

HOUSE No. 80

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

MASSACHUSETTS BUREAU OF PRISONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 2, 1918.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In compliance with the provisions of chapter 269 of the General Acts of 1915, I have the honor to present the following parts of the second annual report of the director of the Bureau of Prisons, covering the year ending Nov. 30, 1917, which contain recommendations for legislative action, each accompanied by a draft of a bill embodying the legislation recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

CYRUS B. ADAMS,
Director of Prisons.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
TO BE CONTAINED IN THE SECOND ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU
OF PRISONS.

STATE PRISON.

1 and 2. *New Site for the State Prison.*

His Excellency the Governor in his inaugural message of 1917 recommended to the Legislature that the subject of a more favorable location for the State Prison be thoroughly investigated, "together with the incidental questions of administration and construction of prisons, to the end that a prison adequate in location and equipment may be built."

The removal of the State Prison from its present site has been strongly urged by several governors. The Prison Commissioners have repeatedly directed the attention of the Legislature to the disadvantages under which the inmates are placed because of the location and ancient equipment of this institution. For a long time there was hope that the Commonwealth would authorize the construction of a new prison, and nothing was done to improve or modernize the old plant. During the past few years conditions had become so bad that necessary improvements were made; and more improvements are necessary in order that the institution may properly function and fulfill its duty to the men committed to its care.

In my report of last year, I suggested that the question of construction and administration of prisons be thoroughly investigated with the end in view of building a new State prison. I renew this suggestion and further recommend that an appropriation be made for the purchase of a site for a new State prison, which suggestion and recommendation are embodied in drafts of bills submitted.

MASSACHUSETTS REFORMATORY.

3. *Fireproof Warehouse.*

The sum of \$5,000, appropriated in 1916 for the purchase of materials for the construction of a fireproof warehouse at the Massachusetts Reformatory, has been exhausted. In the accompanying draft of a bill submitted the further sum of \$10,000 is asked for materials to be used for the construction of this building, the work to be done by the inmates.

4. *Fireproof Stairways.*

The stairways to the main three-story shop building are of wood and of interior construction. They afford the only means of egress in case of fire and are considered a fire menace. They also afford convenient loitering places for the inmates, and take up valuable floor space in the shops. In the accompanying draft of a bill submitted, an appropriation of \$4,500 is asked for the construction of adequate fireproof stairways on the outside of the building.

5. *Farm Colonies.*

The success with which men were employed during the past year in open camps, in work on the farms, in the reclamation of land, and upon the roads, leads me to renew my recommendation of last year that additional farm land be purchased near the Massachusetts Reformatory, so that there may be established farm colonies, into which the administration may transfer from the main institution inmates suitable for such colonies. A draft of a bill providing for the purchase of land with this end in view is presented for your consideration.

REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN.

6. *Removal of Power Plant.*

For several years attempts have been made to render the Reformatory for Women less of a fire trap. To this end, appropriations have been urged in the past for fire pumps

and automatic sprinklers. The Legislature of last year saw fit to refuse the request for an appropriation for this purpose. It is believed that the removal of the present heating and power plant away from the institution will afford considerable fire protection. In the accompanying draft of a bill submitted an appropriation of \$68,261.15 is asked for this purpose.

PRISON CAMP AND HOSPITAL.

7. *Houses for Deputy Superintendent.*

The deputy superintendent of the Prison Camp and Hospital is not provided with a house on the institution property. It is most desirable that he should live where he can be called at any time in case of emergency, and in the accompanying draft of a bill submitted an appropriation of \$4,500 for materials to be used in the erection of a house for the deputy is asked, the work to be done by inmates.

8. *Cow Tie-up.*

It is very difficult at this institution to raise vegetables to any great extent. A great deal of the land can be reclaimed only at a very great expense. That which is desirable farm land cannot be planted until very late in the spring, and the crops are meager because of early frosts. The poultry farm and the herd of milking cows have been the only farming enterprises which have proved successful at this institution. There is a great deal of pasture land, and it is possible to raise considerable hay and ensilage in the meadows, so that the herd can be properly fed during the winter months. It is highly desirable that the herd be increased in numbers, and housing facilities are necessary. In the accompanying draft of a bill submitted I recommend the appropriation of \$6,000 for the construction of a cow tie-up.

9. *Office Building.*

When the Prison Camp was first established it was termed the "Temporary Industrial Camp," and at that time it was expected that after the land there owned by the State was

improved and made tillable, the institution would be transferred to another tract of waste land. With the establishment of the hospital section for tuberculous prisoners, the idea of the temporary camp was abandoned and the institution has become permanent. In the beginning the buildings were constructed of inexpensive material and were built only for temporary use. An old farmhouse, which was on the property, has been used as an office and dormitory since the establishment of the camp, and this building is entirely inadequate for the present needs of the institution. It is required under the law that a vault be provided for the safe-keeping of the institution records. In the accompanying draft of a bill submitted I recommend the appropriation of \$2,500 for materials to be used in the construction of an office building and fireproof vault, the work to be done by inmates.

10. *Coal Dump.*

All coal used at the Prison Camp and Hospital is unloaded at the West Rutland station $2\frac{2}{3}$ miles from the institution. When more than one car arrives at a time it has been necessary to unload and dump the coal beside the highway and then reload for cartage to the institution. An appropriation of \$4,000 is asked in the accompanying draft of a bill submitted for the erection of a coal dump at the West Rutland station, and in this way the handling of coal shipments will be facilitated.

GENERAL.

11. *Salaries.*

I renew my recommendation of last year that the salaries of the warden and deputy warden of the State Prison, the superintendent and deputy superintendent of the Massachusetts Reformatory, and the superintendent and deputy superintendent of the Reformatory for Women be fixed by the director with the approval of the Governor and Council. I also ask that the salaries of the agents of the Bureau of Prisons be fixed and determined in the same manner. A

draft of a bill making such provision is presented for your consideration.

12. *Physical Examination of Prisoners.*

Many prisoners who are committed to jails and houses of correction are tuberculous, and others who require treatment for venereal disease are not discovered because a thorough physical examination by a competent physician is not made at the time of commitment. The protection of the community and the protection of other prisoners demand that the presence of disease of a communicable nature in persons committed to penal institutions be ascertained. In the accompanying draft of a bill submitted a thorough physical examination of certain prisoners in penal institutions is made mandatory.

13. *Compensation to Inmates.*

Many States have made provisions for compensating inmates of penal institutions where industries are carried on. It is felt that the compensation, even though it be little, is an incentive to more efficient work on the part of the inmates. Not only does this efficiency, resulting in increased production, benefit the State, but the inmate himself is speeded up so that upon release he is more nearly the equal of the industrial worker in free life. In the accompanying draft of a bill submitted legislation is asked providing for the compensation of inmates of the State Prison, the Massachusetts Reformatory, the Reformatory for Women and the Prison Camp and Hospital.

14. *Transfer of Girls from the Reformatory for Women.*

It frequently happens that girls are committed by the courts to the Reformatory for Women who are thought to be too young for that institution to deal with properly. Where young boys are committed to the Massachusetts Reformatory, the law permits of their transfer to the training schools with the consent of the trustees of those institutions. In the accompanying draft of a bill submitted similar provision is made for the transfer of young girls.