

HOUSE No. 268.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

AUDITOR'S DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, April 8, 1887.

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 commencement of its present session to the first day of April current.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES R. LADD,

Auditor.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

AUDITOR'S DEPARTMENT, BOSTON, April 8, 1887.

To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives.

In compliance with the provisions of 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.

The report has been delayed a few days, — awaiting the receipt of bills from some of the newspapers, — in order that it may present, as nearly as is possible, the entire expenses of advertising to the first day of April.

The law provides that advertisements in such cases as are authorized “shall be published only in such newspapers as may be designated by the chairman of the committee 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 be 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.” And it further provides that “no hearing relative to any matter of general legislation shall be advertised in more than three newspapers published in Suffolk County, nor in more than two newspapers published in any other county.” To secure uniformity, as far as it is practicable, in the form of the notices issued by the several committees, blanks, with the law printed thereon, are provided by this department. The notices are prepared by the committees, respectively, and filed with the auditor, who makes a record of every

notice, and sends a copy thereof to each of the newspapers designated by the officers above named. Each committee determines the number of times the advertisement filed with the auditor is to be published in the several papers.

All bills for advertisements that pass through the department in this way are examined and certified by the auditor. No others can be allowed under the provisions of the law. I call attention to these methods of procedure, because several of the committees of the present Legislature have sent advertisements of hearings directly to certain newspapers for publication. Bills for advertising such hearings have been received at this department and disallowed, because the Commonwealth is not holden for the work done. As the law is printed on all blanks used by the committees, it is evident that its provisions were overlooked by them in all cases where said provisions have not been strictly observed.

The law requires that the report shall be a detailed statement of the expenses for advertising from the commencement of the session to the first day of April current. The first notice of a hearing was filed in this department on the 14th of January.

Including that date and ending on the 31st of March, there were filed with the auditor 297 committee notices, and 1,319 copies thereof were forwarded to the several newspapers for publication. In 1886, the number of advertisements filed was 82, and the number of copies sent out 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 19; the largest number in 1886 was 15; and the largest number in 1885, under the old law, was 42. The approximate average of newspapers employed by the committees the present year is 4; in 1886 it was 7; and 6 in 1885.

For convenient information I present in parallel columns the expenses of the several committees for the years 1887, 1886 and 1885, as follows:—

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

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

The foregoing statement shows that the amount paid for advertising committee hearings to April 1, 1887, is \$3,297.77 in excess of the sum expended for the same in 1886, and is only \$720.54 less than for similar expenses in 1885, under the old law.

It also shows, in several cases, a striking difference in the expenses of the same committees in the three years.

Whether this difference is occasioned by the amount or the character of the business investigated by said committees, is a question which the auditor is not expected to determine.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES R. LADD,

Auditor.

