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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER

OF

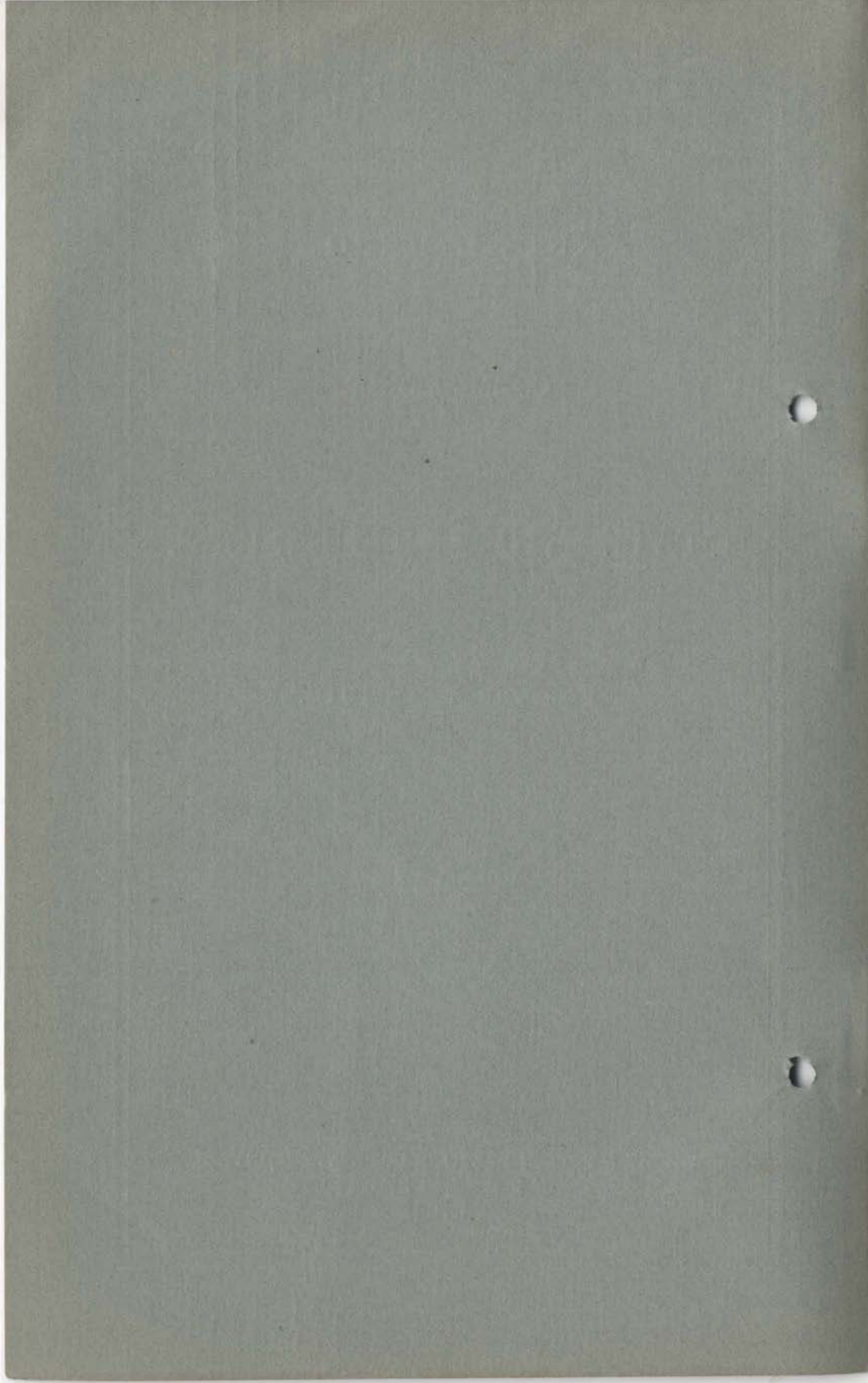
STATE AID AND PENSIONS.

