

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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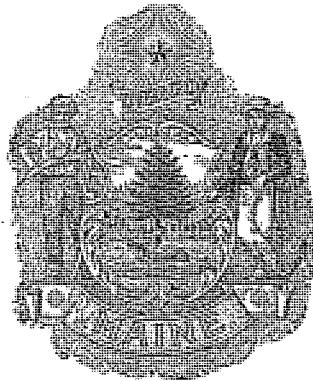
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## CHAPTER 34.

### Agricultural Institutions.

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### Department of Agriculture.

**Sec. 1. State department of agriculture; election of commissioner; bond.**  
**R. S. c. 60, § 1.** A state department of agriculture shall be maintained for the improvement of agriculture and the advancement of the interests of husbandry. A commissioner of agriculture shall be elected biennially by the legislature by joint ballot of the senators and representatives in convention and shall hold his office for the term of two years and until his successor is elected and qualified. He shall give bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars to the state, with sufficient sureties, or with a surety company authorized to do business in the state, as surety, to be approved by the treasurer of state, conditioned to faithfully account for all moneys received and disbursed by him as said commissioner.

See Const. of Me. Art. ix., § 1.

**Sec. 2. Duties; appropriation.** R. S. c. 60, § 1. 1909, c. 98, § 1. The commissioner of agriculture shall by personal observation, investigation and correspondence, acquaint himself with the methods and wants of practical husbandry, the means of fertilization, and the adaptation of various products to the soils and climate of the state; also with the progress of scientific and practical agriculture elsewhere, with a view to the more complete development of the natural resources of the state; he shall gather statistics of information concerning agriculture and publish the same annually; he shall assist the farmers of the state, in so far as is practicable, to secure farm help, and to promote increased production of farm crops through the selection, the growing and the dissemination of superior strains of seeds. An appropriation of three thousand dollars annually shall be made, to be expended by the commissioner of agriculture for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section and of section six of this chapter, and for such other purposes and in such manner as in his judgment will best promote the interests of agriculture in this state.

**Sec. 3. Shall hold institutes; character of their work.** R. S. c. 60, § 2. He shall hold or cause to be held two farmers' institutes in each county annually and as many more as the appropriation therefor will allow. The work of said institutes shall be devoted to the presentation and discussion of questions bearing upon agriculture and the agricultural interests of the state; and for this purpose said commissioner may employ speakers who are qualified and versed in the subjects assigned them. He may also appoint and employ assistants, experts, lecturers, a stenographer and other aids needed in conducting such institute work, and shall fix the compensation of such employees. He may hold such institutes independently or in connection with other organizations devoted to agricultural interests and as far as possible and for the best agricultural interests of the state, aid and encourage agricultural societies and associations in the state, and shall collect and preserve in his office for public inspection all valuable data relating to the practical work of such societies and associations.

**Sec. 4. Shall hold a state dairymen's conference.** R. S. c. 60, § 3. 1909, c. 98, § 2. 1913, c. 59, § 1. He shall, in connection with, and with the aid of the Maine Dairymen's Association, annually hold a state dairymen's conference for the exhibit of dairy products and appliances, wherein prizes for high merit and quality in butter and cheese may be offered, and may employ experts and lecturers to enhance dairy interests, but the expenses of the same shall not exceed the sum of seven hundred dollars annually.

**Sec. 5. Appropriation.** R. S. c. 60, § 4. An appropriation of three thousand dollars annually shall be made for said institute work and for all other purposes set out in the two preceding sections.

**Sec. 6. Shall assist in promoting horticultural and dairy work.** R. S. c. 60, § 5. The commissioner of agriculture shall aid and assist societies and associations organized and established for the advancement of pomology, horticulture and dairy work, also societies devoted to the interests of the pure breeding of stock of all kinds.

