

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

Thursday, March 17, 1927.

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

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. McWhorter of Augusta.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

Senate Bills in First Reading

S. P. 279, S. D. 234: Resolve in favor of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians at Peter Dana's Point, Princeton, for general care, maintenance and education thereof.

S. P. 278, S. D. 235: Resolve in favor of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians at Pleasant Point for general care, maintenance and education thereof.

S. P. 90, S. D. 32: An act to amend Section 13 of Chapter 133 of the Revised Statutes relating to complaints, indictments and other criminal process.

S. P. 195, S. D. 78: An act to extend the charter of the Columbia Falls Water Company for two years.

S. P. 356, S. D. 135: An act relating to obtaining permission to set traps on trawls.

S. P. 323, S. D. 102: An act relating to exemption of certain property from taxation.

From the Senate: Report of the committee on Judiciary reporting ought to pass on bill an act to incorporate Lucerne-in-Maine Water Company, S. P. 289, S. D. 118.

In the Senate report read and accepted and the bill passed to be engrossed.

In the House:

Mr. BARTLETT of Bangor: Mr. Speaker, I request that the rules be suspended and that the bill have its third reading at this time. There is an emergency clause attached. That bill creates a water district for Lucerne-in-Maine for fire protection and protects five hundred cottages already built there.

Thereupon the rules were suspended, the bill had its third reading and was passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

From the Senate: Report of the committee on Judiciary on bill an act to incorporate Lucerne-in-Maine Village Corporation, S. P. 288, S. D. 119, reporting same in a new draft, S. P. 500, S. D. 237, under same title and that it ought to pass.

In the Senate report read and accepted and the bill passed to be engrossed.

In the House:

Mr. BARTLETT of Bangor: Mr. Speaker, this is a sister bill to the other Lucerne bill. This is a village corporation embracing the territorial limits of Lucerne-in-Maine. The town of Dedham, at a town meeting held last Monday, by a vote of 71 to three expressed its approval of this bill; and I therefore move that the rules be suspended and the bill have its third reading at this time.

Thereupon the rules were suspended and the bill had its third reading and was passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

First Reading of Senate Bills Continued*

S. P. 490, S. D. 219: An act to amend Section 23 of Chapter 176 of the Public Laws of 1925, relating to recording of instruments and conveyances.

From the Senate: Majority Report of the Committee on Commerce reporting "ought to pass" on bill an act relating to Eastern Standard Time. (S. P. 125) (S. D. 49)

Report was signed by the following members:

Messrs. HARRIMAN of Kennebec

CASE of Washington

BRAGDON of Aroostook

—of the Senate

HOUGHTON of Lee

DUDLEY of Castle Hill

TRIPP of Casco

MEARS of Morrill

WILLIAMS of Falmouth

BRIGGS of Monticello

—of the House

Minority report of same Committee reporting "ought not to pass" on same bill.

Report was signed by the following member:

Mr. NADEAU of Lewiston

—of the House

Comes from the Senate the majority report read and accepted and the bill passed to be engrossed.

In the House:

Mr. JACKSON of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I move that both these reports lie on the table pending acceptance of either.

A viva voce vote being doubted,

A division of the House was had,

Forty-three voting in the affirmative and 73 in the negative, the motion to table the reports failed of passage.

The SPEAKER: The Chair awaits a motion upon the acceptance of the report.

On motion by Mr. Houghton of Lee, a viva voce vote being taken, the majority report, ought to pass, was accepted.

Thereupon the bill had its two several readings and tomorrow assigned.

From the Senate: Resolve providing for the purchase of "Music and Musicians of Maine" H. P. 788, H. D. 169, which was passed to be engrossed in the House, February 23.

Comes from the Senate, passed to be engrossed as amended by Senate Amendment B in non-concurrence.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Roy of Lewiston the rules were suspended and the House reconsidered its action whereby this resolve was passed to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Clerk will read Senate Amendment B.

