

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

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SENATE.

No. 310

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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### SENATE REPORT.

The Committee on Salaries and Fees to which was referred the expense account of the Insurance Commissioner, from Jan. 1st, 1897, to Jan. 1st, 1907, under the appropriation for investigation of fires, have had the same under consideration and ask leave to report.

We have questioned the Insurance Commissioner, Mr. Carr, Mr. Byron Boyd, who was Secretary of State during the period covered by this account and Governor Cobb. The stenographic report of the questions and answers is herewith submitted as a part of the report of the Committee. We find that all bills paid to persons other than Mr. Carr himself under the appropriation for the investigation of fires were paid on bills approved by the Insurance Commissioner and the Governor and Council, which are now on file in the office of the Secretary of State. All money paid directly to Mr. Carr was paid on bills approved by the Governor and Council and now on file.

We find that during the period covered by this account Mr. Carr had free railroad passes and did not charge for transportation unless the expense was actually incurred by him.

The sums of money paid directly to Mr. Carr under the appropriation for investigation of fires fall naturally into three divisions, first, personal expenses, consisting almost entirely of hotel bills incurred on trips for the investigation of fires; second, a "per diem" charge of five dollars per day for time spent away from the office in Augusta in the investigation of fires except the time spent in Boston for which "per diem" charge is made; third, a charge of one hundred dollars per year during several of the years covered by this account for clerical services rendered by Mr. Carr's clerk at his office in Bowdoinham.

Under the first division it is the opinion of the Committee that the expenses of the trips to Boston averaging apparently from ten to twelve dollars per day for hotel expenses in Boston should have been more fully itemized as this amount seems to us somewhat more extravagant than would be allowed by the average corporation without a carefully itemized statement.

As to the "per diem" charge the Committee have examined the statutes and the records of the Governor and Council without finding any authority for this charge. In our opinion the legislature in fixing the salary of the Insurance Commissioner plainly intended the amount to be in full for all services.

As to the charge of one hundred dollars per year for clerical services at Bowdoinham, we think that if this were to have been paid by the State, it should have been from the appropriation made by the legislature for clerical services in the office of the Insurance Commissioner and not from the appropriation for investigation of fires. Considering the fact that this clerical work did not involve any extra expense for Mr. Carr and that the performance of this work at Bowdoinham rather than at Augusta was doubtless in accordance with his own personal convenience, we doubt whether the State should have paid this charge.

C. E. MILLIKEN,  
A. J. SKIDMORE,  
S. C. STEVENS,  
E. E. NEWBERT,  
L. M. STAPLES.

We concur in above report so far as the "per diem" charge is concerned,

H. M. SEWALL,  
EDWARD P. PAGE,  
R. J. PEACOCK.

## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 27, 1907.

Report of Joint Special Committee on Salaries and Fees on matter of expense account of Insurance Commissioner from January 1, 1897 to January 1, 1907, ordered printed on motion by Mr. SEWALL of Sagadahoc.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.