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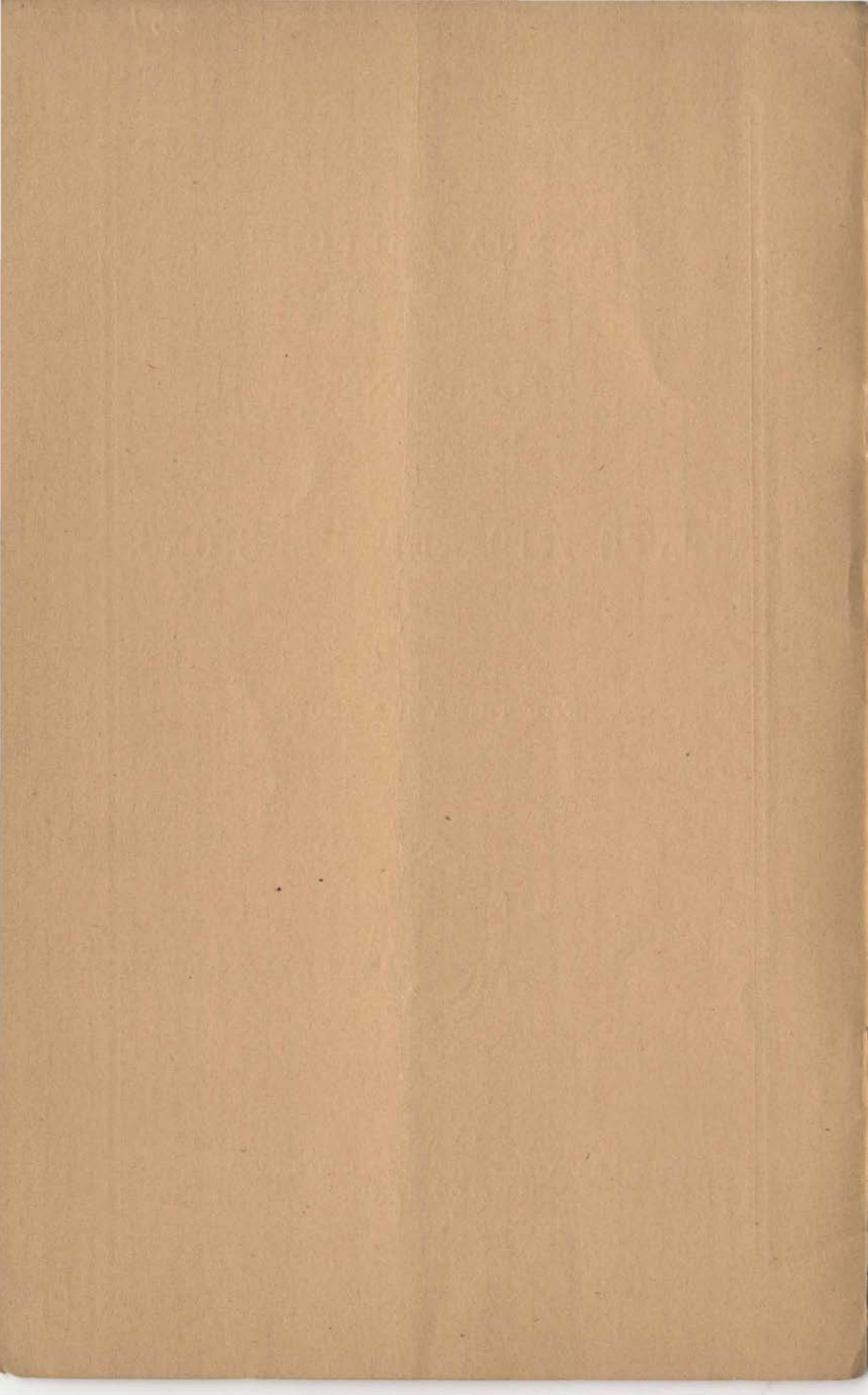
No. 68

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONER  
OF  
STATE AID AND PENSIONS.

FOR THE YEAR 1907.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.  
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THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 9, 1908.

*To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives.*

I have the honor to present herewith to your honorable bodies the annual report of the department of State Aid and Pensions, the part relating to State and military aid and burials being for the year 1906, and that relating to pensions covering the year 1907.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,  
*Commissioner.*

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# REPORT.

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## STATE AND MILITARY AID AND BURIAL EXPENSES.

The expenditures on account of State and military aid and burial of indigent soldiers, their wives and widows, for the year 1906, were as follows:—

State aid to soldiers and dependents, civil war, . . .	\$778,114 63
State aid to soldiers and dependents, war with Spain, . . .	5,546 00
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, civil war, . . .	33,036 50
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, war with Spain, . . .	5,392 76
Expense for burial of indigent soldiers and dependents, . . .	28,207 94
Total for 1906, . . . . .	
	\$850,297 83

The increased expenditure in 1906 over 1905 amounted to about \$9,000.