(Amendment read)

Thereupon on motion by Mr. Roy of Lewiston the House voted to adopt Senate Amendment B in concurrence; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve as amended by Senate Amendment B was passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

Orders

Mr. Hale of Portland presented the following order and moved its passage:

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn on Friday, March 18, the adjournment be until Tuesday, March 22, at 4.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

A viva voce vote was doubted.

Mr. HALE: Mr. Speaker, as long as there is any question about the adoption of this order, I think I should explain it. I take it that what is in the mind of every member of this House is that we should continue our public business with the utmost possible despatch, and ad-

journ at the earliest possible time consistent with sound legislation. I think that is the opinion of every member present.

If there were anything to be gained in expediting the public business by having a session on Saturday morning or on Monday morning, much as it might inconvenience any individual member, I should be in favor of such session. But there is nothing whatever to be gained in speeding up the work of this session by having a sitting on Saturday morning or Monday afternoon. It has not proved in the past to be helpful to the public business to have such session. It is a great inconvenience to many members and that is not counterbalanced by anything we achieve here. One man who knows more about this than anybody else on earth is the Clerk of the House. He has his finger on the pulse of the legislative business, and he knows just what we accomplish by these sessions. I think it is not unfair to quote him as saying that there is nothing gained by a Monday or a Saturday session.

Mr. SMITH of Bangor: Mr. Speaker, rather than have a Monday or a Saturday session, it seems to me, we might convene at nine o'clock and give an hour or so more of time to the business.

Mr. MERRILL of Dover-Foxcroft: Mr. Speaker, the thought occurs to me that this is a matter that can be very safely left with the Speaker and Clerk of the House. I have realized already that we clean up the calendar each day, and it seems to me we can continue to do so and take care of all matters that the Committees can handle and report back to us and that the printers can print and get back to us. I believe it is perfectly reasonable to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Speaker and the Clerk.

Mr. WING of Kingfield: Mr. Speaker, I believe that by having a session (I would suggest Monday afternoon) and getting the people back here, without bothering the Clerk or Speaker, there will be something done by this Legislature and we can get business along faster than we have been doing. It may be that by closing on Thursday and coming back here on Tuesday, as we did for the first six

weeks of the session, we expedited business. That is what we were told, but I have come to the conclusion that that is wrong, and I believe we would gain something by being back here Monday night.

Mr. PATTERSON of Castine: Mr. Speaker, many members of the Legislature have their town meetings next Monday. That is my own case. Of course I would not expect the Legislature to convenience me by adjourning until next Tuesday. Although it would be a great convenience as it is absolutely necessary that I be at my town meeting. But there are other members who have their town meetings on next Monday. It seems to me it is only courtesy to those various members of the House who want to attend to the public business here and at home, many of them holding town offices (and I think there are no other town meetings held on later Mondays) to grant them an adjournment until Tuesday.

Mr. KITCHEN of Presque Isle: Mr. Speaker, as one of the older members of the House I might say that in past sessions we have heard this thing discussed. I do not know whether such adjournment expedites matters or not, and I am willing to leave the matter in the hands of the Speaker and the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state that the hour of adjournment is absolutely immaterial to the Chair. The Chair is in Augusta anyway, and it is as easy to be here Monday as to be here Tuesday. But the Chair has been informed by men who have had more experience in legislative matters that there is really little, if anything, to be gained. It is entirely up to the House, and whatever the House wishes is satisfactory to the Chair.

Mr. BURNS of Eagle Lake: Mr. Speaker, I think it is best to leave it in the hands of the Speaker and the Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair appreciates the suggestion but it is a matter for the House to decide. Of course, incidentally, the Senate also has to vote on this order.

Mr. ROY of Lewiston: Mr. Speaker, it is really the Committees that delay us, and I do not think it would help at all if we had a session on Monday.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state to the gentleman from Lewiston, (Mr. Roy) that, as he suggests, the final adjournment of the Legislature will depend a great deal upon how quickly the reports come back from the Committees. That is where the delay in any Legislature comes, in the holding back of reports. The more quickly reports come back, the more quickly the Legislature will adjourn.

