

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Third Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1927

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Tuesday, January 25, 1927.

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

Prayer by the Rev. C. E. Young of Hallowell.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

Paper from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

From the Senate: The following Order:

ORDERED, The House concurring, that the President and Treasurer of the State of Maine Associates be requested by the Secretary of the Senate to prepare for the information of the eighty-third Legislature, a statement of moneys including the names of the persons or organizations contributing same and how and where said money was dispensed, listing names and amounts when said money was expended and purpose therefor; (S. D. No. 10.)

In the Senate read and passed.

In the House on motion by Mr. Eustis of Strong the order was tabled.

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

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

By Mr. Crawford of Houlton: Resolve appropriating money to aid the Madigan Memorial Hospital at Houlton (H. P. No. 70.)

Banks and Banking

By Mr. Berry of Waterville: An act for giving notice to joint depositors. (H. P. No. 71.)

(500 copies ordered printed.)

Claims

By Mr. Burns of Eagle Lake: Resolve in favor of Alvin Bolstridge of Winterville (H. P. No. 72.)

By Mr. Ayer of Cornish: Resolve in favor of A. H. Wadleigh, compensating him for damage done his orchard by deer. (H. P. No. 73.)

By Mr. Burns of Eagle Lake: Resolve in favor of the estate of Eddie Fitzgerald, Seven Islands, Maine (H. P. No. 74.)

Education

By Mr. Kane of Addison: Resolve in favor of Cherryfield Academy (H. P. No. 75.)

By Mrs. Folsom of Norridgewock: Resolve in favor of Anson Academy. (H. P. No. 78.)

By Mr. Brown of Bethel: An act relative to the school equalization fund (H. P. No. 76.)

(500 copies ordered printed.)

By the same gentleman: An act relative to school transportation. (H. P. No. 77.)

(500 copies ordered printed.)

Inland Fisheries and Game

By Mr. Heath of Guilford: Petition of Albert M. Augustine and 120 others to repeal the trapping law (H. P. No. 79.)

By the same gentleman: Petition of Arthur J. Frank and 140 others to repeal the trapping law (H. P. No. 80.)

By Mr. Foster of Ellsworth: An act to regulate the taking of pickerel in Union river in the county of Hancock (H. P. No. 87.)

By the same gentleman: Petition of L. F. Giles, W. Whiting and other residents of Hancock County in favor of same (H. P. No. 88.)

By Mr. Brown of Bethel: An act to regulate fishing in Big Magalloway river, between Parmachenee Lake and Sawyer Lake in Oxford County (H. P. No. 83.)

By the same gentleman: Petition of W. K. Kilgore, et al. in favor of same. (H. P. No. 84.)

By the same gentleman: An act to regulate fishing in Twin Brooks, so-called, tributaries to Azischohos Lake, in the county of Oxford (H. P. No. 85.)

By the same gentleman: Petition of F. Perley Flint, et als in favor of same (H. P. No. 86.)

By Mr. Winslow of Freeport: An act relating to the registration of resident hunters and fishermen (H. P. No. 89.)

(500 copies ordered printed.)

By Mr. Hale of Portland: An act relating to salmon and trout in the lakes and ponds of the counties of Cumberland and York (H. P. No. 90.)

(500 copies ordered printed.)

Judiciary

By Mr. Hathaway of Milo: An act relating to the civil jurisdiction of

the Piscataquis Municipal court (H. P. No. 91.)

By Mr. Hale of Portland: An act relating to expenditures and returns of candidates for public office (H. P. No. 92.)

(500 copies ordered printed.)

By Mr. MacKinnon of Mexico: An act defining dealers in motor vehicles (H. P. No. 93).

(500 copies ordered printed.)

Legal Affairs

By Mr. Rounds of Portland: An act to authorize the city of Portland to retire and pension members of its Fire Department (H. P. No. 94).

By Mr. Bartlett of Bangor: An act relating to the City of Bangor Water Works Loan Bill (H. P. No. 96).

By Mr. Rounds of Portland: An act relative to the practice of chiropractic by veterans of the Spanish American War (H. P. No. 95).

(500 copies ordered printed.)

Mercantile Affairs and Insurance

By Mr. Heath of Guilford: An act relating to Insurance Commissioner (H. P. No. 97).

(500 copies ordered printed.)

Public Utilities

By Mr. McIntire of Norway: An act relating to the charter of the Norway Water Company (H. P. No. 99).

By Mr. Wing of Auburn: An act relating to inventories and rates of electrical companies (H. P. No. 98).

(500 copies ordered printed.)

Sea and Shore Fisheries

By Mr. Foster of Ellsworth: An act relative to catching smelts in Salt Pond in the town of Bluehill. (H. P. No. 81).

By the same gentleman: Petition of Geo. W. Grindle et als. in favor of same. (H. P. No. 82).

Ways and Bridges

By Mr. Flint of Monson: Resolve in favor of road in the town of Monson (H. P. No. 100).

By Mr. Jones of Corinna: Resolve in favor of the town of Exeter (H. P. No. 101).

By Mr. Brown of Bethel: Resolve in favor of the town of Greenwood, in the county of Oxford for the repair of a highway (H. P. No. 102).

By Mr. Norwood of Warren: An act providing for the State to take over all bridges on the State Highways (H. P. No. 103).

