

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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August 13, 1943

Lucius D. Barrows, Chief Engineer

Highway Department

Frank I. Cowan

Attorney General

I have examined the letter from Col. Harry G. Williams in regard to interpretation of R.S. Chapter 29, section 21, as amended, in which he asks the meaning of the words "objects" and "emergency", and also whether or not the section conveys authority to issue a "blanket permit".

In my opinion,

1. The word "objects" refers to single objects such as large pieces of machinery, buildings, etc., which cannot properly be dismantled and moved in pieces.

2. The word "emergency" is used as an adjective to distinguish the permit which is given under the provisions of the section from the ordinary permit. It is used to describe the document and means nothing more than "unusual".

3. It was not the purpose of the legislature, apparently, to allow "blanket permits". The Highway Commission has exercised its whole jurisdiction when it grants one of these unusual permits for the hauling of a single object which is greater in length or width or height or weight than the limits set by our General Motor Vehicle Law. The limitation on the meaning of these words is very well explained in the second paragraph of Section 21.

Frank I. Cowan
Attorney General

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