

HOUSE No. 125

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF THE BUREAU OF PRISONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 2, 1917.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In compliance with the provisions of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1910, I have the honor to present the following part of the first annual report of the Bureau of Prisons, covering the year ending Nov. 30, 1916, which contains 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 TO BE CONTAINED IN THE
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF
PRISONS.

STATE PRISON.

In the messages of several Governors and in several of the reports of the prison commissioners it has been recommended that the State Prison be removed from its present site. It is true that the prison is badly located and its physical equipment in many respects extremely antiquated. In the past few years it has been somewhat improved physically. It has now an excellent chapel; improvements have been made in the kitchen, a small cold-storage plant built, and an endeavor has been made to bring its equipment up to date so far as it is possible. In spite of the attempt to modernize this old institution, it is still agreed that it is not suitable; yet this — the transition period of penology — may not be the advisable time in which to enter upon the construction of a new state prison. A thorough investigation and consideration of the best methods of construction and administration of prisons as determined through the research of prison architects and penologists should be had with the end in view of building a prison in a suitable location and adequate in its construction and equipment. In the meantime it is believed that the present plant should be made as suitable as possible.

1. *New Wall.*

There is now very little space within the walls for recreation purposes. At the rear of the prison the State owns 1½ acres without the walls, which is unused. It is recommended that this land be enclosed (the work to be done by inmates), and an appropriation for materials is asked for this purpose in the accompanying draft of a bill.

2. *Storehouse and Bathroom.*

At no point in its history has the State Prison been so industrially active, and facilities for handling increased business should be afforded. There is not sufficient space for storing finished goods, and the construction of a cement building to be used as a storehouse is recommended. The present bathroom at the State Prison is entirely inadequate as well as unhygienic, and it is intended to set off a small section of the proposed storehouse to be used as a bathroom. In the accompanying draft of a bill submitted, an appropriation of \$11,000 is asked for materials to be used in the construction of this building, the work to be done by the inmates.

3. *Platform Scales.*

The platform scales which have been in use for several years for weighing coal and other supplies are completely worn out. An appropriation of \$500 is asked to replace them. This recommendation has been embodied in a draft of a bill submitted.

4. *Assistant Physician.*

The physician at the State Prison receives a small salary and devotes but a portion of his time to official work. The director renews the recommendation of the prison commissioners of last year, in the accompanying draft of a bill, that there be an assistant physician on continuous duty.

MASSACHUSETTS REFORMATORY.

5. *Apparatus for Handling Coal.*

The apparatus for handling coal at the Massachusetts Reformatory was installed many years ago, when coal was received in small cars. The increased tonnage of coal cars makes this antiquated system inadequate, and it is recommended that an appropriation of \$4,500 be made for the installation of modern apparatus for handling and storing coal. This recommendation has been embodied in a draft of a bill submitted.

6. *Electric Generator.*

The electric generators at the Massachusetts Reformatory have been in use for about twenty years, and there are times when there is an overload of 50 per cent. on them. The installation of a direct-connected generator system of 125 K. W. capacity is recommended, and an appropriation of \$5,000 is asked for the same in a draft of a bill submitted.

7. *Salary of Physician.*

The acting superintendent of the reformatory requests that the salary of the physician at that institution, who devotes his entire time to official work, be increased to \$3,000, in view of the value of his services. This recommendation is approved by the director and embodied in a draft of a bill submitted.

REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN.

8. *Defective Delinquents.*

At the Reformatory for Women, as it is at present equipped, difficulty has been encountered in dealing with the type of woman known as the "psychopath." It has been found impracticable to care properly for this type under existing conditions. An appropriation of \$175,000 is asked for the construction of buildings on the land of the Reformatory for Women, which will serve as a psychopathic colony where inmates of the type above referred to may be studied and properly cared for. The director recommends the legislation embodied in a draft of a bill submitted.

9. *Fire Protection.*

The Reformatory for Women still continues to be a menace because of the lack of fire protection. In 1915 a resolve was passed providing for the expenditure of \$10,000 for the installation of a fire pump and automatic sprinklers. This sum was found to be inadequate and in 1916 a further sum of \$6,000 was appropriated. The resolve appropriating

the latter sum neglected to refer to the Resolves of 1915 and therefore superseded it. A draft of a bill is presented for favorable consideration asking for the reappropriation of the \$10,000 appropriated in 1915, and the appropriation of a further sum of \$14,000, the greater part of which further appropriation is made necessary by the rise in the prices of materials. The expenditure contemplated in all amounts to \$30,000.

GENERAL.

10. *Report of the Board of Parole.*

It is provided in chapter 241 of the General Acts of 1916 that the report of the Advisory Prison Board be incorporated in that of the director of prisons. The director recommends that the report of the Board of Parole to the General Court also be incorporated in his annual report. This recommendation has the approval of the Board of Parole, and a draft of a bill embodying it is submitted.

11. *Salaries.*

The annual 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 are fixed by statute. It is recommended that the salaries of the above-mentioned officers be fixed by the director of prisons, with the approval of the Governor and Council, and a draft of a bill making such provision is presented for your consideration.

12 and 13. *Farm Colonies.*

It is desirable to employ many inmates in farm colonies, and a draft of a bill providing for the purchase of land with this end in view is presented for your consideration.

During the past two years there have been established camps of a temporary nature, for the purpose of doing special work, one located on the lands of the sanatorium at Rutland, where reclamation work was carried on, and another on the lands of the Reformatory for Women at Fram-

ingham, where ditching and draining were done. It is believed that work of this nature should be carried on in the future without the necessity of legislative action in each case, and a draft of a bill authorizing the director of prisons to employ prisoners upon special work on public lands and about public institutions is presented for your consideration.

