

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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June 6, 1941

Mr. Cowan

Governor Sewall

Miles Mank of the Racing Commission has been trying to figure out how to follow the suggestions of the State Auditor in regard to the operation of pari mutuels. He has been in to see me several times, and each time has told me of the difficulties of handling the matter of spot audit with other than men thoroughly experienced in that peculiar line of activity. He has told me that he believed the method suggested would slow up operations so much that he might not be able to run off more than three races in an afternoon. I have told him to try his best to figure out some way to follow the recommendations.

Last night he 'phoned me from Portland and said that Frank Witman, who operates the pari mutuels, is inclined to throw up his hands and take himself out of the picture. Miles says that the bonding companies will refuse to issue bonds in connection with the proposed set up. The Old Orchard outfit had an offer yesterday to transfer to Rhode Island and, because of the difficulties being presented in Maine, are seriously considering accepting.

I have not checked the law carefully but there is a strong possibility that the Racing Commission can proceed according to their own judgment, but of course they want to function without friction between themselves and the Auditing Department. Mr. Pelley is coming up at eleven o'clock today to see Mr. Hayes.

I am bringing this to your attention, because a word from you probably might be of great assistance in straightening out their troubles. If it is impractical to make the drastic changes suggested to apply to this racing season, it might be well to postpone their application until the season of 1942. This would give a full year to work the thing out.

F. I. C.