

# HOUSE . . . . No. 441

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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DEPARTMENT OF STANDARDS,  
BOSTON, MASS., Jan. 2, 1919.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

In compliance with the provisions of chapter 269 of the General Acts of the year 1915, I have the honor to present the following part of the twelfth annual report of the Commissioner of Standards, covering the year ending Nov. 30, 1918, embodying recommendations for legislative action, accompanied by the drafts of bills covering the legislation recommended.

Respectfully submitted,

THURE HANSON,  
*Commissioner.*

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF STANDARDS.

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### 1. SALARIES OF INSPECTORS.

The maximum salary of inspectors established by chapter 632, Acts of 1911, was \$1,500, and no change has been made in this maximum during the past eight years. The Legislature, having in mind the increased cost of living, has in the meantime provided for the standardization of salaries in the various departments of the service of the Commonwealth, but it has been found that this legislation did not provide for the repeal of existing statutes, and therefore does not afford any relief to those whose salaries are fixed by law.

Since the present salaries were established the duties and responsibilities of the inspectors have been increased from time to time. Efficiency of service deserves and should receive adequate compensation.

I, therefore, recommend such legislation as may be necessary to place the inspectors' salaries upon a more equitable basis.

### 2. BABCOCK MILK AND CREAM TEST BOTTLES.

On March 28, 1911, a conference was held at Washington, D. C., for the purpose of securing greater precision and uniformity in apparatus and methods used in determining the composition or value of milk. Representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Bureau of Standards, the Official Dairy Instructors' Association, and manufacturers of Babcock glassware were present at the meeting and adopted specifications for standard Babcock test bottles and pipettes.

Although a number of States penalize the use of incorrect Babcock glassware, the absence of adequate inspection tends to make the law inoperative in these States. In Massachusetts, chapter 21 of the General Acts of 1917 requires the Commissioner of Weights and Measures (now the Commissioner of Standards) to establish specifications for graduated glass measures and to authorize the sealing by manufacturers of any graduated glass measures which conform to these specifications.

While this statute is mandatory upon the Commissioner it is in apparent conflict with chapter 218, Acts of 1912, which forbids the use of Babcock measuring glasses until they have been tested and verified by the director of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station or by his duly designated deputies.

As this Department has exceptional facilities for tests of this nature, and as there appears to be no objection to the transfer of jurisdiction in the calibration and sealing of Babcock glass graduates, I would, therefore, recommend that legislation be enacted which will eliminate the present apparent conflict of authority in this matter.

