

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Seventy-Seventh Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1915

specially assigned for consideration on Tuesday of next week.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House Document No. 323, bill, An Act to fix the standard weight of certain commodities not included in Section 39 of Chapter 39 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by Chapter 124 of the Public Laws of 1913, and to correct the standard weight of a bushel of dried apples and to change the standard weight of a barrel of potatoes, tabled by the gentleman from Houlton, Mr. Pierce, and specially assigned for consideration to-day.

Mr. Pierce of Houlton offered House Amendment A, to amend by changing the words "one hundred and sixty-six" in line twenty to "one hundred and sixty-five."

Mr. PIERCE: Mr. Speaker, in relation to that amendment I wish to say this: The bill changes the standard weight of a barrel of potatoes from 165 pounds, the way it always has been, to 166 pounds, and it also makes another change in regard to the weight of a bushel of dried apples. One hundred and sixty-five pounds has been everywhere the standard weight of a barrel of potatoes; it is so in Maine and it is so in Massachusetts, and I personally know of no reason why it should be changed. I talked recently with Mr. Pennell, the deputy sealer of weights and measures, who is familiar with these matters, and he told me that he knew of no good reason why it should be changed; and it is for that reason that I offer this amendment to bring this matter back to its original form, as far as the weight of a barrel of potatoes is concerned.

Mr. ST. CLAIR of Calais: Mr. Speaker, I am quite strongly of the opinion that there is an error in connection with this figure, and I do not think anybody had any talk in regard to that matter.

Mr. PIERCE: Mr. Speaker, I think it is an error, and I think it should be changed; it may possibly have been a printer's error.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will suggest if this is a clerical error it

may be corrected on suggestion, without the formality of an amendment. If it is an error, without objection this error will be corrected and the Chair will instruct the clerk to correct the error.

The bill was then passed to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the following order: Ordered, That no bill or resolve carrying an appropriation of money shall be finally passed prior to the sixteenth day of March next, tabled by the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Colcord, and specially assigned for consideration today.

On motion by Mr. Colcord of Portland, the order was again tabled and assigned for consideration tomorrow.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House House Document No. 328, bill, An Act relative to the hours of employment of women and minors, tabled by the gentleman from Dexter, Mr. Fay, and specially assigned for consideration today. The pending question is the acceptance of the report of the committee, reporting "ought to pass" in new draft.

Mr. Fay of Dexter moved that the report of the committee be accepted.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Fay then offered House Amendment A, as follows:

"Strike out all of said bill after the enacting clause and insert the following:

"Section one. No male minor under sixteen years of age and no female shall be employed in any workshop, factory, manufacturing or mechanical establishment more than nine and one-half hours in any one day, except when it is necessary to make repairs to prevent interruption of the ordinary running of the machinery, or when a different apportionment of the hours of labor is made for the purpose of making a shorter day's work for one day in the week, and in no case shall the hours of labor of any such minor or female exceed 56 hours in a week; and no male minor over 16 years of age shall be so employed more than nine and one-half hours a day during minority, or more than 56

hours per week, unless he voluntarily contracts to do so with the consent of his parents, or one of them, if any, or guardian, and in such case he shall receive extra compensation for his services; provided, however, that any female of 18 years of age or over, may lawfully contract for such labor for any number of hours in excess of nine and one-half hours a day, but not exceeding six hours in any one week, or 60 hours in any one year, receiving additional compensation therefor, but during her minority the consent of her parents, or one of them, or guardian, shall be first obtained.

'Section two. Section 48 of Chapter 46 of the Revised Statutes is hereby repealed.'

Mr. DESCOTEAUX of Biddeford: Mr. Speaker, this bill came into the House on the sixteenth of January, and the committee assigned a hearing on the matter for the fourth of February. Someone then came to the committee and wanted to have the hearing postponed until a week later. The committee did so gladly, and we had a hearing on the eleventh. At that time both sides were represented and the hearing lasted from two o'clock in the afternoon until half past six at night. After the committee adjourned their hearing the matter was taken up by the committee who studied over the situation in order to find out what was the best thing to do. We met on the seventeenth and went over the bill carefully and deliberately, section by section, and reported unanimously in a new draft. After having made a unanimous report, I do not believe that one of the committee would be willing to accept this amendment, and I, for one, would certainly object to the amendment, and I will call for a yeay and nay vote on the adoption of the same.