(1000 copies ordered printed.)

By Mr. MacKinnon of Mexico: An act in relation to the breaking of roads in winter (H. P. No. 104).

(500 copies ordered printed.)

Orders

Mr. Wing of Kingfield presented the following order and moved its passage:

Ordered, that the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Maine be requested to furnish this body with the following information:

Are the costs of certain advertisements, a copy of which is hereto attached, urging the people of Maine to repeal the Fernald law and permit the export of hydro-electricity from the State, signed by the Central Maine Power Company, allowed by said Commission as operating cost of said utility company which the users of the service of said company pay for in their rates?

The SPEAKER: Unless some member of the House wishes it, the advertisement will not be read.

Mr. THURSTON of Appleton: Mr. Speaker, I would like the advertisement read.

ADVERTISEMENT

"A Million Dollars or More in Taxes Is Possible Each Year If—

Twenty seven cents out of every dollar collected by Central Maine Power Company during 1925, after the payment of all charges and interest obligations, were paid out in taxes.

Each year Central Maine Power Company pays well over a third of a million dollars in taxes—over a thousand dollars a day, every day in the year.

If Maine people will authorize the export of surplus power, Central Maine Power Company can profitably spend millions of dollars more within the next few years for power houses and transmission lines.

This alone should yield several hundreds of thousands of dollars more each year to the State and to the counties and towns in which the constructions are made.

These larger and more efficient power houses and lines will enable the Company to generate power cheaper than has ever before been possible. This REALLY CHEAP energy should attract very large users

of power to Maine as it has to Niagara Falls.

These new industries should in turn attract dependent industries; cause new and bigger communities; still more taxable property.

This growth, which could be conservatively estimated to come to Maine within the next ten or fifteen years should yield millions of dollars yearly in new tax money. This should mean either lower taxes for Maine people—or more for their tax money.

Change the present law against the export of surplus power and Maine can easily hope to get this new prosperity.

CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY,

Augusta, Maine.

The SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the house that this order receive a passage.

Mr. ROUNDS of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I would like information as to what this means? If we pass this order, does it mean that they can take this power out of the State? I should like to have a chance to vote on it.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would state that the order seems to simply ask for information from the Public Utilities Commission as to whether the cost of certain advertisements are allowed by said Commission as operating cost. In other words, it simply asks for information from the Public Utilities Commission.

Mr. CHASE of Cape Elizabeth: Mr. Speaker, I think that when the House addresses an inquiry to a department of the State that it should consider the importance of that inquiry and whether the same can be answered. The fact that this advertisement appears in papers of January, and presumably was paid for in that month, should indicate to anyone who is familiar with the Public Utilities Commission that that Commission will not be able to answer the inquiry which is made in the order inasmuch as that Company only files its detailed return, as I understand it, once a year. Now under the circumstances, since they cannot answer the question, it seems to me that the importance of the order should be guaranteed to some extent by wondering at whom it is directed. I have not the slightest idea myself by whom this advertisement is paid, but I should

think the purpose would be as well served by having any gentleman inquire of the Central Maine Power Company. It is well known that any public utility company has a right to spend a certain amount of money for publicity, and if this is directed as an attack against anyone who presumes to advertise as to what the company thinks may be the best policy of the State, I think we ought to recognize that when the order comes in.

Mr. WING of Kingfield: Mr. Speaker, this order is simply for the purpose as stated in the order. It is not the first time that corporations of the State of Maine have indulged in extensive advertising for a political purpose. At the present time the policy of the State of Maine, or the policy which we have called the policy of the State of Maine since 1909, has been seriously questioned. The object of this order is simply to find out whether a great public utilities company can enter this field of political advertising and charge up that expense to its operating account. I think that is a question which the Public Utilities Commission should be able to answer.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will have to call attention to the fact that no smoking is allowed during the session, either by members or visitors. The Chair did not mean to interrupt the gentleman from Kingfield, Mr. Wing.

Mr. WING: Mr. Speaker, I think I have said all that I intended to.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the passage of the order of the gentleman from Kingfield, Mr. Wing—

On motion by Mr. Piper of Jackman it was voted that the order be tabled, pending its passage.

On motion by Mr. Bissett of Portland it was

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that letters of thanks be sent to the Abnaki Club and Y. M. C. A., for courtesies extended to the Legislature.

Sent up for concurrence.

Mr. Chase of Cape Elizabeth presented the following order and moved its passage:

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that the committee on Mines and

Mining be instructed to investigate the conditions of mines and mining in the State and to report what action the Legislature can take to promote most effectively the development of the mineral resources of Maine.

Mr. CHASE: Mr. Speaker, I do not introduce this order with the idea of disturbing the tranquility of the committee which seems likely to become obsolescent through disuse.

It has been a long time since any one has looked around the State to observe and report to any State agency the condition of mines and mining in Maine. All geologists know, and those who have worked in Maine have pointed out, that there exists very promising opportunities for development of mineral

resources. Many of our experiences in mining have been unfortunate; but nevertheless it would seem that once in a while it would be well to look around and examine the various industries which involve mining in the State so that the State may be in touch with them, and see if any action can be taken which would tend to stimulate that field of development.

Thereupon the order received passage, and was sent up for concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Rawley of St. George,

Adjourned until ten o'clock tomorrow morning.