

Mileage Books, Use of by State Officers in Performance of Duties. Traveling Expenses, of State Officers.

There is no objection to the use of mileage books by state officers in the performance of duties, provided the same are purchased upon requisition through the state board of examiners, and the appropriation for the maintenance of the particular office is adequate.

Helena, Montana, October 27, 1910.

Prof. F. N. Linfield,
Director Montana Agricultural College Experiment Station,
Bozeman, Montana.

Dear Sir:—

I am in receipt of your favor of the 24th inst., asking my opinion as to whether in view of the recent decision of the supreme court with respect to passes or free transportation, experiment station officers and farmers' institute workers may hereafter purchase mileage books or whether they will be required to buy tickets for each of the various trips made around the state in the performance of their duties.

The regulations of the expenditure of appropriations made by the legislative assembly for the maintenance and traveling expenses of the various boards and officers are usually made and enforced in accordance with the terms of the law by the state board of examiners. The use of mileage books by state officers not provided with free transportation,

has never been and is not now objectionable to the state board of examiners, and I know of no reason which would prevent experiment station officers and farmers' institute workers from obtaining mileage books for their use in traveling about the state in the performance of their duties, where the appropriations made by the legislative assembly are sufficient to meet and pay such expenses.

I therefore advise that in instances where you find it necessary for experiment station officers or farmers' institute workers to do any considerable amount of traveling in the performance of duties devolving upon them by a state law that they may with propriety purchase mileage books as a charge against the state of Montana, in the event that the appropriation for the maintenance and traveling expenses of such department is sufficient to meet such expenditures. In obtaining mileage books for such persons you should place your requisition therefor with the state board of examiners, by whom such mileage books will be purchased and furnished.

Hoping that I have fully covered the subject of your inquiry, I remain,

Yours very truly,

ALBERT J. GALEN,

Attorney General.