

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

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OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

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islature specially recommends that the Governor issue his proclamation announcing such holiday and advising its appropriate observance.

On motion by Mr. Barnes of Houlton, the House adopted the resolution by a viva voce vote.

Mr. BARNES of Houlton: Mr. Speaker, referring to the bill tabled by Mr. Lausier, immediately upon the notice of declaration of war in 1917, the Legislature of Maine enacted many bills and enacted them rapidly under the spur of the exigency. Among the matters enacted was a resolve Chapter 101. Remembering now that at that time there was no soldiery in Maine save the National Guard, and that the National Guard were getting, if mustered into service, \$13.00 a month, my recollection is that several bills were presented. This resolve was approved April 7, 1917, "that there shall be paid from any funds of the State treasury to each person who shall enlist and each person now enlisted in the National Guard of the State of Maine and who shall be mustered into the service of the United States on the quota of this State, not exceeding the sum of one dollar for each and every day he shall be in the service of the United States," and follows as it was in the recollection of my brother Lausier. On the same day the other acts which were presented were withdrawn. It was enacted that there shall be paid "to each non-commissioned officer, soldier, sailor and marine mustered into the military service of the United States as a part of the quota of the State or enrolled in naval service for service in the United States or in any foreign country, a sum not in excess of ten dollars a month as may be necessary, in order that every such non-commissioned officer, soldier or sailor shall receive from the United States and this State in the aggregate the sum of twenty-five dollars per month."

Very shortly thereafter the soldiers' pay went up to thirty

dollars,—and I am speaking now from recollection only, the very poorest way for a man to talk without a statute. It is my impression that nothing has ever been paid under Chapter 277 because the soldiers' pay went up to thirty dollars a month and he got five dollars more per month than he would if it had remained at thirteen and the State contributed ten. I am not quite clear upon that point. Now then, coming to Chapter 101 and the question as to what is due, I suppose it would be due to nobody except the members of the National Guard then enlisted and afterwards mustered into service; and to those few boys, if by any accident there is money due them, personally I am glad of it. It cannot only be a few, and so many of that few will never demand any remuneration, but the resolve, of which I claim no personal recollection whatever, provided that to those few a sum might be paid not exceeding the sum of a dollar a day. Evidently the purpose and intent of the two measures were the same. If I may be permitted so to do, I would suggest that in all human probability there is no sum actually due from the State to any soldier in Maine under either Chapter 277 of the Public Laws or Chapter 101 of the Resolves. That is my hasty judgment, but I think it is correct.

Mr. MAHER of Augusta: Mr. Speaker, in Chapter 277, to which the gentleman from Houlton has just referred, I am told in the adjutant general's office that there are two months, March and April, during the period of the National Guard, had not reached the pay it afterward got of thirty dollars a month. This resolve upon which the gentleman from Houlton has just spoken has an entirely different office, and I have never been cognizant of its existence until it was spoken of by the gentleman from Biddeford (Mr. Lausier), and it seems to me perfectly clear that the point suggested by the gentleman from Houlton (Mr. Barnes,) that it could only apply to a comparatively few men is quite