

1943

Maine The Place to Live, 1943

Maine Department of Economic Development

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MAINE
The Place to Live



MAINE THE PLACE TO LIVE

The 1940 census brought to light a highly significant trend. For the past 110 years people had gravitated towards the large cities, leaving the towns and villages and farms where they were born. Now they are going back. The spell of the city has been broken. America is "going home."

Thus in our time we are witnessing the end of one era and the beginning of another. This new era is to be a good one from every viewpoint. It will be more happy and more healthy than the old order.

There are many reasons why, as the census shows, the drift is away from the large centers of population. For one thing, decentralization is the theme of industry today. Smaller production units in smaller centers have been found to be more practical than one giant plant in a big city. Better roads and faster means of transportation have been found important factors in the decentralization of industry and of population.

Back of this trend that is attaining the proportions of a mass movement is a spiritual revolution that is taking place. Americans have awakened to the sanctity of the home from which all of our great traditions originated.

But what is a home? Certainly it is not a few rooms in a crowded apartment house in a big city where every influence tends to break down family life.

Home means a place where living can be gracious and unhurried; a place where friends and neighbors are nearby; a place where trees and green fields instead of brick walls greet the eye; a place where quiet and peace instead of noise and turmoil prevail.

In looking for a real home consistent with the best ideals of Americanism many are turning to Maine. From the very beginning Maine has been a state of homes. Here, in the cradle of American liberty, the home has always ranked first in the thoughts of its citizens.

Those who have settled down in Maine find that they can live more comfortably, happily and economically here than anywhere else. They find it is an ideal state in which to work or play.

The person coming to Maine finds that he can select a location to his liking. He can choose the coast, the lake country, a farming region or a city, town or village in which to settle down. If he builds or buys a place outright he will find that he will get much for little. He will find that taxes and upkeep are extremely reasonable.

But there are many less tangible things that go to make up a home as those who are moving here to Maine find out.

Maine people are hospitable and friendly. They heartily welcome their new neighbors. Before long, the new arrival feels that he has always belonged to the community. He becomes part of the social and business life of the place. He finds that he is wanted and respected. Life takes on a new meaning and a new value where a person can live surrounded by friends.

You are cordially invited to move to Maine; to come "back home" where life moves more slowly than it does in the city. Here in Maine we "put a lot of store" in the words home, family, friends and neighbors. We think they are just about the most beautiful words in our language.

Here in Maine you will find peace and happiness and all of the other things that go to make up a full measure of living. Best of all, you will find that you are wanted here for, if you are "a homelover," you will be among kindred spirits in Maine.


MAINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

STATE HOUSE

AUGUSTA, MAINE






 The Georgian Period, the Golden Age of American architecture, is perpetuated in this old doorway, typical of so many that are to be found throughout Maine, principally in the coastal regions. Individual treatment of common motifs are noticeable in these portals that thus reflect the originality of the old time artisans.





 The charm of an old doorway holds an irresistible appeal to all those who are conscious of beauty.

In Maine the artisans of old outdid themselves when they fashioned these gracious portals. To their undying credit it can be said that even today a good copy of their work is something to be treasured.

Sculptors in wood, these old craftsmen might be called, for the beauty and delicacy of their work required not only cunning skill with tools but an artistic sense that has not been fully appreciated until fairly modern times.

Today those who love things of enduring beauty will travel many miles to see the magnificent work that was done on doorways by these village carpenters who, by rule of thumb, created masterpieces out of wood.





Almost as famous as the ships they sailed on the seven seas are the homes that Maine sea captains owned ashore.

Most of these old homes are exceptionally fine examples of Georgian architecture. They were built by the village carpenters of those days; incredibly fine artisans whose craftsmanship has remained as a standard of excellence to this day.

Inside they were often veritable treasure chests filled with valuables from the Orient; rare vases, prints, silks and bric-a-brac picked up when the captain went ashore in strange ports.

