

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE OF MAINE

REPORT

OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

for the calendar years

1941--1942

have forgotten some specific instance, there are no funds created by the State of such a nature that any person, or group of persons, or any institution, has obtained contractual rights against the State that can be enforced.

The State has encouraged some of the institutions to proceed on the theory that a certain annual amount equivalent to some fixed percentage of the principal of a trust fund will be received annually for the benefit of the inmates of the institution. This has been a fixed policy for many years. The State can change that policy as I suggested above at any time, and the only question that can arise is one concerning the wisdom of such a change.

If I have not given you the answers you want, let me know and I will go into the matter further.

Very truly yours,

FRANK I. COWAN
Attorney General

April 14, 1941

The Attorney General
William D. Hayes, State Auditor

In Publication of Municipal Audits.

I have your memorandum of April 11th. I do not know of any law preventing any head of a department from disclosing the private information contained in his department, but I seriously question the wisdom of making such public disclosures.

My personal feeling is that when you make an audit for a town you are acting in an official capacity. When the town receives the report, that report immediately becomes a public record. If the town officials for any reason conceal the contents of the report the auditor might very well feel it his duty to make the facts public. In the meantime, as I said, I believe the information you acquire should be regarded as confidential. This, however, does not in my opinion go so far as to preclude your delivering such information to any other State official who may have reason to see it.

F. I. C.

April 21, 1941

State Liquor Commission
98 Water Street
Augusta, Maine

Gentlemen:

In considering the matter of your inquiry as to whether or not the State Liquor Commission may properly grant rebates of excise taxes