

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record
OF THE
Eighty-Fifth Legislature

OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

1931

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

HOUSE

Friday, February 20, 1931.

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

Prayer by Chaplain Hershey of the National Soldiers Home.

Journal of the previous session read and approved.

Papers from the Senate disposed of in concurrence.

From the Senate: Bill an act relative to the construction of pole and wire lines upon and along State and State aid highways. (S. P. 485) (L. D. 646)

Comes from the Senate, referred to the committee on Ways and Bridges.

In the House on motion by Mr. Goudy of South Portland, tabled pending reference in concurrence.

From the Senate: Joint Order relative to investigating Insane Hospitals, which was referred to the committee on Insane Hospitals in the House January 29th,

Comes from the Senate indefinitely postponed in non-concurrence.

In the House on motion by Mr. Rounds of Portland tabled pending re-consideration.

From the Senate: Joint Order relative to preparing a Register of Documents: which was passed in the House February 17th.

Comes from the Senate passed as amended by Senate Amendment "A" in non-concurrence, Senate Amendment "A" reading as follows:

Amend the joint order relative to preparing a register of documents by striking out of the second paragraph the words "with the approval of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee."

And further amend said order by striking out the date "February 18th" and replacing therefor the date "February 20th."

In the House that body voted to recede and concur with the Senate in the passage of this order as amended by Senate Amendment A.

From the Senate: Ordered, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they adjourn to meet Tuesday, February 24th, at 4.30 o'clock in the afternoon.

In the Senate, read and passed. In the House, read and passed in concurrence.

From the Senate: Report from the committee on Interior Waters reporting ought not to pass on bill an act to change the name of Morrill Pond, Somerset county. (S. P. 310)

Comes from the Senate, report read and accepted.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Robie of Westbrook, tabled pending acceptance in concurrence.

From the Senate: Report from the committee on Interior Waters reporting ought not to pass on bill an act to change the name of Lower Narrows Pond to Lake Ashaluna. (S. P. 309)

Comes from the Senate report read and accepted.

In the House, on motion by Mr. Robie of Westbrook, tabled pending acceptance in concurrence.

Senate Bills in First Reading

(S. P. 322) (L. D. 298) An act relating to the payment for support of inmates of the Pownal State School.

(S. P. 146) (L. D. 595) Resolve to repeal a resolve providing for a State pension for Frank A. Choate.

(S. P. 116) (L. D. 594) Resolve for State pension in favor of Rena Cooley of Augusta.

(S. P. 114) (L. D. 593) Resolve providing for an increase in State pension for Annie Welch of Kennebunk.

Orders

Mr. MacPherson of Easton presented the following order and moved its passage:

Ordered, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules are hereby amended by creating a new Joint Standing Committee to be known as the committee on Motor Vehicles; and Rule 1 of the Joint Rules is hereby amended so that it shall read as follows:

"1. The following Joint Standing Committees shall be appointed at the commencement of the session, viz:

- On Aeronautics and Radio Control
- On Agriculture
- On Appropriations and Financial Affairs
- On Banks and Banking
- On Claims
- On Commerce
- On Counties
- On Education
- On Federal Relations
- On Indian Affairs
- On Inland Fisheries and Game
- On Insane Hospitals
- On Interior Waters
- On Judiciary
- On Labor
- On Legal Affairs
- On Library
- On Manufacturers
- On Mercantile Affairs and Insurance
- On Military Affairs
- On Maine Publicity
- On Mines and Mining
- On Motor Vehicles
- On Pensions
- On Pownal State School
- On Public Buildings and Grounds
- On Public Health
- On Public Utilities
- On Reference of Bills
- On Salaries and Fees
- On Sea and Shore Fisheries
- On State Lands and Forest Preservation
- On State Prison
- On State Sanatoriums
- On State School for Boys, State School for Girls and State Reformatories
- On Taxation
- On Temperance
- On Towns
- On Ways and Bridges.