Today their original owners have gone on the longest voyage of all but these, their homes ashore, rest in the mellow shade of spreading elms dreaming, perhaps, of those colorful men of Maine who went down to the sea in ships.



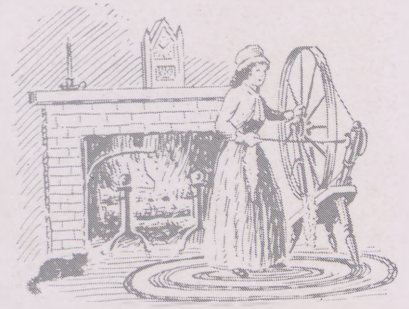
When the rigors of early Colonial life became tempered by the growing wealth of the young nation, Maine folk went about the business of building enduring homes.

The procedure was as simple as all great things are. They simply added a full measure of charm to equal parts of grace and dignity. The result—a home, in all that the name implies.


Within their walls dwelt the happiness that is bred of a Maine man's love for his home and family. From them came men and women who added immeasurably to the wealth and glory of America.

Even today they are not old; they have only mellowed. With the passing years they have only gained in beauty. They are not only the shrines of those who built them; they are still the cherished homes of their descendants.

Occasionally one of them may be purchased by a fortunate buyer who thus secures not only a house but a home as well.






 Maine is extremely proud of her many sons and daughters who have attained great fame and have contributed greatly to the cultural and economic life of the nation.


By far the greater part of these famous people were born and spent their formative years on Maine farms or in the little towns and villages. In this environment they developed the fortitude and the inspiration that enabled them to reach the top rung on the ladder of success.

Pictured is the birthplace of Lillian Nordica at Farmington, a Maine farm girl who became the greatest of all American singers. Although she appeared as a prima donna in all the great cities of the world, Nordica never lost her love of Maine.

Today her birthplace is a shrine visited annually by thousands of music lovers from all parts of the world.






 This Maine home has a dual claim to fame. It is an excellent example of a Colonial manor house and it was the home of one of the most noted writers of her period.

While living here Sarah Orne Jewett wrote "Deephaven" and "The Country of the Pointed Firs". In the latter she achieved her ambition of writing enduring literature for the book is regarded as one of the minor classics.

Although she traveled widely, virtually all of Sarah Orne Jewett's noteworthy works were written in her home at South Berwick, Maine.





 "Uncle Tom's Cabin", a book that was instrumental in changing the course of a nation, was written in this home at Brunswick, Maine. It rallied hundreds of thousands to the cause of emancipation and established its author, Harriet Beecher Stowe, as one of the foremost women of her time.

Following the fortunes of her family, Mrs. Stowe lived in many parts of the country but it is noteworthy that her genius found its fullest expression in Maine. In addition to her famous book she wrote "Pearl of Orr's Island" and many other works that firmly established her among the leading women authors of her day.