Mr. BISSETT of Portland: Mr. Speaker, may I ask through the Chair if the business of this Legislature is as far advanced as it was two years ago?

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state it believes that it is.

Mr. ROUNDS of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this question: Is it not true that the printers have not been able to keep up with us, and that if the reports were sent in, and the printers kept up with us, we could do, in four days what sometimes we have been six days in doing.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state that so far there has not been any delay from the printers.

Mr. ROUNDS: Mr. Speaker, did we not at the last session, have to wait for the printers?

The SPEAKER: Possibly, in the last few days of the session, when we have had two sessions a day.

Mr. ROUNDS: Mr. Speaker, I have seen, in former sessions of the Legislature, there have been times when the printing of the record in the paper has been delayed.

Mr. KITCHEN: Mr. Speaker, in order to bring this to a vote, I move that the House concur with the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will state that this order was presented in the House.

Mr. KITCHEN: Mr. Speaker, I move the passage of the order presented by Mr. Hale, that when the House adjourns tomorrow, it adjourn until Tuesday at 4:30 P. M.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the passage of the order presented by Mr. Hale, of Portland, that when the House adjourns tomorrow, it adjourn until Tuesday at 4.30 P. M. Those in favor of the passage of this order will rise and stand until counted and the monitors will return the count.

A division of the House being had,

One hundred and nineteen having voted in the affirmative and none in the negative, the order received passage and was sent up for concurrence.

It was subsequently reported that the order had been passed in concurrence by the Senate.

Mr. KINSMAN of Augusta, presented the following order and moved its passage:

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that House Paper No. 949, an act to amend the city charter of the city of Augusta relative to appointments of city officers be recalled to the House from the committee on Legal Affairs.

The order received passage, and was sent up for concurrence.

Reports of Committees

Mr. WOOD from the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game reported "Ought not to pass" on bill an act in relation to closed time on rabbits. (H. P. 353) (H. D. 89)

Report read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Mr. KINSMAN from the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game reported "Ought to pass" on bill an act to regulate fishing in the tributaries to Royal's River and Bennett Brook and the tributaries to Pleasant River in Cumberland County (H. P. 359)

Mr. BAILEY from the Committee on Pensions reported same on Resolve providing for a State pension for Esther C. Jones of Manchester. (H. P. 734)

Mr. FERGUSON from the same Committee reported same on Resolve providing for a State pension for Lydia A. Bodfish, of Elliottsville Plantation. (H. P. 608)

Same gentleman from same Committee reported same on Resolve providing a State pension for Oscar H. Moor of Portland. (H. P. 882)

Mr. Bailey from same committee reported same on Resolve providing for an increase in State pension for Arthur H. Murch of Paris. (H. P. No. 609)

Reports read and accepted and the bill and resolves ordered printed under the Joint Rules.

Mr. Chase from the Committee on Public Utilities reported same on bill an act relating to approval by the Public Utilities Commission of issues of stock, bonds, notes or other

evidences of indebtedness by public utility corporations. (H. P. No. 390) (H. D. No. 103)

Mr. Tucker from same committee reported same on bill an act relating to increases in the capital stock of railroad corporations. (H. P. No. 389) (H. D. No. 102)

Mr. Bishop from same committee reported same on bill an act relating to increases in capital stock of public utility corporations and proceedings before the public utilities commission. (H. P. No. 388) (H. D. No. 101)

Mr. Stone from the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game reported same on bill an act relating to digging out of fox dens (H. P. No. 582) (H. D. No. 153) together with petitions H. P. 583, H. P. 713, and H. P. 914.

Reports read and accepted and the bills having already been printed were read twice under suspension of the rules and tomorrow assigned.

Mr. Decker from the Committee on Banks and Banking on bill an act legalizing the guaranteed mortgage bond as an investment for the savings banks of Maine. (H. P. No. 449) (H. D. No. 115) reported same in a new draft (H. P. No. 1172) under same title and that it "Ought to pass."

