

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eighty-Seventh Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1935

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE

State Tax for the Year Nineteen Hundred Thirty-six." (H. P. 1881)

Finally Passed

(Out of order and under suspension of the rules)

"Resolve in Favor of John H. Simmonds of Portland." (H. P. 1860) (L. D. 925)

(Emergency Measure)

Bill "An Act for the Assessment of a State Tax for the Year Nineteen Hundred Thirty-five." (H. P. 1880)

Which bill being an emergency measure and having received the affirmative vote of 26 members of the Senate, and none opposed, was passed to be enacted.

(Constitutional Amendment)

"Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution to Provide for a Bond Issue, the Proceeds of which to be Disbursed for the Furnishing and Paying of Additional Funds Necessary Maintenance, Interest, and Retirement of Bonds Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge District." (S. P. 720) (L. D. 935)

Which resolve, being a Constitutional Amendment and requiring the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, and having received seventeen affirmative votes and nine opposed, was not finally passed.

Mr. BLAISDELL of Hancock: Mr. President, and members of the Senate, I move that we reconsider our vote whereby we failed to finally pass this resolve. I am very frank to say that I am deeply disappointed. I do not believe that anything I will say in this matter will be likely to cause anyone to change their vote but I am going to say very frankly that I believe there is a misunderstanding, that the members of the Senate have been influenced by motives that perhaps are different from those which might be considered. I am not the one who is suffering defeat as the result of the failure of this measure to pass. True, I introduced the measure but I am not the one who suffers as a result of this vote. By failure to pass the measure you have seen fit to cause the people of Deer Isle and of Little Deer Isle and the people of Isle au Haute and Long Island Plantation and the other towns to continue their trav-

els across the bar in the mud where the water goes over it every time the tide flows and across the Reach through the ice and fog and every other sort of condition to the main land when necessity requires them to go there.

The responsibility falls entirely upon those who have seen fit to permit these things to continue to happen. Probably one of the largest and finest hearings ever held in this State House was held on this matter and we saw the enthusiasm and pride and determination and the will to do the best they could by getting off the island a hundred strong, at three dollars per automobile, to come down here, evidenced by those people, and that showed us how badly they wanted some assistance from us.

It is true that we have to have constitutional amendments go along with a bill which you have very kindly and courteously enacted and which has been on the Governor's desk and has been signed and this final action is necessary in order that the bond issue may be provided by the State to carry out the provisions of the act.

It is also true that there was to be none of the money, that was proposed in this constitutional amendment, used by these people down there in the construction of that bridge. By this act of the Senate we have merely deprived these people of the opportunity to receive from the Federal government the necessary money to build the bridge, and no sooner would the work have been guaranteed and the plans set up than the Federal government would immediately grant or allocate them as a gift fifty percent of the entire cost of the construction of the bridge.

We have deprived them of the rights and the opportunity to have the Federal government come in and build the bridge. The ferry that now operates there is small and inefficient and dangerous. Every automobile that goes across the Reach, with its storms and the winds coming down through the harbor, is sprayed and covered with the salt water of the ocean, with the result that if the automobile is of any value it must immediately proceed to a garage and have washed from it that salt to prevent it from destroying the automobile.

It is true that the Senate places itself on record as being perfectly

willing that the people of Deer Isle, when they suffer the tragedy of death of their brothers and sisters and friends and neighbors on the mainland, shall continue to find themselves unable to get across to attend the funerals of those they love. And, if you will, put yourselves in the tragic position of many of those people down there, some of the finest people in New England, suffering the inevitable circumstances that occur when there is dire necessity for hospital treatment in stormy weather when they cannot get across and having to pay the penalty, because of the fact that this Senate does not want them to receive from the Federal government sufficient money to build a bridge across there.

They operate a ferry that pays approximately \$30,000 a year. The amount of money necessary to build this bridge is estimated at from \$450,000 to \$500,000, half of which would be a gift. The interest charges would approximate \$10,000, the maintenance would approximate slightly under \$5,000 and the retirement or the amortization of the bonds would bring it up to approximately twenty or twenty-two thousand dollars per year, and that is to take the place of a ferry which is now operating and paying \$30,000 a year gross.

We know that the Federal government would give these people the loan which they have asked and extend the terms over thirty years and would have extended them to forty years if they had asked it, and we find ourselves in the position where we do not want that to happen. We are perfectly willing that they should go on with the hardships and suffering because of some small mistakes made by some few members of the Legislature. It is unreasonable. It is unfair. It is unkind and it is inhuman to think that the members of this Legislature are not willing to set up an amendment to the Constitution which would provide for five hundred thousand dollars of bond issue of which not one cent is to be spent to build the bridge, but in the event that the traffic should be so low in any particular year that they did not meet all of their obligation then one thousand or two thousand or three thousand dollars of this bond money could be used for the balancing off of the year's account.