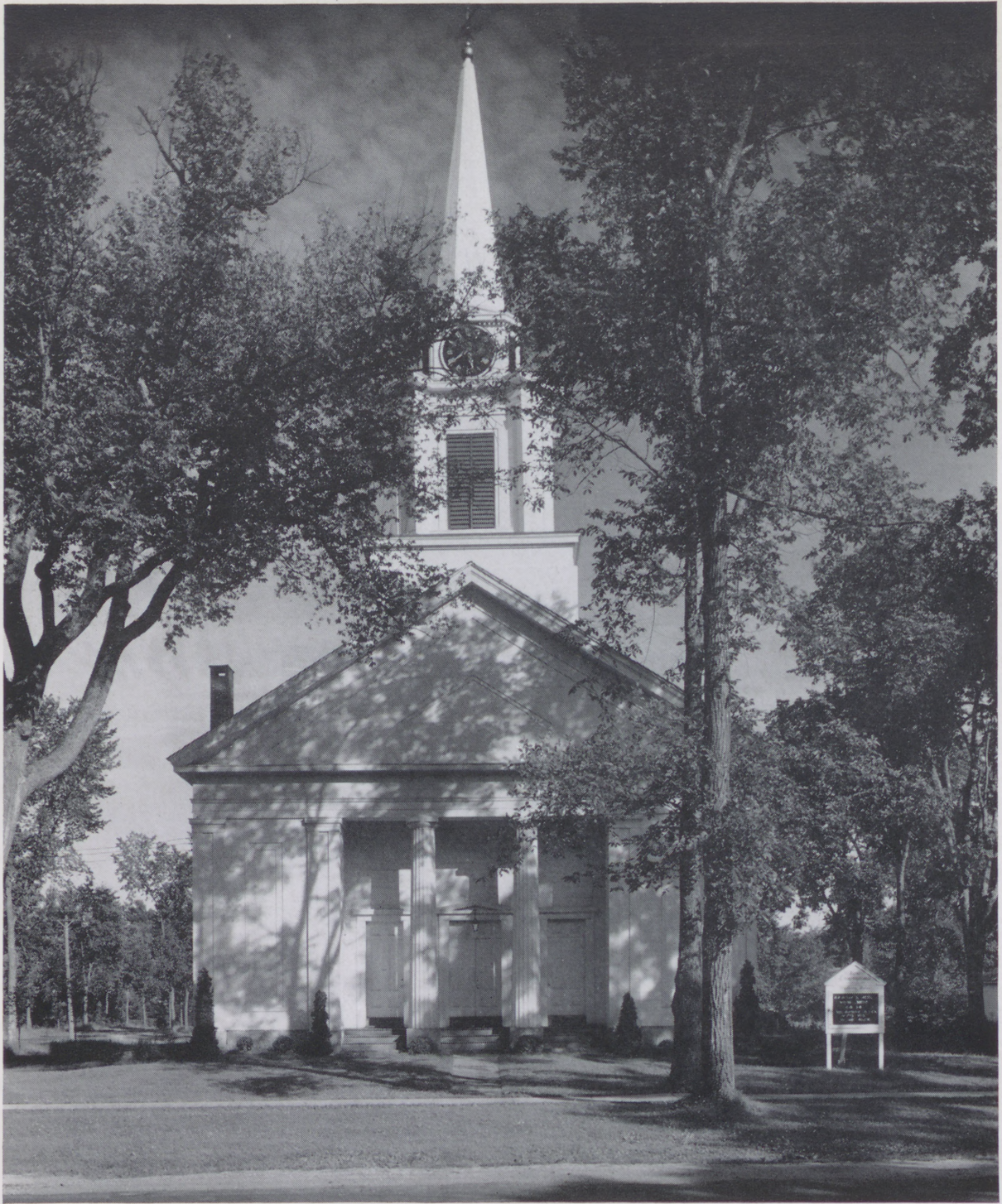





✿ That writers seem to be able to do better work in Maine than anywhere else is illustrated in the experience of Kate Douglas Wiggin whose home, "Quillcote", at Hollis, Maine is shown in the picture.

As a pioneer in kindergarten work, she lived in various parts of the country but her "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm", "The Old Peabody Pew" and other well loved books were written in her Maine home surrounded by the sunny acres of Maine that inspired her.