Mr. Bailey from the Committee on Pensions on Resolve providing for a State pension for Louis Nason of West Gardiner (H. P. No. 880) reported same in a new draft (H. P. No. 1173) under same title and that it "Ought to pass."

Mr. Ferguson from same committee on Resolve in favor of Abbie A. Norton of Industry for State pension (H. P. No. 607) reported same in a new draft (H. P. No. 1174) under same title and that it "Ought to pass."

Reports read and accepted and the new drafts ordered printed under the Joint Rules.

First Reading of Printed Bills and Resolves

(H. P. No. 354) (H. D. No. 402) An act relating to the protection of white perch in Pemaquid and Biscay Ponds, and Macurda Pond, or Hilton Lake, in Lincoln County.

(H. P. No. 466) (H. D. No. 403) An act to regulate bass fishing in Virginia Lake in the county of Oxford.

(H. P. No. 358) (H. D. No. 404) An act for the better protection of trout in Lake Cobbosseecontee in the county of Kennebec.

(H. P. No. 1158) (H. D. No. 405) An

act relating to the appointment of trustees for the Kennebec Water District.

(H. P. No. 1159) (H. D. No. 406) An act relating to school house lots acquired by condemnation.

(H. P. No. 1161) (H. D. No. 407) An act to prohibit the bedding, advance baiting, feeding, or corning, so-called, or wild ducks.

(H. P. No. 1160) (H. D. No. 408) An act to define "Storage Eggs" and "Processed Eggs" and to regulate certain details of the sale and distribution of the same.

(Tabled by Mr. Robie of Gorham, pending assignment for third reading.)

(H. P. No. 387) (H. D. No. 409) Resolve providing for an increase in State pension for Emily F. Grotton, of Washington.

(H. P. No. 455) (H. D. No. 410) Resolve in favor of Joseph H. Underwood for damages caused by beaver.

(H. P. No. 1164) (H. D. No. 411) Resolve providing for a State pension for Charles Rowe of Brownfield.

(H. P. No. 1165) (H. D. No. 412) Resolve providing for a State pension for Adaline F. Washburn of Canaan.

(H. P. No. 1166) (H. D. No. 413) Resolve providing for a State pension for Eliza F. Withee of Vassalboro.

(H. P. No. 1167) (H. D. No. 414) Resolve providing for a State pension for Lottie M. Marsh, of Gorham.

(H. P. No. 1168) (H. D. No. 415) Resolve in favor of Lydia Jackson of Hollis providing a State pension.

(H. P. No. 1169) (H. D. No. 416) Resolve providing for a State pension for Augusta M. Dolloff of Mount Vernon.

(H. P. No. 1170) (H. D. No. 417) Resolve in favor of Sarah Perkins for State pension.

Passed to be Engrossed

(H. P. No. 92) (H. D. No. 31) An act relating to expenditures and returns of candidates for public office, as amended by House Amendment "A".

(S. P. No. 176) (S. D. No. 184) Resolve in favor of Eliphalet Washburn of Dexter, for State pension.

(S. P. No. 8) (S. D. No. 201) Resolve in favor of Myron H. Crocker, compensating him for the destruction of apple trees, by deer.

(S. P. No. 9) (S. D. No. 202) Resolve in favor of Wallace W. Yates of Grand Lake Stream, Washington County.

On motion by Mr. Douglas of Chelsea, that gentleman was granted unanimous consent to introduce an order out of order.

Ordered, that there be entered upon the official record the action of the town of Farmingdale at its annual meeting of 1926 in contributing \$50 to the publicity and development program of the State of Maine, such fact having been previously omitted by error from the list submitted to the Legislature.

Mr. DOUGLAS of Chelsea: Mr. Speaker, in connection with this order I would like to say that this is for the purpose of correcting an error which came through in the form of this report in which the town of Farmingdale was omitted from the list of Kennebec county towns which raised money for the purpose of publicity and development. Our people feel rather peeved at the matter, and just prior to their annual town meeting this year when asked to appropriate another sum, there was more or less opposition. I feel that the least we can do is to express our regret and correct the matter in this way.

