

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPORTS
OF
THE COMMISSIONER
AND
THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
SUBMITTING THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE
SIXTH REVISION
OF THE
PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE
UNDER RESOLVE OF MARCH 25, 1915

AUGUSTA
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STATE OF MAINE.

To the Honorable Legislature:

Your commissioner was required by the resolve, approved March 25, 1915, to incorporate in the sixth revision of the public laws, the legislation enacted by the legislature of nineteen hundred and fifteen. That duty has been performed under the supervision of the legislative commission created by the resolve, and the final draft of the revised code is herewith submitted.

Three hundred and fifty-one public laws were enacted at the last session; seventy-five of these laws carried into effect recommendations made in the former report of the commissioner, and other recommendations submitted to the Joint Select Committee on the revision of the statutes, and reported by that committee; sixty-seven relate to inland fish and game in specified localities, and will be found listed and arranged by counties in a note on page 595; seven, and portions of two others, are of special or temporary character, or of limited application; two are suspended to await the popular vote; none of the foregoing are included in the repealing act; the remainder have been incorporated in the revision.

Chapter 319 of the Laws of 1915, entitled "An act to provide for State and County aid in the construction of Highway Bridges," was enacted expressly subject to adoption by the people at the state election of 1916; and chapter 350 of the Laws of 1915, entitled "An act relative to the Hours of Employment of Women and Minors," has been referred to the people in accordance with the constitution, and will be voted upon at the same election. These laws have not been incorporated in the draft of the revision; the Commissioner recommends that, if adopted, they be printed as an appendix to the revised statutes and included in the index, thus bringing all the public laws of the state in one volume.

The total number of public laws enacted since the revision of 1903 is fourteen hundred and five; the number enacted in the twenty years between the revisions of 1883 and 1903 was sixteen hundred and twenty; this marked increase in the amount of legislation fully justifies the action of the legislature in authorizing this revision.

In submitting for the second time the final draft of a revision of the public laws of Maine, the Commissioner expresses his appreciation of the honor conferred upon him, the assistance rendered to him by the valuable suggestions from experienced members of the bar, and the courtesy and co-operation of the legislative commission in his efforts to make the sixth revision of the public laws satisfactory to the people of the state.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled:

The Joint Select Committee on the revision of statutes of the seventy-seventh legislature was by Resolve approved March 25th, A. D. 1915, constituted a commission to sit during the recess of the legislature to co-operate with and supervise work of the commissioner, Hon. John A. Morrill, in revising and consolidating the public acts of the state, including those of 1915. The commission has attended to its duty and begs leave to make its report.

During the legislative session the committee held stated meetings with the commissioner, and shortly after adjournment of the legislature the members of the committee were divided into convenient sub-committees, and the report of the commissioner apportioned among them. They had power to employ such assistants as they might deem necessary to assist in their work, and they have been practically in constant session since the legislature adjourned. The sub-committees reported directly to the commissioner, but from time to time meetings of the full committee were held in Augusta, at which, questions of doubt or uncertainty were settled. In this way every line of the statutes has been carefully examined and revised in connection with the commissioner, and the result is the product of their united labor and best judgment.

At the last session of the legislature obsolete laws were repealed and many others amended by special bills introduced by your committee, in many instances making their interpretation, or the intent of the legislature clearer, but we have been careful not to insert any new legislation in our report.

We have eliminated the marginal references of subject matter, and placed them at the beginning of the sections in black-face type, thus lengthening the lines of reading matter and making a much better looking page. We have also taken the common law references at the foot of the pages and placed them at the end of the sections to which they relate; we believe this is an improvement that will be appreciated by the legal profession. We have used a little larger and plainer type than that of the last revision which we think will be more satisfactory.

Fourteen hundred and five public laws have been enacted since the last revision, hence this volume will necessarily be some larger than the 1903 revision, but not so large as to be unwieldy.

Your committee has taken the utmost care to avoid errors. The proof has been read by a professional proof reader employed for the purpose, the honorable commissioner, and by the members of the committee. Not-

withstanding the strictest care and fidelity on the part of your commission some errors will undoubtedly have crept in for it is quite impossible that a work of such magnitude and scope should be utterly free from mistake.

We desire to take this opportunity to publicly express our appreciation of the services rendered to your committee, the legislature and the people of the state, by the Hon. John A. Morrill, in the work of compiling and arranging the statutes. His great learning, industry and ability, together with his unfailing kindness, patience and courtesy, have made the work of the committee a pleasure rather than a burden, and the result fully justifies the wisdom of his selection for this important work.

We therefore report the accompanying bill entitled "An Act to Revise and consolidate the public laws of the State," and that the same ought to pass.

