

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1897

Published by the Secretary of State, agreeably to Resolves of June 28, 1820,
February 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

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PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE.

1897.

Chapter 266.

An Act to amend Section four of Chapter fifty-eight of the Revised Statutes as amended by Section two, Chapter eighteen of the Public Laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-one, and to amend Section five of Chapter fifty-eight of Revised Statutes as amended by Chapter one hundred twenty-five of the Public Laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, relating to the Board of Agriculture.

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

Section 4,
chapter 58,
R. S., as
amended by
chapter 13,
laws 1891,
further
amended.

Sect. 1. Amend section four of chapter fifty-eight of the revised statutes as amended by section two, chapter eighteen of the public laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-one, by inserting after the word "husbandry" in the fourth line the words 'and to the best methods of building and maintaining public ways.' Also amend by inserting after the word "efforts" in the ninth line the words 'it shall also be the duty of the board with such experts, lecturers and assistants as it may employ, by means of maps, charts, cuts, drawings, printed or written articles, lectures or otherwise to disseminate knowledge throughout the state concerning the best known methods for the building and maintaining of highways, including bridges and sidewalks in the cities and towns of the state and particularly to impart such information, in manner as aforesaid, to the county commissioners of counties, the street commissioners of cities, the selectmen of towns and other municipal officers whose duty it may be to have the care and management of the expenditures of money and the building and keeping in repair of the highways of the state.' Also amend by inserting after the word "thousand" in the last line the words 'five hundred' so that said section, as amended, shall read as follows:

Farmer's
institutes
to be held
annually in
each coun-
ty.

—purposes.

'Sect. 4. The board, by its secretary and one of its members, shall hold annually, two farmer's institutes in each county, and as many more as it deems expedient or finds practicable with the means at its disposal, for the public discussion of topics relating to husbandry and to the best methods of building and maintaining public ways, either independently or in connection with any organization devoted to the same general object, and it may issue bulletins, employ experts, lecturers, a reporter or other aids to enhance the usefulness of said institutes to the public; and shall so far as practicable aid and encourage agricultural societies and associations in their efforts. It shall also be the duty of the board with such experts, lecturers and assistants as it may employ, by means of maps,

charts, cuts, drawings, printed or written articles, lectures or otherwise to disseminate knowledge throughout the state concerning the best known methods for the building and maintaining of highways, including bridges and sidewalks, in the cities and towns of the state and particularly to impart such information, in manner as aforesaid, to the county commissioners of counties, the street commissioners of cities, the selectmen of towns and other municipal officers whose duty it may be to have the care and management of the expenditures of money and the building and keeping in repair of the highways of the state. The members shall receive no compensation for time and services, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties, two dollars a day for subsistence and six cents a mile for travel. The whole expenses under this section shall not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars annually.'

—members shall be reimbursed for expenses.

Sect. 2. Amend section five of chapter fifty-eight of the revised statutes as amended by chapter one hundred twenty-five of the public laws of eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, by inserting after the word "state" in the ninth line the words 'he shall compile statistics relating to the public ways in the cities and towns of the state and make such investigation relating thereto as he shall deem expedient in order to secure better and more improved highways in the state, and in his annual report shall make such statements bearing upon the construction or maintenance of ways and suggestions and recommendations concerning the same as he deems appropriate, including recommendations for any legislation which to him seems expedient or necessary. County commissioners, municipal officers and all other officers having the care and authority over public ways and bridges throughout the state, shall on request furnish said secretary any information which they possess,' so that said section, as amended, shall read as follows:

Section 5, amended.

'Sect. 5. The board shall appoint a secretary, as its chief executive officer for a term of three years and until his successor is appointed, and may prescribe his duties, a part of which shall be by personal observation, investigation, and correspondence, to acquaint himself with the methods and wants of practical husbandry, the means of fertilization, and the adaptation of various products to the soils and climate of Maine; also with the progress of scientific and practical agriculture elsewhere, with a view to the more complete development of

Secretary, appointment and duties.

CHAP. 267

—annual report, number of copies, and distribution of.

the natural resources of the state. He shall compile statistics relating to the public ways in the cities and towns of the state, and make such investigation relating thereto as he shall deem expedient in order to secure better and more improved highways in the state, and in his annual report shall make such statements bearing upon the construction or maintenance of ways and suggestions and recommendations concerning the same as he deems appropriate, including recommendations for any legislation which to him seems expedient or necessary. County commissioners, municipal officers and all other officers having the care and authority over public ways and bridges throughout the state shall, on request, furnish said secretary any information which they possess. He shall, annually, by the third Wednesday in January, present to the governor and council, a report of the doings of the board, and the results of his own labors and investigations, together with useful communications, suggestions and recommendations. Twelve thousand copies of said report shall be printed, all bound in cloth, one-half of such for the legislature, and the remainder, after reserving a suitable number for foreign exchanges, for distribution, under the direction of the board, among the agricultural associations and the people of the state.'

Approved March 23, 1897.

Chapter 267.

An Act to provide for an investigation of the causes of Fires, and the publication of statistics relating to the same.

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

Municipal officers shall investigate origin of all fires and insurance commissioner shall be notified.

—commissioner shall have right to direct investigation.

Sect. 1. When property is destroyed or damaged by fire it shall be the duty of municipal officers in cities and towns to immediately notify the insurance commissioner of the same, and to investigate, or cause to be investigated, the cause, circumstances and origin of the fire, and especially to examine whether it was the result of carelessness or of design. The investigation shall be commenced within three days after the occurrence of the fire, not including the Lord's day, and the insurance commissioner shall have the right to supervise and direct such investigation whenever he deems it expedient or necessary.