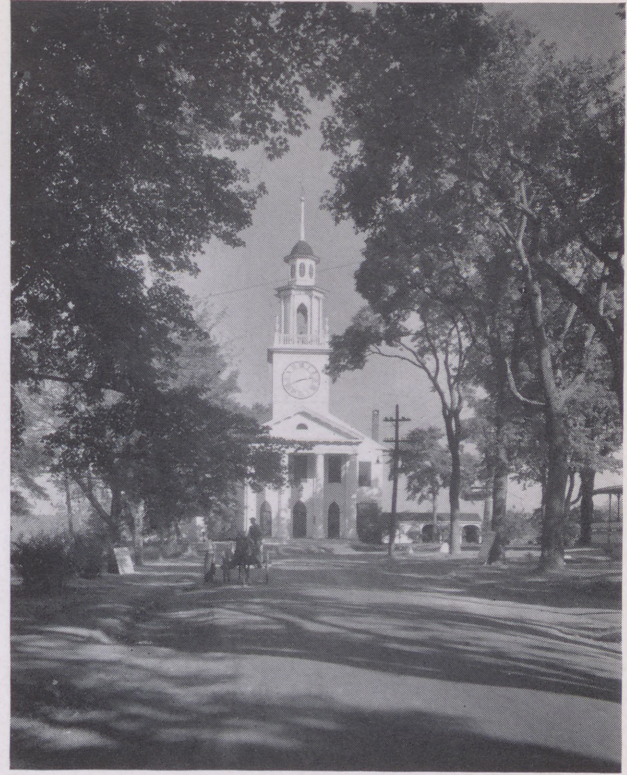




 A little white church with its glistening spire reaching toward the heavens is the first object to be seen as one approaches a Maine village.

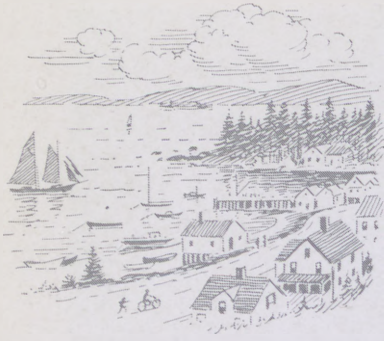
As simple and staunch as faith itself, the little place of worship dominating the skyline bears witness to the uncompromising trust that Maine people have always placed in a benevolent Creator.

Many changes have occurred in the world since they were fashioned from the pines of Maine by men of old. Within their walls, however, all is as unchanged and unchanging as eternity itself.



Those interested in the fine workmanship of Colonial artisans are keenly attracted to the simple beauty and utility of some of these old Maine churches. Built by village carpenters, they reflect not only their cunning with the tools of their craft but also their bent toward innovation.

No two churches are exactly alike. Each has its own departures from the common standard. They also reflect the changing times in the early history of the state. Many are as austere as the lives of the early Colonial settlers who built them. Others show the classic influence of the Georgian Period when Maine builders were noted for their ability to interpret the beauty and delicacy of design that marked this period.



Those who live in Maine's friendly little villages savor life to the fullest. There is none of the hustle and bustle common to cities to destroy one's perspective. Instead, life goes on at a quiet, leisurely pace that is in tune with the unhurried passing of the seasons. To be a good friend and a good neighbor is the goal for which all villagers strive. Here, in these small communities, the new citizen is greeted cordially and is made to feel that he is doubly welcome. It is not long before he finds it hard to believe that he did not live there always. For, to him, it has become the home he has been searching for all his life.






For the person who wants to "live by the side of the road and be a friend to man" a place in Maine like this is suggested. By the side of the road on the outskirts of a little Maine village it combines the best features of rural and urban life. The villagers afford friendship and companionship. The broad sweep of the open country on all sides brings a sense of freedom for those who have been cooped up in cities.

Broad, surfaced highways that offer safe motoring throughout the year make travel easy and convenient.



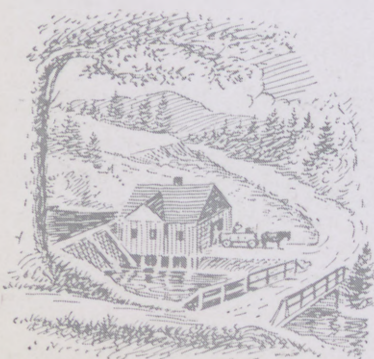



 Stately elms that stand guard along Maine village streets add immeasurably to the charm of these little towns.

Their branches meeting overhead form a living canopy spread out protectively to shelter the homes on either side.

Their kindly shelter filters the glare of the sun and induces a feeling of contentment and restfulness in those who dwell beneath their branches.

As long as there have been Maine villages there have been elms to shade them. Beginning with the Revolution, men of Maine have marched down their elm-shaded streets to defend their country and have marched back again at war's end to the reward of living again under the shelter of the elms.





There are few places in the entire world that hold the charm of a little Maine village.

There are many reasons why this is so. In the first place, many of them are very old, having been built prior to the Revolution. Thus they contain many unrivalled examples of Early American and American Georgian architecture. Then, too, Maine villages are invariably scrupulously clean and well-kept. They are quiet and in them life goes on at a leisurely pace.

While they are quaint, charming and sometimes very old, they do not lack the touches of modernity that add to the comfort of living. In fact, every modern comfort to be found in the city is part and parcel of every Maine town.

Many of those who have come to Maine to visit have later settled down in these little Maine villages. There, among new-found friends and neighbors, life has taken on a new meaning and a new purpose.





Extreme good taste is shown in this house built by a person who has moved to Maine. Roomy, substantial and "homey" it is a place in which the owner can take just pride.

It is also typical of the type of home being built in every section of the state by former residents of other states who are moving to Maine so that they may enjoy the simple art of living to the utmost.

In a place like this far from the roar of traffic and the clatter of the big city the occupants enter a new life, one marked by peace and utter contentment.

Years ago this transition from city to country would be impossible. Nowadays, however, excellent roads make the city just a few hours away, just conveniently close for necessary visits.





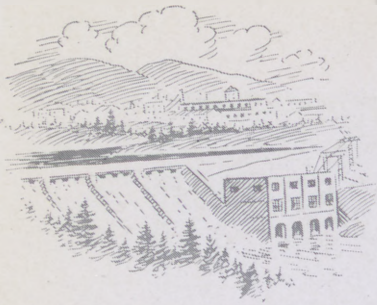
Trim, comfortable and inexpensive is this new little home built in Maine by one of the many who are "settling down" in the Pine Tree State today.


Located near an excellent highway, it is still far enough away from other buildings so that the occupants can have plenty of "elbow room."

The retired couple, in particular, can have the time of their lives in a place like this. Excellent farm lands tempt the owner to experiment with raising flowers and vegetables. A village where churches, a library, a theatre and stores are located is "just a piece down the road", as we say in Maine.

Fashioned by Maine builders, this little house is as sturdy and permanent as the good old State of Maine itself.





 In addition to being a good place in which to play Maine is an ideal state in which to work.

Those who are engaged in the industrial field find that they have a new zest for work in a state where the hours off duty afford so many healthful distractions. Then, too, the knowledge that one's family is in happy, healthful surroundings adds much to the joy of work.

Professional and business people find that the same things hold true in their case. Living in a friendly town or city where one feels himself a part of the community a person can do better work.

Writers, artists and musicians find that there are quiet retreats on every hand that inspire genius and help them to attain new heights.

Living in Maine is far more economical than living in a big city. Fresh foods in bountiful supplies, comfortable living quarters and excellent means of transportation make living in Maine a new and pleasant adventure.





Little factories such as this are the backbone of Maine industry. Blending into the pattern of a Maine town, instead of dominating it, they enhance rather than detract from the completed picture.

In the great decentralization of industry that is taking place throughout the country, many manufacturers are becoming aware of the assets of Maine as an industrial state.

With one of the greatest playgrounds in the world at their very doors to furnish them with recreation, Maine workers are happy, contented, industrious and highly intelligent.

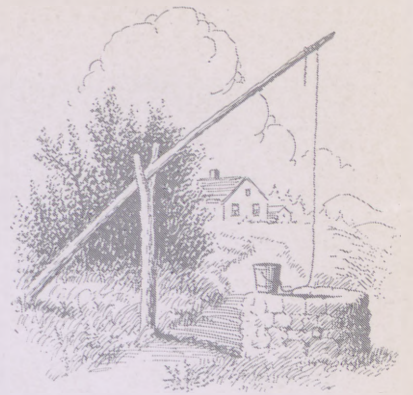
A Maine worker takes a keen interest in the welfare of his employer. He wishes him well and does everything in his power to help him.





For those who like plenty of elbow room Maine offers many opportunities in its sparsely settled areas on the fringes of the mountains and forests. Besides the joy of living in one of the most ruggedly beautiful spots on the globe, the person who buys property in these places will find that he has many opportunities to make a very good living. New advances in farming technique promise a rich future for these sections of Maine.





✿ It is not all work and no play on a farm as those who have come to Maine to live have found out. Many a Maine farm stable houses one or more fine horses that are used for riding or driving. Radiating from every region in Maine are fine roads and trails ideal for these more leisurely modes of traveling.

In addition to almost countless opportunities for outdoor recreation, those who move to Maine farms will find that the social life of the community of which they are a part is plentiful and satisfying. None enjoy life so much as country folk who can gather with their friends and neighbors in wholesome good times.






❧ No farming country in the world is more beautiful, or more fertile than that of Maine. For those who plan to take up farming as a vocation, the Pine Tree State offers vast opportunities. Through a happy combination of climatic circumstances, foodstuffs grown in Maine reach the ultimate in flavor and texture. Sheep, cattle and poultry grown in Maine are in great demand in the markets of the east.

The person who buys a farm in Maine will be agreeably surprised by the many excellent services he can obtain from state agencies. Under the leadership of the State Department of Agriculture, the Extension Service and other agencies the quality of Maine crops has risen steadily upwards. Rural communities welcome the stranger within their gates and give him every cooperation in getting started.





 A high degree of diversification of crops is possible on the ordinary Maine farm. The farmer does not have to put all his eggs in one basket but, instead, can diversify his activities so that he is assured of a steady income. On the farm pictured a young apple orchard is approaching production. The large barn holds many fine cattle producing milk and cream that is picked up each day by big buyers. A poultry range and buildings furnish eggs and chickens that are also sold to buyers who seek out the farmer. A flock of sheep range the outskirts of the farm affording wool and meat to be sold. On his extensive woodlot the farmer cuts his own firewood and a money crop of birch and spruce for the mills.






Those who have toured through Maine will agree that there is no such thing as monotony on a trip through the state. Every mile, virtually every bend in the road, brings new vistas of scenic beauty. In a very few hours' drive from home, when you are living in Maine, one will skirt the magnificent coast, pass through charming little villages, visit the lake and mountain regions and travel through peaceful farming areas.

Maine has thousands of miles of fine, surfaced highways that allow the motorists to go long distances safely and swiftly. Thus every section of the state is linked in a great network of roads that makes isolation a thing of the dim past.






 Excellent roads that penetrate deep into the hills and woodlands and skirt the shores of beautiful lakes bring the motorist close to Maine's magnificent, unspoiled back country.

The cool, restful green of the forest trees bring pleasant relief to eyes tired of the glare of city pavements.

In the autumn, with the turning of the leaves, these drives are beautiful beyond any power of description. At that time nature puts on her most striking raiment for a last fling at gaiety before her long winter sleep. From blazing crimson to subdued purple, the woodlands are a symphony of magnificent color. To see Maine in autumn is to see Nature at her glorious best.

Even during the winter these roads are plowed and sanded after every storm, making travel safe and comfortable all during the snowy season.





❁ Mother Nature showers a bountiful harvest of good things to eat upon those who live in Maine. The clear, clean waters of the North Atlantic furnish Maine's famed lobsters, clams, scallops and ground fish in abundance.

Maine apples, potatoes, corn, peas and blueberries are known virtually everywhere as being the best of their kind. Maine dairy and poultry products are in demand far from the borders of the state.

The person who moves to Maine can raise much of his own food if he wishes. If not, he will find a wealth of epicurean riches for sale at the corner store; foods fresh from the sea or land full of the delicious flavor that characterizes all Maine food products.