**Sec. 7. Shall apportion the state stipend due societies.** R. S. c. 60, § 6. He shall apportion annually the stipend due from the state to the said agri-

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cultural societies, including the State Pomological Society; he shall issue blanks to the proper officers of said societies for such returns as may be deemed necessary for a full and complete knowledge of the work of said societies for each year, and shall certify to the governor and council the amount of bounty due such society, and shall designate to the treasurer of state to whom such moneys shall be paid, but said societies shall not be entitled to such bounty, unless they shall make such returns.

**Sec. 8. Authority to summon officers and examine books and records.** 1909, c. 95, § 4. He may summon before him and examine on oath any officer of an incorporated agricultural society or other person whose testimony he shall deem necessary in the proper discharge of his duties, and may require such witnesses to bring before him for examination, any books or records in their custody or control which he may deem necessary for his information in the performance of his duties.

**Sec. 9. Annual report.** R. S. c. 60, § 7. 1913, c. 59, § 2. He shall annually make a report to the governor and council, on or before the first day of January of each year, of the work of the department of agriculture in detail, combining in the same a report of the State Pomological Society and Maine Dairymen's Association, and all other matters relating to the promotion of agriculture; and for the purpose of said report, said society and association shall furnish said commissioner with all necessary data therefor on or before the first day of December of each year. He shall further report all farmers' institutes held and the work therein done, and all public lectures carried on under his authority, and such part of said reports as is of public interest shall be printed for free distribution; for the purpose of making up his report as herein provided, said commissioner shall attend the various agricultural exhibitions in the state and report upon the quality and character of the work of the same.

**Sec. 10. Annual account of all expenditures.** R. S. c. 60, § 8. He shall render on the first day of January of each year a detailed and itemized account of all expenses of his office, of all institutes held and of all moneys paid out for employees under the provisions hereof, also all sums of money paid for prizes on exhibits and for all other purposes; and for this purpose he shall keep necessary books in which an account of all moneys received and expended shall be entered, which books shall be open to public inspection.

Note. Additional permanent appropriations: Resolve of 1905, c. 32 as amended by Resolve of 1909, c. 96, appropriating five thousand dollars annually for the purpose of improving and protecting the dairy interests of the state by employing a dairy expert and suitable assistants.

Resolve of 1913, c. 61, appropriating five hundred dollars annually for the use of the Maine Seed Improvement Association; increased to one thousand dollars annually by Resolve of 1915, c. 61.

### Agricultural Experiment Station.

**Sec. 11. Agricultural Experiment Station.** R. S. c. 60, § 10. The department of the University of Maine known and designated as the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, heretofore established at said university in connection therewith, and under its direction, for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of an act of the Congress of the United States, approved March 2, 1887, to establish agricultural experiment stations in connection with the colleges established in the several states under the pro-

visions of an act approved July 2, 1862, and of the acts supplementary thereto, shall be maintained in accordance with the purposes for which it was originally established.

**Sec. 12. Scientific investigations in orcharding, and crops.** 1909, c. 15, § 1. The Maine Agricultural Experiment Station shall conduct scientific investigations in orcharding, corn and other farm crops, and, to this end, shall maintain the farm heretofore purchased in the name of the state, and stocked and equipped, for the use and benefit of said station. The director of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station shall have the general supervision, management and control of said farm and of all investigations thereon.

**Sec. 13. Investigations in animal husbandry.** 1913, c. 141, § 1. The Maine Agricultural Experiment Station shall also conduct scientific investigations in animal husbandry, including experiments and observations on dairy cattle and other domestic animals, and such investigations shall be under the control of the director of said station.

**Sec. 14. Appropriation.** 1913, c. 141, § 2. The sum of five thousand dollars shall be annually appropriated in favor of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, and the same shall be expended by the director of said station in executing the provisions of the preceding section. Payments of said appropriation shall be made quarterly in advance upon the warrant of the governor and council.

Note. Act of Congress approved March 16, 1906, entitled "An Act to provide for an increased annual appropriation for Agricultural Experiment Stations, and regulating the expenditure thereof," accepted; Public Laws 1907, c. 39.

