

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

REPORT

OF THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL

for the calendar years

1943--1944

In connection with this matter of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, the towns have their organization and they employ counsel. Their counsel advises them as to the law, and they pay him for that advice.

The State tax is not involved in the town questions. The town pays a State tax, whether it collects from the individual taxpayers or not.

Privately and unofficially, I will say that if our legislature were going into special session this winter, as we had anticipated, I would suggest that we have a local Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act to complement the Federal Act and adjust matters so that the relief would fit in with the statutes of this State. It would be a very simple matter. Inasmuch as there will be no special session, apparently, until a year from now, it is probable that any such legislative action must be postponed till the next regular session. I shan't be Attorney-General at that time, but you gentlemen will be on the job, and my recommendation is that you suggest to the legislature a bill that will extend the statute of limitations in cases of persons in the armed services, both for their protection and for the protection of their creditors.

FRANK I. COWAN

Attorney-General

December 9, 1943

J. J. Allen, Controller

I have your memo of December 8th enclosing a memo from Mr. Stevens to Mr. Gilson, bearing date November 30th. We are apparently facing an emergency situation where serious difficulties may be encountered unless we take action. It is of very great importance that there should be no delay in payment of school teachers, especially at this time of year. Apart wholly from the sentimental value of prompt payment just before Christmas, we have the practical problem that there is an enormous demand for teachers in other lines of activity and our school system is having great difficulty in keeping the teachers we have. Failure to get to them a regular pay falling just before Christmas might very well mean that some of them would throw up their jobs and accept employment elsewhere. Under the existing circumstances, I believe we are fully justified in advancing the date of paying the school money which ordinarily would not be due till after the first day of January next, inasmuch as all the facts on which computations are based are in the hands of the proper State authorities and the conditions that exist today will be exactly the same as the conditions that will exist on December 31st, to which date the computation is made.

If it seems wise to Mr. Stevens, Mr. Gilson and yourself to advance a payment to Reed Plantation, as Mr. Stevens has suggested, it is proper that it be done.

FRANK I. COWAN

Attorney-General