

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 144

In Senate, March 18, 1921.

Reported by Mr. Hall from Committee on Agriculture and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE**

AN ACT Authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to Provide Inspection as to Quality and Condition of Fruits, Vegetables, Dairy and Other Perishable Farm Products, and to Furnish Statements Relative Thereto.

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

Section two of chapter thirty-four of the revised statutes 2 is hereby amended by inserting after the word "seeds" in 3 the eleventh line of said section, the following, to wit: 'He 4 may investigate and furnish statements to shippers and other 5 interested parties as to the quality and condition of fruits, 6 vegetables, dairy and other perishable farm products when 7 received within the state for intrastate or interstate com- 8 merce, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, 9 including payment of such fees as will be reasonable and

10 as nearly as may be to cover the cost for the service ren-
11 dered. Provided, that statements so issued by the author-
12 ized agents of the department shall be received in all courts
13 of the state of Maine as prima facie evidence of the truth
14 of the statements therein contained,' so that said section as
15 amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 2. The commissioner of agriculture shall by per-
2 sonal observation, investigation and correspondence, acquaint
3 himself with the methods and wants of practical husbandry,
4 the means of fertilization, and the adaptation of various
5 products to the soil and climate of the state; also with the
6 progress of scientific and practical agriculture elsewhere,
7 with a view to the more complete development of the natural
8 resources of the state; he shall gather statistics of informa-
9 tion concerning agriculture and publish the same annually;
10 he shall assist the farmers of the state, in so far as is prac-
11 ticable, to secure farm help, and to promote increased pro-
12 duction of farm crops through the selection, the growing
13 and the dissemination of superior strains of seeds. He may
14 investigate and furnish statements to shippers and other in-
15 terested parties as to the quality and condition of fruits,
16 vegetables, dairy and other perishable farm products when
17 received within the state for intrastate or interstate com-
18 merce, under such rules and regulations as he may pre-
19 scribe, including payment of such fees as will be reasonable
20 and as nearly as may be to cover the cost for the service
21 rendered. Provided, that statements so issued by the au-
22 thorized agents of the department shall be received in all

23 courts of the state of Maine as prima facie evidence of the
24 truth of the statements therein contained. An appropriation
25 of three thousand dollars annually shall be made, to be ex-
26 pended by the commissioner of agriculture for the purpose
27 of carrying out the provisions of this section and of section
28 six of this chapter, and for such other purposes and in such
29 manner as in his judgment will best promote the interests
30 of agriculture in this state.'