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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER
OF
STATE AID AND PENSIONS.
FOR THE YEAR 1905.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 23, 1906.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

The annual report of the department of State aid and pensions is herewith presented to your honorable bodies, the part relating to State aid and burials being for the year 1904, and that relating to pensions covering the year 1905.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,
Commissioner.

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REPORT.

STATE AND MILITARY AID AND BURIAL EXPENSES.

The expenditures on account of State and military aid and the burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, their wives, widows and dependent fathers and mothers, for the year 1904, were as follows: —

State aid to soldiers and dependents, civil war,	\$747,672 68
State aid to soldiers and dependents, war with Spain,	4,809 00
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, civil war,	37,913 31
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, war with Spain,	7,068 28
Expense for burial of indigent soldiers and dependents,	27,681 00
Total for 1904,	<u>\$825,144 27</u>

The increased expenditure in 1904 over 1903, amounting to \$22,377.24, was caused by the number of new applicants for State aid, and the necessity of increased assistance to those who by age or infirmities were unable to support themselves.

Recipients of State aid on account of the civil war are classified as follows: —

Pensioned soldiers and sailors,	7,298	Increase 140
Wives of same,	910	Increase 9
Widows of same,	6,893	Increase 132
Dependent mothers,	188	Decrease 29
Dependent fathers,	2	Decrease 3
Army nurses,	11	Decrease 1

Net increase during 1904, 248.

Average cost to State, \$49.05.

Recipients of State aid on account of the war with Spain are classified as follows :—

Pensioned soldiers and sailors,	31
Widows,	32
Wives,	3
Widowed mothers,	28
Dependent fathers,	5
Children,	28
Total,	127

An increase of 22 cases over 1903.

Disbursements of military aid were made to 791 soldiers and sailors during the year, — a decrease of 58 from 1903. Of the number aided, 674 were veterans of the civil war and 117 served in the war with Spain. The State's half of the expense was \$44,981.59, — a decrease of \$4,399.68.

The military aid will steadily decrease, as the men are removed by death, or become pensioners under the more liberal policy of the general government in granting the soldier a pension of \$6 per month when he arrives at the age of sixty-two, and increasing \$2 every three years thereafter until the age of seventy is reached, when the pension is granted at \$12 per month, — the limit of law under the act of June 27, 1890.

The agents, Mr. Edwin C. Stone, Dr. Henry Shaw and Miss Lena G. Bailey, besides attending to persons calling at the office, visited 100 cities and towns, and their examinations covered nearly 6,000 cases.

Burial Expenses of Indigent Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, their Wives, Widows and Mothers, and Army Nurses.

Under the provisions of chapter 381, Acts of 1904, which embodied former laws providing for the burial of soldiers of the war with Spain, their wives, widows and dependent mothers, there were buried 792 persons, classified as follows :—

Civil war :—

Soldiers,	568
Widows,	144
Wives,	30
Mothers,	11

War with Spain:—

Soldiers,	35
Wives,	2
Mothers,	2
Total,	<u>792</u>

An increase of 75 cases and an increase of expenditure of \$2,619.37 over 1903.

Total Payments of State Aid.

The total payments by the Commonwealth for State and military aid and burial of indigent soldiers and sailors, including appropriations made by the General Court toward maintenance of the Soldiers' Home in Massachusetts, from 1861 to the close of 1904, were	\$30,018,289 00
State and military aid and burial of soldiers and sailors on account of 1904, paid in 1905,	825,144 27
Special laws,	\$1,828 00
Soldiers' Home,	50,000 00
	<u>51,828 00</u>
Total to Jan. 1, 1906,	\$30,895,261 27

PENSION DEPARTMENT.

