

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, December 5, 1923.

To the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

In compliance with section 33 of chapter 30 of the General Laws, as amended by section 43, chapter 362, Acts of 1923, I have the honor to submit herewith such parts of the annual report of the Department of Public Utilities as contain recommendations for legislative action.

Respectfully,

HENRY C. ATTWILL,
Chairman.

LEGISLATION RECOMMENDED.

1. We renew our recommendations of last year in relation to public utilities depositing funds with private banking houses and as to giving the Department power to authorize the operation of motor vehicles for hire in a community adjoining that in which the motor vehicle is already licensed to operate, where such authority is refused by the adjoining community.

We believe that the recommendation as to the deposits of public utilities is one which requires serious consideration. Funds of public utilities are in a sense public funds. A loss of these funds may result in seriously crippling the utility and consequently injuring the public directly either through impaired service or increased rates.

2. The constantly growing use of the so-called "jitney" as a means of transportation makes it increasingly important that the people of one community shall not be denied necessary transportation by the action of another.

3. We deem it highly desirable, both for the interest of the public and gas and electric companies, that there should be a greater distribution of stock of the companies among those who use its service. This is generally recognized, but the existing statutes of the Commonwealth do not afford facility for its accomplishment. Accordingly, we recommend legislation to permit the sale of stock, under restrictions, to customers of gas and electric companies.

We urge further consideration of the bill to regulate the sale of certain gas appliances, referred at the last legislative session to this session.

