

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

Seventy-Fifth Legislature

SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF MAINE

1912

utter absurdity of presenting that measure as a part of the program in this special session.

The act goes into effect Jan. 1, 1913. The first election upon which it can have any effect is the election held in the fall of 1914. The next Legislature of course convenes on the first Wednesday, in January, 1913, having thus nearly two years of time before the first election which can be affected by this bill.

That is plenty of time for the next Legislature to redistrict the State. So in view of the form this measure has taken it becomes apparent that there was no good reason for including it in the program of this session, unless it is a political reason.

It seems to me there are many things that might have been properly included in this session.

A message was received from the House inquiring if there was any further business to be transmitted to that body.

Mr. MILLIKEN: (Continuing) There are certain things, Mr. President, that might have been properly included in the program of this special session which constitute a greater emergency, and for which there is a much greater need than this act. I might mention Presidential primaries, and a law for the recall of unfaithful officials. Such a bill was prepared, I understand, with the idea of introducing it here if any bills outside of the program of the administration had been admitted. The State highway money was left out of the bill last session. That certainly ought to have been presented at this session. In this bill I wish to say that it is an unnecessary part of the program of this special session.

The bill, An Act to apportion representatives to Congress, was then passed to be enacted without objection.

Mr. MILLIKEN: Mr. President, on the act to provide for the use of uniform ballot boxes and for the preservation of ballots cast at elections I have very little to say. I know practically nothing about the bill. I ven-

ture to say that not one member of this Legislature has read it. We may get home and find things in it we never heard of. We had no public hearing. I know just one thing about the bill, that it compels officials of towns to forward ballots to the secretary of State within 24 hours after the election. I believe that provision is unwise, and that the towns should manage their affairs as far as possible. I believe it will result in inconvenience to candidates who desire to inspect ballots. They can do it now conveniently and without expense. Under the new arrangement they must go to Augusta. If the town officials can be trusted to keep the ballots over night and 24 hours, they can be trusted for a longer time, to allow inspection by candidates.

The bill, An Act to provide for the use of uniform ballot boxes and for the preservation of ballots cast at elections was then passed to be enacted without objection.

Resolve amending Section 15 of Article 9 of the Constitution relating to a bond issue for State roads.

Mr. STEARNS of Oxford: Mr. President at the time I reserved an opportunity to speak upon this resolve I had had no chance to examine the amendments which had been presented, and it was only with that in view that I did so, because I am not here to oppose any proposition which has in view the betterment of our highways and the roads of the State. It is only a question of how it is best to proceed in order to accomplish that purpose.

I am not going to attempt any opposition to the bill, but it does occur to me that the provision of the amendment may in the future confront not only the proponents of the measure, but also those who are opposed to the general provisions which will grow out of this proposition. I feel that we would be better satisfied, everyone would be better satisfied, that the proponents of the measure and those who may not be in entire sympathy with it would be better satisfied, if the wording were not so ambiguous as it is. It seems to me the wording of the