

SENATE.....No. 10.

*To the Honorable the Legislature of the
Commonwealth of Massachusetts :*

The Agent of Charles River and Warren Bridges hereby respectfully makes the Annual Report of his doings as Agent, to which is added an account of receipts and expenditures, the past year, as is required by the law relating to said bridges.

Agreeably to the law passed at the last session of the Legislature, monthly payments of balance of receipts over expenditures have been made to the State treasurer, and quarterly accounts have been rendered and settled with the Governor and Council.

The sum on deposit in the Phœnix Bank, on account of Charles River Bridge, mentioned in last annual report, remains as at that time,—no dividend having yet been declared.

An additional quantity of plank for the carriage of Charles River Bridge, has been received and paid for, and there is now on hand a quantity sufficient to renew the whole, whenever it shall be required; the present plank will probably last another year, with the exception of that part laid with four-inch plank, which will have to be relaid next spring.

The draw of Charles River Bridge was built many years since, and is now in such a state that a new one is deemed necessary, and the principal part of the materials for its construction have been received and paid for; and the work will be done as soon as may be consistently with good economy.

In the amount charged to repairs of Charles River Bridge, is included the sum of \$197 25-100; this amount was for taking up and relaying the stone pavement on the avenue on the

Charlestown side; this became necessary in consequence of the earth not being perfectly solid at the time it was paved.

The avenues leading to Charles River Bridge, to the extent of one hundred and seventy-three feet on the Boston side, and two hundred and twenty feet on the Charlestown side, are owned by the Commonwealth; these would probably be accepted and maintained by the city and town, if authority were given to convey the same.

Of the expenditure on account of Warren Bridge, charged to repairs the past year, \$249 71-100 was for outstanding debts, the balance was for labor and materials for completing the bridge and for the ordinary repairs.

The block pavement on the Warren Bridge has recently been examined, and found to be perfectly free from any appearance of decay; some of the blocks proved shakey, have split and settled between the ribbands,—wherever this has happened, they have been repaired by wedging on the strings between the ribbands, and the surface has been kept uniform. The extreme cold weather last winter caused the blocks to contract, so that there were open spaces across the bridge of an half inch in some places; on the return of mild weather the openings closed, and no injury resulted; the heat of summer produced the same effect, though in a less degree; and to prevent it the pavement was wet with salt water once or twice a day in dry weather; this answered the purpose, and was likewise deemed beneficial in preserving the wood. This bridge has been travelled over a year, and the wear of the blocks is but slight; and from this it is believed that this kind of covering for a bridge will prove a great improvement over the usual manner. The objection to block pavement, owing to its smooth surface causing animals to slip in wet or frosty weather, has been obviated by occasionally putting on a small quantity of fine gravel.

By the act of 17th March, 1841, the time for receiving tolls on the bridges was limited to two years;—on the first day of December last, the time having elapsed, the tolls ceased, and both bridges have been free since that day.

The receipts and expenditures for the year ending the 31st ultimo, have been as follows:—

Receipts on account of Charles River Bridge.

For loan to Warren Bridge,	\$384 74	
“ tolls,	18,540 81	
“ materials sold,	3 50	
“ amount received from owners of three vessels, for injury done the bridge,	54 11	
	—————	\$18,983 16

Receipts on account Warren Bridge.

For toll,	\$23,772 81	
“ materials sold,	33 48	
“ injury done bridge,	25 00	
	—————	23,831 29
Total receipts,		\$42,814 45

Expenditures on account C. R. Bridge.

For materials for repairs of bridge, now on hand,	\$1,952 45	
For repairs,	532 46	
“ expenses,	2,649 32	
“ payment to State treas'r,	13,750 24	
	—————	18,884 47

On account of Warren Bridge.

For loan paid Charles River Bridge,	\$384 74	
For repairs,	438 71	
“ expenses,	3,560 18	
“ pay'mts to State treas'r,	19,403 67	
	—————	23,787 30
Total expenditures,		42,671 77
Balance cash in agent's hands,		\$142 68

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The following statement exhibits the total amount of receipts and expenditures, by the undersigned, on account of both bridges, to the 31st ultimo :

Receipts.

From State treasurer on account Charles River Bridge,	\$10,000 00	
From do. on account Warren Bridge,	17,000 00	
	<hr/>	\$27,000 00
From tolls on account Charles River Bridge,	\$66,583 32	
From tolls on account Warren Bridge,	28,198 59	
	<hr/>	94,781 91
From sales old materials on account Charles River Bridge,	\$ 486 89	
From sales old material on account Warren Bridge,	1667 72	
	<hr/>	2154 61
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Total receipts,		\$123,936 52

Expenditures.—For Repairs.

Charles River Bridge,	\$23,688 86	
Warren Bridge,	23,260 32	
	<hr/>	46,949 18

For Expenses.

Charles River Bridge,	\$6922 49	
Warren Bridge,	4158 33	
	<hr/>	11,080 82
For materials,—on hand for future repairs of Charles River Bridge,	2944 45	
Payment to State Treasurer, on account Charles River Bridge,	\$34,231 30	

Payment to State Treasurer, on account Warren Bridge,	19,403 67	
		53,634 97
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Total expenditures,	114,609 42	
Amount with the receivers of the Phoenix Bank, on account of Charles River Bridge, as per certificate,	9184 42	
		123,793 84
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Balance, cash in agent's hand,		\$142 68
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The whole amount of tolls received on both bridges, as above,		\$94,781 91
The amount due and uncollected on 31st ultimo,		275 07
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Total,		\$95,056 98
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From information obtained at the office of the State Treasurer, it appears that the amount invested, and to the credit of the "Charles River and Warren Bridge Fund," was, on the 31st ultimo,		\$25,670 31
Of the amount of deposit with the Receivers of the Phoenix Bank, it is estimated that seventy-five per cent. may be realised, which will be,		6888 32
The amount due for tolls,	\$275 07	
The amount due on cash in hand of ag't,	142 68	
		417 75
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Total,		\$32,976 38
Deduct the amount, estimated to be required for labor and materials to complete the Charles River Bridge draw,		550 00
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Will leave,		\$32,426 38
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This last sum, at six per cent. per annum, would	
give an income of	\$1945 58
Income from rent of toll-houses, and of shop and	
house on Warren Bridge,	160 00
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	\$2105 58
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This amount of income will not be sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses for the support of the bridges. With the materials now on hand for the Charles River Bridge, it is estimated that the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, will be required annually for the four years to come; after that time, the cost of materials and labor to keep the several parts in repair, eight hundred dollars in addition will be required,—making the sum for the support of this bridge, twenty-three hundred dollars per annum; and it is estimated that the sum of one thousand per annum will meet the ordinary expenses of the Warren Bridge for the next ten years.

All which is respectfully submitted.

EBEN. BARKER,

Agent of Charles River and Warren Bridges.

CHARLESTOWN, *January 8th*, 1844.