Act of Congress approved May 8, 1914, entitled "An Act to provide for cooperative agricultural extension work between the agricultural colleges in the several states receiving the benefits of the act of congress, approved July 2, 1862 and of acts supplementary thereto, and the United States Department of Agriculture," assented to Resolves 1915, c. 60; appropriation therefor, Resolves 1915, c. 59.

The Carleton Fund, the gift of James J. H. Gregory, for the promotion of scientific orcharding in Maine, accepted; Resolves 1911, c. 60.

Department of agriculture authorized to conduct scientific investigations in Aroostook Co. P. & S. L. 1913, c. 190; P. & S. L. 1915, c. 86.

Director of experiment station to make analyses of poisonous drugs, c. 20, § 28.

### State Agricultural Society.

**Sec. 15. Election of officers.** R. S. c. 60, § 11. The Maine State Agricultural Society, at its annual meeting, shall elect, by ballot, a president, secretary, treasurer, trustees and other necessary officers.

**Sec. 16. Powers of society; bond and account of treasurer; annual report of secretary.** R. S. c. 60, § 12. Said society may take and hold property, real and personal, the annual income of which shall not exceed five thousand dollars, to be applied exclusively to the advancement of agriculture, horticulture, and the arts connected therewith; and the treasurer of said society shall give a suitable bond to the board of trustees, for the safe-keeping of said property, and for the faithful discharge of his duties. At each annual meeting, the treasurer shall submit a full and correct account of the money received and expended; and the secretary shall make a report of the doings of the society, with such information and suggestions as he deems useful to the public.

## County and Local Agricultural Societies.

**Sec. 17. County and local societies, or treasurers, may hold and manage property; bonds of treasurers.** R. S. c. 60, § 13. County and local agricultural societies may take and hold property, real and personal, the annual income of which shall not exceed three thousand dollars, to be applied to the purposes provided in their charters; or their treasurers may receive conveyances or leases of such property, for their societies, and hold, sell, mortgage or pledge it, and shall give bonds to the trustees for the safe-keeping thereof and the faithful discharge of their duties.

**Sec. 18. State aid to agricultural societies; apportionment.** R. S. c. 60, § 14. 1907, c. 45. 1909, c. 95, § 1. There shall be appropriated annually from the state treasury a sum of money not exceeding two cents to each inhabitant of the state, which shall be divided among the legally incorporated agricultural societies of the state not provided for by special enactment, according to the amount of premiums and gratuities actually paid in full by said societies; provided, that the stipend shall be based entirely upon the premiums and gratuities actually paid in full on exhibition stocks and products; provided, further, that no society shall receive from the state a sum greater than that actually raised and paid by the society for said purposes; provided, also, that each of the said societies, and all agricultural societies receiving aid from the state by special act of the legislature, shall cause the prohibitory liquor law to be enforced on all grounds over which they have control, and not allow immoral shows, gambling in any form or games of chance on said grounds.

**Sec. 19. Payments withheld until certain certificates and specifications are filed; investigation of complaints.** R. S. c. 60, § 15. 1909, c. 95, § 2. No payment of any state aid, whether made under the provisions of the preceding section or by special appropriation, shall be made to any society until the treasurer thereof files with the treasurer of state a certificate on oath, stating the amount raised by it and containing the specifications required in section twenty-three; and also a certificate from the commissioner of agriculture that he has examined into the claim of said society; that in his opinion it has complied with the provisions of sections twenty-three and twenty-four and with the following section; that there has been awarded and paid by said society as premiums and gratuities a sum at least equal to the amount apportioned to said society, and that the provisions in regard to immoral shows, gambling and the sale of intoxicating liquors have been strictly complied with. In case of any complaint in writing, signed by the complainant, of the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter relating to the payment of state aid in any form to agricultural societies, the commissioner of agriculture may investigate such alleged violation, and employ such agents and counsel as may be necessary, to aid him in such investigation, and the expense incurred shall be paid out of the general appropriation for aid of agricultural societies; provided, that when it is found upon such investigation that the society, against which complaint has been made, has violated the provisions of this chapter, the expense of such investigation shall be paid from the amount that would otherwise have been paid to said society; provided, further, that if the society against which

the complaint is made receives its aid by special enactment, then the expense of the investigation shall be paid from the said appropriation for such society.