And each of said committee, except the committee on reference of bills, shall consist of three on the part of the Senate and seven on the part of the House, with leave to report by bill or otherwise. The committee on Reference of Bills shall consist of one on the part of the Senate and two on the part of the House, with the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, members ex-officio."

On motion by Mr. Burkett of Portland, tabled pending passage.

Mr. Allison of Biddeford presented the following order and moved its passage:

Ordered that 500 copies of an editorial taken from a Maine daily paper, be printed, to be distributed among the members of the House and Senate, the editorial being an editorial appearing in the Bangor Daily News on January 18, 1931 on

"Pensions, or the Poorhouse?"

"Would it be better for all concerned for the State of Maine to grant pensions to its needy aged rather than send them to the poorhouse or leave them to suffer in silent pride as now? This subject, which was discussed at some length in The News some months ago, is again brought to attention by the introduction in the House of Representatives by Mr. Benjamin S. Stern of Biddeford of An Act to Provide for a System of Non-contributory Old Age Pensions.

"Mr. Sterns pleads powerfully for his measure. 'Is it not,' he asks, 'a disgraceful thing that in this prosperous country of ours when a man has reached the age where he is no longer of use to the industrialist there should be nothing facing him but the poorfarm? Nowadays, with the terrific struggle there is for the ordinary man to make ends meet, let alone make any provision for his old age, is it not right and proper that the State should do something to alleviate the suffering which is caused by no fault of his own? Is it not a sad and shameful thing that a man who has probably struggled hard all his life to do his duty to society and the State should be reduced to the condition where he becomes a pauper, thereby losing his civil and human rights? The expense would not be considerable and it would eventually abolish the poorfarm, which seems to me to be one of the evils of our present system of government. Run as they very often are by some political hireling who has no one's interest at heart but his own, is it not a wonder that a great many of our poor old people die of starvation in some hovel rather than be the recipient of charity in such a place?"

"The News heartily agrees with Representative Stern in all that he says, and sympathizes with him in his effort to abolish a social condition that is nothing short of bar-

barous. In many countries of the world over which America assumes high superiority pensions are paid to the poverty-stricken aged, and many forms of help for the poor that do not involve their pauperism have been in vogue for years. If Maine's motto means anything let this thing be attended to. Let us hear no more the echoes of "Over the hills to the poorhouse."

On motion by Mr. Burkett of Portland, tabled pending passage.

On motion by Mr. Blaisdell of Franklin, it was

Ordered, that the committee on Legal Affairs be granted the use of the hall of the House of Representatives on the afternoon of February 25 for the hearing on the Bangor City charter.

On motion by Mr. Sargent of Brewer, it was

Ordered, that 500 additional copies of House Paper No. 597, Legislative Document No. 220, an act to grant a new charter to the city of Brewer be printed.

Reports of Committees

Mr. MacKinnon from the committee on Island Fisheries and Game on resolve in favor of Charles Huff of Topsfield (H. P. 193) reported that same be referred to the committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

Report read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Mr. Adams from the committee on Interior Waters reported ought not to pass on bill an act to change the name of Pleasant Pond to Sunset Lake. (H. P. 110)

(Tabled by Mr. Robie of Westbrook pending acceptance of the report.)

Mr. Shaw from the committee on Legal Affairs reported ought not to pass on bill an act to prohibit the use of automobiles or motor vehicles on Bowery Beach or Crescent Beach in the town of Cape Elizabeth, Maine. (H. P. 616, L. D. 216)

Mr. White from the committee on Salaries and Fees reported same on bill an act relating to the salary of the judge of the municipal court of South Portland. (H. P. 656)

Same gentleman from same committee reported same on bill an act increasing the salary of the sheriff of Aroostook county. (H. P. 763)

Same gentleman from same com-

mittee reported same on bill an act increasing the salary of the judge of probate in Aroostook county. (H. P. 762)

Reports read and accepted and sent up for concurrence.

Mr. Pratt from the committee on Salaries and Fees on bill an act relating to the salary of the county commissioners of Androscoggin county. (H. P. 709) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1144) under same title and that it ought to pass.

