

## SENATE....No. 2.

---

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, }  
January 9, 1865. }

*To the Honorable the Senate :*

I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of the general court, a communication which has been addressed to me by the Secretary of the Navy, concerning danger which he apprehends to the channel of Mystic River in the vicinity of the Charlestown Navy Yard, which danger he believes may be averted by your legislative action. The subject is important, and I have not hesitated to assure the Secretary of the Navy that it will be investigated and acted upon by the general court in whatever manner, after inquiry, the public good shall demand.

JOHN A. ANDREW.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, December 30, 1864.

To His Excellency JOHN A. ANDREW, *Governor of Massachusetts*:

Sir,—In consequence of information received from the Bureau of Yards and Docks, which has the subject in charge, the Navy Department desires to call the attention of the legislature of Massachusetts to the state of the works at the mouth of the Mystic River, known as the Mystic River improvements, under a grant of said legislature of 1852, reciting certain conditions to be fulfilled on the part of the grantees, one of which was that the improvements should be completed within eight years from the passage of the Act.

In October, 1855, the time for completion was extended three years. In the same year, the time for completion was extended to ten years from the passage of the Act.

In October, 1859, time extended for completion, ten years from this date. It appears that but a very inconsiderable portion of the work contemplated in the Acts aforesaid has been done, and that unless the improvement be carried on and the wall completed, a portion of the filling is liable to slide into and obstruct the channel of the river.

The Department apprehends that this improvement may, at some future day, cause a deposit of silt in front of the wharves at the east part of the Navy Yard, and thereby shallow the water there, to the injury of the United States. This Department is of opinion that the wall which is to retain the filling should be constructed before the filling shall be deposited, to prevent its sliding off into the river, and thereby obstruct the current which tends to keep the channel open and unobstructed.

The Department desires that the legislature will look into the progress made on this improvement, to see that the inter-

ests of the United States are subjected to the least possible injury from said work, and that it be properly and substantially constructed, within the time specified in the Act.

Very respectfully, &c.,

GIDEON WELLES, *Secretary of the Navy.*