Col. J. B. Parsons, deputy commissioner, furnishes the following statements relating to the working of his office for the year 1905:—

There has been no new legislation enacted relative to pensions during the past year. The amendment to the act of June 27, 1890, known as "Order 78," which went into effect April 13, 1904, was very satisfactory to the veterans of the civil war, as well as popular, and many soldiers who never have and never would apply for a pension took advantage of this ruling, which gives a pension of \$6 a month to an applicant who shall have reached the age of sixty-two years, \$8 a month at sixty-five years, \$10 a month at sixty-eight years, and \$12 per month, the full amount of pension under this act, when he shall have reached the age of seventy years. The above order has given this office a large amount of work, and to the clerks in the office great credit is due for the accomplishment of the same.

I visited Washington once during the year, for the purpose of personally investigating and adjusting some complicated cases at the United States Pension Bureau. The result was favorable.

I take this occasion to thank the officials in the various departments at Washington who handle our claims for the courtesy and

promptness with which the business is accomplished, and especially to the first deputy commissioner, the Hon. J. L. Davenport, who allows me to send all calls direct to his desk, and attends to the matter personally, with great courtesy and promptness.

Since the office of registrar of births, marriages and deaths was assumed by Mr. Edward W. McGlenen of Boston, the son of a veteran of the Mexican war, there has been no charge to the widows for certificates of death of the husband or birth of the children, which is a great saving to them, and is thoroughly appreciated. He has my sincere thanks.

The following is a detailed statement of the business of this department for the year ending Dec. 31, 1905:—

1,973 claims filed, classified as follows:—	
Soldiers (original),	448
Increase,	901
Widows,	327
Widows (accrued),	32
Reimbursement,	57
Restoration,	17
Mothers,	5
Fathers,	2
Guardians,	12
New pension certificates,	45
Transfers,	21
Arrears pay and bounty,	12
Certificates in lieu of discharge,	4
Minors,	1
Wives (one-half pension),	9
Unendorsed pension check,	8
Helpless child,	1
Prize money,	1
Old claims,	70
Total,	1,973
Number of claims allowed,	1,473
Number of claims rejected,	304
Amount collected,	\$45,480 25

J. B. PARSONS;

Deputy Commissioner State Aid and Pensions.

CHANGES IN THE DEPARTMENT.

The law relating to payment of State and military aid, the burial of soldiers, etc., was continued, with a few amendments, by the enactment of chapter 381, to take effect July 1, 1904.

The new law provided for an increase of salary for the first clerk in the pension claim office, and Miss Louisa C. Evans commenced to receive \$1,200 a year July 1, 1904.

Miss Lida B. Graham, stenographer and typewriter in the State aid office, at \$1,000 a year salary, resigned, to take effect July 1, 1904. Miss Josephine P. Fuller was appointed to the vacancy. By the retirement of Miss Graham the State lost the services of a most faithful and efficient clerk, one exceptionally well equipped for all the varied duties required of her. In severing her connection with the office, after ten years' acceptable service, she took with her the esteem and hearty good wishes of all her associates in the department.

Dr. Henry Shaw, special agent for the investigation of soldiers' relief aid and settlement cases, was, by the same law, given a salary of \$600 a year, and the State is a gainer by retaining his services at that very moderate pay.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,
Commissioner.

The land was surveyed in 1850 and was then divided into sections of 36 acres each. The land was then sold to the public in 1851 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold again in 1852 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan. The land was then sold a third time in 1853 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold a fourth time in 1854 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan. The land was then sold a fifth time in 1855 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold a sixth time in 1856 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan. The land was then sold a seventh time in 1857 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold an eighth time in 1858 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan. The land was then sold a ninth time in 1859 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold a tenth time in 1860 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan.

The land was then sold an eleventh time in 1861 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold a twelfth time in 1862 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan. The land was then sold a thirteenth time in 1863 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold a fourteenth time in 1864 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan. The land was then sold a fifteenth time in 1865 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold a sixteenth time in 1866 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan. The land was then sold a seventeenth time in 1867 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold an eighteenth time in 1868 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan. The land was then sold a nineteenth time in 1869 and the proceeds were used to pay the interest on the loan. The land was then sold a twentieth time in 1870 and the proceeds were used to pay the principal of the loan.

CHAS. W. CLARKSON

Commissioner of the Land Office