I hope that we are not putting ourselves in the position of being too selfish and I hope my motion will prevail and that we will let the human side of our lives express itself now for a moment instead of telling these people that they may continue to suffer, continue to die over there when they cannot be visited by a physician if they are sick.

Last winter a group of wealthy people, Americans, from Bar Harbor came to Deer Isle to attend the meeting and on the way home they were beset by fog and three times their skow with the automobiles on it piled up on the rocks and when they finally got back to where they had started from it was only by the aid of a compass. Six or eight of the finest men in Bar Harbor came close to losing their lives, but no, let us pay no attention to that, let us not offer these people the security of a bond issue by the state of Maine so that they may have that to support and back up a loan that is not going to cost us one cent. That is the position we have taken. I feel that it is unreasonable. Let us be human for once, and give these people the help which they are asking and which will cost us nothing. We supported a measure to send fifty thousand dollars to Aroostook for relief and if an emergency came along I wouldn't hesitate to do it again if they needed it. We spend fifty or sixty thousand dollars in the little town of Islesboro for a bridge. We have aided and assisted and been human with each of the counties and with all the problems presented to us and yet we are refusing to help these people, at no cost to us, because there are a few of us who are trying to be a little selfish.

I hope my motion prevails, and I am very serious about it.

Miss MARTIN of Penobscot: Mr. President, I should like to add my word to support the motion of the Senator from Hancock, Senator Blaisdell. I sat on the committee that held the hearing on this measure, and was firmly convinced that there was grave need of it. I am hesitant in pledging the State's credit and in this case I held out for two or three days but was finally convinced that this is necessary for the health and safety of the people down there as well as for their welfare. They brought out that had they the economic re-

sources, they could and would support this project and I am sure they would. I do not believe we want to make a mistake at this late hour and let petty irritations block the passage of this at this time. I hope you gentlemen will take a good deep breath and get waked up a little and think about it, and then reconsider.

Mr. BISSETT of Cumberland: Mr. President, I would to voice my sentiment on this matter. It is my home territory in that district. I know that there are times in the winter that those people are unable to get medicine and necessities of life. Not only that, but at the committee hearing it was explained that when summer tourists bring in,—one man said he spent \$4000 on property there, just one alone,—and I think the people of Deer Isle need this project and I hope that the motion will prevail.

Mr. McDONALD of Washington: Mr. President, I would just like to add my word of encouragement to my fellow members of the Senate who are in doubt as to the feasibility of the project. I believe the people have for years suffered for want of a bridge in this locality. I was impressed by the appearance of the people who appeared at the hearing the other day. It seems to me if there is any matter that is before this legislature that is worthy of the support of any member of the Senate it is the matter that is before us now.

The PRESIDENT: The Senator from Hancock, Senator Blaisdell, moves that the Senate reconsider its action whereby, Resolve proposing an amendment to the constitution for a bond issue, and so forth, (L. D. 935) failed of passage. Is the Senate ready for the question.

A viva voce vote being had

The motion to reconsider prevailed.

Mr. BLAISDELL: I move, Mr. President, that the resolve be finally passed.

A division of the Senate was had. Twenty voted in the affirmative and nine opposed.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair will rule that this being a Constitutional Amendment, requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members who are present and that therefore this resolve is finally passed.

On motion by Mr. Hussey of Ken-

nebec, out of order and under suspension of the rules, it was

Ordered, the House concurring that the sum of \$40.00 be paid to Blossom McCann for additional services in completing the Senate Journal, from the appropriation for contingent expenses of the 87th Legislature.

Sent down for concurrence.

Subsequently the foregoing order was returned from the House read and passed in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Ashby of Aroostook, out of order and under suspension of the rules, it was

Ordered, the House concurring that the 87th Legislature extend its compliments to the Associated Press staff for the fairness, impartiality and intelligence with which it has handled the news emanating from the 87th Legislature.

Report of Committee

(Out of order and under suspension of the rules)

Mr. Hathaway from the Committee on Ways and Bridges submitted its Final Report.

Which was read and passed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Passed to be Enacted

(Out of order and under suspension of the rules)

Bill "An Act Relating to State Publicity." (S. P. 424) (L. D. 516)

Bill "An Act Relating to State Planning and Development." (H. P. 1852) (L. D. 916)

On motion by Mr. Schnurle of Cumberland, the Senate voted to reconsider its action whereby an order giving the President his desk and chair was passed; and on further motion by the same Senator the order was amended to include the pen set on the desk.

Thereupon, the order as so amended received passage.

Finally Passed

(Out of order and under suspension of the rules)

Resolve for the acquisition of additional lands for the use of an airport and appropriating money therefor. (S. P. 726)

On motion by Mr. Burkett of Cumberland, it was

Ordered, that a message be sent to the House of Representatives in-