

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

Seventy-Fifth Legislature

SPECIAL SESSION

STATE OF MAINE

1912

Mr. STAPLES of Knox: Mr. President, I should like to be able to conceive of some Democratic legislation that the Senator from Aroostook would not object to. I understand perfectly well, and I think everybody else does, that he is doing this for political buncombe. I do not blame him. The issue that we have made here is the only issue the Republican party has to find fault with Democracy. For a great many years the Republican party of the State of Maine has had control of the Legislature. And you have not originated a piece of legislation that has been in the interest of the common people of the State of Maine. I have no doubt but what the voters of the State of Maine having three months to examine the road bill or any other bill of this session, are bright and intelligent enough to know what that bill means. I am glad that this Legislature has shown the people of the state that the Democratic party is a progressive party, and that we have passed legislation here for the whole people.

Now I should not have spoken here, but I found that the effort made by the Senator from Aroostook, when he talks so much about the bill, is an insult to the voters of the state; when he says that they are not intelligent enough to comprehend what the bill is. I have no doubt that having three or four months to look it over, they are intelligent enough to understand it, and if they are not let us appropriate money and send the Senator from Aroostook over the state to instruct them.

As far as the ballot box is concerned and the election law, I think that the amendment put in there, that the ballots be sent to the Secretary of State within twenty-four hours is a wise provision, and surely there can be no suspicion that the ballots are tampered with by anybody.

As far as the good roads bill is concerned, we are all in favor of good roads. I opposed the bill until the amendment was put in that the money raised should be equitable divided in the counties of the State. I tell you when we go home to our constituents

they will thank us for that piece of legislation.

If you oppose all this progressive legislation you will be buried, next fall, so deep that you never will be resurrected.

Mr. MILLIKEN: Mr. President, perhaps I did not make myself entirely clear. I wished to point out this danger; it is entirely feasible that a constitutional amendment can be submitted to the people of Maine that they can accept if it had been made plain here just what was behind the whole thing; while not understanding it they may reject it. Suppose this matter is presented to the people and not understanding it thoroughly they do reject it; I suppose the senator would feel somewhat embarrassed, but undoubtedly he will present the matter every session, whether or no.

On the final passage of the resolve a rising vote was taken.

The vote in favor of the passage of the resolve was unanimous and the President announced that the resolve was finally passed.

Resolve providing for an amendment to the Constitution relating to the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors, came from the House, endorsed "House of Representatives, March 23, 1912. Seventy-one voted for the passage of the resolve, 64 against. The two-thirds vote required not obtained. Resolve failed of final passage."

Mr. STAPLES: Mr. President, if in order I move you that the Senate insists upon its former action.

Mr. SANBORN of Piscataquis: Mr. President, when this bill was voted upon, the other day, there were some of us that always objected to the bill, that thought it would be as well to pass on to the other branch, and then after passing there, when it came in here for a two-thirds vote it could be voted down or we could vote to finally pass it, as we saw fit. As of course it only took a majority vote to carry it through this branch, and you will remember if present that I made