

HOUSE No. 20

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION,
15 ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, December 2, 1946.

To the General Court of Massachusetts.

In compliance with the provisions of section 33 of chapter 30 of the General Laws, as amended, there is submitted herewith such part of the report of the Commissioner of Conservation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1946, as contains recommendations or suggestions for legislative action, accompanied by drafts of bills.

Respectfully,

A. K. SLOPER,
Commissioner of Conservation.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF STATE FOREST PRODUCTS
BY THE COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION.*Sale of Forest Products.*

Sections 30, 33 and 34A of chapter 132, General Laws, provides for the acquisition of woodlands or land suitable for timber cultivation and for the reclamation of said lands by planting or otherwise in order to produce timber and to protect the water supply of the Commonwealth. Further provision is made for sale or exchange of land and granting of rights of way but no authority for the sale of timber or other forest products is contained therein.

Section 3 of chapter 132A, General Laws, gives authority for the sale of forest products within the Division of Parks.

It is believed that the Department should secure specific authority for the sale of said products of the state forests and that the provisions of section 34A of chapter 132, General Laws, should be perfected to cover adequately this situation.

2. ESTABLISHING THE STATE PARKS AND RESERVATIONS
FUND AND REGULATING EXPENDITURES THEREFROM.

There are many miles of roads on state forests, parks and reservations under the jurisdiction of this department which are used by the general public in going to and from the recreational areas on them. The maintenance, repair and reconstruction of these roads is strictly the responsibility of the Department of Conservation and it is felt that, where they are used extensively by the general public, their cost should be paid for out of funds received from the gasoline tax.

The purpose of this act is to have set aside from the receipts from the gasoline tax an amount equal to one half of one per cent, said sum to be expended by the Commissioner of Conservation for the construction, reconstruction, repair and maintenance of these roads.