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FOR THE YEAR 1910.



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

COMMISSIONER

STATE AND FEDERAL

APPROVED BY  
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS,  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Jan. 3, 1911.

*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 1909, and that portion relating to pensions covering the year 1910.

Very respectfully,

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

\*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

State of Massachusetts, County of [unclear]

I, the undersigned, being a Justice of the Peace for the County of [unclear], do hereby certify that [unclear] is the true and correct copy of the [unclear] as the same appears from the records of the [unclear] in the County of [unclear] on the [unclear] day of [unclear] 19[unclear].

Given under my hand and seal of office this [unclear] day of [unclear] 19[unclear].

J. A. [unclear]

Justice of the Peace for the County of [unclear]

# REPORT.

## STATE AND MILITARY AID AND BURIAL EXPENSES.

Disbursements of State and military aid for the burial of indigent soldiers, sailors and marines, their wives, widows and dependent fathers and mothers, were made by 350 cities and towns in the Commonwealth during the year 1909, due and payable Nov. 10, 1910, as follows:—

State aid to soldiers and dependents, civil war, . . .	\$782,094 57
State aid to soldiers and dependents, war with Spain, . . .	6,042 00
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, civil war, . . .	28,877 29
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, war with Spain, . . .	8,824 39
Burial expenses of indigent soldiers and dependents, . . .	33,969 00
Total for 1909, . . . . .	\$859,807 25

The figures above given show a decrease of \$543.50 from 1908.

The total number of recipients of State aid, civil war, for 1909, was 15,205, classified as follows:—

Pensioners, . . . . . 6,899	Decrease, . . . . . 156
Wives, . . . . . 673	Decrease, . . . . . 90
Widows, . . . . . 7,555	Increase, . . . . . 153
Widowed mothers, . . . . . 72	Decrease, . . . . . 16
Army nurses, . . . . . 6	Increase, . . . . . 2
Total, . . . . . 15,205	

Net decrease of recipients during 1909, 108.

Average cost to State per person aided, \$51.43 +

The total number of recipients for 1909, war with Spain, was 146, classified as follows:—

Pensioners, . . . . . 47	Increase, . . . . . 5
Wives, . . . . . 2	
Widows, . . . . . 34	Decrease, . . . . . 1
Dependent mothers, . . . . . 41	
Dependent fathers, . . . . . 4	
Children, . . . . . 18	Decrease, . . . . . 6
Total, . . . . . 146	

Total decrease during 1909, 2.

Average cost to State, \$41.38 +

*Military Aid.*

Military aid to the amount of \$37,701.68 — a decrease of \$687.10 from 1908 — was disbursed to 406 soldiers and sailors of the civil war, and to 132 soldiers and sailors of the war with Spain, making the total number aided under this chapter during the year, 538, a total decrease of 33 from the previous year.

In connection with the execution of military aid law I take pleasure in acknowledging the services rendered by Surg.-Gen. Charles C. Foster, whose examinations for military aid have been of much value in determining the amount of aid required.

The examining agents have performed excellent service. They have examined about 8,500 cases. They are obliged to be away from home much of the time, necessarily entailing some expense. I therefore recommend that the salary of one agent be increased from \$1,300 to \$1,400, that of the special agent from \$900 to \$1,100, and that of the female agent from \$1,000 to \$1,100.

*Burial Expenses of Indigent Soldiers, Sailors and Marines, their Wives, Widows and Dependent Mothers, and Army Nurses, under Chapter 468, Acts of 1909.*

There were buried during the year 1909, 919 persons, at an expense of \$33,969. They are classified as follows:—

## Civil war:—

Soldiers, . . . . .	602	Increase, . . . . .	12
Widows, . . . . .	223	Increase, . . . . .	29
Wives, . . . . .	44	Decrease, . . . . .	4
Mothers, . . . . .	4	Decrease, . . . . .	9
Army nurses, . . . . .	1	Increase, . . . . .	1
	— 874		

## Spanish war:—

Soldiers, . . . . .	41	Increase, . . . . .	9
Wives, . . . . .	1	Increase, . . . . .	1
Mothers, . . . . .	3	Increase, . . . . .	2
	— 45		

Total, . . . . . 919

An increase of 41 cases, and an increase in expenditure of \$1,567.99 over 1908.

