

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

Seventy-Fifth Legislature

SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF MAINE

1912

man from Ellsworth, Mr. Peters, withdraw and submit to this committee any amendment which they may think proper to cover the ambiguity of the language in this section; and I further move that the committee now take a recess for fifteen minutes.

The motion was agreed to.

After Recess.

Mr. TRAFTON of Fort Fairfield: Mr. Chairman, the sub-committee begs leave to report the following amendment to House Resolve No. 1: To House Document No. 1, that there be substituted for the first page thereof the following:

"STATE OF MAINE.

"A Resolve amending Article IX of the Constitution.

"Resolved, two-thirds of the Legislature concurring, that the following amendments to the Constitution of the State be proposed:

"Section 17. The Legislature may authorize the issuing of bonds not exceeding two million dollars in amount at any one time, payable within forty-one years, at a rate of interest not exceeding four per centum per annum, payable semi-annually, which bonds or their proceeds shall be devoted solely to the building and maintaining of State highways; provided, however, that bonds issued and outstanding under the authority of this section shall never, in the aggregate, exceed two million dollars.

"Section 14 or said Article 9 is amended by adding after the word 'except,' in the fifth line thereof, the following words: 'For the purposes of building and maintaining of State highways,' so that said Section 14, as amended, shall read as follows:

"Sec. 14. The credit of the State shall not be directly or indirectly loaned in any case. The Legislature shall not create any debt or debts, liability or liabilities, on behalf of the State, which shall singly or in the aggregate, with previous debts and liabilities hereafter incurred at any one time, exceed three hundred thousand dollars, except for the purpose of building and maintaining of State highways, to suppress insurrection, to repel invasion, or for purposes of war; but this amendment shall not be construed to refer to any money that has

been, or may be deposited with this State by the government of the United States, or to any fund which the State shall hold in trust for any Indian tribe.' "

The CHAIRMAN: Will the gentleman from Fort Fairfield explain to the members of the committee more in detail just what this means so that we may get it better fixed than perhaps by reading the amendment.

Mr. TRAFTON: Mr. Chairman, the amendment which we propose so far as the main question is concerned, is simply the amendment which was proposed here on the floor of the House by the gentleman from Ellsworth, except that we have put in as a separate section to that Article nine of the Constitution, the other amendment which we proposed to section fourteen is simply for the purpose of making it uniform, that is, so that this purpose of building State highways may come within the excepted cases for which an additional bond issue may be made. As section fourteen stands now, the State debt is limited to \$300,000, except in certain cases, and we have added the building of State highways to those excepted cases, and that is all.

Mr. Deering of Portland moved that the report of the sub-committee be accepted.

The motion was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the committee that the report on the bill, ought to pass as amended, be accepted? Is there anything to be said upon that subject? The committee having voted to accept the report of the sub-committee, it follows that they have adopted the amendment.

Mr. PLUMMER of Lisbon: Mr. Chairman, I have no amendment prepared here but it occurs to me that if money is to be borrowed it should be altogether for the building and not for the maintaining of State highways.

The CHAIRMAN: If the committee has accepted this amendment I do not know as any remarks can be made upon it at this time, if it is so understood that they have so accepted.

Mr. PLUMMER: What do I understand to be the situation?

The CHAIRMAN: I understand the gentleman from Portland, (Mr. Deer-