

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 153

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND NINE.

AN ACT to amend section one and section three of chapter sixty of the Revised Statutes, relating to the Duties of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section 1. Section one of chapter sixty of the Revised
2 Statutes is hereby amended by adding to said section the
3 following: 'The Commissioner of Agriculture shall gather
4 statistics of information concerning agriculture and pub-
5 lish the same annually; he shall assist the farmers of the
6 State, in so far as is practical, to secure farm help, and to
7 promote increased production of farm crops through the
8 selection, the growing and the dissemination of superior
9 strains of seeds. An appropriation of five thousand dol-

10 lars annually shall be made, to be expended by the Com-
11 missioner of Agriculture for the purpose of carrying out
12 the provisions of this section and section five of chapter
13 sixty of the Revised Statutes, and for such other purposes
14 and in such manner as in his judgment will best promote
15 the interests of agriculture in this State;’ so that said sec-
16 tion as amended shall read as follows:

‘Sect. 1. A State department of agriculture shall be main-
18 tained for the improvement of agriculture and the advance-
19 ment of the interests of husbandry. A commissioner of
20 agriculture shall be elected biennially by the legislature by
21 joint ballot of the senators and representatives in conven-
22 tion and shall hold his office for the term of two years and
23 until his successor is elected and qualified. He shall give
24 bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars to the State, with
25 sufficient sureties, to be approved by the treasurer of State,
26 conditioned to faithfully account for all moneys received
27 and disbursed by him as said commissioner. He shall by
28 personal observation, investigation and correspondence, ac-
29 quaint himself with the methods and wants of practical hus-
30 bandry, the means of fertilization, and the adaptation of
31 various products to the soils and climate of Maine; also
32 with the progress of scientific and practical agriculture else-
33 where, with a view to the more complete development of
34 the natural resources of the State. The Commissioner of
35 Agriculture shall gather statistics of information concern-
36 ing agriculture and publish the same annually; he shall

37 assist the farmers of the State, in so far as is practical, to
38 secure farm help, and to promote increased production of
39 farm crops through the selection, the growing and the dis-
40 semination of superior strains of seeds. An appropriation
41 of five thousand dollars annually shall be made, to be ex-
42 pended by the Commissioner of Agriculture for the purpose
43 of carrying out the provisions of this section and section five
44 of chapter sixty of the Revised Statutes, and for such other
45 purposes and in such manner as in his judgment will best
46 promote the interests of agriculture in this State.'

Sect. 2. Section three of chapter sixty of the Revised
2 Statutes is hereby amended by striking out the word "five"
3 in the last line of said section and inserting in place thereof
4 the word 'seven,' so that the section as amended shall read
5 as follows:

'Sect. 3. He shall, in connection with, and with the aid
7 of the State Dairymen's Association, annually hold a State
8 dairymen's conference for the exhibit of dairy products
9 and appliances, wherein prizes for high merit and quality
10 in butter and cheese may be offered, and may employ ex-
11 perts and lecturers to enhance dairy interests, but the ex-
12 penses of the same shall not exceed the sum of seven hun-
13 dred dollars annually.'

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE,

February 10, 1909.

Presented by Mr. HOWES of Somerset and on his motion tabled for printing pending reference to Committee on Agriculture.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.