Thereupon the order received passage.

Senate order, out of order.

Ordered, the House concurring, that all petitions and remonstrances presented after four o'clock in the afternoon of March 25 shall be referred to the next Legislature.

Mr. WING of Auburn: Mr. Speaker, do I understand that is an order out of order.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman is correct.

Mr. WING: Mr. Speaker, there are certain petitions coming here having to do with the primary law. This deals with the great right of tradition. Personally, I do not wish to deprive any citizen of the right of petitioning this law-making body. I think if a petition is presented to this Legislature that it should be respectfully received and placed on file or referred to the appropriate committee.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is upon the order from the Senate. Does the gentleman from Auburn (Mr. Wing) wish to make any motion?

Mr. WING: I do not quite understand the parliamentary situation. Did the order come from the Senate?

The SPEAKER: The order comes from the Senate, it having been read and passed in the Senate this morning.

On motion by Mr. Wing, a viva voce vote being taken, the House voted to non-concur with the Senate in the passage of this order.

Orders of the Day

The SPEAKER: Under orders of the day the Chair lays before the House under tabled and today assigned, ought not to pass report of the committee on taxation on bill an act to raise an excise tax on corporations organized for making, generating, selling, distributing and supplying electricity or electric current for power, lighting, heating, manufacturing or mechanical purposes, H. D. 246, tabled by Mr. Wing of Auburn, March 15, pending acceptance of the report; and the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Auburn, Mr. Wing.

Mr. WING: Mr. Speaker and members of the House: I do not often crave the indulgence of delay, but I am disappointed in such information as I have in regard to this measure. Also there is further information which I expected to obtain but which I do not have as yet. I move that the matter be continued and assigned for Thursday of next week, at which time I shall be prepared.

Thereupon the matter was retabled and specially assigned for Thursday, March 24.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House bill an act relating to equal school privileges for all pupils, H. P. 262, H. D. 3rd, tabled March 16 by Mr. Marden of Waldo pending third reading and specially assigned for today, and the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Waldo, Mr. Marden.

Mr. MARDEN of Waldo: Mr. Speaker, and members of the House: in order that you may not misconstrue any remarks that I may make on this question, I want to say to you that I am a friend to education. I am a friend, as far as that goes, to all the small children. Now I tabled this question and this bill because it is wrong in compelling the small

children to endure the hardships in our rural districts of transportation to school. It is a hardship to them, and it is also a hardship to the parents to finance an extra six weeks' schooling. The proponents of this bill put up the argument that our schools are not as far advanced, and that the pupils in them are not able to keep up or to take their places with the scholars in the city schools. That does not wholly depend on the number of weeks of schooling. You must bear in mind that we, in the rural districts, are unable to get the class of teachers, perhaps, that they have in the cities. That is one of the reasons why our schools are behind. Now even if they are a little behind, I think we have been able to produce in the country fully as capable men and women as in the cities, and that our scholars are able, in a short time, to be ranked with the city scholars.

Now this question of financing six weeks of extra schooling in our towns is a hardship to the small towns. I am in a position to realize it fully, being a resident of one of these poorer towns, where we maintain but three schools during the year. The extra six weeks of schooling must, of necessity, be added on in a season of the year when our little children have to be toted over poor roads through snow drifts and mud to school. Therefore under those conditions (and I think there are many who will understand this) I appeal to the members of this House and to all those who are friends of the farmers and of the rural districts to assist in doing away with this bill, therefore, I would make the motion that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. HOLMAN of Bangor: Mr. Speaker, I agree somewhat with the preceding speaker, but it seems to me that we ought to consider the question of what will be best for our boys and girls in the rural schools. It seems to me they are handicapped now and always will be on account of their inability to get a better class of teachers to go into those sections of our State. I understand that in over half the towns of the State there are thirty-four or more weeks in the school year. There are some seventy-five to a hundred towns that have only thirty weeks. With what they receive from the State through the equalization fund, it seems to me they could bear the extra expense. For this reason I hope the motion of

the gentleman from Waldo (Mr. Marden) will not prevail. The matter was thoroughly gone over by the Committee on Education, where there was no opposition to the bill, and it was reported unanimously.

