

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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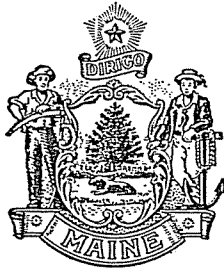
EIGHTH REVISION

THE
REVISED STATUTES

OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

PASSED SEPTEMBER 20, 1944, AND TAKING EFFECT
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INDEX

TO THE

REVISED STATUTES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

EIGHTH REVISION

NOTE TO INDEX

No printed work is so frequently attacked as an index. Rarely, in fact almost never, is such criticism constructive, however. The work of improving an index is most difficult and rests heavily with the indexer. In addition to being scientific for the orderly student, the index must more frequently anticipate the careless and undisciplined searcher. The additional time granted the indexer allowed for increased reflective arrangement of titles, references, and treatment.

In this revision, an innovation in the form of a topical index preceding the descriptive word index will be found. It is intended by this to give an overall picture of the statute book, much like a table of contents. The use thereof should be limited, however, to getting into a particular chapter or subject and should not be relied upon as a substitute for the descriptive word index. It will be of great assistance in finding a particular chapter. For example, because the duties of the Secretary of State extend throughout the entire statute book, it is not a substitute for discovering his duties in some particular. The descriptive word index will be necessary, for only a small part of the law regarding the Secretary is under the chapter relating to his office. However, a topical index, like a table of contents, is a valuable aid in becoming familiar with Statutes, if rightly used. Its constant use will acquaint one with the logical arrangement of the law of the State, making searches easier.

Another change that will be found in the present index is the omission of boldface type in sub-headings. By changing to lighter face, the main headings show up better. The great majority of States apparently agree on this. It was not done in the last revision because it was not felt best to leave too suddenly the type of index in use in Maine for so many years. Catch-words under sub-headings are capitalized in this edition to bring them out more noticeably. A dash mark is added in the citation between page and section number in order to make the reference more easily read.

No such things are mentioned in the statutes as Drunken-Driving, Hit and Run, Building and Loan Associations, and many other subjects commonly referred to in conversation. Yet, there will be found in this index many such common phrases because of their universal and common use.

Cross-reference, for some unexplainable reason is often resented, altho it is the greatest single aid to the searcher. Few will deny that it is unnecessary to repeat all the law pertaining to Executors and Administrators under both the titles Executors and also Administrators, then again under Estates, then again under Probate, etc. By such a method, the index becomes larger than the book. It makes little difference whether the subject is treated under Administrators and Executors or vice versa and referred to by reference from allied topics, so long as the treatment is complete wherever found.

Much statutory law appears referring to Public Utilities. Many of the provisions are equally applicable to railroads, railways, street railways, telephone and telegraph companies, etc. Assuming the searcher is interested in a statutory question relating to public utilities generally, but his approach is through Railroads because he is searching for the general provision with relation to its application to railroads, without reasoning in this manner. He only thinks: "There is such a law applicable to railroads." He goes to Railroads as a subject and is referred to Public Utilities. Resentment immediately follows because he believes that the law should be under the topic first thought of. This is, of course, impossible as well as impractical. Another searcher for the same provision may first go to Steam Railroads, another to Carriers, another to Common Carriers, etc. Again resentment follows. Throughout our Statutes, there are many laws having general provisions covering many similar features, yet, to index every phase of the law under the various catch-words would lead to considerable duplication and render the index impractical. The Maine Statutes are already more heavily indexed than those of most States. For every five pages of text in our Statutes, there is one page of index. However, cross references will be placed at the end of a treatment instead of at the beginning, to insure exhaustion of the subject first thought of before referring to another.

The general index will include more references and an improved arrangement without the substitution of a radically new system. Whenever possible, the section and page number will be added to a cross-referred subject matter providing the treatment thereof is confined to a specific section or paragraph in the Statutes.

In addition to members of my own staff, acknowledgment must be made to the Committee on Revision for their kindly cooperation, particularly to the Chairman, Hon. Joseph E. Harvey and the Revisors, Hon. L. Smith Dunnack and Hon. Samuel H. Slosberg.

RICHARD H. ARMSTRONG, LL.B.

November 1, 1944
Biddeford, Maine

	Sec. Page		Sec. Page
IMPLEADING		INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR	
Corporations	15— 979	Employers liability law	53— 601
IMPLEMENTS		INDEPENDENT LOCAL CHURCHES	24 et seq—1034
Burglars, disposal	8—1825	See also Parishes and Religious Societies	
Counterfeiting, manufacture or possession	8—1838	INDETERMINATE SENTENCES	11 et seq—1935
Gambling	13—1884	See also Sentence	
IMPORTATION		INDEX	
Liquors, illegal; penalty	63—1221	Register of deeds	243—1401
IMPOUNDING		Section at state library	10— 840
Motor vehicle	124— 323	INDIANS	
See also Forfeiture		Agents	309— 443
IMPRESSMENT		Duties	310— 443
Contagious diseases, for	134 et seq— 399	Records	311— 443
See also Health and Welfare		Salary	315— 444
IMPRISONMENT		Settlement of accounts	318— 444
Female for prostitution	16—1847	Agents sue in own name	314— 444
Legislature, power to punish	6— 27	Bounties on produce	316— 444
See also Sentence; Commitment; State Prison; Arrest		Defined	307— 443
IMPROVEMENTS		Contracts of	412— 444
City streets	60—1520	Education	364— 455
Marshes, meadows and swamps	160 et seq—1543	Attendance officers	364— 455
Notice to part owners	5—1797	Funds expended	320— 445
Real actions	20—2096	Highways, maintenance and snow removal	48— 341
See also Real Actions		Hunting and fishing free	317— 444
Rents and profits, allowance	13—2096	Impersonating	321— 445
Roadside	72 et seq— 346	Indian lots	341— 450
Schoolhouse lots	17— 780	Legislative member, compensation	2— 150
Taxable when	3—1447	Limitation of leases and contracts	313— 444
Ways and buildings by owners	9—1507	Non-member of tribes	319— 445
See also Real Actions		Passamaquoddy tribe	356 et seq— 453
INCENDIARISM		Penobscot tribe	322 et seq— 445
See Burning, Arson, Fires		Records and accounts	308— 443
INCEST		Relief of needy	319— 445
Crime and penalty	2—1844	State aid highways	28— 336
INCOME		State highways in townships	20— 334
Real estate, from, accounting of administrator for	71—1985	Tax exempt	6—1450
INCOME, STATE		Voting tests	2— 72
See Department of Finance		Warrants, how drawn	315— 444
INCOMPATIBLE OFFICES		INDICTMENT	
Assessors	12—1412	Abatement, verification of plea	16—1911
Bail commissioners	34—1809	Accused person right to copy	6— 18
Collectors	12—1412	Acquittal of part, conviction of residue	10—1910
Congress, with	2— 33	Amendments allowable	14—1911
Council, office of	4— 30	Aqueeducts, injury to	10— 971
County commissioners	10—1347	Arraignment, prisoner need not be asked how tried	16—1911
County treasurer, with	142—1378	Auction sales, illegal	81—1593
Election clerks	14— 110	Contempt, not necessary for	1—1919
Governor	5— 29	Copy furnished one charged with felony	11—1926
Insurance commissioner and bank commissioner	2—1123	Costs taxable	1—1945
Legislature, members of	10— 28	Criminal cases, necessary in certain	7— 19
Other provision	11— 28	Criminal prosecutions, necessary for	1—1919
Legislature, offices with	2— 33	Defective ways, for	88 et seq—1526
Loan and building officers	146—1100	One at term only	95—1528
Offices generally; constitution	2— 33	Dismissal by county attorney	133—1376
Probate judges	20—1961	Embezzlement, for	8—1834
Public utilities commission	2— 848	Fines and forfeitures recovered by	18—1912
Register of probate	31—1964	Insanity, failing to indict by reason of	120— 495
Selectmen	12—1412	Insurance violations	271—1200
State police	3— 197	Intent to defraud, alleging	13—1910
Supreme judicial court	6— 32	Irregularities, unimportant	15—1911
Town treasurer	12—1412	Jury venires, irregularities	15—1911
See also particular titles		Limitation, see Limitation of Actions	
INCORRIGIBLE		Liquor violations, previous conviction ..	72—1224
Help from bureau for community service ..	157— 505	Prior conviction	77—1225
Idle or vicious minors	91— 488	Lobster violation	122— 762
INCRIMINATION		Military chapter offenses	83— 191
Accused not compelled to give	22—1928	Murder; or manslaughter, sufficiency ..	11—1910
Protection against	116—1719	And concealment of death of infant ..	10—1846
Public utilities commission, before ..	71— 872	Ownership of property	12—1910
See also Self-Incrimination		Perjury, form of	4—1855
INDECENT		Previous offense alleged in	3—1933
Behavior at school	192— 825	Receiving stolen goods	11 et seq—1835
Entertainment	29—1850	School offenses, forfeitures	191— 825
Public conveyance in or near, language ..	70— 910	Sea and shore fisheries	151— 771
INDECENT EXPOSURE		Second term, bailed or discharged ..	8—1926
Crime and penalty	7—1845	Secret until arrest	7—1926
INDECENT LIBERTIES		Standing mute, not guilty plea entered ..	10—1926
Crime and penalty	6—1845	Technicalities, defects	15—1911
Sentence	12—1935	Two counties, accused charged with crime in	7—1920
INDECENT LITERATURE		Unlawful assembly and riot	6—1862
24—1849		Variance, unimportant vitiates not ..	14—1911
INDEMNIFICATION		Venires, irregularities	15—1911
Corporate officers	23— 981	Venue, see Venue	
INDEMNITY CONTRACTS, RECIPROCAL		Vessels, for violating law	14— 946
See Insurance and Insurance Companies		Voters, failure to summons	96— 132
See also Bonds		Witness for state failing to attend ..	20—1928
		See also particular titles	
		INDIFFERENT	
		Person, when considered	21— 154

