

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Legislative Record

OF THE

# Eightieth Legislature

OF THE

# State of Maine

1921

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Mr. GILLIN of Penobscot: Mr. President, I would state to my distinguished colleague that the original draft did exclude the indoor as well as the out-door, and that the amendments that they have agreed to have excluded that part of it.

As a member of the judiciary committee before which this was heard, I was in full accord with every other member of the committee in striking out all amusements, and I think that was the bill. But Senator Morrill and Senator Babb have been requested by their members to modify it, and I wish to say to Senator Thombs that the amendment is a modification, and while I am in full accord with Senator Cobb and Senator Morrill in regard to this amendment I would have preferred that the bill be as it originally came out from the committee. I endorse every word that Senator Cobb has said and every word that Senator Morrill has said, and I got up for the purpose of explaining to my distinguished colleague that originally the bill as coming from our committee did just what he intimated he thought it ought to do. But under the circumstances I move that the amendment be accepted.

The PRESIDENT: The question is on the adoption of the amendment.

The motion was agreed to adopting the amendment, and on further motion by the same Senator, Senator Morrill, the bill as amended was passed to be engrossed.

#### Additional Papers From the House

H. 455, An Act relative to motor vehicles and the law of the road, and to revise and amend Chapter 26 of the Revised Statutes and acts amendatory thereof and additional thereto.

The bill was given its first reading.

House Amendments B, D, E and F were read by the secretary and adopted in concurrence and the bill as amended, under suspension of the rules, was given its second reading and was passed to be engrossed.

The PRESIDENT: We will deal now with H. D. 219, An Act to provide for a full time state highway

commission, amending Chapter 25 of the Revised Statutes relative to State highways. The new draft is H. D. 454.

In the House two reports were received from the joint committees on judiciary and ways and bridges. The majority of the committee reported An Act to provide for a full time state highway commission, amending Sections 3 and 4 of Chapter 5 of the Revised Statutes relative to the State highways, and also amending Section 34 of Chapter 117 of the Revised Statutes relative to salary of the State highway commission, and that it ought to pass.

The minority of the same Committee on the same bill reported the same ought not to pass.

The House accepted the majority report and amended it by House Amendment A, and upon further consideration rejected their own amendment and passed the bill to be engrossed.

Mr. GILLIN of Penobscot: Mr. President, I move the Senate concur with the House in accepting the majority report.

Mr. COBB of Kennebec: Mr. President, I feel that I should not take much time and I am not going to take much time, but of course in a great matter of this kind we have heard a lot of criticism, and I have tried to investigate and I have tried to burrow out some of these criticisms, and while I feel that I shall vote with the majority, I want it to be completely understood that in so doing I do not want to go on record as criticising the commission, because I feel that they have done good and faithful work. Though with full time men we may have more thorough work done, yet I do not want to go on record as criticising those men, because I feel that any one of us in the same conditions and in the same position would not have done any better than they. I also want to be understood—as it has been circulated and told that if we have this full time commission we would do away with Mr. Sargent—now, gentlemen, I believe if we do that we shall do an

injustice to the people of the State of Maine. I believe that there is no more efficient man about than Mr. Sargent. I believe that he has been conscientious and able, that he has worked efficiently and well, and I have heard lately that under the conditions of the new commission he is not going to be removed. But I want it understood that if I vote for the majority, I do not do it to criticise or in any way belittle Mr. Sargent because I claim that he is a grand good man.

Mr. GILLIN of Penobscot: Mr. President, I think we all heartily concur with the Senator. Of course none of the members of the committee who voted for this measure after painstaking and careful investigation, in my judgment in any way intended to criticise any one or intended to influence anybody, and I think, Senator Cobb, that the distinguished gentlemen who were on our committee will all agree that we did not have any inclination as to who they keep and who they do not keep, and they can appoint the old commission if they want to. As I understand, Mr. President, the committee worked over these measures studiously, long and well, and they think they have got the best measures they could get under the existing conditions, and when we leave this Senate and adjourn and go out, we leave the measures behind us with the best labor and the best thought that we could put into them, without a single criticism towards anybody on the top of this earth.

Mr. FARRINGTON of Kennebec: Mr. President, I want to most heartily express my accord with what has just been said by the Senator from Penobscot, because in these matters personalities did not enter for one moment. It was purely and simply on what we believed to be sound business judgment from the angle at which we viewed it, and absolutely nothing more.

Mr. COBB: I ask the forgiveness of the committee if I have conveyed any thought that it was in the committee I heard any criticism. I have

the greatest respect for the members of this committee.

Mr. PARENT of Androscoggin: Mr. President, as a member of the judiciary committee who spent with other members of the committee several hours going over this matter, I want to say first that I acquiesce in all that has been said by the preceding members of that committee, and that at no time has Mr. Sargent ever been criticized. Personally I have great respect for him and his ability and no personalities have ever been mentioned by any member of the committee or even taken into consideration.

Mr. GILLIN: Mr. President, I just wish to say to Senator Cobb that he need not have apologized because every member of the judiciary committee knows that he did not mean anything except floating criticisms outside, and we thank you.

I move that the majority report be accepted in concurrence with the House.

The motion was agreed to by a viva voce vote and the bill was given its first reading, and on motion by Mr. Hall of Franklin the rules were suspended and the bill was given its second reading and passed to be engrossed.

On motion by Mr. Morison of Penobscot, a recess was taken until five o'clock.

#### AFTER RECESS

Senate called to order by the President, at 5.20 o'clock P. M.

From the House: Memorial to Congress urging favorable consideration of the principles embodied in the Smith-Towner bill.

Mr. THOMBS: Mr. President, I move the indefinite postponement of this bill.

Mr. FOLSOM of Somerset: Mr. President, I would like to inquire what the action of the House was.

The PRESIDENT: The House passed the bill to be engrossed.

The bill was indefinitely postponed in concurrence.