For the purpose, Mr. Speaker, of correcting the omission of one word, I would like to offer an amendment at this time. The word seems to be very important, and it is in line 11, section 2.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Holman, offers House Amendment A and moves its adoption. The Clerk will read the amendment.

House Amendment A to House Document 394 entitled an act relating to equal school privileges for all pupils is hereby amended by inserting in line 11 of section 2 after the word "weeks" the word "annually."

A viva voce vote was doubted.

Mr. HOLMAN: Mr. Speaker, possibly a word of explanation may be of assistance to the members of the House in this connection. By referring to the bill you will see that this minimum school year will take place by gradual steps. It provides that all towns in the State, beginning July 1, 1928, shall have thirty-two weeks, and after July 1, 1929, shall have thirty-four weeks, and after July 1, 1928, shall have thirty-two weeks. The bill as printed says "thirty-six weeks," but does not say "thirty-six weeks annually"; and for the purpose of making that definite, I offer the amendment. I trust the motion will prevail.

Mr. HALE of Portland: Mr. Speaker, will the Clerk re-read the amendment.

The amendment was re-read.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on adoption of House Amendment A. As many as are in favor of the adoption of this amendment will rise and stand until counted and the monitors will return the count.

A division of the House was had, Forty-eight voting in the affirmative and 55 in the negative, the motion to adopt the amendment failed of passage.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House now is on the motion of the gentleman from Waldo, Mr. Marden, that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. MCINTIRE of Norway: Mr. Speaker and members of the House: I

think the position of the gentleman from Waldo, Mr. Marden, is well taken. Many of our country schools, from their location and size, have not the advantages of manual training, music, drawing and other things that the children of the larger schools have. The country schools lay their stress on "the three Rs;" they can, in thirty weeks, cover as much of those subjects as is covered in the larger schools in thirty-two or thirty-four or thirty-six weeks. More than that, I submit that the individual towns are in a better position to say what is expedient for them in the length of the school year. They know the conditions that they have to face—financial, teacher supply and time of year. They are in a much better position to determine those things than are we in this Legislature. I am not a farmer but I did attend myself ungraded country schools. I have not found myself at a disadvantage in competing with children from city schools so far as training was concerned. Any disadvantage I have incurred was from my natural lack of ability, not from the fact that I went to school thirty weeks instead of thirty-six weeks. I submit that the position of the gentleman from Waldo (Mr. Marden) is well taken, and I trust his motion will prevail. (Applause.)

Mr. McKNIGHT of Poland: Mr. Speaker, I am in favor of the motion of the gentleman from Waldo, Mr. Marden, on the grounds that this bill takes away self-determination and the right of these small towns to say what they will do. Of course people living in the country do not expect as good schools as in the cities, but this is a case where each individual town should work out its own salvation. We cannot afford in a great many of these country towns to have the same length of school as in the cities, and I think we know best in our towns the number of school weeks we should have, and I hope the motion of the gentleman from Waldo will prevail.

Mr. BELLEAU of Lewiston: Mr. Speaker, I am in favor of home rule and therefore I am in favor of the towns and I shall vote with the gentleman from Waldo, Mr. Marden. (Applause.)

Mr. BLAISDELL of Franklin: Mr. Speaker, it is very apparent that the matter before the House is of universal interest to us all, and in order that we might all have a chance to think this matter over before we decide

either for or against, I move that the matter lie on the table and be definitely assigned for tomorrow morning.

(Cries of "no, no!")

