

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

Ninety-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

VOLUME II

1957

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

Mr. LESSARD of Androscoggin: Mr. President and members of the Senate, I would like to call the attention of the Senate at this time that we are discussing this matter, that this was one of the first matters taken up by the citizens committee of the PAS. As you well know, this committee was comprised of some forty members, from every walk of life here in our great state, from labor, management, government, education, practically every phase and from every county and this matter was seriously considered by the subcommittee, was reported to the general committee and was unanimously recommended that at this legislature it should be introduced. I think that these people who perhaps are not directors, but are stockholders in our state, people who came here to give of their time without pay on many occasions gave serious thought to this matter and I think they do represent a cross section of our people. I believe that their recommendation should be sent to the people for their approval or disapproval.

Mr. PIKE of Oxford: Mr. President and members of the Senate, I know I am very old fashioned because there are lots of things in the PAS report that I don't agree with and I am greatly in the minority. I know I am in the minority here when I say that I sincerely and honestly believe that a good governor can be elected again for another two year term or perhaps three two year terms but if we have a poor Governor by chance, two years is long enough. I am glad for once this session to be able to agree with the Senator from Franklin, Senator Butler.

The PRESIDENT: The question before the Senate is on the motion of the Senator from Knox, Senator Low, that the resolve be finally passed.

This being a Constitutional Amendment

A division of the Senate was had.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair votes in the affirmative.

Twenty-two having voted in the affirmative and nine opposed, the resolve was finally passed.

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds in the Amount of

Twenty-four Million Dollars on Behalf of the State of Maine for the Purpose of Building State Highways." (H. P. 1056) (L. D. 1504)

On motion by Mr. Parker of Piscataquis, tabled pending passage to be enacted.

Mr. Low of Knox was granted unanimous consent to remove from the table, out of order and under suspension of the rules, the 56th tabled matter being, "Resolve Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution Changing the Date of the General Election." (H. P. 66) (L. D. 93) tabled by that Senator on May 17 pending final passage; and the same Senator moved the pending question.

Mr. BUTLER of Franklin: Mr. President and members of the Senate, again I rise in opposition to the motion of my good friend, Senator Low of Knox. When we look at this bit of legislation and the arguments which you have heard for it many times, we are ignoring the fact that when we tie our state election into our federal election sooner or later, we are going to so interweave these two that the elements of one will overcome the elements of the other and that our state policy will go along with our federal policy. We have seen this happen in the past and we have been thankful that we have a September election.

We have had argument that it is costing us more. Is it costing more for us to stand up and properly handle our own affairs in deference to what may be handed to us. Are we attempting to ride in on the coattails of the popular party of the time? I am not having reference either to a Republican administration or a Democratic administration because those terms are merely words. I do have a feeling that if we are going to keep a sound government here in Maine we should not permit arguments relative to what is being done on a national scale involve what we do on a state scale and for that reason I feel that it is not good legislation and I shall vote against it.

Mr. SILSBY of Hancock: Mr. President, again it appears that perhaps I am barking up the wrong tree so to speak but somehow I want to go on record that this old chest-

nut that has been here for the past six terms that I know of and I think it is seven terms, or fourteen years I can recall a few terms back when it was the number one bill. Again I am opposed to the change of the election date. I am standing on my own convictions in that particular. I think the fundamental reason for not changing it is by reason of the advertising we get from our election throughout the length and breadth of this nation. I think that in itself offsets perhaps some of the inconvenience, perhaps some of the expense that you will hear argued in behalf of this resolve.

And somehow I am still old fashioned. I hope I am progressive but not to the end that I want to change our election date because I believe that the date we have was the good judgment of our forefathers, at a time when voters could get to the polls and go out in the state of Maine and not be subject to severe weather conditions and I think, too, that perhaps there are still many who are old fashioned, and then too I cannot see why we should confuse the issue. I don't believe we want to vote upon all the state matters and the affairs of the federal government in the same election and there are many other reasons I can enumerate but I am not going to take your time because I just want to go on record as one of the persons who is still old fashioned.

I also want to say that by the legislature sending the referendum to the people we have simply substituted the opportunity of their voting if they so desire in lieu of their petition to the legislature. I cannot believe that if these issues we are discussing are so important as many would have you believe, that the people of this state would not a long time ago have petitioned the legislature for an opportunity to vote upon it and in view of those facts and for those reasons I again will vote against this resolve.

Mr. LESSARD of Androscoggin: Mr. President and members of the Senate, I rise to state again that this was also a matter considered by the citizens committee, and here again, unanimously they recommended that this legislation be taken up by the referendum. There were no objections to it and I might

say that that day perhaps will mark a day in our state when progress finally comes to us and we may go forward and take our proper place in this great nation.

The PRESIDENT: The question is on the motion of the Senator from Knox, Senator Low, that the resolve be finally passed.

This being a constitutional amendment

A division of the Senate was had.

Twenty-eight having voted in the affirmative and four opposed, the resolve was finally passed.

Orders of the Day

The President laid before the Senate the first tabled and especially assigned matter being bill, "An Act Relating to Bounty on Bears" (H. P. 159) (L. D. 206); tabled by the Senator from Piscataquis, Senator Parker on May 21 pending motion by Senator Carpenter of Somerset to indefinitely postpone.

Mr. PARKER of Piscataquis: Mr. President, may I inquire the status of the bill?

The PRESIDENT: So far as the Senate is concerned, the next affirmative motion would be to accept the Majority report ought to pass as amended with Committee Amendment B, the bill having been tabled pending motion by the Senator from Somerset, Senator Carpenter to indefinitely postpone.

Mr. PARKER: Mr. President, I understand there is an amendment that puts this bounty on in the four northern and eastern counties of the state. Are we voting on the bill with that amendment?

The PRESIDENT: The Chair will note that the affirmative motion could be made only after the motion of the Senator from Somerset, Senator Carpenter, has been defeated. Then any member of the Senate may make the affirmative motion to accept the ought to pass as amended report of the committee, the bill will have its first reading and then the consideration of such amendments as are on the bill would be in order.

Thereupon, Committee Amendment A and Committee Amendment B were read.

Mr. PARKER of Piscataquis: Mr. President, I did want to hear those amendments because the remarks