Mr. WESCOTT of Bluehill: Mr. Speaker, I believe that what all the people of the State want, as set forth in the platforms of the different political parties, is a fifty four hour bill and not a fifty six hour bill, and I am surprised that any distinguished member of this legislature should wish

to go on record as favoring a proposition to work the women and boys of our State more than nine hours a day, or fifty four hours in a week; and I hope that this amendment will not prevail.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. BONNEY of Bowdoinham: Mr. Speaker, I wish to add amendment B to House Document No. 328 under consideration, and move that it be tabled for printing together with the other amendments.

Mr. Bonney then offered the following amendment:

Amend House Document 328 by striking out all of said Section 1 and inserting in place thereof the following:

"Section 1. No male minor under sixteen years of age and no female shall be employed in any workshop, factory, manufacturing or mechanical establishment more than nine and one-half hours in any one day, except when by reason of repairs necessary to prevent interruption of the ordinary running of the machinery, longer hours may be necessary to complete any work, material or product to be completed or delivered at a time certain under contract; or when a different apportionment of the hours of labor is made for the purpose of making a shorter day's work for one day of the week and in no case, except in the case of such repairs, shall the hours of labor exceed fifty-six in a week."

Mr. CONNELLAN of Portland: Mr. Speaker, I offer Amendment C to House Document 328, and move that it takes the same course as the previous amendments, and be assigned for consideration at the same time.

Mr. Connellan then offered the following amendment:

"Amend said House Document 328 by striking out Section 3.

"Also by amending Section 4 of said House Document No. 328 by striking out the words in the first, second and third lines thereof, "except in cases of emergency or extraordinary public requirement as provided in section three of this act."

"Also by amending Section 5 of said

House Document No. 328 by striking out the words "and three" in the fourth line thereof; also in the twenty-fourth and twenty-sixth lines thereof.

"Also by striking out the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth lines of said Section 5 the words "except in cases of emergency or extraordinary public requirement as provided in section 3 of this act."

"Also by amending Section 6 of said House Document No. 328 by striking out the words " and three" in the fourth line thereof.

"Also by renumbering sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, to follow consecutively after Section 2."

Mr. Connellan then moved that the bill be tabled for the printing of the amendments.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Thombs of Lincoln moved that the bill and the three amendments be specially assigned for consideration on Wednesday, March 10th.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House the majority and minority reports of the committee on legal affairs on Resolves proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Maine providing for the election on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, biennially, of Governors, Senators, Representatives, and other officers now required to be elected on the second Monday of September, biennially. The pending question is the acceptance of either report.

Mr. PIERCE of Houlton: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the gentleman from Bangor, Mr. Connors, I would ask that

this matter be tabled again and re-assigned for tomorrow.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER: The Chair lays before the House House Document No. 220. Resolve authorizing the Land Agent to sell certain lands in Plantation No. 33, tabled by the gentleman from Lisbon, Mr. Plummer, and specially assigned for consideration today.

Mr. PLUMMER of Lisbon: Mr. Speaker, at the request of the chairman and members of the committee before whom this resolve was heard, I ask that it be reassigned for consideration tomorrow.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. Fossett of Portland presented out of order the following order:

Ordered, That 500 copies of the Act to provide for the sale of intoxicating liquors for medicinal and mechanical purposes and for the arts, in new draft, be printed.

The order received a passage.

The SPEAKER: The Chair wishes to call the attention of the House to a fact that there are now on the calendar a great many matters of unfinished business. I sincerely hope that the members of the House will come here tomorrow morning with a determination to clean up as much of this unfinished business as possible. It is now getting along in the session, and it is necessary that we keep our calendar clear and push the business along as rapidly as possible. It would be well, when you can, to take the matters up on the day of their assignment, and avoid reassigning as much as possible.

On motion by Mr. Ward of Augusta,

Adjourned until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock.