

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SEVENTIETH LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1901.

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the written recommendation of the superintending school committee, and on conditions proper to preserve the just rights and privileges of the inhabitants for whose benefit such schools were established; provided, however, that in case of any school having, as now established, or which shall hereafter have, too few scholars for its profitable maintenance, the superintending school committee may suspend the operation of such school for not more than one year unless otherwise instructed by the town, but any public school failing to maintain an average attendance for any school year, of at least eight pupils, shall be and hereby is suspended, unless the town in which said school is located shall by vote instruct its superintending school committee to maintain said school. The superintendent of schools in each town shall procure the conveyance of all public school pupils residing in his town, a part or the whole of the distance, to and from the nearest suitable school, for the number of weeks for which schools are maintained in each year, when such pupils reside at such a distance from the said school as in the judgment of the superintending school committee shall render such conveyance necessary. Provided, however, that the superintending school committee may authorize the superintendent of schools, to pay the board of any pupil or pupils at a suitable place near any established school instead of providing conveyance for said pupil or pupils, when in their judgment it may be done at an equal or less expense than by conveyance.'

—towns may determine number and location on recommendation of school committee.

—operation of schools in small districts may be suspended.

—superintendent shall procure conveyance for scholars.

—committee may furnish board instead of providing conveyance.

Approved March 19, 1901.

Chapter 204.

An Act to create a State Department of Agriculture.

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

Section 1. A state department of agriculture for the improvement of agriculture and the advancement of the interests of husbandry is hereby established. A commissioner of agriculture shall be elected biennially by the legislature by joint ballot of the senators and representatives in convention and he shall take and subscribe the oath provided by the constitution of this state, and shall hold his office as follows:

State department of agriculture established.

—commissioner shall be elected biennially.

—shall be sworn.

The term of office of said commissioner shall be two years and until his successor is elected and qualified, except that the commissioner first elected under this act shall enter upon his duties

Tenure.

—term shall first begin January 1, 1902.

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as such commissioner, January first, nineteen hundred and two, and shall serve until his successor shall be elected by the next legislature and qualified.

Shall give bond. He shall give bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars to the state of Maine, with ample sureties, to be approved by the state treasurer, for the faithful accounting for all moneys received and disbursed by him as said commissioner.

Salary. Section 2. The salary of said commissioner shall be fifteen hundred dollars, and expenses incurred by him for actual moneys paid out as such commissioner in the performance of his duties, but not exceeding the sum of five hundred dollars, and he shall account to and turn over to the state all fees received.

—expenses.

—clerk. He may employ such clerical labor as may be required but not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of one thousand dollars, to be paid out of the state treasury on approval of the governor and council.

Shall hold institutes annually. Section 3. Said commissioner shall hold or cause to be held two farmers' institutes in each county annually and as many more as the appropriation therefor will allow. The work of said institutes shall be devoted to the presentation and discussion of questions bearing upon agriculture and the agricultural interests of the state; and for this purpose said commissioner is authorized to employ speakers who are qualified and versed in the subjects assigned them; and he shall semi-annually publish in the leading agricultural paper of this state a list of available speakers and their subjects, from which lists selection may be made for said institute purposes. He may also appoint and employ assistants, experts, lecturers, a stenographer and other aids needed in conducting such institute work, and shall fix the compensation of such employes. He may hold such institutes independently or in connection with other organizations devoted to agricultural interests and as far as possible and for the best agricultural interests of the state, aid and encourage agricultural societies and associations in the state, and shall collect and preserve in his office for public inspection all valuable data relating to the practical work of such societies and associations.

—character of the work of the institutes.

—may employ lecturers, etc.

—how institutes may be held.

Shall hold a state dairymen's conference. Section 4. Said commissioner shall, in connection with, and with the aid of the state dairymen's association, annually hold a state dairymen's conference for the exhibit of dairy products and appliances, wherein prizes for high merit and quality in butter and cheese may be offered, and may employ experts and lecturers to enhance dairy interests, but the expenses of the same shall not exceed the sum of five hundred dollars annually.

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Section 5. An appropriation of three thousand dollars annually shall be made for said institute work and for all other purposes set out in sections three and four.

Appropriation.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of the said commissioner to aid and assist societies and associations organized and established for the advancement of pomology, horticulture and dairy work, also societies devoted to the interests of the pure breeding of stock of all kinds.

Shall assist in promoting horticultural and dairy work.

Section 7. It shall be the duty of said commissioner to apportion annually the stipend due from the state to the said agricultural societies, including the state pomological society, in accordance with the laws as now provided; and he shall issue blanks to the proper officers of said societies for such returns as may be deemed necessary for a full and complete knowledge of the work of said societies for each year, and shall certify to the governor and council the amount of bounty due such society, and shall designate to the state treasurer to whom such moneys shall be paid, but said societies shall not be entitled to such bounty unless they shall make such returns.

Shall apportion the state stipend due societies.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of said commissioner annually to make report to the governor and council, on or before the first day of January of each year, of the work of the department of agriculture in detail, combining in the same a report of the state pomological society, state dairymen's association, and the state of Maine cattle commission, and all other matters relating to the promotion of agriculture; and for the purpose of making his said report, said society, association and commission shall furnish said commissioner with all necessary data therefor on or before the first day of December of each year.

Shall make report annually.

He shall further report all farmers' institutes held and the work therein done, and all public lectures carried on under his authority, and such part of said reports as is of public interest shall be printed for free distribution. Six thousand copies shall be printed and bound in cloth to be distributed among the agriculturists of the state, after supplying the necessary number for libraries and exchanges; and for the purpose of making up his report as herein provided, it shall be the duty of said commissioner to attend the various agricultural exhibitions in the state and report upon the quality and character of the work of the same.

Shall report all institutes and lectures.

—number of copies.

Section 9. Said commissioner shall be required to render on the first day of January of each year a detailed and itemized account of all expenses of his office, of all institutes held and of all moneys paid out for employes under the provisions of this

Shall render annually an itemized account of all expenses.

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—keep books of account.

Shall enforce laws relating to sale of adulterated food or seed products.

—expenses.

Inconsistent acts repealed.

When act shall take effect.

bill, also all sums of money paid for prizes on exhibits and for all other purposes; and for this purpose he is hereby required to keep necessary books of account in which all entries of money expended and moneys received shall be entered, which books shall be open to public inspection.

Section 10. It shall be the duty of said commissioner to act for the state in the enforcement of the laws relating to the sale or manufacture of any impure or adulterated food or seed products; and for said purpose he is empowered to employ chemists, agents and counsel, as may be necessary for the proper enforcement of such laws; and for such expenses there shall be appropriated a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, to be allowed upon the approval of the governor and council upon the presentation of proper itemized vouchers; and said commissioner shall perform all other duties now required of the secretary of the board of agriculture not inconsistent with this act.

Section 11. That part of chapter fifty-eight of the revised statutes relating to the Maine board of agriculture, and all acts amendatory thereof and additional thereto, inconsistent with this act, are hereby repealed, and all offices created thereby abolished on and after January first, nineteen hundred and two.

Section 12. This act shall take effect January first, nineteen hundred and two, except as to that part relating to the election of said commissioner of agriculture, which shall take effect on approval of this act, and said commissioner of agriculture shall forthwith be elected as herein provided.

Approved March 19, 1901.

Chapter 205.

An Act to create a lien for driving Logs or Lumber under contract with the owner, or any other person.

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

Lien on logs for driving by contract.

—how enforced.

—has precedence except liens for labor, etc.

Section 1. Whoever drives logs or lumber by contract with the owner, or with any other person, shall have a lien on said logs or lumber for the amount due under said contract. Said lien shall continue for sixty days after the logs or lumber arrive at the place of destination for sale or manufacture, and may be enforced by attachment. Said lien shall take precedence of all other claims, except liens for labor, for stumpage, and for towing. When the contract is made with any person other than the owner of the logs or lumber, actual notice in writing shall be