

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

BEING THE

REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

**PUBLIC OFFICERS
DEPARTMENTS AND
INSTITUTIONS**

FOR THE TWO YEARS

JULY 1, 1926 - JUNE 30, 1928

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, 1926-28

(Explanatory Note)

Three reports in this volume cover periods in variance with the given biennium. They are as follows:

1. The report of the Attorney General covers the period from 1924 to 1928.
2. The report of the Bangor State Hospital covers the period from 1919 to 1928.
3. The report of the department of Inland Fisheries and Game covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 1928. No printed report was made for the fiscal year ending in 1927.

STATE OF MAINE

REPORT

OF THE

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING

JUNE 30, 1928

State Prison by imprisonment shall be confined at hard labor.

Yours very truly,

SANFORD L. FOGG,
Deputy Attorney General.

May 17, 1928.

*George A. Buker, Warden, Maine State Prison, Thomaston,
Maine.*

DEAR SIR: In relation to your inquiry relative to a law regarding the making of presents of money to inmates of the Maine State Prison, this Department wishes to advise you that there is no statute relating to the question of presents by friends or outside agencies to inmates of the State Prison.

The laws of Maine prohibit any system of pay to prisoners. The Revised Statutes provide that "punishment in the State Prison by imprisonment shall be by confinement to hard labor", and no authority has been given the Commission to make any rules or regulations or to do any acts inconsistent with the existing law.

The Prison Commission cannot make payment to a prisoner either directly or indirectly. If a man, however, has paid his debt to the State in any one day by working the number of hours or doing the task assigned, there is no statute that I know of that prohibits him to receive a present for extra interest taken in his work, provided it is merely a present and comes from a source outside of the prison and from a source not connected with the state or any department of the state.

You allow money to be deposited in the Warden's office for the benefit of an inmate sent by friends, and I see no distinction between that and permitting the man to receive a present from some organization whether that organization is charitable or not.

Trusting this answers your inquiry, I am,

Yours very truly,

RAYMOND FELLOWS,
Attorney General.