

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Record

OF THE

Eightieth Legislature

OF THE

State of Maine

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ing today this condition was pointed out and freely discussed. It was decided that some legislative action should be secured through which a punishment to those stealing automobiles would be decidedly severe.

It might seem an excellent thing to have a law passed which would require the garage men, who discover that the manufacturer's number plate on an automobile has been defaced or changed, to make an immediate report of same to the proper authorities.

If this could be added to the motor vehicle law it would seem an excellent thing to do and we would very much appreciate your looking into this matter with a view to having it brought about.

Respectfully,
(Signed) E. H. McDonald,
Executive Secretary."

Mr. ROUNDS continuing: Mr. Speaker, I would move that this be tabled for a little while that this amendment may be put on, if it be in order.

Mr. MURCHIE of Calais: Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Portland, Mr. Rounds, will withhold his motion for tabling a moment, I have an amendment I would like to get on now.

Mr. HINCKLEY: I withdraw my motion.

The SPEAKER: The motion of the gentleman from So. Portland (Mr. Hinckley) is withdrawn.

Mr. MURCHIE: I offer House amendment F and move its adoption:

"Section 98 is hereby amended by striking out the last sentence of the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following: 'Provided, however, that all fees for the registration of motor vehicles and for licensing operators including the form of applications, certificates and licenses therefor now provided by State laws shall continue unchanged until the first day of January, 1922; and the fees established for vehicles and operators under this act shall become effective on the first day of January; and that said document be further amended as to Section 16

by adding thereto the following: 'Provided, however, that this act shall not apply to ways open to the public privately owned or maintained or to the use of such ways by those owning or maintaining them.'"

Amendment F was thereupon adopted.

Mr. HINCKLEY: Now, Mr. Speaker, just a word of explanation to the gentleman from Portland (Mr. Rounds). Section 87—

The SPEAKER: The motion of the gentleman from Portland is that the bill be tabled, and it is not debatable.

Mr. HINCKLEY: If I could explain to the gentleman—

The SPEAKER: At this stage of the proceedings the Chair must rule that unless the motion is withdrawn, nothing can be said.

Mr. ROUNDS: I withdraw my motion.

Mr. HINCKLEY: Section 87, I would say for the gentleman's benefit provides a penalty of one thousand dollars or imprisonment for not more than one year for whoever defaces, conceals, or removes any identification mark of any kind.

Mr. ROUNDS: I think that will take care of it.

Thereupon, on motion by Mr. Rounds of Portland, the bill was given its third reading as amended by House amendments B, D, E and F, and passed to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is informed by the Clerk that House Document No. 454, according to the record was passed to be engrossed at the last session.

On motion by Mr. Hinckley of So. Portland, the House voted to reconsider its action whereby bill, An Act to provide for a full time State Highway Commission, amending Section three and Section four of Chapter 25 of the Revised Statutes, relative to State Highways, and also amending Section 34 of Chapter 117 of the Revised Statutes, relating to salary of the State Highway Com-

mission, was passed to be engrossed; and on further motion by the same gentleman, the House voted to reconsider its action whereby House Amendment A was adopted.

Mr. HINCKLEY: Mr. Speaker, I now move that the bill be passed to be engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The gentleman from So. Portland (Mr. Hinckley) moves that the bill, shorn of this amendment, be passed to be engrossed. All those in favor will say aye, contrary minded, no.

A viva voce vote being taken, the motion to pass the bill to be engrossed prevailed.

The SPEAKER: The House returns to the motion of the gentleman from Oakland, Mr. Hunton, and more of the wild animals having returned, the Chair will state the question. (Laughter). The Chair apologizes to the House. This is not "wild animals", it is "wild fish". The motion before the House is the motion of Mr. Hunton of Oakland to adopt the minority report on bill an act to repeal Chapter 57 of the Public Laws of 1921, entitled an act to provide funds for operating the fish hatcheries and feeding stations for fish. The majority report, ought not to pass, was signed by Senators Sprague and Putnam, and Representatives Wilson, Crafts, Landers, Varney and Gipson; and the minority report was signed by Senator Cobb and Representative Hunton. The gentleman from Oakland, Mr. Hunton, moves the adoption of the minority report, and has the floor.

Mr. HUNTON: Mr. Speaker, and gentlemen of the House: I will attempt a brief statement of the situation that we find ourselves in with this public act. It appears that this Legislature passed a public bill, which was signed by the Governor on March 15th last, increasing the non-resident fishing license fees from \$2.15 to \$5.15. In this House on Friday, March 25th, an emergency measure appeared re-enacting the same statute with the emergency clause, thereby making the provisions of that bill

effective upon the signing by the Governor. It was signed by the Governor on March 26th. It was only by accident that I discovered that any such legislation had been enacted by this Legislature on Saturday morning, March 26th; and knowing that some of my constituents were summer resort owners and guides, largely interested in the summer business in the State of Maine in Kennebec county, I immediately got in communication with them. There was a storm of protest, coming not only from Kennebec County, but from the surrounding counties of Somerset, Franklin, Oxford, Waldo, Washington and Aroostook. The first act was given a public hearing, and I will admit that the notice published thereon was sufficient to give information to any party who was particularly observing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Game that something was to be done with the non-resident license fee. However, I did not see that notice, nor do I know of a single camp owner in Kennebec County, nor a single guide in any of the counties, who did see it, nor was there any opposition at that hearing to the measure, although it was said that there were proponents here. The emergency measure was introduced under suspension of the rules and given its several readings and passed. In its title there was not one word that would indicate that it was a measure to increase these non-resident fishing license fees. Consequently, no one discovered what this measure meant. Immediately a bill was drafted to repeal both of these measures in view of the protest that was emphatic from all parts of the State of Maine that are involved in this great business. Kennebec county is particularly interested in this industry because a large amount of capital has been invested in it, and a large number of our citizens are in a measure dependent upon it for their prosperity.

I believe, gentlemen, that the increasing of this fee at a single session of the Legislature one hundred and fifty per cent from three dollars to five dollars is not warranted, and