

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS OF MAINE

1910

BEING THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE VARIOUS

DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS

For the Year 1909.

VOLUME IV.

AUGUSTA
KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT
1910

**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MAINE STATE BOARD OF
REGISTRATION and EXAMINATION**

— IN —

O P T O M E T R Y



1910

STATE OF MAINE.

To His Excellency, Bert M. Fernald, Governor of Maine:

The Maine State Board of Registration and Examination in Optometry have the honor to present to Your Excellency their first annual report, dated January 3, 1910, as required by section 16, chapter 105, of the Public Laws of 1909.

GEORGE McL. PRESSON, President,
ALBERT M. WENTWORTH, Secretary,
JOHN R. ROCHE, Treasurer,
BIAL F. BRADBURY,
JARVIS B. WOODS,

*Maine State Board of Registration and Examination
in Optometry.*

The appointees to the Maine State Board of Registration and Examination in Optometry assembled at the State House in Augusta on July 21, 1909, and were sworn in by the Secretary of State, Arthur I. Brown.

The first meeting of the board was held on the same day, and a permanent organization was made by the election of the following officers: President, George McL. Presson; secretary, Albert M. Wentworth; treasurer, John R. Roche.

Three meetings of the board have been held since that date to consider applications for exemption certificates to practice optometry and to examine applicants who wished to engage in such practice.

In the matter of those applying for exemption certificates the board has endeavored to investigate each case in a thorough and entirely impartial manner. Where charges have been filed against the applicant special pains have been taken to arrive at a complete knowledge of the facts. Each of such cases has been carefully examined and the testimony of several disinterested and reputable people has been secured. There are now thirty-two applications for exemption before the board that are being subjected to further investigation before a final decision in regard to them will be reached.

In particular has the board given attention to the moral character of the applicant, and his habitual personal conduct has been the subject of the closest scrutiny. All applicants that were found to be grossly immoral were denied a certificate.

In a very few cases it was found that the applicant was affected with an infectious disease that would make the close personal contact in which he must necessarily come with his patrons in pursuing the practice of optometry, a grave menace to the public health, and in these instances certificates were denied.

The examination of sixteen applicants for certificates to practice optometry was held at Augusta, November 4 and 5, 1909. Of the number examined certificates were given to eleven of the

applicants, while five failed to meet the requirements of the board. The applicants were each examined in the following subjects:

PHYSIOLOGIC OPTICS,
 PRACTICAL OPTOMETRY,
 ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY,
 DISEASES THAT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY THE OPTOMETRIST,
 THEORETIC OPTOMETRY,
 PRACTICAL OPTICS.

The board has established as a schedule of the minimum requirements which must be complied with by applicants for examination, before they can be examined or receive a certificate, that each applicant shall have had a preliminary education of at least two years in a high school, or its equivalent.

The board has established in like manner as the minimum requirements and rules for the recognition of schools of optometry the schedule adopted by the Regents of the University of the State of New York.

While the law under which this board was created and under the provisions of which the board has been proceeding has been in effect but six months, a marked change for the better in the practice of optometry in the State has already occurred. Inquiries instituted in all sections of the State show conclusively that there has been a marked reduction in the number of itinerant vendors. In the more thinly settled sections this has been specially true, and it is conservatively estimated that the number of itinerants has been reduced by 75 per cent.

This class of spectacle peddlers, without any permanent place of abode, was for the most part composed of irresponsible and, in many cases, entirely unscrupulous persons who exploited the public's eyesight solely for the benefit of their own pockets. Their knowledge of optometry was generally very slight, and it was commonly admitted that their vocation was a menace to the public.

All the testimony received and reports made to the members of the board from the various parts of the State allow of but one conclusion and that is that the numbers of these objectionable itinerants have been decreased in a marked degree.

The board received a large number of applications for exemption, particularly from the more northern counties of the State, which, upon investigation, were found to come from

men who were not bona fide residents of the State. Letters directed by the board to the addresses furnished by the applicants, were returned by the post office department, and further investigation revealed that the applicants were, in reality, summer visitors, residents of other states. Refusal of certificates was made in such cases.

