

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Ninety-Third Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1947

DAILY KENNEBEC JOURNAL
AUGUSTA, MAINE

Senator from Kennebec, Senator Baker, fails, I will move to adopt the unanimous "ought to pass" report of the committee.

Mr. BLANCHARD of Aroostook: Mr. President and members of the Senate, I wish to add a few words to what has been said by Senator Welch. It is the feeling, I believe, of the people in Aroostook County and a substantial majority of the Aroostook delegation that it is a local county problem, and the way the law is at the present time a hardship has been worked on some of the towns nearly some of the unorganized townships, which voted dry. It has been possible for some of the beer parlor operators to move into the unorganized townships adjacent to the other towns and take away the advantage which the towns lost by voting dry. Therefore, I hope the motion of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Baker, prevails.

Mr. WELCH: Mr. President, just one word more I want to add. Mention was made of the town of Moro. Moro is a plantation and I think they did vote wet in the last election. I might be wrong but I don't think there is a town south of Houlton on the line coming from Houlton to Bangor — I don't think there is a town in that part of Aroostook County that has voted for a malt liquor license.

The PRESIDENT: The question is on the motion of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Baker, to substitute the original bill for the "ought to pass in new draft" report of the committee.

Mr. BARNES: I ask for a division. Nineteen having voted in the affirmative and seven opposed, the motion prevailed and the bill was given its first reading. House Amendment "A" was read and adopted. House Amendment "B" was read and adopted; and under suspension of the rules, the bill as so amended was given its second reading and passed to be engrossed in concurrence.

On motion by Mr. Noyes of Hancock, the Senate voted to take from the table Bill, An Act Relating to Registration of Motor Vehicles (S. P. 130) (L. D. 283) tabled by that Senator on April 17th pending passage to be enacted.

Mr. NOYES of Hancock: Mr. President, earlier today we enacted

a bill taxing out of state trucks for gasoline consumed on Maine highways. In view of that action, I move this bill to be enacted.

The motion prevailed and the bill was passed to be enacted.

On motion by Mr. Morrill of Cumberland, the Senate voted to take from the table, House Report "Ought Not to Pass" from the Committee on Temperance on Bill, An Act to Prohibit Music, Dancing or Entertainment on Certain Premises Licensed for the Sale of Liquor (H. P. 1099) (L. D. 674) tabled by that Senator on March 13th pending consideration.

Mr. MORRILL of Cumberland: Mr. President and members of the Senate. I am going to move acceptance of the report "ought not to pass". This is the report of the committee and I will try to explain to you how the committee arrived at that report. We had a bill which was passed this morning. It was a bill to prevent drinking in public places, a bill which was designed to prevent, or at least, one aspect of it was to prevent drinking in automobiles or property adjacent to dance halls. The committee felt if this bill were passed—and I am speaking before it had House Amendment "A" added to it—it would tend to nullify part of the purposes of the other bill. It is part of human nature that people who go to dances want to drink liquor and under the present liquor laws of the State of Maine in some instances the legal sale of liquor is provided in dance halls, and I think specifically the one involved is Island Park in Augusta. We have been told if this passed it would drive people back to their cars and the ground adjacent, and the two bills would be inconsistent.

House Amendment "A", if I am correct, exempts such a place four months in the year which would protect such places as Island Park but there are other places where the same condition exists in cities. I know of one, at least in Auburn. I think it has a bad reputation which is probably due to lack of enforcement of present laws. As long as we have statutes that provide for legal drinking in certain places, and as long as they are enforced, I see no reason to pass this bill which to my mind would seem