

HOUSE No. 327

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FOURTH REPORT OF THE EMERGENCY PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION.

[Ways and Means (Joint).]

DECEMBER 1, 1936.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled.

The Emergency Public Works Commission, established by chapter 365 of the Acts of 1933, amended by chapter 380 of the Acts of 1935, as required by the statute, respectfully submits its fourth report covering the year ended November 30, 1936.

During the year the Commission has held 77 meetings, and its members have visited the various projects under construction. It has approved the plans and specifications for four additional projects at an estimated cost of \$832,199. It has prepared and submitted 200 requisitions for payment of grants.

The new projects approved are the following: nurses' home at Taunton State Hospital (Mass. State No. M 107, P. W. A. Docket Mass. 1139 RS); alterations and improvements to chapel library building at Massachusetts State College (Mass. State No. E 102, P. W. A. Docket Mass. 1141 RS); state police substation at Pittsfield in place of the building at Cheshire (Mass. State No. S 101, P. W. A. Docket Mass. 1169 RS); dining hall and kitchen building and renovation and remodeling of existing facilities, including necessary

equipment, at Northampton State Hospital (Mass. State No. M 108, P. W. A. Docket Mass. 1149 RS).

THE PROJECTS.

The projects which have now been undertaken by the Commission number 153. Of these, 138 were entitled to a grant of not over 30 per cent under the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1935, and 15 to a grant of 45 per cent under the Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1935. The State's share of the cost of all but two was covered by the Emergency Public Works loan of 1933, amounting to \$17,000,000, and an appropriation transfer of \$26,800, made by the Legislature in 1935. Of the remaining two, one, the north metropolitan relief sewer, was provided for by a special loan of \$1,800,000 in 1935, and the other, the kitchen and dining room building at the Northampton State Hospital, by an appropriation of \$277,500 in the appropriation act of 1936.

Other than the north metropolitan relief sewer, the total cost of the projects is estimated at present to be \$24,080,836.52, of which the reasonably assured grants provide \$6,795,181.78, and the State's share is \$17,285,654.74, leaving a balance of \$18,645.26 within the sum of \$17,304,300 appropriated therefor. These estimates are subject to correction as the work proceeds and the amount of grants becomes definite. The disbursements for these projects as of November 21, 1936, are \$22,082,437.76. The estimated cost of the north metropolitan relief sewer is \$3,000,000, of which sum the allowed grant is \$1,350,000, leaving as the State's share \$1,650,000. The disbursements for this project on November 21, 1936, totaled \$1,253,981.01.

STATUS OF THE PROJECTS.

Of the 138 projects authorized in 1933, 125 are completed and the costs determined; 7 are completed, but the accounts are still open; in 4 the construction is completed, but all the equipment has not been delivered; while 2 are still under construction, early completion being expected.

Of the 15 projects authorized since November, 1935, 1 is completed, but the accounts are still open; on 1 construction is completed, but equipment has not yet been entirely delivered; and 13 are still under construction. It is expected that all, except the 4 projects recently authorized, will be completed and the accounts closed before June of next year. These four projects are now under construction.

THE NORTH METROPOLITAN RELIEF SEWER.

The construction of the north metropolitan relief sewer is the largest single undertaking committed to this Commission. The estimated cost will approximate \$3,000,000, of which the State's share will not exceed \$1,800,000. The work was originally divided into seven sections, but with the authority of chapter 352 of the Acts of 1936 to extend the sewer in both directions, an additional section in the town of Stoneham has been added; and plans are being studied for an extension in the city of Medford, if funds are adequate. The first section at the Medford end is entirely completed, and it is expected that the remaining sections will be completed by April 30, 1937. If, however, a ninth section is authorized, the completion date may be delayed.

THE NORTHAMPTON STATE HOSPITAL BUILDING.

At the time of our last report the Commission had received the offer of a grant for the construction of a kitchen and dining room building at the Northampton State Hospital. The offer was accepted and bids were received for the construction. It was then found that the available funds would be inadequate to meet the State's share for this project, and the acceptance was postponed and the offer was withdrawn. When, however, the Legislature in its appropriation act of 1936 provided \$277,500 for the State's share, application for the grant was renewed, and it was authorized. Contracts were awarded on the original bids, and the work is well under way.

THE GRANTS.