The total number of recipients for 1906, civil war, was 15,529, classified as follows:—

Pensioners, . . . . .	7,307
Wives, . . . . .	893
Widows, . . . . .	7,180
Widowed mothers, . . . . .	134
Dependent fathers, . . . . .	3
Army nurses, . . . . .	12

Net increase of recipients during the year 1906, 88.

The total number of recipients for 1906, war with Spain, was 139, classified as follows:—

Pensioners, . . . . .	40
Wives, . . . . .	4
Widows, . . . . .	31
Dependent mothers, . . . . .	33
Dependent fathers, . . . . .	5
Children, . . . . .	26

Total decrease during the year 1906, 3.

*Military Aid.*

Military aid was paid to 519 soldiers and sailors of the civil war during the year 1906, and to 93 soldiers and sailors of the war with Spain, making the total number aided under this chapter during the year 612, — a total decrease of 59 from the previous year.

The amount expended by the State for military aid during 1906 was \$38,429.26, — a decrease of \$747.88 from 1905.

In connection with the execution of this law, Surg.-Gen. William H. Devine has been faithful in his examination of applicants for military aid, and has been of great assistance to this office in determining the amount of aid to be allowed.

One hundred and four cities and towns were visited by our agents, who have done efficient work, and 7,700 consultations and examinations have been made.

*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, there were buried, during the year 1906, 808 persons, at an expense of \$28,207.94. They are classified as follows:—

Civil war:—		
Soldiers, . . . . .	564	
Widows, . . . . .	162	
Wives, . . . . .	30	
Mothers, . . . . .	13	
	—	769
Spanish war:—		
Soldiers, . . . . .	36	
Widows, . . . . .	1	
Wives, . . . . .	1	
Mothers, . . . . .	1	
	—	39
		—
Total, . . . . .		808

A decrease of 27 cases, and a decrease in expenditure of \$968.06 over 1905.



*Total Payments of State Aid since 1861.*

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 1906, were . . . . . \$31,798,222 41

State and military aid and burial of soldiers and sailors on account of 1906, paid in 1907, . . . . . 850,297 83

Special laws, . . . . . \$1,321 98

Soldiers' Home, . . . . . 60,000 00

Soldiers' Home hospital, . . . . . 18,287 87

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79,609 85

Total to Dec. 1, 1907, . . . . . \$32,728,130 09

Miss Belle J. McKeon and Miss Annie G. O'Connell, both competent typewriters, stenographers and clerks, now receiving \$840 per year, are deserving of an increase of salary, and I urgently recommend that they be increased to \$1,000 per year.

The report of Deputy Commissioner F. A. Bicknell, who has immediate charge of the pension department, is herewith appended.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES W. HASTINGS,  
*Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions.*

## PENSION DEPARTMENT.

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On Feb. 6, 1907, Congress enacted a law entitled "An Act granting pensions to certain enlisted men, soldiers and officers who served in the civil war and the war with Mexico," which act entitles all soldiers and sailors who have served ninety days or more, honorably, in the civil war, and sixty days or more, honorably, in the war with Mexico, and have reached the age of sixty-two years, to \$12 a month, \$15 a month to those who have reached the age of seventy, and \$20 to those who have reached the age of seventy-five.

Many who had never applied for pension took advantage of this legislation. The law provides that pension shall commence from date of filing of application in the Pension Bureau; thus it will be seen that each soldier was anxious to get his application on file at the earliest possible moment, and this entailed a large amount of work for the office, causing overtime work for the clerks, for which they should receive commendation.

The Bureau of Pensions has given our claims as prompt attention as could be expected in view of the enormous increase in the number of claims received in the Bureau, and for this our thanks are due the department.

Every year large numbers of pension vouchers are executed free of charge, and this year more than ever has been done in this line. Following is a summary of the business of this department for the year ending Dec. 31, 1907:—

3,974 claims filed, classified as follows:—

Act of Feb. 6, 1907, . . . . .	3,158
Soldiers (original), . . . . .	86
Soldiers (increase), . . . . .	146
Widows (original), . . . . .	337
Widows (accrued), . . . . .	29

Reimbursement, . . . . .	64
New pension certificates, . . . . .	48
Transfers, . . . . .	40
Restoration, . . . . .	12
Mothers, . . . . .	9
Fathers, . . . . .	1
Guardians, . . . . .	7
Unendorsed pension checks, . . . . .	3
Pay and bounty, . . . . .	5
Extra pay, . . . . .	3
Wife (one-half pension), . . . . .	4
Certificates in lieu of discharge, . . . . .	4
Change of name on rolls, . . . . .	1
Prize money, . . . . .	1
Old claims, . . . . .	16
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Total, . . . . .	3,974
Number of claims allowed, . . . . .	2,908
Number of claims rejected, . . . . .	167
Amount collected, . . . . .	\$123,268 32

Respectfully submitted,

F. A. BICKNELL,  
*Deputy Commissioner State Aid and Pensions.*