**Sec. 20. Society offering premiums on grade males not entitled to state aid.** R. S. c. 60, § 16. No state stipend shall be paid to any agricultural society offering or paying premiums on grade males; the commissioner of agriculture may make this a part of the sworn return to be made by the proper officers of all agricultural societies; provided that evidence as to eligibility to registration be accepted as satisfactory proof of purity of blood.

**Sec. 21. State aid conditional on use of score-card system.** R. S. c. 60, § 17. Resolves 1907, c. 162. The payment of the annual appropriations to the state fairs and the payment of the state stipend to all other agricultural societies receiving a three-hundred-dollar stipend or more shall be conditional upon the use of the score-card system in the judging of dairy products. A copy of each score-card as filled by the judge shall be delivered to the exhibitor of each exhibit.

**Sec. 22. Expenditure of bounty.** R. S. c. 60, § 18. Every society receiving the bounty of the state, shall expend an equal amount each year in premiums and gratuities for the improvement and encouragement of agriculture, horticulture or the mechanic arts, unless the commissioner of agriculture directs for what purposes a sum not exceeding half of such bounty shall be expended; and then it shall be expended accordingly.

**Sec. 23. Statements required from competitors.** R. S. c. 60, § 19. Every society applying for the bounty of the state shall require of all competitors for premiums either on animals, crops, dairy products or improvements of soils or manures, a full and accurate statement of the process or method of rearing, managing, producing and accomplishing the same, together with its cost and value, with a view of showing the profits or benefits derived or expected therefrom; and the application for bounty shall embrace all the specifications included in the following form, to wit:

"I, A. B., treasurer of the — society, hereby apply for bounty in aid of said society, as granted by law, and being sworn, or affirmed, say that \$— has been raised and paid in good faith into the treasury of said society, and that \$— has been actually paid in full in premiums, in conformity with law."

**Sec. 24. Secretaries to report annually to commissioner of agriculture.** R. S. c. 60, § 20. The secretaries of the several societies shall prepare an annual report, embracing a concise statement of the financial condition and doings of the society, with a synopsis of the premiums awarded, to be made by filling blanks furnished by the commissioner of agriculture. Said report shall also state the leading features of the annual exhibition, the character of the efforts of the society for the advancement of agriculture, the principal crops raised in the county or district, the success attending their culture as compared with former years, and the obstacles met with; and generally the condition, prospects and wants of agriculture; which report, with a list of the officers of the society and the post-office address of each, renewed at each new election, and all statements made by successful competitors for premiums, and any reports of committees,



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essays, addresses or other papers presented to the society containing matters of general interest, shall be returned to the commissioner by the first Wednesday of each December. Upon receipt and after examination of said returns, if the commissioner finds them full, faithful and accurate, according to the intent hereof, he shall issue the certificate mentioned in section nineteen, and not otherwise.

**Sec. 25. Societies may fix bounds for exhibitions.** R. S. c. 60, § 21. 1909, c. 95, § 3. All incorporated agricultural societies may, by their officers, define and fix bounds of sufficient extent for the erection of their cattle-pens and yards, and for convenient passageways to and about the same, on the days of their cattle shows and exhibitions, and for their plowing matches and trial of working teams, within which no person shall enter or pass, unless in conformity with the regulations of the officers thereof; and said societies shall furnish suitable space for the exhibition of farm implements and machinery at a reasonable rental; but they shall not so occupy or include the lands of any person without his consent, or obstruct the public travel of any highway.

**Sec. 26. Penalty for violation of regulations.** R. S. c. 60, § 22. 1915, c. 22. Whoever, contrary to such regulations, enters or passes within the bounds so fixed, after notice of such regulations, when such grounds are not fenced, (no notice being necessary when such grounds are fenced) shall be subject to a fine of not exceeding five dollars or to imprisonment not exceeding ten days.

**Sec. 27. Penalty for defrauding agricultural or horticultural societies.** 1915, c. 219. Whoever shall gain admission to the grounds or buildings of any agricultural or horticultural society during the holding of an exhibition, otherwise than by the regular entrance provided, for the purpose of defrauding such society out of the regular entrance fee to such grounds or buildings; or who by fraud, misrepresentation or otherwise unlawfully obtains such admission; and any person obtaining any premium or gratuity offered by such society by fraud or misrepresentation, shall be deemed guilty of larceny from such society, and on conviction shall be punished accordingly.

**Sec. 28. Persons may be appointed to keep order, with powers of constables.** R. S. c. 60, § 23. The officers of any such society may appoint a sufficient number of suitable persons, to act as constables at cattle shows and exhibitions, with all the powers of constables, for the preservation of the public peace, and the enforcement of the regulations of said society, within the towns where such shows and exhibitions are held, from noon of the day preceding the commencement of the same until noon of the day succeeding the termination thereof, and no longer.

**Sec. 29. Sale of merchandise and refreshments, and exhibitions, near grounds, restricted.** R. S. c. 60, § 24. Whoever sells any refreshments, or other merchandise, or exhibits any show or play, within a quarter of a mile of the fair grounds of any agricultural society, during the time of any exhibition thereof, unless in his own dwelling-house, or usual and ordinary place of business or lets any land or building adjoining, or overlooking the fair grounds of such society, to spectators of any exhibition thereof,

during the time of such exhibition, without the written consent of its trustees, forfeits to such society not exceeding one hundred dollars, to be recovered on complaint of two of its trustees.

**Sec. 30. Powers and privileges of Eastern Maine State Fair.** R. S. c. 60, § 25. The corporation known as Eastern Maine State Fair shall have all of the police powers, together with all other powers and privileges, at all of its exhibitions of whatever name or nature, which are conferred upon agricultural societies by sections twenty-five, twenty-six and twenty-eight and the provisions, restrictions, forfeitures and penalties provided by section twenty-seven and by the preceding section shall be applicable to all exhibitions of such corporation.

**Sec. 31. Competitors for premiums holden to pay entry fee; lien on animals, to secure payment.** R. S. c. 60, § 27. Whoever makes entries of animals or articles as competitors for premiums or purses offered by any agricultural society, or by any person or association in the state, shall be holden to pay the entry fee in accordance with the advertised rules and regulations of any such society, person or association, not in conflict with the laws of the state; and a lien is hereby created upon such animals and articles for such entry fee to secure payment thereof with costs, to be enforced by an action of debt against the person owning such animals or articles, or the person entering the same; or the same may be enforced in the same manner as liens on goods in possession and choses in action, but such lien shall not affect the title of any innocent purchaser of said animals or articles without actual notice of such lien.

See c. 96, §§ 67-76.

**Sec. 32. Conduct of exhibitions.** R. S. c. 60, § 28. Agricultural societies, persons and associations, holding public exhibitions for competition for premiums or purses are authorized to conduct and manage the same in accordance with the advertised rules and regulations, not in conflict with the laws of the state.

Note. Penalty for false registration of blooded animal, c. 128, § 14.

Penalty for entering in any race a disguised horse, or entering a horse in wrong class, c. 128, § 15.

Resolves in favor of State Agricultural Societies: Maine State Agricultural Society, 1913, c. 170. Eastern Maine State Fair, 1889, c. 160; 1893, c. 187. Central Maine Fair Company, 1911, c. 205. Maine State Pomological Society, 1913, c. 20.