

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

REPORT

OF THE

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING

NOVEMBER 30, 1914.

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1915

traveller using a way that is undergoing repairs must exercise care in proportion to the dangers that obviously exist from the condition of the way.

Very sincerely,
SCOTT WILSON,
Attorney General.

ALMS HOUSES.—NOT WORK HOUSES OR HOUSES OF CORRECTION.

2nd October 1914.

*James F. Bagley, Sec., State Board of Charities and Corrections,
Augusta, Maine.*

DEAR SIR: Your favor of the 1st inst., in relation to the use of almshouses for work houses or houses of correction was duly received.

The statutes are a little confusing as to what is meant by almshouses. The index of the Revision of 1883 under that title refers to work houses and in 1903 refers to town farms. I am inclined to think, however, that the latter is what is meant and that almshouses or place provided by the town for the support of its poor does not *ipso facto* become a work house or house of correction, and I am of the opinion that there should be a vote of the town before any part of it is used for that purpose, or at least for the purpose of receiving those committed by any Court.

It may be that the overseers of the poor of a town may set to work paupers who are being cared for at their town farms or almshouses so long as they remain there, but that is more or less of a voluntary matter on the part of the pauper so far as his stay is concerned, and I think before a town farm can be used as a work house or house of correction, the town should so vote and that a Court could not commit to a town farm until the town had set apart a part of it as a work house or house of correction and until it is so done or has built a work house or house of correction, there is no such institution in the town although it may have a town farm.

Very sincerely,
SCOTT WILSON,
Attorney General.