INDIGENT PERSONS	Sec. Page	INHERITANCE	Sec. Page
Diseased from another town	40—381	Personalty, see Distribution	
Medical supplies	52, 53—384	Real Estate, see Descent of Real Estate	
Help to by bureau	157—505	INHERITANCE TAXES	
Indians	319—445	Abatement	30—1996
Not members of tribe	334—446	Account not allowed until paid	25—1994
Passamaquoddy	363—454	Action of debt for	20—1994
Penalty for bringing to town	42—1500	Administrative appointed within six months	21—1994
Pownal state school, at	153—504	Administrators etc. liable for	18—1993
Pre-marital medical examination .. 107 et seq	seq—394	All property single interest	6—1991
Tuberculosis, with	81—390	Amount determined, procedure	27—1995
Quarantine	49—383	Amount of tax class A	3—1990
See also Paupers		Amount of tax Class B	4—1990
INDORSER		Amount of tax on class C	5—1991
Trustee of retirement system not to be	12—1254	Attorney general to enforce	1—1989
INDORSEMENTS		Assistant attorney general to enforce	6—273
Corporate stock transfers	46 et seq—985	Bequests to executors or trustees	8—1991
Costs, for	6—1675	Bond for	20—1994
Liability, limitation	7—1675	Suit on	34—1997
New indorser required	8—1675	Commissioners authority	34—1997
Dismissal of cases by county attorney ..	133—1376	Deducted before delivery of property ...	14—1992
Forgery, penalty	1—1836	Deeds etc. inter vivos	9—1991
Legal papers, by attorneys	2—1674	Definition	40—1998
Probate papers, by attorneys	2—1674	Estate tax, applicable	39—1998
Stock transfers	67—989	Forms prepared	32—1996
Trial justice scire facias	13—1667	Information withheld, procedure	28—1996
Writs, bills etc., required	6—1675	Inspection of documents	31—1996
Assignee, suit by, costs	168—1729	Interest charges on unpaid taxes	16—1993
Creditor, send on bond, perishable	36—1681	Inventory to be filed	24—1994
No costs, without	156—1726	Legacy payable out of realty	19—1993
State, in name of for individual	165—1729	Lien on property for	17—1993
See also Negotiable Instruments		Limitations	41—1998
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT COMMISSION	29 et seq—594	Loan and building shares	160—1104
Commissioner of labor, salary	1—545	Nonresident estates	7—1991
See also Workmen's Compensation Act		Payable when	15—1993
INDUSTRIAL BANKS	180 et seq—1109	Perjury before commissioner	33—1997
See also Banks and Banking		Property taxable	2—1989
INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION		Reciprocity, proof of payment	42—1998
State institutions, at	3—466	Refund of taxes	22—1994
See also Education		Registers of probate report appointments	29—1996
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR GIRLS		Remainder estates, values	11—1992
See State School for Girls		Rules of procedure	32—1996
INDUSTRY		Sale of realty to pay	23—1994
See Labor and Industry		Settlement where computation impossible	12—1992
INELIGIBILITY		Bond given	13—1992
Election clerks	14—110	Superior court compels attendance witnesses	33—1997
See also Incompatible Offices		Value as of death	10—1991
INFAMOUS CRIME		Commissioner to determine; appeal ...	26—1995
See Felony		Value of exempted property	7—1991
INFANTS		Witnesses examined	33—1997
Blindness prevention at birth	120—397	INITIATIVE	
Death, concealment	10—1846	Peoples' veto and direct initiative .. 1 et seq—	144
See also Children, Minors		INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM	XXXI—43
INFECTIOUS DISEASES		INJUNCTIONS	
See Health and Welfare; Animals		Actions at law in	19—1703
INFERNAL MACHINES		Aqueducts, damage for land takings ...	19—973
Injuries by, penalty	22—1821	Assessment casualty company	199—1181
Possession, penalty	23—1821	Bank employee inducing writing insurance	251—1192
See also Explosives		Bonds for	34—1656
INFIRM PERSONS		Breach of marketing contract	18—697
Depositions	4—1755	Cemetery or mausoleum, against	34—1048
See also Guardian and Ward		Contempt, labor disputes	37—1658
INFLAMMABLES		Corporate stock transfers	62—988
Regulations	42—1559	Corporation continuing business, against	100—1002
Action for damages	43—1559	Corporation dissolution	108—1004
Search for	44—1560	Equity appeals, pending	22—1655
Removal	22—1555	Exceptions, pending in law court	26—1655
INFLUENCE		Fair trade act	1 et seq—2166
Corrupt solicitation	6—1856	Foreign insurance companies	49—1136
Driving auto under	121—321	Innkeepers license, suspension	48—1586
Voting	112—135	Insurance company, against	10—1124
INFORMATION		Labor disputes	36—1658
Attorneys, removal	14—1640	Contempt proceedings	37—1658
Church property, protection	33—1035	Labor union label, enjoining counterfeit	46—559
Criminal cases begun by	1—1919	Loan and building association, against	170—1107
Escheats, for	11—2106	Lottery, against	19—1886
Intrusion, for	1 et seq—2105	Marketing contracts, against warehousemen	27—699
Nuisance abatement	1—1894	Motions for	34—1656
INFORMERS		Motor vehicle for hire without certificates	5—928
Bribery, exempt from punishment	8—1856	Municipal contracts, against wrongful	79—1426
See also Rewards		Municipal officers, against pecuniary interest	79—1426
INHABITANT		Mutual insurance companies	92—1145
Defined	21—155	Names and emblems of charitable organizations	14—1014
Liability for debts of towns	132—1009	Nuisances, to abate	1—1894
		Nuisance, to prevent	20—1899
		See also Nuisances	

	Sec. Page		Sec. Page
INJUNCTIONS—Continued		INLAND FISHERIES AND GAME—Continued	
Parks, restraining use of land for	5—1506	Trespass on island	12—1798
Perpetual, proceedings	34—1656	Trusts of corporations	77— 994
Practice of law, enjoining illegal	7—1639	Wardens, deputizing	1— 732
Preliminary, filing, bond, procedure	34—1656	Assault and interference	21—1859
Labor disputes, in	36—1658	Dog chasing game, killing	22—1579
Railroad, crossing bridges	67— 892	Firearm sales records	13—1907
Breach	41— 886	Impersonation, penalty	30—1861
Prohibiting running unsafe train	54— 889	Obstruction, penalty	20—1859
Refusal to erect station	61— 891	Personnel law	7—1242
Service of	40— 886	Retirement benefits	5—1252
Railroads failing to pay damages for land taken	39— 886	INMATES	
Railroads safety laws	53— 889	See Department of Institutional Service and particular titles	
Railroads, stock increase	22— 880	INNS AND INNKEEPERS	
Savings bank liquidation	65—1075	Aliens, registration	3— 71
Insolvent	67—1076	Arson	1—1824
Segregation of assets	85—1080	Convictions record to license board	50—1586
Security dealers, enjoining	220—1121	Copy of laws posted	49—1586
Supreme judicial court, motions to dissolve	14—1633	Discrimination against persons	44—1877
Temporary, labor disputes, in	36—1658	Against service men	86— 191
Time of after final decree	28—1656	Elevators, operators	37— 556
Trade marks and trade names, to prohibit	5—2164	Employment agency not to be in	114—1600
Trust company revaluation	130—1096	Entertainment provided	29—1582
Unfair sales act	1 et seq—2167	False show of baggage	42—1584
Waste, to prevent	7—1798	Fire escapes, see Fire Escapes	
INJURIES		Fraud upon	41—1584
Animals, to, penalty	1—1888	Copy of law posted	43—1584
Aqueducts, to	10— 971	Trial justice jurisdiction	43—1584
Coast survey, to	21— 68	Gambling not allowed	31—1582
Criminal case dismissed upon private satisfaction	20—1922	Gambling or diversion on Sunday	43—1854
Death actions, see Death Actions		Hotels defined	1—1202
Defect in ways, from	88 et seq—1526	Liability defined	35—1582
See also Ways		Check or receipt given	37—1583
Dogs, by, liability	15—1577	Lien on baggage	39—1583
Employers liability law, under	48 et seq— 599	Limit of liability	38—1583
Fence viewers, by	202—1550	Special arrangements	36—1583
Fire, from kindling	35 et seq—1558	Licenses	26—1581
Highways, defects in, liability	16— 332	Bond for	27—1581
Ice bridges, to	106—1530	Copy of laws posted	49—1586
Intoxicated person, responsibility for injuries	96—1232	Fee and record	28—1581
Meridians and standards of length, to	110—1370	Keeping without penalty	33—1582
Mobs, by	7 et seq—1863	Part time	26—1581
Negligence and contributory negligence, burden	50—1708	Revocation	26—1581
Patient at state hospital	98— 490	Sunday violations	43—1854
Pilots, by	3—1569	Suspension and revocation proceedings	48—1586
Public drains	152—1542	Lien on baggage	39—1583
Railroad car	17—1827	Enforcement, procedure	40—1584
Railroad fences, to	24— 901	Liquor sales to room guests	40—1216
Railroad property, to, penalty	2—1817	Lodging house license	44—1585
Railroad signals, to	82— 912	No fee	45—1585
Railroad train, to, penalty	18—1866	Terms of	45—1585
Reported to department of labor	8— 547	Lunch wagons	51—1586
School, to, liability	193— 825	Motor vehicle tourist service	233 et seq—1189
Signs on highways	96— 315	Oleomargarine, serving at	7—1869
Sunday, received on, actions for	154—1726	Overnight camps	152 et seq— 403
Threats, to, crime	28—1822	Private hospitals for insane	144 et seq— 501
Toll bridges unlighted by	97—1367	Register to be kept	46—1585
Utilities employees, to	17—1865	Copy of laws posted	49—1586
Voting lists, to	32— 80	Violations, penalty	47—1585
Warning signs on highways	71— 346	Reveling and drunkenness at	32—1582
Ways, to, by utility	20— 953	Safe and vaults	35—1582
Within state, death without, as affecting jurisdiction	6—1909	Receipt or check	37—1583
Without state, death within, as affecting jurisdiction	6—1909	Special arrangements	36—1583
See also Defacing Property, Destruction of Property, Malicious Mischief, Personal Injury, Trespass		Search by fish warden	6— 734
INJURIES TO PROPERTY		Search warrant for liquors	88—1230
See Defacing Property, Destruction of Property, Malicious Mischief		Seats for women employees	36— 555
INJURY FROM DEFECTS IN WAYS		Shellfish, taking	54— 746
See Ways		Spiked boots forbidden	36—1831
INLAND FISH AND GAME (BY TITLE ONLY)	731	Street railroads providing	30— 924
Appropriations of townships	99—1437	Sunday, operating on	39—1852
Commissioner, cooperation with sea and shore	1— 732	Violations, prosecutions	34—1582
Migratory fish	7— 734	Wages, weekly payment	38— 556
Sanitary water board	1—1316	INQUEST	
Hatchery employees, personnel law	7—1242	Attorney general and county attorney, by	263—1407
Indians free	317— 444	Fires by insurance commissioner	26 et seq—1556
Inspectors, fee to Secretary of State	7— 277	Medical examiner, by	262—1406
Maine development commission	1 et seq— 771	Sudden death at insane hospital	99— 490
Militia, loan of arms to	15— 171	See also Medical Examiners	
Petitions for legislation as to	15— 153	INQUESTS OF OFFICE	
State cars	29— 211	Proceedings	1 et seq—2105
		INSANE	
		Bureau for community service help	157— 505
		Criminals, procedure	119 et seq— 495
		Examiner of insane convicts	123— 496
		Guardian ad litem for	58—1709
		Guardianship	4 et seq—2013
		See also Guardian and Ward	
		Habeas corpus for	38—1810
		Insane person defined	21— 155
		Limitation of actions; liability removed	97—1696

INSANE—Continued					
Limitation of real actions	7—	2108	INSIGNIA		
Liquor sales to prohibited	55—	1219	Unauthorized use of organizational	13 et seq—	1014
Marriage prohibited	2—	2049	See also Badge		
Military duty, unfit	28—	176	INSOLVENCY		
Partition by probate court	11—	2001	Actions against, procedure	74—	1712
Partition, writs of	7—	2113	Actions by insolvents	72—	1712
Penalty for bringing into town	42—	1500	Aid to blind	287—	439
Private hospitals	144 et	seq—	Attachment, death of debtors	55—	1686
Sterilization	158 et	seq—	Attachment dissolved	73—	1691
Tax collector becoming	107—	1475	Attachment, 4 months before	73—	1712
Town officers, of	38—	1418	Corporation, proceedings	100 et	seq—
Uniform declaratory judgments act	38 et	seq—	Costs on plea of	175—	1730
United States, lands taken for, clearing title	14—	67	Debt, contract to pay	1—	1766
Will, waiver by widow etc.	13—	2080	Debtor's list, publication	34—	1823
Witness, rules regarding	122—	1721	Exemption, teachers' annuities	234—	836
Writs of error, limitation	10—	1814	Foreign surety, title or credit company	191—	1179
INSANE HOSPITALS			Fraternal benefit associations	164—	1172
Bangor and Augusta, at	95—	489	Insurance company	10—	1124
Bureau for community service help	157—	505	Insurance companies, liability on policy	80—	1143
Commissioner of Institutional Service	100—	490	Insurance companies, mutual etc.	91—	1145
Commitment without examination	104—	491	Itinerant vendors sales	92—	1596
Emergency cases	106—	492	Lien on lots, wharves and piers, effect	39—	2136
Examination necessary	114—	494	Limitation of actions, affecting	111—	1698
False testimony	115—	494	Mutual insurance companies	91—	1145
Judge of probate, by	111—	493	Old age assistance	264—	435
Jurisdiction	113—	493	Records preserved by commissioners	16—	1248
Proceedings	112—	493	Savings bank	67 et	seq—
Justice of the peace, by	108—	492	Unemployment contributions, priorities	14—	532
Municipal officers, by	105—	491	Uniform declaratory judgments act	38 et	seq—
Doctor's exam	107—	492	INSOLVENT		
Jurisdiction	113—	493	Savings bank	67 et	seq—
Criminal plea of insanity	119—	495	See also Insolvency		
Criminals, disposal of	119 et	seq—	INSOLVENCY COURTS (ABOLISHED)		
Criminals, sentence	130—	498	See Probate Courts		
Dead bodies distribution	11—	1266	INSOLVENT LAW (BY TITLE ONLY)		—2032
Death, notice of	12—	1267	INSOLVENT ESTATES	1 et	seq—
Discharge of patients	143—	501	Allowance to children	18—	2003
Reimbursements	141—	500	Cemetery lots not to be sold	8—	1042
Examiners of insane convicts	123—	496	Chapter	1 et	seq—
Expense of support	136—	499	Fees of commissioners	45—	1967
Liability of town	138—	500	Life insurance, will of	21—	2083
Recovery by	139—	500	Nonresident	33—	2006
Recovery by state	140—	500	Probate stenographers, fees	47—	1967
Recovery of support	137—	499	Set-off by executors etc.	85—	1713
Inmates of jails becoming nuisance	128—	497	Set-off demand due from deceased person	83—	1713
Inquiry into unreasonable detention	135—	499	Trespass and waste to	16—	1799
Neglect of duties	103—	491	Waste, penalty	16—	1799
Observation, prisoners, for	12—	469	Widows' allowance	14—	2002
Prisoners for observation	12—	469	Will, waiver, by widow etc.	13—	2080
Annual examination	143—	501	INSPECTION		
Armed forces, of	118—	495	Ballots in municipal elections	61 et	seq—
Ill treatment	98—	490	Board of sanitation, licensing and inspection	1—	1315
Letters unopened	101—	491	Compressed air work	74 et	seq—
Sudden death	99—	490	Diseases, for	26 et	seq—
Transfer from out of state	117—	494	Farm products	38 et	seq—
Transfer of	102—	491	Fire escapes	47—	1560
Writing letters	101—	491	Gas and oil	174—	1612
Private hospitals	144 et	seq—	Lobsters	137—	767
Recommitment, proceedings	132 et	seq—	Meridians and standards of length	109—	1370
Rules and regulations posted	97—	490	Meters, of	23 et	seq—
Superintendent, duties and powers	96—	490	Milk	83—	625
Report annually	96—	490	And dairy products	123—	397
Temporary leave	142—	501	Motor vehicles, of	35 et	seq—
Transfer of prisoners to; other institutions	13—	469	Movie apparatus	66—	1589
For observation	12—	469	Nurseries, annually	132—	640
Voluntary patients	116—	494	Packing of food	196—	659
Women, attended by women	131—	498	Potato tax, regarding	213—	262
See Department of Institutional Service			Probate register, of office	28—	1963
INSECTICIDE			Public utilities commission, by	5—	848
See Fungicide and Insecticide			Public utility rates schedule	26—	857
INSECT PESTS			Public utilities records	25—	856
Appropriation of towns	91—	1435	Railroads, for safety	49 et	seq—
Destruction of	137—	642	Roads by county commissioners	62—	1360
European corn borer	142—	643	Sardine packing	201—	661
Corn stalk fodder	144—	644	Schools	3—	776
Jurisdiction	145—	644	Secretary of State, records open to inspection	5—	279
Penalty	145—	644	Slaughterhouses	188 et	seq—
Quarantine	143—	643	Steamboats and motorboats	7—	943
Stubble burned	144—	644	Vessels on inland waters	4—	943
Gipsy and brown tail moths	131—	640	Annually	12—	945
Jurisdiction of courts	141—	643	INSPECTION OF FISH	12 et	seq—
Notice to commissioner	137—	642	INSPECTOR GENERAL		
Notice to owners to destroy	138—	642	See Military Law		
Falling	138—	642	INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS		
State nursery inspectors rights	57—	720	Election etc.	10 et	seq—
Towns raise money	139—	643	INSPECTORS		
Trees, trimming, cutting, removal	16—	1509	Bees, of	146 et	seq—
			Boats and lighters, of, fees	15—	1571
			Boilers, of	55—	560

	Sec. Page
INSPECTORS—Continued	
Buildings, of	10 et seq—1552
See also Buildings	
Dams and reservoirs	45 et seq—2158
Factory, see Labor and Industry	
Fires, of	21 et seq—1554
See Fires	
Fish, of	12 et seq—736
Fees payable	7—277
Flour, of	126 et seq—1603
Leather, of	134 et seq—1604
Liquor, see Liquor Law	
Meters, of	23 et seq—954
Milk and dairy products	123 et seq—1603
See also Milk and Dairy Products	
Motor vehicle, state police	4—197
Plumbing of, see Plumbing	
Schools for nurses	2—1238
Slaughter houses	188 et seq—657
Weights and measures	244—673
INSTALMENTS	
Bonds of municipalities	133—1009
INSTITUTES	
Farmers'	10—606
See also Education II	
INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE	
Bureau	
Commissioner	
Department	
See Department of Institutional Service	
INSTITUTIONS	
Health and welfare inspections	4—372
See also Department of Institutional Service	
See also State, and particular titles	
INSTRUCTIONS	
See Charge to Jury	
INSTRUMENTS	
Acknowledgment and record	23—2068
Defects in deed, validation	41—2072
Evidence, see Evidence	
Record	23—2068
Recording fee	232—1398
State, removal, secretion or mutilating	8—1904
Sunday, dated on	153—1726
See also particular titles such as Deeds, etc.	
INSULT	
Malicious vexing etc., penalty	29—1822
Military personnel, penalty	82—191
INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES	
I. In General	
II. Insurance Commissioner	
III. Agents and Brokers	
IV. Casualty, Accident and Health	
V. Crimes and Offenses	
VI. Domestic Companies	
VII. Foreign Companies	
VIII. Foreign Surety, Credit and Title Companies	
IX. Fraternal Beneficiary Associations	
X. Life Insurance	
XI. Reciprocal Contracts of Indemnity	
I. IN GENERAL	
Actions on policies, pleadings	40—1706
Defenses	262—1196
Adjusters license	256—1195
Fee to commissioner	272—1200
Annuity, exempt from creditors	137—1163
Arbitration on fire loss	101—1150
Assignee of policy, suit by	260—1196
Automobile finance business	264—1198
Autos for hire	16—284
Boilers inspection record	67—564
Burning to collect	7—1825
Cancellation for non payment premium	99—1150
Notification attached	100—1150
Churches, on	13—1032
Commissions between companies	258—1196
Company failing when securities deposited	21—1127
Contract of insurance	1—1122
Defenses of company invoked	262—1197
Discrimination and rebates forbidden	130 et seq—1161
Fire or liability	257—1195
Dwelling of husband and wife	102—1150
Endorsement; non-forfeiture values	114 et seq—1153
Form approved	6—1123
Executors and administrators, by	72—1985

	Sec. Page
INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—Continued	
False reports, penalty	35—1824
Fees, schedule of commissioner	272—1200
Financial responsibility law	64 et seq—302
By-laws as to	83—1429
Letting cars	31—942
Frauds, investigation of	263—1197
Fees for investigation	272—1200
Furniture owned by husband and wife ..	102—1150
Hospital service organization	218 et seq—1187
Incorporation necessary	22—1127
Information as to finances of poor	44—1500
Insurance emergency	240 et seq—1190
Commissioner's powers	241—1190
Personal responsibility	245—1191
Governor may end	248—1191
"Insurer" defined	244—1191
Jurisdiction of courts	247—1191
Payments deferred	243—1191
Penalty for violations	246—1191
Proclamation	240—1190
Suspension	242—1191
Investigation of frauds	263—1197
Fee for investigation	272—1200
Investments, taxation	17—1455
Itinerant vendors sales	92—1596
Judgment, final not required	261—1196
Application of money	262—1196
Notice of accident or injury	262—1196
Jurisdiction of courts	271—1200
Liability absolute when loss occurs	261—1196
License fees	272—1200
Corporations	251—1192
Lien of mortgagees on fire policy	104—1051
Lightning-rods, license	265 et seq—1199
Fees	272—1200
Suit on bond	270—1200
Lighting, standard form	96—1146
Lloyd's plan	22—1127
Loan and building association	153—1102
Loan and building association real estate	164—1105
Loans, insurance as inducement	251—1192
Loss, liability absolute at time of	261—1196
Adjustment and payment	103—1050
Failure of parties to agree	101—1150
Notice and proof	97—1147
Suspension of violations	103—1050
Under \$100 payment	103—1050
Marine company dividend	70—1140
Marine insurance	22—1127
Misrepresentations prohibited	134—1162
Penalties	135—1162
Mortgagees, consent to payment	104—1151
Consent necessary	108—1152
Lien of, on policy	104—1151
Application of sum recovered	106—1151
Costs when company defends	106—1151
Enforcement by suit	105—1151
Priority of mortgages	107—1151
Motor trucks	26—938
Motor vehicle road or tourist service	233 et seq—1189
Motor vehicles for hire, on	8 et seq—928
Motor vehicles, leasing	31—942
Non-forfeiture law	114 et seq—1153
Notice of claim	262—1196
Notices to agents binding	259—1196
Penalties, recovery	271—1200
Pensions or retirements for towns, by-laws	83—1430
Policy, assignee, sent by	260—1196
Policies, fire, see infra "Standard fire policies"	
Policy form, approval by commissioner	6—1123
Forgery, penalty	1—1836
Premiums, discrimination or rebate fire or liability	257—1195
Public buildings, on	12—164
Replacement	13—164
Railroad locomotives, fires caused by ..	63—909
Rebates, fire or liability	257—1195
Receivers powers	13—1125
Reciprocity	45—1135
Savings bank to carry fire	54—1073
Schoolhouses, on by town	29—783
Securities, assessment casualty companies	201—1182
Deposit	198—1180
Foreign fraternal benefits company ..	174—1175
Standard fire policy exclusive	96—1146
Abandonment	97—1147
Adjustment and payment	103—1050
Arbitration	97—1147