Mr. Bailey from same committee on bill an act increasing the amount to be paid for clerk hire in the office of the recorder of the municipal court of the city of Portland (H. P. 61) reported same in a new draft (H. P. 1145) under same title and that it ought to pass.

Reports read and accepted and the new drafts ordered printed under the joint rules.

Mr. Jack from the Committee on Legal Affairs reported ought to pass on bill an act to amend the charter of the Livermore Falls Municipal Court. (H. P. 707)

Mr. Thomas from the Committee on Salaries and Fees reported same on bill an act to increase the amount to be paid for clerk hire in the office of Register of Deeds in the county of Cumberland. (H. P. 227)

Mr. Friend from the Committee on Ways and Bridges reported same on bill an act relating to the town of Standish. (H. P. 434)

Reports read and accepted and the bills ordered printed under the Joint Rules.

Mr. Blanchard from the Committee on Legal Affairs reported ought to pass on bill an act to amend the charter of the city of Saco. (H. P. 602) (L. D. 205)

Report read and accepted and the bill having already been printed was read twice under suspension of the rules and tomorrow assigned.

First Reading of Printed Bills and Resolves

(H. P. 571) (L. D. 701) An act to amend the charter of the Big Black River Dam Company.

(H. P. 582) (L. D. 702) An act to enlarge the powers of Richardson Wharf Company.

(H. P. 584) (L. D. 704) An act relating to the property of extinct

or disbanded Universalist churches, parishes or societies.

(H. P. 617) (L. D. 703) An act relating to liability for support of a pauper in the town of Gouldsboro.

(H. P. 620) (L. D. 705) An act to authorize the city of South Portland to pass ordinances to regulate cemeteries and burials.

(H. P. 1131) (L. D. 706) An act to designate certain waters of the Kennebec River as Wyman Lake.

(Tabled by Mr. Robie of Westbrook pending second reading)

(H. P. 1132) (L. D. 707) An act to legalize and make valid certain doings of the Cumberland Bar Association.

(H. P. 49) (L. D. 700) Resolve in favor of the town of Frankfort.

(H. P. 69) (L. D. 698) Resolve in favor of the town of Stockton Springs.

(H. P. 220) (L. D. 699) Resolve providing for a State pension for Cora B. Young of South Berwick.

Passed to be Engrossed

(S. P. 194) (L. D. 581) An act authorizing the County Commissioners of Lincoln County to transfer certain real estate.

(Tabled by Mr. Lewis of Boothbay pending third reading)

(S. P. 196) (L. D. 583) An act relating to the April term of the Superior Court for Penobscot County.

(S. P. 197) (L. D. 582) An act relating to the removal of unworthy attorneys.

(S. P. 198) (L. D. 584) An act to extend the charter granted to the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad Company.

(S. P. 201) (L. D. 585) An act changing the charter of the Fort Kent Water Company.

(S. P. 202) (L. D. 586) An act increasing the capital stock of the Frontier Water Company.

(S. P. 203) (L. D. 587) An act relating to the Seal Cove Water Company.

(H. P. 610) (L. D. 210) An act to authorize the merging of Pine Grove Cemetery of Portland, Maine, with Evergreen Cemetery of Portland, Maine.

(H. P. 691) (L. D. 223) An act relating to organization of trust companies.

(H. P. 692) (L. D. 224) An act

relating to qualification of trust company directors.

(H. P. 722) (L. D. 253) An act relating to increase of capital stock of trust companies.

(H. P. 746) (L. D. 267) An act to repeal the special law relating to political caucuses in the city of Bangor.

Orders of the Day

On motion by Mr. Tompkins of Bridgewater, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order bill an act relating to superintendents of schools; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Education and 500 copies ordered printed.

On motion by Mr. Brackett of Palmyra, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve providing for a State pension of Orrella F. Ramsay of Pittsfield; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. Harrington of Patten, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve providing for a State pension for Alfred Rowe of Patten; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. Biddle of Portland, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order bill an act to amend the charter of the Portland Water District; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Legal Affairs.