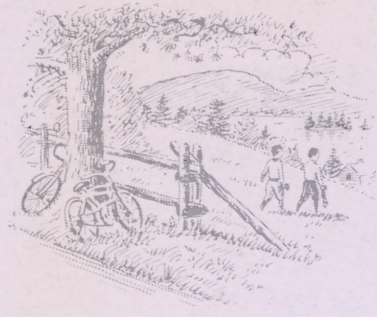



✿ The person who settles down on a Maine farm soon finds that the excellent soil and the ideal growing season combine to produce fruits and vegetables of superior quality.

Whether a person just wants to “putter around” at farming as a hobby or, on the other hand, desires to go into it on a large scale, he will find that there is a spot in Maine that is ideal for his purpose.

The friendly atmosphere of a Maine farming community brings a new meaning to life, especially to those who have existed previously in the cold, impersonal atmosphere of the large cities.





 Maine is an ideal state in which to rear children. Even in the smaller communities facilities for the child's educational, religious and social growth are exceptionally good.

The Weather Bureau of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has said that Maine has the most healthful climate in the United States and equals any in the world. A child brought up in Maine, therefore, develops a sturdy constitution that stands him in good stead throughout life.

Recreational opportunities in Maine are almost endless. The Maine child has all outdoors to play in. Summer, autumn, winter and spring—all bring different healthful outdoor sports to be enjoyed.





Highly fortunate is the child who has the great good luck to be brought up in Maine. Here the broad countryside is his heritage and the fields, the hills, the streams and the woodlands are his playground.

He knows where trout lurk in a woodland stream. He knows where berries grow the sweetest. His, in the warmth of summer, is the grateful coolness of the old swimming hole.

He grows healthy and strong close to the heart of nature and sinking deep into his consciousness are the memories of happy, care-free days that he can recall when he takes on man's armor and the complexities of life bear strongly upon him.





Life is not all work in a Maine coastal town unless one wants to make it so. Recreational opportunities are many and varied.

Sailing in and out of the harbors and among the thousands of islands that dot the coast is a highly enjoyable pastime. Fishing for tuna, striped bass, cod, haddock, mackerel, pollock and even flounders affords excellent sport for the angler.

For those who like seafoods, the Maine coast offers the best in the entire world. Maine lobsters, scallops and clams are noted for their unexcelled quality.

The climate along the Maine coast during the summer is ideal. Soft sea breezes temper the heat of the summer sun so that days are just right for outdoor activities. Nights are cool and induce complete rest.



Off the beaten path is this little road that leads to a sheltered haven far from the rush and hurry of modern life.

Here are fields to roam and woodland paths along which to wander where the daily miracles of sunrise and sunset may be viewed in all their glory.

For the sportsmen there are game birds in the hunting season; deer in the surrounding woods. Streams and lakes abound in trout, salmon and bass.





There are so many places to go and so many things to see in this State that it is a hopeless task to enjoy them all to the fullest in the short space of a lifetime.

One can never grow tired of Maine scenery for every turn in the road, every hill that is climbed, unfolds some new phase of its natural beauty.

Along the coast the magic spell of the sea holds the traveler in its grasp. The quiet beauty of the farm country has its own particular charm. The thousands of lakes nestled in their surrounding green-clad hills have an irresistible appeal. The long stretches of majestic forests as viewed from the hilltops are unforgettable.

No long trips are necessary in order to reach these spots of scenic beauty. They are at the very doors of those who live in Maine.



In turning the pages of this booklet it is hoped that we have been able to portray some of the many advantages that go with living in Maine. We hope that, as a result, you will want to join the many who have become permanent residents of our state within the past few years.

If so, you have probably built up a mental image of what this new Maine home of yours will be like. There remains now the task of finding this dream home of yours.

The Maine Development Commission will be glad to be of assistance to you in this quest. If you will let us know your preferences we will be glad indeed to suggest where what you are seeking can be found.

In addition, there are probably many other things about Maine living conditions that you will want to know such as social, educational and religious advantages to be found here.

It will give us great pleasure to help smooth the path that lies between your present residence and your new home in Maine.

A communication addressed to the Maine Development Commission at the State House, Augusta, Maine, will bring a prompt answer.

MAINE

The Place to Live