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from Franklin, Mr. Blaisdell, moves that this matter lie upon the table and be definitely assigned for tomorrow morning. As many as are in favor of this motion will say aye; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion to table failed of passage.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the motion of the gentleman from Waldo, Mr. Marden, that this bill be indefinitely postponed. As many as are in favor will say aye; those opposed no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion prevailed and the bill was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. MARDEN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the vote whereby we voted to indefinitely postpone this bill be reconsidered, and I hope the motion will not prevail.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion to reconsider failed of passage.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House H. D. 365., being House Amendment A to joint order relative to welfare conditions in the State of Maine, tabled by Mr. Piper of Jackman, March 16, pending adoption of the amendment, and specially assigned for today.

Mr. PIPER of Jackman: Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Portland, Mr. Cole.

Mr. COLE: Mr. Speaker and members of the House: This order was introduced for the purpose of planning some constructive program for the consideration of the Eighty-fourth Legislature, with the hope that rapidly increasing costs of welfare work in the State may be materially reduced.

There will probably be more or less opposition to this order and so I am going to consider the claim that is made that there are too many investigations, that they cost too much money and amount to nothing. I know that six years ago there was complete investigation made of almost every department, and not a great deal came of it. This, however, is not to be a detailed investigation, but rather a comprehensive survey

that would take into consideration such facts as the operation of our welfare laws relating to children's guardians. In 1925 the percentage of increase of commitments of children over dismissals was 43 per cent. In the last month the approved mothers' aid cases on the waiting list has increased from 132 to 162, an increase of 30 cases—one case a day.

It should appear to everyone that a study of the operation of our laws on this one item would be valuable, and I venture to say that it would save enough money in the next six years to provide the topographic mapping of Maine.

This order does not give the committee appointed too much power, as the expenditures of the committee must be approved by the Governor and Council. The committee is limited in expenditures and receives no compensation. The claim will probably be made that if it receives no pay, it will do no work. The people who make this claim, it is true, would not work without pay, but there are other members of this Legislature who have the right spirit, who are not always holding out their hands for money, and who would gladly give their time and money for the unfortunates of our State and for the economical and efficient administration of our welfare laws. I move the adoption of the amendment.

Mr. ALDRICH of Topsham: Mr. Speaker, I feel that it is barely possible that I may have been indirectly responsible for the introduction of this order, and for that reason I should like to make just a word of explanation.

There were two bills proposed to this Legislature which came to our Judiciary committee involving the question of the apportionment of money, or reapportionment of money, for mothers' aid and for the support of children committed to the institutions; and the figures which were then presented by the gentleman from South Portland (Mr. Cole) indicated that there was apparently a rapidly growing increase of commitments of children to our institutions and a rapidly growing increase in the number of mothers dependent on State aid. At that time I made the inquiry whether or not our population in this State was increasing pro-

portionately with the increase which I have indicated, and I found that that was not the case. Then the thought occurred to me, which I suggested to the gentleman from South Portland, that it was entirely possible, under the laws which we have at the present time, that sufficient attention is not being paid, or that possibly sufficiently severe penalties are not being provided for delinquent husbands and fathers who are refusing to support their wives and children and are permitting them to become State charges, with the ever increasing expense which the State is called upon to bear. I am frank to say that it was a thought which I had in mind at that time without any notion that any investigation would arise, that it would pay the State of Maine—and I believe that is so—to investigate the laws which we have on our Statute book at the present time which cover this situation, and if our laws are such that they indirectly encourage abandonment of wives and children by husbands by failing to provide appropriate punishment for such abandonment, which in turn is a burden and expense upon the State, it would be to the advantage of the State to know this and suggest appropriate legislation by which that practice on the part of husbands would be discountenanced and discouraged.

I have not examined the order carefully, but if it would make possible an investigation such as I have had in mind, and which I suppose would not entail any particular expense, I should be in favor of it.

