

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

FIFTIETH LEGISLATURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1871.

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Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,  
February 26, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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AUGUSTA:  
SPRAGUE, OWEN & NASH, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.  
1871.

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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1871.

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one-half to the use of the town where the offence is committed, and the other half to the person libeling the same; and all laws and parts of laws inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. CHAP. 210.

Approved February 24, 1871.

### Chapter 210.

An act to promote immigration and facilitate the settlement of the public lands.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :*

SECT. 1. There shall be a board of immigration in this state, composed of the governor, secretary of state and land agent. Board of immigration.

SECT. 2. It shall be the duty of said board to appoint a commissioner of immigration, an agent resident in Sweden, and an agent resident in New Sweden, Maine, and to exercise a general supervision over the expenditure of all moneys appropriated by this act. Duty of the board.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of said commissioner to collect statistics and other useful information concerning the climate, soil, productions and resources of the state, the amount and location of unsettled lands in Maine, the terms offered by the state to settlers, together with the condition and progress of the colony at New Sweden, and such other information as he may deem proper, and cause the same to be translated into the Swedish language and distributed in Sweden and the United States in such manner as may be deemed desirable and best calculated to promote the provisions of this act; *provided* the whole amount expended for this purpose shall not exceed the sum of one thousand dollars. Duty of commissioner of immigration in regard to publishing information to encourage immigration.

SECT. 4. It shall be the further duty of said commissioner to exercise a general care and oversight over all immigrants coming to Maine, to give them all needful information, to assist them in settling upon the public lands of the state, or obtaining employment within its borders, and to have special charge of the colony at New Sweden, to the end that its development and prosperity may be promoted in every way consistent with law; and the compensation and entire expenses of said commissioner shall not exceed the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars. Duty of commissioner towards immigrants.

SECT. 5. The first agent provided for in section second of this act shall reside in Gothenburg, Sweden; shall have charge of the printing and of the distribution throughout Sweden of all documents and information to be furnished him by the commissioner, shall use his best endeavors in every lawful way to encourage emigration to Maine, to protect the emigrants from fraud and im- Compensation.  
Duty of agent in Sweden.

## CHAP. 210.

position, and to enable them to embark from Sweden with proper guarantees for their safety and comfort on their passage, and with suitable information to the Swedish colony of our state; and the compensation of said agent shall not exceed the sum of five hundred dollars.

Compensation.

Duty of agent in New Sweden.

SECT. 6. The second agent provided for in section second of this act shall reside in New Sweden, shall have special charge of the state store-house, stores, tools and all other state property there, shall receive and disburse all state supplies and keep proper accounts and vouchers therefor; and the compensation of said agent shall not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars.

Compensation.

Agents to be under direction of the commissioner.

SECT. 7. The agents mentioned in the two preceding sections shall perform their duties under the direction of the commissioner of immigration.

Board of immigration authorized to make expenditures for certain purposes.

SECT. 8. The board aforesaid may, if in their opinion the circumstances require it, expend amounts not exceeding the following sums for the several purposes hereinafter enumerated: for provisions and tools to be sold the colonists at cost, and for which payment may be taken in labor at one dollar a day on the roads, public building, and other public works, five thousand dollars; for finishing and furnishing the public building at New Sweden, one thousand dollars; for seed, five hundred dollars; for roads, five hundred dollars; for schools and school books, three hundred dollars; for all other purposes to promote the provisions and spirit of this act, five hundred dollars.

Each immigrant to have a lot of land.

SECT. 9. The board aforesaid may cause all immigrants arriving under the provisions of this act to be settled on any of the public lands of the state not otherwise appropriated, and assign to each man over twenty-one years of age, by certificate from the land agent, a lot of one hundred acres of land; and the land agent shall, at the expiration of five years from the date of said assignment, grant each of the persons aforesaid or his heirs at law, a deed of warranty or other valid title of the lot assigned him; *provided*, each of said persons has established his residence on the lot assigned him, has built him a comfortable house thereon, and has cleared not less than fifteen acres of land within the time aforesaid, ten of which shall be laid down to grass; and all said persons shall be exempt from state taxation until January first, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and seventy-six.

Governor authorized to draw his warrant for the appropriation. Limitation.

SECT. 10. The governor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the treasury for any of the sums specified in this act.

SECT. 11. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, and this act shall take effect when approved, and shall continue in force one year from its approval.