Average cost to State per burial, \$36.96+.



*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 1909, were . . . . . \$34,771,680 50

State and military aid and burial of soldiers and sailors on account of 1909, paid in 1910, . . . . .	859,807 25
Special laws, 1910, . . . . .	912 00
Soldiers' Home, 1910, . . . . .	147,000 00
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Total to Dec. 1, 1910, . . . . .	\$35,779,399 75
Returned to State Treasurer, March 7, 1910, for burial allowance on account of Thomas Farrell, <i>alias</i> "Thomas Cahill," . . . . .	37 00
	<hr/>
Total to Dec. 1, 1910, . . . . .	\$35,779,362 75

Suggestions have been made that this department publish the amount reimbursed to the several cities and towns. As an itemized account is published in the Auditor's annual report, this action seems superfluous.

## PENSIONS.

There has been no legislation relative to pensions in the past year which has affected the duties of the office. We have executed more than the usual number of affidavits for parties who have filed their claims through other attorneys. About 8,000 vouchers have been executed without expense to the pensioners. As usual, a large number of inquiries has been answered, necessitating much correspondence.

The thanks of this department are again due Hon. J. L. Davenport, United States Commissioner of Pensions, for his prompt adjudication of our claims, and his courteous replies to our many inquiries.

Appended is a brief summary for the year ending Dec. 31, 1910:—

Soldiers (act of Feb. 6, 1907), . . . . .	826
Soldiers (original), . . . . .	21
Soldiers (increase), . . . . .	47
Widows, . . . . .	334
Reimbursement, . . . . .	96
New pension certificates, . . . . .	30
Transfers, . . . . .	19
Restorations, . . . . .	16
Mothers, . . . . .	3
Fathers, . . . . .	4
Guardians, . . . . .	7
Wives (one-half pension), . . . . .	11
Unendorsed pension checks, . . . . .	10
Pay and bounty, . . . . .	5
Certificates in lieu of discharge, . . . . .	5
Correction of name on rolls, . . . . .	3
Wife without guardianship, . . . . .	1
Old claims called up, . . . . .	11
	<hr/>
Total, . . . . .	1,449
Number of claims allowed, . . . . .	1,113
Number of claims rejected, . . . . .	88

The personnel of this office has changed somewhat during the past year.

Dr. Henry Shaw died March 28, 1910. He was employed as special agent, and his thorough knowledge of laws regarding settlements made him a valued official in this department.

On April 1 Capt. Charles W. Hastings, Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions, was retired, at his own request, under the provisions of chapter 458, Acts of 1907. He had served continuously for over thirty years in this department. His faithful, meritorious service was fully appreciated by the State, and he was retired with the honors due an honest, conscientious public servant.

On April 27 Francis A. Bicknell was appointed as Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions, to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Commissioner Hastings.

Richard R. Flynn, who served in the navy during the Spanish war, was appointed Deputy Commissioner of State Aid and Pensions, *vice* Francis A. Bicknell promoted to be commissioner. He qualified and reported for duty May 11. He is a sincere

patriot, and is of good executive ability and apparently worthy of the honor bestowed upon him.

On June 8 Frank B. Peabody, a veteran of the civil war, was appointed as special agent. He qualified and entered upon his duties the same day.

On June 18 Amos H. Fairbanks was retired under the provisions of the above-mentioned chapter. He had been employed as bookkeeper for twenty-seven years. He was peculiarly adapted for the office, and his books were models of accuracy and neatness.

On August 31 Helen M. Bucknam, who was employed as clerk in the pension department, resigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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