	Sec. Page
INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—	
Continued	
Cancellation	97—1147
Non payment of premium	99—1150
Notification attached	100—1150
Change in risk	97—1147
Form of policy	97—1147
Lien of mortgagees	104—1051
Limitation of action	97—1147
Loss, failure to agree	101—1150
Loss, proof of under	97—1147
Mortgages, rights of under	97—1147
Penalty for violation	98—1150
Type, size used	97—1147
Variations	96—1146
Void for misrepresentations	97—1147
Standard valuation law	122 et seq—1158
Statement of condition	7—1124
Preserved	8—1124
Suspension during emergency	242—1191
Taxation of	131 et seq—237
Taxation of holdings	17—1495
Real estate	18—1495
Securities pledges	18—1495
Tax for investigation of fires	29—1557
Transactions between companies	258—1196
Unauthorized insurance, exceptions	12—1125
Vessels, destruction	31—1843
Vessels, false estimates of shipments	32—1844
Violations, jurisdiction	271—1200
Workmen's Compensation Act, see Workmen's Compensation Act	
II. INSURANCE COMMISSIONER	
Accident and health, approval of policy	109—1152
Adjusters license	256—1195
Fee to commissioner	272—1200
Agents and broker	249 et seq—1191
See also post "Agents and Brokers III"	
Annual report, fires as to	25—1556
Foreign surety, credit and title companies	188—1178
Appointment, term etc.	2—1123
Articles of association, approval	33—1131
Assessment casualty companies	197 et seq—1180
Attorney general represents	1—272
Opinions	5—272
Automobile finance business	264—1198
Bank commissioner not to be	2—1123
Bonds of state employees	2—203
Form approved	4—203
Capital stock increase	34—1132
Certificate	35—1132
Contracts of indemnity, service on	211—1186
Report second examination	214—1186
Deputy appointed	2—1123
Fire escapes investigations	54—1561
Fires, powers as to	27—1556
Domestic companies, prerequisites	3—1123
Examination biennially	9—1124
Exchange of stock	4—1123
Injunction against	10—1124
Life companies, receivers	11—1125
Proceedings for non-compliance	5—1123
Duties generally	2—1123
Examinations, travelling expenses	272—1200
Explosives and inflammables, regulations	42—1559
Failing insurance company	21—1127
Fees, schedule of	272—1200
Agents and brokers exam	252—1193
Assessment casualty company for	209—1185
Automobile finance business	264—1198
Hospital service organizations	231—1189
Motor vehicle road or tourist service	238—1190
Turned over to treasurer	2—1123
Financial responsibility law	64 et seq—302
Fire escapes investigations	54—1561
Fire inspectors of towns	21—1554
Fire investigations	24—1555
Expense by commissioner	29—1557
Injury, proceedings	27—1556
Inquiry as to	26—1556
Inspection of building	22—1555
Moving pictures	65 et seq—1589
Report from fire companies	28—1557
Report of facts	25—1556
Fire loss, referees	101—1150
Foreign companies, license	41—1134
Deposit	42—1135
Examination	43—1135
Examination	166—1172
Assistants	47—1136
Books, papers; refusal	48—1136
Renewal	44—1135
Revocation	46—1136

	Sec. Page
INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—	
Continued	
Notices served on	55—1138
Process against	54—1137
Revocation of license	167—1173
Service upon, notification	154—1169
Suspension	49—1136
Appeal	52—1137
Penalty for issuing policies	51—1137
Foreign beneficiary associations, attorney for	154—1169
Foreign fraternal, casualty license	172—1174
Foreign surety, credit and title companies attorney	183—1177
Annual statement	188—1178
Service of process	183—1177
Fraternal benefit associations, authorization	150—1167
Closing out affairs	164—1172
Examination of	164—1172
Foreign	153 et seq—1168
Reports to	160—1170
Reserve fund	151—1167
Whole family plan	176 et seq—1175
Frauds, investigations of	263—1197
Fees for investigation	272—1200
Hospital service organizations	218 et seq—1187
Organizations	231—1189
Industrial accident commission, on	29—594
Injunction against domestic companies	10—1124
Insurance emergency	240 et seq—1190
Insurance violations	271—1200
Investigation, fees for	272—1200
License, corporations, to	251—1192
Life companies standard valuation	122 et seq—1158
Reinsurance	129—1161
Returns to	132—237
Value of bonds	128—1160
Life insurance pensions, contributors	143—1165
Lightning rods, license	265 et seq—1199
Loss, payment permitted	103—1050
Suspension for violations	103—1050
Motor vehicle road or tourist service	133 et seq—1189
Mutuals, change of location	37—1133
Assessment reviewed	188—1144
Insolvent, proceedings	91—1145
Insolvent	92—1145
Special deputies etc.	94—1146
Removal to Augusta	95—1146
Rights upon sequestration	93 et seq—1146
Name of company, objection	29—1131
Notice of organization given to	3—1123
Oaths, may administer	2—1123
Office at capital	2—1123
Policy form, approval	6—1123
Public buildings, on	12—164
Report of losses to commissioner	28—1557
Penalty for violations	31—1557
Returns to	131 et seq—237
Salary	2—1123
Statement of conditions reported	7—1124
Extension of time	7—1124
Preserved	8—1124
Suspension during emergency	242—1191
For misrepresentation	135—1162
For rebate or discrimination	132—1161
Of company for violations	103—1050
Teachers' retirement board member	224—833
Teachers' retirement funds, report of	235—837
Tenure of office	2—1123
Unauthorized insurance, exceptions	12—1125
Vacancy, deputy acts	2—1123
III. AGENTS AND BROKERS	
A. Agents	
Assessment casualty companies	203—1183
Assessment casualty insurance, false statements	207—1184
Commissions between agents	258—1196
Contracts of indemnity, certificates	217—1187
Corporation, fee	272—1200
Discrimination forbidden in	130 et seq—1161
Fire or liability	257—1195
Embezzlement	9—1835
False assuming to be	249—1191
Foreign surety, title or credit company	185—1177
Law to be complied with	189—1178
Liabilities	186—1171
Fraternal benefit association, of	158—1170
False statement, penalty	162—1171
Hospital service organizations	218 et seq—1187
Liability	79—1142
Liability for unlawful contracts	249—1191
Licenses for	79—1142

	Sec. Page
INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—	
Continued	
Licenses to	249—1191
Clerk excepted	249—1191
Examination for, fee	252—1193
Fee	272—1200
Revocation	250—1192
Another provision	252—1193
Misrepresentations	254—1195
Rebate or discrimination	256—1195
Violation of law	254—1195
Misrepresentation prohibited	134—1162
Penalties	135—1162
Motor vehicle road or tourist service	133 et seq—1189
Notices to bind company	259—1196
Rebate forbidden	130 et seq—1161
Fire or liability	257—1195
Surety bonds, probate officials not to write	249—1191
Temporary license	252—1193
B. Brokers	
Commissions between brokers	258—1196
Corporations, fees	272—1200
Discrimination forbidden	130 et seq—1161
Fire or liability	257—1195
License required	250—1192
Acting without	250—1192
Examination for, fee	252—1193
Fees, nonresident	272—1200
Fees, resident	272—1200
Revocation	250—1192
Another provision	252—1193
Rebate or discrimination	256—1195
Misrepresentations prohibited	134—1162
Penalties	135—1162
Rebate forbidden	130 et seq—1161
Fire or liability	257—1195
Special brokers, license, bond	253—1194
Account of business	253—1194
Fees	272—1200
Penalty for violation	255—1195
Report to commissioner	253—1194
Surety bond, signing	196—1180
IV. CASUALTY ACCIDENT AND HEALTH INSURANCE	
Application attached to policy	111—1152
Application, false statement in, penalty	112—1153
Deposit with treasurer of state	18—1126
Certificate furnished	19—1126
Company failing	21—1127
Return of securities	20—1127
Discrimination forbidden	130—1161
False statements	112—1153
Fraternal benefit associations	157—1170
Foreign, assessments	175—1175
Casualty license	172—1174
Group insurance for state etc.	141—1164
Hospital service organizations	218 et seq—1187
Insolvent, proceedings	91—1145
Injunction	92—1145
Removal to Augusta	95—1146
Rights of commissioner	93—1146
Special deputies, agents etc.	94—1146
License, no exam or fee required	252—1193
Misrepresentations prohibited	134—1162
Penalties	135—1162
Notice of injury etc.	113—1153
Policy, approval of form	109—1152
Condition for issuance	110—1152
Copy of application attached	111—1152
Exempt from creditors	137—1163
ASSESSMENT PLAN	
Application, notice printed on	205—1184
Attachment, exempt from	206—1184
Beneficiary may be changed	206—1184
Calls to state purpose	204—1184
Contract defined	197—1180
Dissolution	199—1181
Dividend	198—1180
Examination by commissioner	208—1185
False statement, penalty	207—1184
Fees for filing etc.	209—1185
Foreign companies, license and revocation	203—1183
Fraudulent business, proceedings	199—1181
Guaranty fund	198—1180
Injunction against	199—1181
Judgments, satisfaction	202—1183
Organization necessary to do business	197—1180
Ceases unless business begun within year	198—1180
Formation of corporation	198—1180

