

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, November 20, 1933.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In compliance with General Laws, Tercentenary edition, chapter 30, section 33, I have the honor to submit herewith such portions of my annual report for the year 1933 (Pub. Doc. No. 115) as embody recommendations for legislation, accompanied by drafts of bills to cover said recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. *Relative to the Establishment of a System of Compensation for Inmates of Certain State Penal and Reformatory Institutions.*

Since the passage of the law permitting the establishment of a system of wage payments to inmates of certain penal institutions of the State, the system has been established and put into successful operation at the State Prison at Charlestown, but has not been established either at the Massachusetts Reformatory or at the Reformatory for Women. For various reasons it has not seemed advisable up to this time to establish a wage system in either of the reformatories, and, in view of certain criticisms which have been made and of the present financial situation, I feel that the public will be better satisfied if there is the added safeguard of the approval of the Governor and Council before such a system can be established in either of these two institutions.

2. *Relative to the Office of Parole Clerk at the Massachusetts Reformatory.*

The amendment suggested in this law is to enable the Commissioner to obtain the best person available for the position of parole clerk at the Massachusetts Reformatory, should it become vacant, either from the ranks of the officers at the reformatory or outside the same.

3. *Relative to the Certification of Accounts at State Penal and Reformatory Institutions.*

The law at present authorizes the deputy warden or deputy superintendent to act in the absence of his superior officer, but because section 54 of chapter 125, General Laws, specifically names the warden or superintendent as authorized to certify pay rolls and bills scheduled for payment, it has been held that this duty cannot be assumed by the deputy or steward without legislation.

4. *Authorizing the Commissioner of Correction to Dispose of Certain Interest which has Accrued on Certain Moneys belonging to Prisoners.*

A bill relative to this matter was introduced last year, but failed of passage. I am this year introducing an altered bill such as has been recommended to me by the chairman of the house committee on Ways and Means.

5. *Relative to the Employment of Female Prisoners.*

The "indenture" law, so called, has been successfully resorted to within the past year. It confines the employment of indentured prisoners to "domestic" service. I feel that under present-day conditions this should be broadened to include "industrial and other" service, and have introduced a bill to cover this change.

6. *Establishing the Salary of the Commissioner of Correction.*

The position of Commissioner of Correction is one of large importance, and should carry a salary commensurate with the duties involved and with the salaries of other commissioners of departments of similar size and importance in this State. For this purpose I have drafted a bill to become effective only after I have left the position.

FRANCIS B. SAYRE,
Commissioner of Correction.