It appears that it has been the practice among a certain class of non-residents to purchase a small stock of lenses and frames, and to pay for a summer trip to Maine by the spectacles which the visitor would foist at exorbitant prices upon an unsuspecting public. Two of the largest wholesale optical concerns in the East report that their sales to this class, which usually have amounted to several thousands of dollars a season, dropped to only a few hundreds during the past summer. Comment upon the advantages to the public by the decrease of this business appears to be unnecessary.

While the decrease of the itinerant has occurred as noted, there has also been a general and appreciable advance made in the quality of the work being done by resident optometrists. There has been a widespread and noticeable increase of interest by them in their vocation. An ambition to keep fully abreast of their fellows has been aroused. They have been studying their work as never before, adding new and improved fixtures and appliances to their offices, and, as a result, are giving the public a better and improved service.

In carrying out the provisions of the law the board has endeavored to work no undue nor unfair hardship to anyone in any way. The minimum educational requirement will be advanced later, but the standard adopted, although it is not as high as it will be at some time in the future, seemed to be wise for the present.

It is expected that by the first day of May next all cases of registration that are now pending before the board will have been determined, and the board will then be in a position to prosecute any alleged violations of the statute regulating the practice of optometry that may be reported to them, or that they may observe.

It will be noticed by the report of the treasurer that the enforcement of the optometry law is entirely self-supporting, and that the benefits accruing to the citizens of the State under it add nothing to the public taxes.

Appended are the report of the treasurer, tabulated report on applications made for exemption and examination to practice optometry to January 1, 1910, and financial recapitulation of the secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

EXPENDITURES.

To cash paid	Geo. McL. Presson	\$36 62
" "	" Bial F. Bradbury	23 88
" "	" W. C. Beale	5 00
" "	" Geo. G. Hay	8 00
" "	" Welch Stencil Co.....	2 50
" "	" John R. Roche	56 00
" "	" Bial F. Bradbury	15 56
" "	" Geo. McL. Presson	65 78
" "	" Geo. McL. Presson	2 40
" "	" A. M. Wentworth	171 62
" "	" American Bank Note Co.....	110 00
" "	" H. W. Shaylor	28 25
" "	" Lefavor Tower Co.....	59 50
" "	" Maine Optical Co.....	2 50
" "	" John R. Roche	39 70
" "	" John P. Hutchison	1 35
" "	" Edith W. Goodwin	1 70
" "	" H. W. Shaylor	4 00
" "	" H. W. Shaylor	17 00
" "	" Loring, Short & Harmon	14 75
" "	" Loring, Short & Harmon	3 75
" "	" Lefavor Tower Co.....	19 50
" "	" Bial F. Bradbury	8 37
" "	" Geo. McL. Presson	32 61
" "	" A. M. Wentworth	60 52
" "	" Jarvis B. Woods	16 80
Application Fees Refunded		110 00
To cash on hand		388 84
		<hr/>
		\$1,315 50

RECEIPTS.

By cash through Secretary	\$565 10
" " " "	295 00
" " " "	230 00
" " " "	85 00
" " " "	140 40
	<hr/>
	\$1,315 50

REPORT ON APPLICATIONS MADE FOR EXEMPTION
AND EXAMINATION TO PRACTICE OPTOMETRY
TO JANUARY 1, 1910.

EXEMPTION.

Number of applicants	227	
Number of applicants accepted	165	
Number of applicants rejected	30	
Number of applicants held for further investigation	32	
	227	

EXAMINATION.

Number of applicants for November examination	17	
Number of applicants granted certificates	11	
Number of applicants failed	5	
Number of applicants absent	1	
	17	
Number of applicants for February examination	6	

FINANCIAL RECAPITULATION OF SECRETARY.

DR.

Received from 227 applicants for exemption	\$1,135 00	
* Less 6 fees carried to examination acct.....	30 00	
	\$1,105 00	
Received from 19 applicants for examination	\$95 00	
* Received from 6 fees brought from exemption acct.	30 00	
Received on account examination fees	85 00	
Received postage with application	10	
Received account damaged certificate	40	
	210 50	
	\$1,315 50	

CR.

Cash Paid to Treasurer	\$160 00	
" " " "	405 10	
" " " "	295 00	
" " " "	230 00	
" " " "	85 00	
" " " "	140 40	
	\$1,315 50	

* Six being rejected and desiring examination, fees were allowed on examination account.