	Sec. Page
INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—	
Continued	
Physicians, false statements	207—1184
Policy, endorsement on	205—1184
Policy to state liability	198—1180
Prerequisite to doing business	198—1180
Receiver appointed	199—1181
Fund deposited with state	202—1183
Reinsurance of risks	200—1182
Report annually to commissioner	208—1185
Reserve fund	200—1182
Disposal upon discontinuance	202—1183
Restoration when impaired	202—1183
Transfer of risks	200—1182
Violations, penalties	209—1185
V. CRIMES AND OFFENSES	
Adjuster, violation as to	256—1195
Agent, penalty for violations	249—1191
Assessment casualty companies, penalties	209—1185
Assessment casualty insurance, false statements	207—1184
Automobile finance business	264—1198
Bank employee inducing writing insurance	251—1192
Broker acting without license	250—1192
Contracts of indemnity, violations	216—1187
Discrimination, penalty	132—1161
Fire or liability	257—1195
Embezzlement by agent	9—1835
False statement in casualty application	112—1153
Insurance claim	112—1153
Foreign company, neglect to publish condition	53—1137
Fraternal benefit association agents, impersonating	158—1170
False statement, penalty	162—1171
Reports, false or failure	160—1170
Soliciting for unauthorized	159—1170
Violations, penalty	170—1174
Foreign surety, credit and title companies, agent acting unlawfully	189—1178
Refusal to answer commissioner	190—1178
Violations reported	192—1179
Hospital service organizations violations	232—1189
Insurance emergency, penalty for violations	246—1191
Investigations, penalty for violations	31—1557
Jurisdiction of officers	271—1200
License, acting without, fraternal insurance	158—1170
Lightning rod license, sale without	269—1200
Motor vehicle road service, penalty	239—1190
Rebate, penalty	132—1161
Fire or liability	257—1195
Recovery of fines, jurisdiction	271—1200
Refusal as to examination	9—1124
Special broker violation, penalty	255—1195
Standard fire, violations	98—1150
Statement of conditions, neglect as to	7—1124
VI. DOMESTIC COMPANIES	
A. In General	
Agent binds company	55—1138
By-laws, adoption	31—1131
Classes of insurance written	25—1128
Definition	38—1133
Deposit of securities with treasurer	14—1126
Certificate furnished	15—1126
Company failing	21—1127
Interest on dividends	16—1126
Relinquishing business	17—1126
Withdrawal or return	16—1126
Directors, number and tenure	23—1127
Divided into classes	24—1127
Majority citizens of state	36—1133
Meetings held in state	36—1133
Vacancies	23—1127
Examination by commissioner	9—1124
Exchange of stock	4—1123
Fee of treasurer of state	1—264
Incorporation necessary	22—1127
Injunction against	10—1124
Non-compliance, proceedings	5—1123
Notice of organization to commissioner	3—1123
Office in state	36—1133
Officers, choice by directors	32—1131
Choice at first meeting	31—1131
Organization necessary	22—1127
Articles of agreement	26—1129
Certificate of articles of association	33—1131
Approval by commissioner	33—1131
Fee for	272—1200
Fees for	11—978

INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—	Sec. Page	INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—	Sec. Page
Continued		Continued	
Form of	33—1131	C. Stock Companies	
Secretary of state duties	33—1131	Capital, amount required	60—1139
Fees of Secretary of State	6—276	Dividends, impairment	69—1140
Notice given commissioner	3—1123	Investment of	63—1139
Notice of meeting	30—1131	Loss, not to insure after	72—1140
Proceedings	25—1128	Reduction	61—1139
Quorum necessary	31—1131	Capital and guaranty fund	26—1129
Record of proceedings	31—1131	Capital stock increase	34—1132
Rights and privileges	25—1128	Certificate	35—1132
Out of state, prerequisite to doing busi- ness	14—1126	Dividends on	35—1132
Certificate furnished	15—1126	Fees of secretary	6—276
Company failing	21—1127	Paid in necessary	28—1131
Interest or dividends	16—1126	Directors, dividends, to declare	68—1140
Relinquishing business	17—1126	Officers, choice	58—1138
Powers	25—1128	Triennial statements	71—1140
Prerequisites to doing business	3—1123	Dividends, on capital stock	35—1132
Receivers	10—1124	Amount limited	26—1129
Receivers, powers	13—1125	Loss of capital	69—1140
Unauthorized insurance, exceptions	12—1125	Marine companies	70—1140
		To declare	68—1140
B. Mutual Companies		Liability of policyholders and stockhold- ers	26—1129
Agents, liability	79—1142	Lien on property for premium	81—1143
Licenses procured	79—1142	Continues if party dies	83—1143
Who are	79—1142	Loans on respondentia bottomry	64—1139
Annual statement	84—1144	Property and limit	65—1139
Applications, amount necessary	28—1131	Meetings, special, calling	59—1138
Assessments on notes and contracts	77—1141	Name adopted; objection	29—1131
Control of funds and payment	89—1145	Notice of meeting	30—1131
Examined by court	86—1144	Officers chosen	58—1138
Notice	87—1144	Organization, proceedings	25 et seq 1128
Final, when	89—1145	Policies, how executed	66—1140
Insufficient, stayed	90—1145	One contract liability	80—1143
Master of auditor	88—1144	Secretary and duties	58—1138
Neglect to make	86—1144	Meetings, special	59—1138
Non-assessable advance policy	77—1141	Shares, increase	34—1132
Notice on policy	75—1141	Stockholders, liability of	62—1139
Remedy if not paid	82—1143	Triennial statements	71—1140
Capital, provisions not applicable	73—1140	Trade, not to engage in	67—1140
Capital stock increase	34—1132	Triennial statements	71—1140
Certificate, exempt from fees	272—1200		
Change of location	37—1133	VII. FOREIGN COMPANIES	
Claim against	86—1144	Actions against	54—1137
Compensation of officers	85—1144	Admission to state, requirements	39—1133
Directors, annual statement by	84—1144	Agent binds company	55—1138
Compensation	85—1144	Annual statement of condition	53—1137
Provisions not applicable	73—1140	Fee for	272—1200
Dividend allowed	258—1196	Capital required	39—1133
Amount limited	26—1129	Claim against	54—1137
Provisions	27—1130	Definition	38—1133
Endorsements on policies	75—1141	Deposit by foreign companies	42—1135
Guaranty capital	26—1129	Dividends, when and where payable	57—1138
Amount etc.	27—1130	Examination by bank commissioner	43—1135
Investment	26—1129	Assistants	47—1136
Injunction against	92—1145	Books, papers; refusal	48—1136
Insolvent, proceedings	91—1145	Failing condition, procedure	49—1136
Injunction to issue	92—1145	Fees for license	272—1200
Removal to Augusta	95—1146	Injunction	49—1136
Rights of commissioner	93—1146	Judgment against	54—1137
Special deputies, agents etc.	94—1146	Jurisdiction of courts	56—1138
Investment of funds	26—1129	License; requirements	41—1134
Limits of liability	77—1141	Renewal	44—1135
Limits of risk	77—1141	Revocation	46—1136
Liability of policyholders	26—1129	Limitation of actions	56—1138
Loans by	77—1141	Mutual company, assets required	39—1133
Location, change of	37—1133	Neglect to publish statement	78—1142
Members, insureds to be	76—1141	Non-assessable policies	40—1134
Liability limited	80—1143	Non-assessable policy	39—1133
Name adopted	29—1131	Policy, one contract liability	80—1143
Name "Mutual"	29—1131	Receivers, powers	50—1136
Non-assessable policies	77—1141	Reciprocal provisions	45—1135
Officers, compensation	85—1144	Service upon agents	22—1679
Organization	27—1130	Fee for	272—1200
Policies, when issued	27—1130	Standard valuation law	122 et seq 1158
Applications necessary first	28—1131	Suits against	54—1137
Endorsement on	75—1141	Suspension of business	49—1136
Liability stated on	77—1141	Appeal	52—1137
Non-assessable advance	77—1141	Penalty for issuing policies	51—1137
One contract	80—1143	Trustees to hold assets	43—1135
Set off	80—1143	Unassessable policy, interpretation	40—1134
Premium notes, amount and term	77—1141		
Liability, set off	80—1143	VIII. FOREIGN SURETY, CREDIT AND TITLE COMPANIES	
Lien on premises	81—1143	Admission to state	182—1177
Continues if party dies	83—1143	Agents, persons deemed to be	186—1177
Remedy if not paid	82—1143	Not to act until law complied with	189—1178
Property which may be insured	74—1141	Power to sign	196—1180
Proxy limited	85—1144	Annual statement to commissioner	188—1178
Provisions of law applicable	73—1140	Obscure or defective, proceedings	190—1178
Statement published; penalty	78—1142	Penalty for refusal to answer	190—1178
Term not over seven years	74—1141	Attorney, commissioner to be	183—1177
Title of insurance	29—1131	Copy of service	184—1177
		Capital required	185—1177

