

HOUSE No. 140

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF THE DISTRICT POLICE,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Dec. 28, 1916.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In compliance with the provisions of chapter 209 of the General Acts of the year 1916 I have the honor to present the following part of the annual report of the Chief of the District Police, covering the year ending Oct. 31, 1916, embodying recommendations for legislative action, and accompanied by drafts of bills covering the legislation recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. PLUNKETT,
Chief of District Police.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The clerical branch of this Force as now made up has reached its present condition through the enactment of separate laws authorizing the employment of clerks and stenographers, as the case might be, in one or another of the different departments of the Force.

I would therefore recommend that a law be enacted consolidating all of these statutes, or that a special act be passed so that such clerks and stenographers may be appointed to the Force in general. I believe the enactment of such legislation will tend to a greater efficiency in the clerical work of the Force.

I would also suggest that an adjustment of the salaries be established at the same time, which, in my opinion, should be made as follows: first clerk, \$1,800; second clerk, \$1,200; one stenographer, who shall also act as secretary to the Board of Boiler Rules, \$1,400; four stenographers at \$1,200 each; two stenographers at \$1,000 each; four stenographers at \$800 each; and six stenographers at \$750 each.

This would provide for the appointment of one additional stenographer at \$800, and an apparent annual increase of \$1,700 in the total salaries paid to the clerical force. During the past year I have been obliged to expend \$1,071 for extra clerical assistance; by the enactment of such a law as I have suggested I believe this additional clerical assistance would be dispensed with in the future.

2. DETECTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Twelve members of the detective department are assigned to duty in the district attorney districts, as has been previously stated, the other four members being assigned to special duty.

Practically the entire time of these men is devoted to the work to which they are assigned, and at times when it becomes necessary, in consequence of the urgency of conditions, to detail several of these officers for special police duty in some particular locality, it leaves the districts where we have but one officer without a representative to this department therein; and this condition, peculiar as it may seem, generally happens at a time when the officer of that district is in the greatest depth of business.

I would therefore respectfully recommend the appointment of four additional detective officers, to the end that we may place in each district attorney's district, exclusive of Suffolk County, two officers for general police and detective service, and may thus be able to have in each district at all times one officer upon whom I may rely in case of an emergency.

3. BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

The Commonwealth was formerly divided into fifteen districts, and a building inspector assigned to each district. By changing the system of employment of some of the officers I have been enabled to make two additional smaller districts, but I still feel that on account of the demand for more frequent inspections of certain classes of buildings, and also in view of the fact that some of the districts are entirely too large for an inspector to properly look after the work therein, additional inspectors should be appointed. I would therefore respectfully recommend that such legislation be enacted as will secure the appointment of five additional building inspectors in this department, to the end that I may divide the Commonwealth into twenty-two building inspection districts.

4. COMPENSATION OF THE SUPERVISOR OF PLANS.

Acts of 1913, chapter 655, section 14, authorizes the Chief of this Force to designate an inspector of the building inspection department as Supervisor of Plans. As the work imposed upon the person so designated is of great importance, it would appear that the salary of \$1,750 per annum,

the amount now paid to him, is not sufficient compensation for the work performed. I would therefore respectfully recommend that the salary of the inspector so designated be established at \$2,000 per annum.

5. BOILER INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.

It having been brought to my attention by the deputy chief of the boiler inspection department that there is in use in this Commonwealth a large number of pressure tanks used for different purposes which are not inspected or constructed under any regulation, I would therefore recommend that chapter 649 of the Acts of 1914 be amended so as to include under the requirements of this statute all tanks or other receptacles for the keeping or storing of compressed air at any pressure exceeding 50 pounds, by eliminating from such statute the words "for use in operating pneumatic machinery."