The total of the original grants for the 1933 projects was \$6,101,700, and this was increased by additions to certain grants to \$6,163,825. The estimated cost of the several projects was prepared by the engineers and the architects at a time of very uncertain prices, with the result that they were too large in many cases and too small in others. The grants were based on these estimated costs, and some were correspondingly larger than could be claimed, and others less than the final results justified. The Commission had endeavored for some time to obtain the consent of the Public Works Administration to allow the underruns to cancel the overruns, so that the total amount allocated to the Commonwealth might be used. Recently the Federal Public Works Administration has agreed to consider all these projects as a single docket and to combine the grants into a single consolidated grant amounting to \$6,163,825. As a result, the Commonwealth may receive about \$317,000 more than it could have received under the separate grants.

The Commission has filed 387 requisitions for Federal grants. On 49 projects final payment has been received, the total grant on these projects amounting to \$1,341,485.45. In addition, intermediate requisitions of \$4,762,037.15 have been paid, making a total of \$6,103,522.60 in grant receipts to date. On 44 projects final requisitions amounting to \$388,318.63, and on other projects \$253,860.41 in intermediate requisitions, have been filed. Until final instalments are paid, it is impossible for the Commission to know what amount may be excluded by the Federal authorities for technical or other reasons, but so far the amounts definitely excluded have not been large. The procedure in clearing final requisitions usually takes from two to four months, even if there is no special controversy. The authority given to the State Treasurer, by chapter 392 of the Acts of 1935, to borrow in anticipation of grant payments,

has been not only desirable but very necessary. All the proceeds of the loan have been expended and further disbursements must be made from grant payments, and yet no requisitions can be made until the Commonwealth has paid the contractors. It is clear that the Treasurer must continue to borrow until the final grant payments are received. Pursuant to this authority the Treasurer borrowed \$900,000 in February, which has been repaid; and in July he borrowed again in the amount of \$400,000, and that loan is still outstanding.

EQUIPMENT.

As the grants under the Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1935 did not cover equipment, the Legislature, by chapter 309 of the Acts of 1936, authorized the Commission to purchase such equipment independently of the Public Works Administration through the State Purchasing Agent. By this method the purchases will be facilitated, and the loss of time in the completion of the project, which has been hitherto experienced, will be avoided.

NEW LEGISLATION.

The term of the Commission will expire June 30, 1937. Owing to the late date at which construction on several of the projects was begun, it is apparent that it cannot be completed for several months later; and negotiations with the Federal government and settlement of claims will require a much longer time. Some arrangement for carrying on the duties of the Commission must be made. It is consequently recommended that the General Court either extend the term of the Commission or make other appropriate provision therefor.

HENRY LEFAVOUR,
CHARLES P. HOWARD,
GEO. A. PARKER,
CHARLES V. REYNOLDS,
R. L. WHIPPLE,

Commissioners.

PROJECTS IN 1936 PROGRAM.

P. W. A. Docket Number.	Massachu- setts State Number.	INSTITUTION OR LOCATION.	Project.	Allocation.	Grant.	State's Share.
1139 RS	M 107	Taunton State Hospital	Nurses' Home	\$319,100	\$143,595	\$175,505
1141 RS	E 102	Massachusetts State College	Alterations and improvements to chapel library building.	45,000	18,000	27,000
1169 RS	S 101	Pittsfield	State police substation	51,000	20,250	30,750
1149 RS	M 108	Northampton State Hospital	Dining hall and kitchen building and renovation and remodeling of existing facilities, including neces- sary equipment.	417,099	139,599	277,500

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
NOVEMBER 30, 1936.

COMMISSION.

Appropriation under chapter 304, Item 221, of the Acts of 1936	\$20,000 00
Brought forward by Comptroller to cover 1935 expense	31 56
	\$20,031 56

Expenditures:

Salaries of Commissioners	\$8,580 00
Office salaries	9,583 83
Office expenses	384 69
Traveling expenses	255 28

Actual expenditures \$18,803 80

Known outstanding liabilities:

Commissioners' salaries, November 15 to 30, 1936	\$450 00
Traveling expenses	30 07

Estimated outstanding liabilities:

Office expenses	24 00
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504 07

19,307 87

Estimated balance as of November 30, 1936 \$723 69

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty-Seven.

An Act extending the Term of Office of the Emergency
Public Works Commission.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The term of office of the emergency public works
2 commission, established by chapter three hundred
3 and sixty-five of the acts of nineteen hundred and
4 thirty-three, and amended by chapter three hundred
5 and eighty of the acts of nineteen hundred and thirty-
6 five, is hereby extended to .