I am firmly of the opinion that if it be possible for a man today to abandon his wife and family and by stepping across the State line, relieve himself of all liability, it would pay this State, if it cost five thousand dollars, to get appropriate legislation by which we could go after him and bring him back and send him to jail, and that would soon discourage others who might feel inclined to throw their responsibilities on the State. Now we have this situation, apparently: The Welfare people are coming to the Legislature this year for the purpose of endeavoring to have the towns bear a greater proportion of the expense of caring for these mothers and abandoned children than we are now paying. Why? In order that the State might have

more money with which to support more of these dependents. Well, if we do not do something to stop the increase of these dependents, you can see, members of the House, that the amount this State will be called on to pay in ten years for the dependents will be constantly mounting. The only thought I had, while I have not examined the order, was that if our laws are not strict enough to sufficiently discourage the abandonment of wives and children by husbands and fathers, it would be a good plan to know it, and to see if there is not some way by which we can so strengthen them that such practices will be discouraged.

The SPEAKER: The question before the House is on the adoption of House Amendment A. The Chair believes that this Amendment has not been printed, and the Clerk will read it before the vote is taken.

(House Amendment A read by the Clerk.)

The SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that House Amendment A be adopted?

A viva voce vote being taken, the amendment was adopted.

The SPEAKER: The question now before the House is on the passage of the order as amended by House Amendment A, and the gentleman from South Portland (Mr. Cole,) moves its passage.

A viva voce vote being taken, the order, as amended, received passage.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House, H. P. 871, an act to incorporate the city of Augusta Cony High School District, this being recalled from its committee by a joint order; and the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Augusta, Mr. Kinsman.

On motion by Mr. Kinsman the bill was indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House, H. D. 41, an act to incorporate the Boothbay Harbor School District, this bill having been recalled from its committee; and the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Boothbay Harbor, Mr. Bishop.

On motion by Mr. Bishop the bill was indefinitely postponed.

Passed to be Enacted (Out of order)

An act relating to the excise tax on railroads.

Finally Passed

(Out of order)

Resolve in favor of Mrs. Eddie Fitzgerald, Seven Islands, Maine.

The SPEAKER: The House is proceeding under orders of the day. Is there any matter that any member can take from the table?

On motion by Mr. Cyr of Waterville it was voted to take from the table H. P. 1015, H. D. 326, an act defining dealers in motor vehicles, tabled by that gentleman, March 16, pending passage to be enacted.

On motion by Mr. Cyr, the rules were suspended and the House voted to reconsider its action whereby this bill was passed to be engrossed.

Thereupon the same gentleman offered House Amendment A and moved its adoption:

House Amendment A to H. D. 1015.

House document 326, "an act defining dealers in motor vehicles," amend by inserting after the word "purpose" in the first paragraph, and also at the end of said act, the following words: "or providing such person, firm or corporation has a bona fide contract for buying, selling or exchanging motor vehicles with any wholesale dealer in or manufacturer of motor vehicles."

A viva vote being taken, House Amendment A was adopted, and the bill as amended by House Amendment A was passed to be engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Piper of Jackman it was voted to take from the table S. D. 217, an act authorizing the transfer of the real estate used as a ferry landing at Woolwich, tabled by that gentleman, March 15, pending reference in concurrence; and on further motion by the same gentleman it was

voted to concur with the Senate in the reference of this bill to the committee on Legal Affairs.

On motion by Mr. Piper of Jackman it was voted to take from the table H. P. 1163, an act to permit cities and towns to lay out bridge paths, tabled by that gentleman, March 15, pending reference to a committee; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Ways and Bridges.

On motion by Mr. Piper of Jackman it was voted to take from the table resolve proposing an amendment to Section 8 of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Maine, providing that no taxes on intangibles be levied, tabled by that gentleman, March 15, pending reference in concurrence; and on further motion by the same gentleman, the bill was referred to the committee on Taxation in non-concurrence.

The SPEAKER: Is there any other matter than can be taken from the table? (No response) Before any motion is made for adjournment, does the House wish to consider the adjournment time for tomorrow morning, whether at nine or ten o'clock?

Mr. BELLEAU of Lewiston: Mr. Speaker, I move that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, and the adjournment to take place after the reading of the notices.

The notices were then read, and a viva voce vote being taken on the motion of Mr. Belleau of Lewiston to adjourn to meet tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, the House adjourned until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.