

HOUSE No. 347.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

AUDITOR'S DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, April 6, 1888.

HON. CHARLES J. NOYES,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SIR:— I have the honor to submit herewith my report of the expenses incurred by the several committees of the General Court for publishing the advertisements of hearings before them, from the beginning of the present session to the first day of April.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES R. LADD, *Auditor.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

AUDITOR'S DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, April 6, 1888.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives :

As required by section 2 of chapter 371 of the Acts of the year 1885, I submit the following report of the expenses incurred for publishing the notices of hearings before the several committees of the General Court now in session.

There seems to be a belief — or an impression, at least, — among some newspaper publishers, that the auditor designates the newspapers in which the advertisements of hearings are to appear. I have received several letters to that effect, and have been earnestly requested to send advertisements to certain newspapers with the assurance that the work would be well done and upon satisfactory terms. For the information of those who are not familiar with the duties of the auditor in this regard, I take the liberty to quote the language of the law. It provides that all authorized advertisements “shall be published only in such newspapers as may be designated by the chairman on the part of the senate and house, and the clerk of a joint committee, and the chairman and clerk of a committee of either branch ; and in each case the order for the advertisement shall be signed by the officers named and filed with the auditor of the Commonwealth, who shall forward a copy of the same to the newspaper or newspapers designated, and shall certify all bills for publishing such advertisements.”

The above extract from the statute shows that the auditor has nothing to do with the notices until the officers of the committees have signed them and filed them, with an order

for their publication, in the auditor's department. His duties begin with the receipt of the notices and the orders for their publication from the several committees.

The law requires that the report shall give a detailed statement of the expenses for advertising, and that it shall be submitted to the Legislature during the first week in April in each session.

This report will, therefore, exhibit the expenses for advertising — so far as they are known to the department — from the beginning of the present session to the first day of April.

The first notice of a hearing was received on the eleventh day of January. Including that date, and ending on the thirty-first day of March, there were filed with the auditor 445 committee notices. Of these notices, 1,238 copies were made and forwarded to the several newspapers selected by the proper officers for publication; total number of insertions of these notices, 3,335. In comparison with previous years, this account stands as follows: In 1887, the number of notices received before the first of April was 297, and the number of copies thereof forwarded to the newspapers for publication was 1,319; in 1886, the number of notices filed in the same time was 82, and the number of copies sent to the newspapers was 600; in 1885, the last year of advertising under the old law, the number of advertisements was 239, and the number of copies furnished to the newspapers was 1,405.

The largest number of newspapers in which any single advertisement was published the present year is 15; the largest number in 1887 was 19; the largest number in 1886 was 15; the largest number in 1885 — under the old law — was 42. The average number of newspapers employed the present year is 2+; in 1887 it was 4; in 1886 it was 7; and in 1885 — under the old law — it was 6. The average cost of each advertisement in 1888 was two dollars and a fraction.

I now present in parallel columns, for the purpose of convenient comparison, the expenses of the several committees for the years 1888, 1887, 1886, and in 1885, the last year under the old law.

Statement of the Expenses of Legislative Committees for Advertising Committee Hearings to April 1, 1888, in comparison with Similar Expenses to April 1, 1887, April 1, 1886 and April 1, 1885.

COMMITTEE.	Expenses. 1888.	Expenses. 1887.	Expenses. 1886.	Expenses. 1885.
On Agriculture,	\$66 46	\$92 46	\$120 52	\$75 15
Banks and Banking, . .	179 54	163 94	24 70	131 89
Cities,	316 89	282 04	232 02	500 54
County Estimates, . . .	29 84	-	-	-
Constitutional Amend- ments,	24 45	-	-	-
Claims,	-	33 75	-	357 25
Drainage,	23 05	107 59	132 19	3 30
Election Laws,	93 40	65 08	32 25	56 32
Education,	113 33	85 71	48 63	160 23
Expenditures,	3 75	83 67	-	-
Federal Relations, . . .	46 03	-	8 50	-
Fisheries and Game, . .	134 33	174 43	26 77	76 70
Harbor and Public Lands,	72 70	144 18	27 43	63 33
Hoosac Tunnel,	-	21 38	47 77	110 32
Insurance,	67 05	90 25	14 48	229 74
Judiciary,	670 07	488 40	83 78	176 65
Labor,	374 49	186 71	236 27	616 94
Liquor Laws,	86 86	400 82	33 26	223 93
Manufactures,	178 57	125 40	20 79	84 89
Metropolitan Police, . .	-	-	-	158 36
Mercantile Affairs, . . .	289 11	180 80	71 12	664 67
Military,	37 40	48 86	38 95	438 63
Printing,	-	20 00	-	-
Probate and Insol- vency,	170 43	17 05	-	-
Public Charitable In- stitutions,	27 72	18 37	67 92	54 16
Public Health,	50 51	146 85	65 17	237 54
Prisons,	46 19	314 86	3 45	101 81
Public Service,	101 46	101 27	30 28	50 46
Parishes and Religious Societies,	46 86	13 66	-	11 90
Railroads,	211 81	982 95	77 23	341 71
Roads and Bridges, . . .	92 81	133 65	30 05	12 31
State House,	18 60	35 98	12 38	55 25
Street Railways,	280 32	96 19	147 76	112 35
Taxation,	175 44	183 10	178 80	228 56
Towns,	17 25	-	61 88	26 50
Water Supply,	373 29	287 29	135 25	619 74
Woman Suffrage,	38 29	202 26	21 58	68 36
Totals,	\$4,458 30	\$5,328 95	\$2,031 18	\$6,049 49

This table shows a total of thirty-seven committees that have advertised notices of hearings in one or more of the four years represented. It is proper to state that two of the committees — Claims and Hoosac Tunnel — have ceased to exist, on account of legislation that has made them of no use in the business of the General Court.

The table also shows that the expenses for advertising in 1888 have been \$870.65 less than they were in 1887, \$2,427.12 *more* than in 1886, and \$1,591.19 *less* than in 1885.

It may be of interest to the Legislature to present a few figures, showing the expenses of advertising for each of the four years, in comparison with the total expenses of the committees for the same time.

In 1885 the total expenses of legislative committees were \$11,940.03; the expenses for advertising in that year were \$7,014.66, or about 59 per cent. of the total amount.

In 1886 the total expenses were \$10,865.77, and the expenses for advertising were \$2,688.90, or about 24 per cent. of the total amount.

In 1887 the total expenses were \$18,365.59, and the expenses for advertising were \$6,317.25, or about 35 per cent. of the total amount.

The total expenses in 1888, to the 1st of April, have been \$7,001 54, and the expenses for advertising, as shown in the table, \$4,458.30, or 62 + per cent. of the total amount.

The balance of the expenses of committees in the several years represented in the table is made up of the cost of travelling, entertainments, clerical and stenographic work, and the services of committees authorized to sit during the recess of the General Court.

The amount of work involved in receiving, copying, recording and mailing the notices of the hearings before committees, and the arranging and verifying of the bills and vouchers from the several newspapers, can hardly be realized by those who are not familiar with it. The entire time of one efficient clerk is required for these duties during the first three months of the fiscal year. Other duties are required of this department during the sessions of the Legislature which make it almost impossible to do the work of the office with the present clerical office.

In view of these facts, and on account of the constant increase of the business of the department in various ways, I feel justified in suggesting to the Legislature the consideration of an inquiry as to the necessity of allowing the auditor to employ another extra clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES R. LADD, *Auditor.*

