is, shall this resolve become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor. Is the House ready for the question?

Mr. BOODY of Windham: Mr. Speaker, I would ask for information, if the appropriations that were made are still in force if we sustain the veto?

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state that they are not. A vote of yes is for the passage of the resolve. A vote of no is to sustain the veto of the Governor. A vote of no is in accordance with the suggestions made by the gentlemen from Portland (Mr. Oakes) and the gentleman from Caribou (Mr. Hamilton). Is the House ready for the question? The clerk will call the roll.

YEA—None.

NAY—Allen of Yarmouth, Allen of Harpswell, Allen of Hampden, Atwood, Audibert, Ayer, Bartlett of Hanover, Bartlett of Bangor, Beckett, Benoit, Bisbee, Bishop, Boody, Boynton, Bragdon, Briggs, Brown of Bethel, Brown of Waterford, Buker, Bump, Burnham, Burns, Campbell, Clarke, Cole, Comins, Crockett, Cummings, Curtis, Cyr, Daigle, Davis of Dexter, Davis of Portland, Davitt, Decker, Deering of Denmark, Deering of Saco, Drake, Dudley, Dunbar, Dunning, Dwinal, Ellis, Eustis, Farley, Flint, Forhan, Foster, Friend,

Frost of Belfast, Frost of Berwick, Frost of Eastport, Fuller, Gagne, Gallagher, Garnsey, Gauvin, Gilchrist, Gilmour, Goodrich, Gordon, Haggett, Hale, Hall, Hallett, Ham, Hamilton, Harrington, Hayford, Hight, Holman, Holmes, Houghton, Ingraham, Ireland, Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilburn, Kinsman, Kitchen, Lait, Lamson, Larrabee, Leland, Lessard, Lewis, Lowell, Ludwig, Lunt, Mansfield, Marden, Martin, Mathews, McDonald, Mears, Melcher, Metcalf, Mills, Mitchell of Houlton, Mitchell of Newfield, Moore, Morse, Norwood, Oakes, Palmer, Peaslee, Pendleton, Pierce, Pike, Pillsbury, Piper, Pullen, Roberts, Robie, Robinson, Roy, Sargent, Seidel, Smith, Snow, Spear, Spruce, Stitham, Sturgis, Thissell, Thompson, Towle, Tupper, Vail, Warren, Waterman, Wheeler, Whitcomb, White, Wing of Kingfield, Wing of Auburn, Winn, Young.

—Negative—140.

ABSENT — Bowman, Greenleaf, Hammond, Harriman, Lausier, Leighton, Littlefield, Nevins, Nichols, Page, Stone.—Absent—11.

The SPEAKER: One hundred and forty having voted in the negative and none in the affirmative, the veto is sustained.

The SPEAKER: The Chair presents the other document being a resolve for the construction and equipment of an infirmary and dispensary at the State School for Girls. The question before the House is whether this resolve shall be come a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor. A vote of yes is for the passage of the resolve. A vote of no sustains the veto and the resolve fails of passage. The Clerk will call the roll.

YEA—None.

NAY—Allen of Yarmouth, Allen of Harpswell, Allen of Hampden, Atwood, Audibert, Ayer, Bartlett of Hanover, Bartlett of Bangor, Beckett, Benoit, Bisbee, Bishop, Boody, Boynton, Bragdon, Briggs, Brown of Bethel, Brown of Waterford, Buker, Bump, Burnham, Burns, Campbell, Clarke, Cole, Comins, Crockett, Cummings, Curtis, Cyr, Daigle, Davis of Dexter, Davis of Portland, Davitt, Decker, Deering of Denmark, Deering of Saco, Drake, Dudley, Dunbar, Dunning, Dwinal, Ellis, Eustis, Farley, Flint, Forhan, Foster, Friend, Frost of Belfast, Frost of Berwick, Frost of Eastport, Fuller, Gagne,

Gallagher, Garnsey, Gauvin, Gilchrist, Gilmour, Goodrich, Gordon, Haggett, Hale, Hall, Hallett, Ham, Hamilton, Harrington, Hayford, Hight, Holman, Holmes, Houghton, Ingraham, Ireland, Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Kilburn, Kinsman, Kitchen, Lait, Lamson, Larrabee, Leland, Lessard, Lewis, Lowell, Ludwig, Lunt, Mansfield, Marden, Martin, Mathews, McDonald, Mears, Melcher, Metcalf, Mills, Mitchell of Houlton, Mitchell of Newfield, Moore, Morse, Norwood, Oakes, Palmer, Peaslee, Pendleton, Pierce, Pike, Pillsbury, Piper, Pullen, Roberts, Robie, Robinson, Roy, Sargent, Seidel, Smith, Snow, Spear, Spruce, Stitham, Sturgis, Thissell, Thompson, Towle, Tupper, Vail, Warren, Waterman, Wheeler, Whitcomb, White, Wing of Kingfield, Wing of Auburn, Winn, Young.—140.

ABSENT—Bowman, Greenleaf, Hammond, Harriman, Lausier, Leighton, Littlefield, Nevins, Nichols, Page, Stone.—11.

The SPEAKER: One hundred and forty having voted in the negative and none in the affirmative, the veto is sustained.

Mr. CURTIS of Brewer: Mr. Speaker, I move that we take from the table the order tabled last week with reference to the printing of bills, and I yield the floor to Representative Martin of Augusta.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Brewer, Mr. Curtis, moves to take from the table: Ordered, the House concurring, that all bills and resolves shall be printed pending reference to a committee, and when the same are advertised for hearing the advertisement shall give the number of the bill and state whether it is a Senate or House document.

Thereupon Mr. Martin of Augusta offered House Amendment A to the above order and moved its adoption, as follows:

House Amendment A to the following order: Ordered, the House concurring, that all bills and resolves shall be printed pending reference to a committee, and when the same are advertised for hearing the advertisement shall give the number of the bill and state whether it is a Senate or House Document.

The above order is hereby amended by adding before the words "Bills and Resolves" in the first line, the word "public".

Mr. BRAGDON of Perham: Mr. Speaker, I have been making some investigations in regard to the cost of this order, and have not had hardly time to arrive at a conclusion; and I move that the order and amendment lie on the table until tomorrow.

The motion prevailed.

The SPEAKER: Mr. Kinsman of Augusta presents the following order out of order:

Ordered, that all committees cause all legislative hearing notices of a public nature to be printed in the Kennebec Journal of Augusta and in such other papers as the committees may designate.

On motion by Mr. Kinsman of Augusta, the order was tabled, pending the ascertainment of certain action by the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk desires the Chair to suggest at this time that the members take care in preparing the titles of the bills which they submit. The more brief the title, the more readily handled by the Clerk and the various committees. The title should indicate in some manner the subject matter of the bill, but it is unnecessary to embody much of its substance. The title on the outside of the bill should correspond with the title inside. The reference to laws to be amended need not be stated in full in the title, thereby saving space.

At this time the Chair will urge the members to be prompt in the matters which they submit to the Legislature. The earlier bills are submitted, the more quickly we can proceed to accomplish the work of the winter. For the information of new members the Chair will state that it has been the custom along in the session to put a limit of time beyond which no private legislation may be introduced; so it is important to have matters that are purely of private interest, such as resolve in favor of any institution, before the Legislature at an early date. If the House will sit tomorrow, and we can have a fair number of bills in this week and assign to committees, we can progress much more rapidly.

On motion by Mr. Spear of Portland

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.