On motion by Mr. Clement of Durham, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve in favor of William H. Libby for damage done by beavers; and on further motion by the same gentleman, the resolve

was referred to the committee on Claims.

On motion by Mr. Clement of Durham, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve in favor of William H. and Charles Libby for damage done by beavers; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Claims.

On motion by Mr. Burgess of Rumford, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order bill an act relating to reimbursing towns for clearing snow from highways and town ways; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Ways and Bridges.

On motion by Mr. Burgess of Rumford, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order bill an act relating to the closed season on Thompson's Pond in the counties of Androscoggin and Oxford; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Inland Fisheries and Game.

On motion by Mr. Morin of Brunswick, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve to reimburse the town of Brunswick for assistance to Leroy H. Griffin and family, State paupers; and on further motion by the same gentleman, the resolve was referred to the committee on Claims.

On motion by Mr. Lancaster of Canaan, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve providing for a State pension for Benjamin Grant of Newport; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. Lancaster of Canaan, the rules were suspended

and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve in favor of Roy Gower; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. Webber of China, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve providing for a State pension for Cora I. Bartlett of Randolph; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. Burkett of Union, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve in favor of the town of Washington; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Claims.

On motion by Mr. Burkett of Union, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order bill an act to abolish the Board of Prison Commissioners; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on State Prisons.

On motion by Mrs. Carter of Fairfield, the rules were suspended and that lady was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve providing for a State pension for Henry G. Berry of Bucksport; and on further motion by the same member the resolve was referred to the committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. Morse of Oakland, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve providing for a State Pension for Fred D. Berry of Oakland; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Pensions.

On motion by Mr. Morse of Oakland, the rules were suspended and

that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order resolve providing for a State pension for Ruel W. Robinson of Sidney; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Claims.

On motion by Mr. Boody of Windham, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to present a bill for an absent member Mr. Morrill of Gray, entitled bill, an act to open Little Sebago Lake to ice fishing; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Inland Fisheries and Game.

Mr. SCATES of Westbrook: Mr. Speaker, I would suggest the idea of repealing all rules hereafter. (Laughter)

On motion by Mr. Burkett of Portland, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order bill an act relating to the property of Siloam Lodge, No. 45; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Mr. Burkett of Portland, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order bill an act relating to fees for organization of corporations; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Judiciary.

On motion by Mr. McLoon of Rockland, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce out of order bill an act relating to descriptive roadside signs indicating names of rivers, lakes, and so forth; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Maine Publicity and 500 copies ordered printed.

On motion by Mr. Potter of Bangor, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unani-

mous consent to introduce out of order resolve in favor of Charles Murray of Bangor, Maine; and on further motion by the same gentleman the resolve was referred to the committee on Claims.

On motion by Mr. Worthen of Corinth, the rules were suspended and that gentleman was given unanimous consent to introduce for an absent member, Mr. Davis of Old Town, bill an act relating to schools for the Penobscot Indians; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was referred to the committee on Indian Affairs.

The SPEAKER: The House is proceeding under Orders of the Day.

On motion by Mr. Robie of Westbrook it was voted to take from the table the ninth unassigned matter, House Order relative to suspension of "No Smoking" rule, tabled by the gentleman February 19th, pending passage; and on further motion by the same gentleman the order was indefinitely postponed.

The SPEAKER: Are there any other matters that can be taken from the table this morning? If not, the Clerk will read the notices.

The Clerk of the House announced as the Legislative members of the committee on Legislative Assemblies, Representatives Farris of Augusta, Hussey of Augusta, Plouff of Dexter, Allen of Sanford and Bowers of Portland.

On motion by Mr. Burkett of Portland, the House voted to reconsider its action whereby it referred to the committee on Maine Publicity bill an act relating to descriptive roadside signs indicating names of rivers, lakes, and so forth, introduced by the gentleman from Rockland, Mr. McLoon; and on further motion by the same gentleman the bill was tabled pending reference.

On motion by Mr. Snow of Bluehill,

Adjourned until Tuesday afternoon, February 24, at 4.30.