

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

LEGISLATIVE RECORD

OF THE

Seventy-Ninth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1919

AUGUSTA
KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT
1919

pany, shall be deemed to have been issued under the terms of said mortgage and entitled to the same rights as any and all other bonds at any time issued under said mortgage."

Senate Amendment A was adopted, and on further motion by the same senator the bill was given its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

S. D. 16: An Act granting to women the right to vote for presidential electors.

Mr. AMES of Washington: Mr. President, I offer Senate Amendment A to S. D. 16 and move its adoption.

Senate Amendment "A" to Senate Bill No. 16

Amend Senate Bill No. 16 by adding thereto the following section:

"Section 3. This act shall be referred at the next state election to the voters of the State and if approved by them shall take effect on the first Wednesday of October, 1920. At the said next State election the following question shall be printed upon a separate ballot, in accordance with Section 2 of Chapter 7 of the Revised Statutes: 'Shall an act granting to women the right to vote for Presidential electors become a law?' The words 'yes' and 'no' shall be printed upon such ballot above the aforesaid question so as to leave a blank space above such question so as to give such voter a clear opportunity to designate by a cross mark (x) therein, opposite to the word 'yes' or 'no', his answer to the question submitted. All warrants for such election shall show that said act is so submitted to the people for ratification and in all the election returns required by law the result shall be appropriately recorded. When said results are made and so returned to the office of the secretary of State, in like manner as votes for Governor and members of the Legislature, the Governor and Council shall count the same and proclamation of the result shall be made by the Governor, and if it shall appear that a majority of the votes cast thereon are in favor of the ratification of the proposed law, this act shall thereupon take effect and become law on the first Wednesday of October, 1920."

Mr. AMES: Mr. President, I ask that this law be submitted to the people.

I believe there can be no good reason advanced against what I urge.

This is a measure which affects one of the most important acts of American citizenship—the choice of the head of the nation; and at no time since this nation was founded has this choice been of greater moment than it will be when we next select the man who will represent the United States of America in the council of the nations of the world.

This law should be submitted to the people of this State, and we should not assume the great responsibility of determining so great a question. It was for such determination that the referendum was created—that the people might rule. If we withhold the referendum from this measure we deny to the people the right to determine for themselves how they may perform one of the highest duties of citizenship.

I can find no better language in which to express myself than that used by Senator Dearth on February 21st, 1917, when he said in the House:—

"I believe it is one of the fundamental principles of our government that the voice of the people should be heard on matters so important as this question here, and I assure the man who attempts to thwart the voice of the people by voting to refuse to give them the opportunity to express themselves on a matter of this importance, whether they want the law or not—I bespeak for such a man an early political death. I do not see how he can conscientiously take such a position."

Is there any senator in this chamber who is afraid to trust the people?

On motion by Mr. Folsom of Somerset, the bill and amendment were tabled and assigned for consideration next Wednesday.

S. D. 115: An Act to incorporate the Lubec and Machias Railway Company.

Mr. PEACOCK of Washington: Mr. President, I offer Senate Amendment A to S. D. 115, and move its adoption.