	Sec. Page
INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—	
Continued	
Charter and statement of condition deposited	187—1178
Corporate suretyship authorized	193—1179
Court proceedings	57—1162
Estopped to deny corporate power	196—1180
Expenses allowed	194—1179
Liquor license	46—1217
List of companies	195—1180
Premiums, how paid	194—1179
Probate officials not to write	249—1191
Replevin of beasts, for	3—1800
Replevin of goods	10—1801
Tax collector	81—1468
Town treasurer bond	28—1417
Examination of, results published	191—1179
License, prerequisites	187—1178
Revocation	191—1179
Registers of probate to keep lists	195—1180
Service upon	183—1177
Fee for	272—1200
Notice to company	184—1177
Violations reported to Attorney General	192—1179
See also Bonds	
IX. FRATERNAL BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATIONS	
Age limit	168—1173
Agents, employment of	158—1170
Falsely assuming to be, penalty	158—1170
False statement, penalty	162—1171
License required	158—1170
None to corporations	158—1170
Penalty for acting without	158—1170
Application of law to orders	163—1171
"Association" defined	171—1174
Attachment, benefit not liable	161—1171
Authorization by commissioner	156—1167
Business to be begun within one year	148—1166
Prerequisites to doing	150—1167
By-laws, meetings of branches	168—1173
Casualty insurance, organization for	157—1170
Certificates valid if dues paid, effect	155—1169
Characteristics of	145—1165
Children, see supra "Whole Family"	
Definition of	145—1165
Discontinuance of business, effect	148—1166
Disposal of reserve fund	151—1167
Examination by commissioner	164—1172
Exemption from legal process	161—1171
Expenses, funds not used for	155—1169
False statement, penalty for wilful	162—1171
Fees for license	272—1200
Foreign associations, admission of	153—1168
Agents	158 et seq—1170
Annual statement, fee for	272—1200
Attorney, commissioner appointed	154—1169
Casualty insurance compliance	157—1170
Casualty, license for	172—1174
Assessment call	175—1175
Deposit with treasurer	174—1175
Prerequisites	173—1174
Reserve fund not for expenses	175—1175
Termination	173—1174
Certificate valid if dues paid	155—1169
Examination of by commissioner	166—1172
Expenses, funds not used for	155—1169
License required	153—1168
Fees for license	272—1200
Revocation, appeal	167—1173
Organization included	156—1169
Service upon	154—1169
Fee	272—1200
Suspension	166—1172
Fraud, proceedings	164—1172
Information as to finances of the poor	44—1500
Insurance laws, not subject to	145—1165
Jurisdiction of prosecutions	170—1174
Liquidation or dissolution	164—1172
Medical exam necessary	168—1173
Meetings of branches monthly	168—1173
Membership limited	168—1173
Members less than 300, proceedings	164—1172
Organization, form of	145—1165
Agreement as to	146—1165
Authorization by commissioner	150—1167
Casualty insurance, for	157—1170
Certificate prepared by officers	147—1166
Approval by insurance commissioner	147—1166
Issued by secretary of state	147—1166
Recorded with secretary of state	147—1166
Fees of secretary of state	6—277

	Sec. Page
INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—	
Continued	
Fee for approval	272—1200
Unauthorized, soliciting for	159—1170
Organizations included and exempt	163—1171
Which may continue business	165—1172
Penalties and prosecutions	170—1174
Perjury regarding	162—1171
Physician, false statement, penalty	162—1171
Policies limited	168—1173
Proxy not permitted	152—1168
Reciprocal provisions as to fees etc.	169—1173
Reincorporation, when authorized	149—1166
Reinsurance, regulations as to	152—1168
Report to commissioner annually	160—1170
False statement in, penalty	160—1170
Neglect to make, penalty	160—1170
Reserve fund, to create and maintain	145—1165
Commissioner to certify	151—1167
Death benefits, used for	151—1167
Deposit required	150—1167
Discontinuance of business	151—1167
Exchange of securities	151—1167
Expenses, not used for	155—1169
Foreign association	175—1175
Management and preservation	151—1167
Whole family plan	178—1176
Unauthorized, soliciting membership in	159—1170
Violations, penalty	170—1174
Whole family protection	176—1175
Certificate changed	178—1176
Continues after membership discontinues	181—1176
Medical examiner	177—1175
Reserve maintained	178—1176
Separate accounts	179—1176
Schedule of benefits	176—1175
Specified payments	180—1176
Subscriptions 500	177—1175
See also Charitable or Social Corporations	
X. LIFE INSURANCE	
Benefits payable in money only	138—1163
Bonds, valuation of	128—1160
Cash surrender value	117—1156
Default, in case of	120—1157
Contract in full	140—1164
Creditors, policies exempt from claims	137—1163
Death, simultaneous death act	22 et seq—2083
Discrimination forbidden	130—1161
Exceptions	133—1162
Incrimination no excuse for testifying	136—1162
Penalties	132—1161
Distribution of estate; premiums	21—2083
Group insurance for state and municipal employees	141—1164
Incontestable after two years, exception	140—1164
Inheritance tax	2—1989
Minimum non-forfeiture values	114—1153
After September, 1931	115—1154
Minors may contract for	139—1163
Misrepresentation prohibited	134—1162
Incrimination no excuse for testifying	136—1162
Penalties	135—1162
Money, benefits to be paid in	138—1163
Non-forfeiture law	114—1153
After September, 1931	115—1154
Default, in case of	120—1157
Exceptions	121—1158
Paid up benefits	118—1156
Standard law	116—1155
Pensions to employees	142—1164
Contributory system	143—1165
Policies exempt from creditors claims	136—1163
Premiums, adjusted	119—1157
Deficiency reserve	127—1160
Distribution, premiums	21—2083
Rebate forbidden	131—1161
Exceptions	133—1162
Penalties	132—1161
Probate, not included in	62—1983
Rebates forbidden	131—1161
Exceptions	133—1162
Incrimination no excuse for testifying	136—1162
Penalties	132—1161
Receiver for domestic company	11—1125
Reinsurance of risks	129—1161
Reserve liabilities, calculation	122—1158
Aggregate	125—1160
Calculation	126—1160
Deficiency reserve	127—1160
Returns to commissioner	132—237
Savings bank employees	47—1071
Self-incrimination	136—1162
Standard valuation law, insurance	122 et seq—1158

