

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Seventy-Sixth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1913

Mr. HERSEY of Aroostook: Mr. President: I wish to say to the Senate that the joke is on me. I think Senate Document No. 3 is a bill with a similar label which came into the Senate with my endorsement, was tabled and printed and referred to the committee on Judiciary. I had my attention called, yesterday, to the fact that I had fallen from grace in advocating a Massachusetts ballot law for two sessions, and now going back to the Connecticut law. When I put in Bill No. 3, I went down into the library to get a copy of the bill, and finding only one printed bill on file, No. 11, being labelled the same, I took it to be the Massachusetts ballot bill, and had the stenographer in the office make a copy for me to present here. I found after the bill had been printed and referred to a committee, to my committee, that I had made an error, and had had printed the Connecticut ballot law, which you will remember was introduced in the Senate, two years ago, by Senator Donigan, and a bill that I did not favor very much, that went to the Judiciary committee and was reported unanimously ought not to pass, and the bill I have been standing for, that was reported from that committee favorably, had been left out of the proceedings, and I find that the little foundling of Senator Donigan has been left on my door steps and I am its foster father. I wish to do my duty and I will say to the committee that under the circumstances I will furnish the cigars, and I will say, as far as Senator Donigan is concerned that when I meet him I expect him to treat me, although I don't smoke. (Laughter.)

I move that the bill be tabled for printing pending reference to the committee.

The motion was adopted.

By Mr. Stearns of Oxford: An Act to increase the capital stock of the Maine Telephone and Telegraph Co. and to ratify, confirm and make valid certain doings of said company.

By Mr. Dutton of Kennebec: An Act granting additional rights to married women.

Legal Affairs.

By Mr. Boynton of Lincoln: An Act in relation to the Lincoln County Jail.

By Mr. Hersey of Aroostook: An Act to create and establish a public utilities commission and prescribing its powers and duties to provide for the regulation and control of public utilities.

Mr. HERSEY of Aroostook: Mr. President: I wish to say to the Senate in explanation of this bill, that we had a utilities bill before the last Legislature and it went to the Legal Affairs committee. A sub-committee acted with the Judiciary committee and divided reports were made to the House and Senate. After a long discussion that bill was rejected by the House and passed by the Senate. I see that an attempt has been made in the other Body to resurrect this old bill, which neither Democrats or Republicans at that time approved. And I do not think it ought to be the basis for action by this Legislature. I hope to see a bill go through this Legislature that meets the approval of both Democrats and Republicans in the Senate and in the House. Both parties have it in their platform that such a bill should go through, and I wish such a bill to go through without any attempt to revive any old partisan measure, and I present here the Rhode Island bill as a basis to act upon. Rhode Island enacted a public utilities bill, a year ago, this month, the latest bill enacted by any Legislature. After a careful examination of all bills in the United States I have adapted that bill to Maine. I think it is a splendid bill. Further, any bill that goes through this Legislature will have to be carefully considered, and will not of course be exact the bill put in.

I ask that this bill lie upon the table for printing pending reference to a committee.

The motion was adopted and the bill was tabled.

Orders of the Day.

On motion by Mr. Stearns of Oxford, Senate Document No. 11, An Act to