	Sec. Page		Sec. Page
INSURANCE AND INSURANCE COMPANIES—		INTEREST—Continued	
Continued		Witness, as affecting	115—1719
Valuation, calculation of reserves	122—1158	Showing	121—1721
Commissioners reserve valuation		Writs of error judgment	4—1813
method	124—1159	INTERFERENCE	
Law effective January, 1946	127—1160	Cruelty to animals, to prevent	13—1892
Minimum standards	128—1158	Employment, with, penalty	26—1822
Violations as to naval or military service	140—1164	Of militia member	80—190
XI. RECIPROCAL CONTRACTS OF INDEMNITY		Fish culture, with	11—736
Annual certificate; revocation	217—1187	Gas; light and water companies	15—1827
Corporations may exchange contracts	215—1186	Health and welfare department	21—376
Declaration filed by agent or attorney	210—1185	Health officer, of	69—387
Requisites	210—1185	Inmates of state institutions	38—1832
Fee for certificate	272—1200	Officers, penalty	21—1859
Insurance business, does not constitute	210—1185	Preventing animal fights	8—1889
Insurance laws, not subject to, except	210—1185	Radio reception	43—1876
Inspection of records	214—1186	Railroads, with, penalties	18, 19—1866
Limit on single risk	212—1186	Cars, with	17—1827
Report to commissioner	214—1186	Signals, with	82—912
Reserve sum	213—1186	Transit points etc.	20—1828
Service on commissioner	211—1186	Registration of voters, with	32—80
Fee of commissioner	272—1200	Switches or switch lights, with	81—912
Suits, how and where brought	211—1186	Telephone and telegraph lines	16—1827
Violations, penalties	216—1187	Trees by public utilities lines	19—953
INSURRECTION		Utilities employees to leave employment	26—1829
Militia to suppress	9—164	Vehicles, with, penalty	94—132
National guard to prevent	2—166	Voting, with	110—134
State of declared	6—167	In polling place	110—134
State prison prevention	44—476	See also Intimidation and Menace, Obstruction	
INTELLIGENCE OFFICES		INTERLOCUTORY ORDERS	
See Employment Agencies		Equity, in; appeal from	23—1655
INTENT		Pending appeal	22—1655
Indictment alleging fraud	13—1910	INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE	
INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE		Engine fuel	169 et seq—1611
Clerks' duties, forms	4 et seq—2049	License; abatement	21—1900
See also Marriages	369—457	INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE FUEL	
INTERCOURSE			169—1611
Fornication, crimes and penalty	8—1845	INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES	
See also Prostitution		Liens and discharges, recording	255—1404
INTEREST		INTERNMENT	
Assessments for city streets, sale	58—1520	See Burial; Burying Grounds	
County commissioners, distress warrants	28—1351	INTERPLEADER	
Damages in actions on judgments	55—1709	Equity jurisdiction	4—1650
Railroads taking land	38—886	INTERROGATORIES	
Drain and sewer assessments	140—1540	Account in probate, failure	85—1988
Estate tax, on	36—1997	Equity, in	13—1653
Farm land loans	6—688	See also Depositions	
Fence rebuilding	191—1548	INTERSTATE CARRIERS	
Husband and wife, refusal to sign deed etc.	19—2082	Permit to operate	22—935
Inheritance taxes, unpaid	16—1993	INTERSTATE COMMERCE	
Judgment, on	182—1731	Engineers, professional	20—1325
Legal rate 6%	189—1112	INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE, MAINE COMMISSION	
Limit to 12%	202—1115		34—159
Loan and building associations	151—1101	INTERRUPTION	
Same	155—1102	Disturbance of caucus in large city	14—88
Marketing contracts, on	17—698	Religious service, penalty	37—1852
Money collected on execution, withholding	220—1396	School, of	192—825
Mortgagee paying taxes	9—1452	Traffic for ticket sales etc.	81—311
Municipal contracts, in	78—1426	See also Obstruction, Interference, Disorderly Conduct and Disturbance	
Municipal courts	4—1663	INTESTATE ESTATES	
Municipal debts	132—1009	Descent of real estate, see Descent of Real Estate	
Municipal officers not to have	77—1426	Distribution of personalty, see Distribution	
Offer of default, on	42—1707	INTIMIDATION AND MENACE	
Organized township funds	38—716	Disguising to obstruct law	31—1861
Pawnbrokers	103—1598	Dispute between utilities and workmen	17—1865
Public contracts, by officers, penalty	17—1858	Employment, respecting	26—1822
Referees' reports, on	20—1648	Female for prostitution	16—1847
Replevin of goods, damages	12—1802	Officers	21—1859
Retirement system for state employees	12—1254	Surveyors appointment by court	46—2101
Review, bond	5—1795	Threatening communications	27—1822
Savings deposits	51—1072	Threats to accuse or injure	28—1822
Small loan rates	196—1113	Tramps, by, menace	27—1873
State taxes, on	30—1458	See also Interference, Obstruction	
Taxation, collection	30—1458	INTOXICATING LIQUORS	
Of money out of state	13—1454	Children, giving, penalty	12—1880
Taxes, on	68—1466	Children, permitted near, neglect	238—427
Action for value estate levied on	138—1481	Common nuisances, places	1—1894
County tax	73—1466	Definition	1—1202
On road repairs	63—1361	Driving auto under influence	121—321
Same	67—1362	Militia, sale prohibited when	45—181
Prepaid, when	133—1481	Public conveyance in or near	70—910
Recovery of illegal	101—1474	See also Liquor Law	
Sales, redemption	148—1486	INTOXICATION	
Town, sale on execution, action	32—1765	Barbers and hairdressers	219—422
Trustee process	53—1743	Barbital, veronal etc., under influence	26—1276
Unemployment compensation, on past due	14—531	Crime and penalty	95—1232
Verdicts and referees reports, on	20—1648		

	Sec. Page
INTOXICATION—Continued	
Drunken driving	121—321
Inns and victualers, at	32—1582
Public conveyance, in	70—910
Railroad employee, of, penalty	64—909
Responsibility for injuries by	96—1232
Workmen's compensation act, precludes recovery when	18—590
INTRUSION	
Information for	1 et seq—2105
INVASION	
National guard to prevent	2—166
INVENTORY	
See Executors and Administrators, Trusts	
INVESTIGATIONS	
Accidents on public utilities	41—862
Attorney general, by	13—274
Dogs killing animals	16—1577
Fires, as to	24 et seq—1555
Motor truck violations	25—937
Municipal finance board	1 et seq—1624
Parole board, by	15—1936
Primaries, committee for	43—101
Public utilities commission, by	8—849
Public utility, of	59—869
Small loan agencies	194—1113
State personnel board, by	4—1241
Wages packing fish	101 et seq—574
See also Examinations	
INVESTMENT DEALERS	
See Banks and Banking	
INVESTMENTS	
Assessment casualty companies	201—1182
County funds, of	148—1379
Credit unions, of	20—1021
Hospital service organizations	218 et seq—1187
Insurance companies	63—1139
Another provision	26—1129

	Sec. Page
INVESTMENTS—Continued	
Loan and building associations	151—1101
Ministerial and school lands	54—1039
Municipalities, of	106—1439
Credit reserve account	128—1443
Part of estate, retention	14—2028
Retirement system for state employees	12—1254
Savings bank legal investments	38—1059
Taxation of holdings	17—1455
Veterans guardianship act	12—2025
INVOICES	
Auction sales on	82—1593
Vessels, false, penalty	32—1844
IRRITATING	
Crime and penalty	29—1822
ISLANDS	
Ballast or stone, throwing or taking	16—1572
Bristol constables may serve on	226—1397
County lines in tide waters	8—1910
Disclosure on, poor debtors'	76—1787
Farm land loans	1 et seq—686
High school students	92—800
Indians island shores lease	350—452
Lease of Penobscot Indians	338—450
Portland wards on	56—122
Sheep abandoned on, care of	19—1892
Survey and plans of Indians	342—450
Title in state	48—718
In sea	49—718
Trespass to islands in salt water	12 et seq—1798
Wharves and weirs, license	7 et seq—1667
ISSUE	
Defined	21—155
Descent of real estate	1—2077
Divorce, of, inherit	67—2064
Life insurance, distribution	21—2083
Posthumous child inherits	8—2075
ITINERANT VENDORS	
By-laws respecting sales	83—1430
Licenses and regulations	83 et seq—1593

J

JAILS	
Account in probate, failure	85—1988
Accounts of money paid by U. S.	156—1381
Additions by county commissioners	18—1349
Aliens committed to	1 et seq—71
Alterations ordered	2—466
Appeal, criminal, withdrawal	23—1917
Assaulting officer	45—476
Attorneys, not to act, employees	221—1396
Audit of accounts	197—1391
Bail, scire facias, on	11—1751
Bastardy, accused, expense	25—2054
Boys refused at state school	78—484
Burning, penalty	2—1825
Clean and healthful	193—1391
Commitment of idlers	35—1874
Commitment suspended on private satisfaction	21—1922
Contracts regarding, limitation	197—1391
County commissioner to provide	16—1348
Expenses	6—1345
Price adjustment of support	83—1788
County treasurer's report of expenses	150—1380
Securities taken from poor convicts	153—1380
Death in, notice of	12—1267
Disposal of body	213—1394
Disclosure in	48—1781
Discharge, form	59—1783
Employment agency licensee	120—1602
Employees not to be magistrates	221—1396
Employment of prisoners	19—1349
See also infra "Prisoners"	
Escapes, liability of sheriff or jailer	206—1393
Action by sheriff	207—1393
Agent appointed to defend	208—1394
Aid to officers, refusal	217—1395
Aiding	38—475
Liability criminal and civil	211—1394
Negligence of jailer	211—1394
Penalty	23—1860
Recapture	215—1395
Reimbursement by county	207—1393
Record of sheriff	201—1392
Suffering, penalty	25—1860
See also Escapes	

JAILS—Continued	
Examination of accused, pending	10—1920
Examiners of insane convicts	123—496
Expenses of sheriff	165—1382
Extradition, confinement in	12—1952
Fines applied to repairing	214—1395
Fingerprinting and photos	14—199
Fire or casualty, removal of prisoners	205—1393
Food, person employed to prepare	197—1391
Insane, court held at	129—497
Insane, inmate becoming	119 et seq—495
Same	128—497
Inspection of by state department	2—466
Transfer from workjails to state prison	6—1934
Intoxicating liquors prohibited	210—1394
Jailer, master or keeper	190—1390
Appointment by governor when	191—1390
Assistants and employees	190—1390
Assistance to discharged prisoner	200—1392
Bible and books of instruction	195—1391
Bond of	191—1390
Vacancy, in case	192—1391
Care of sick	199—1392
Compensation fixed by commissioners	190—1390
Continuance in office	191—1390
County commissioners appoint when	192—1391
Criminal appeal, withdrawal, fees	23—1917
Disclosure of state debt	87—1789
Disqualification for allowing liquor	210—1394
Disqualification for not separating prisoners	210—1394
Employees not to act as magistrates	221—1396
Escapes, see supra "Escapes"	
Negligence, penalty	26—1860
Suffering, penalty	25—1860
Fees, criminal appeal, withdrawal	23—1917
Fines and costs, payment to treasurer	8—1947
Fingerprinting and photos	15—200
Food supervision	197—1391
List of prisoners furnished court	202—1393
Live at jail, must	194—1391
Municipal courts payments, fines and costs	2—1912
Official papers	203—1393
Refusal to accept prisoner	26—1860