

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LICENSING BOARD FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1923

1 BEACON STREET, December 1, 1923.

To His Excellency CHANNING H. COX, *Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

SIR:—The Licensing Board for the City of Boston respectfully submits its eighteenth annual report covering the year ending Nov. 30, 1923.

There have been no changes in the membership of the Board during the year covered by this report. The Board has held 950 hearings during the year.

FINANCIAL.

The total revenue during the year ending Nov. 30, 1923 was \$58,497. Of this amount \$55,266 was the revenue from miscellaneous licenses and receipts, and \$3,231 was from liquor licenses. Of this latter sum 25 per cent is paid to the Commonwealth.

LIQUOR LICENSES.

The law as to licenses to druggists has been amended by the legislature during the last year. Druggists having a third-class license may sell pure alcohol and intoxicating liquors upon the prescription of a registered physician. The prescriptions must be retained and kept on file in a separate book which must be open at all times to the inspection of the Board of Registration in Pharmacy and the licensing authorities. Chap. 253 of the Acts of 1923. A certificate of the purchaser stating the use for which the liquor is wanted is no longer required, and the druggist is no longer required to keep a book in which he enters the date of each sale, name of the purchaser, kind, quantity and price of the liquor sold, purpose for which it is sold, and the residence by street and number of the purchaser. Druggists holding third-class licenses are no longer required to furnish a bond such as is required by holders of fourth and fifth-class licenses. Chap. 291 of the Acts of 1923.

The Board has issued 213 licenses to druggists within the last year, and has also issued 10 licenses of the fourth-class, wholesale, and 2 licenses of the fifth-class for the sale of alcohol for industrial purposes.

SOFT DRINK LICENSES.

The Board has issued during the year 2,742 licenses for the sale of soft drinks, so called, in pursuance of Chap. 392 of the Acts of 1922. We believe that this act is useful and beneficial in its results. The proprietors and employees of such places have frequently been complained of in court for the sale or exposure for sale of intoxicating liquor. Complaints are made in such cases to the Board and many hearings have been held thereon during the year. In most instances where guilt has been established the Board has either suspended or revoked the license of the proprietor. The fear of losing his license we believe does more to prevent the sale of intoxicating liquor than the fear of a fine.

COMMON VICTUALERS.

As was the case last year, there is a growing tendency among holders of soft drink licenses to furnish food to customers as well as soft drinks and to take out therefor a common victualer's license. The Board believes this is a tendency to be encouraged since the licensee is more likely to establish a respectable and successful business where his customers can find both food and soft drinks than if the sales are limited solely to soft drinks.

The Board is still impressed by the good reports which it receives of Chinese restaurants. There is surprisingly little criticism of the manner in which these restaurants are conducted. The managers appear to keep a close watch upon their patrons and to be successful in preventing immoral solicitation and the use of intoxicating liquor.

The Board has issued 2,334 licenses for common victualers.

POOL AND BILLIARD LICENSES.

There have been many applications for new pool and billiard room licenses, and several large new billiard rooms have been opened. The complaints which the Board receives are mostly confined to the smaller rooms where perhaps there is more opportunity for secrecy than in the larger rooms. As a whole, there have been fewer charges of gambling in these rooms than in former years. The bowling alleys appear to be well conducted and provide a means of wholesome sport during the cooler months. The Board has issued 403 licenses for pool and billiard rooms and bowling alleys.

FIREARM LICENSES.

During the past year the Board has issued 72 licenses for the sale of firearms under Chap. 485 of the Acts of 1922. Only one complaint has been received during the year.

LODGING HOUSE LICENSES.

The Board has issued 4,323 licenses of this kind during the past year. It has received a number of reports in regard to registers not being in proper legal form, and a few complaints in regard to immoral conduct being permitted on the premises. Failure to keep the register in proper form appears to be more often the result of ignorance or carelessness than intention to evade the law. We are still impressed by the practical success of the True Name Bill which has now been in effect since August 1918. We believe that this bill has brought about a higher standard of conduct in lodging houses and hotels and tends to prevent the letting or hiring of rooms for immoral purposes.

MERRY-GO-ROUNDS.

A considerable number of licenses for merry-go-rounds and Ferris wheels were sought, especially in connection with carnivals. During the early part of the year the Board issued such licenses to church organizations and associations of veterans of the World War, but after a while complaints came in of misconduct of various kinds at these carnivals, and after a conference at the office of the Mayor of the City of Boston at which the Mayor, Police Commissioner and the Board were represented, it was decided that no further licenses for merry-go-rounds and Ferris wheels to be used in connection with carnivals would be issued. The Board hesitated to deprive worthy organizations of a source of income but felt that the welfare of the community was the controlling object.

DANCING LICENSES.

The Board has continued to grant permits for dancing to such hotels and restaurants as it deemed suitable. Police reports upon the conduct of the various places to which permits have been issued are received, and reports from the Board's investigator. These reports have been on the whole very favorable.

GENERAL MATTERS.

Probably the most interesting subject to the general public of the various matters that come before the Board is the illegal sale of intoxicating liquor by its licensees. More than half of the hearings of the Board are upon complaints for the sale or exposure for sale of intoxicating liquors in licensed places, or upon the applications for licenses where the applicants' alleged connection with illegal liquor traffic has a bearing on the granting of the application.

Prohibitory laws have now been in effect four years, and while the arrests for drunkenness in Boston show an increase, they are less than before prohibition. The Board feels justified in saying that the increase in the number of arrests is not due to sales in licensed places. The Board in conjunction with the Police Depart-

ment has diminished sales in places under its jurisdiction, and those licensees who now violate the law do so in such a devious and surreptitious manner as to make detection difficult. Inspections are made by the police, and where the facts justify, searches are made under warrants issued by a municipal court. It is now unusual to find any large amount of liquor upon the premises searched. It is more often carried by employees in small quantities upon their persons and sold only to customers known to them, or is furnished to persons who are known to the management by some arrangement with bootleggers. When liquor is found it is generally diluted alcohol sometimes colored to imitate whiskey. Where this alcohol comes from is hard to determine, but from the evidence presented it would seem that a large part of it is now produced by redistilling medicated or denatured alcohol. The Board is informed that the use of this kind of liquor is very dangerous, that its use in any quantity produces serious and often fatal results, and it may well be that the increasing number of arrests for drunkenness, as many contend, is in no small part due to the character of the liquor. The Board hopes by constant effort and the elimination of those who have been proved to be unworthy of holding a license, to reduce the sale or keeping for sale of intoxicating liquors in licensed places to a negligible amount.

The members of the Board have worked together in harmony throughout the year. The Board has had willing and efficient cooperation on the part of the Police Department and the Board of Health of the City. We desire finally to express our sincere thanks to our secretary and clerks for their faithful work during the year.

FLETCHER RANNEY,
JOSIAH S. DEAN,
DAVID T. MONTAGUE,

Licensing Board for the City of Boston.

APPENDIX.

COMPLAINTS.

KIND OF LICENSE.	Number of Licenses.	Action taken.
Third-class druggist	2	Granted after hearing.
Third-class druggist	1	Rejected after hearing.
Third-class druggist	1	Suspended 7 days.
Third-class druggist	5	Placed on file.
Third-class druggist	2	Miscellaneous.
Innholders	2	Revoked.
Innholders	1	Revoked (sentence suspended).
Innholders	1	Suspended (sentence suspended).
Innholders	1	Suspended 3 days.
Innholders	1	Restrictions imposed.
Innholders	9	Placed on file.
Innholders	1	Rejected after hearing.
Innholders	3	Miscellaneous.
Common victualers	53	Revoked.
Common victualers	7	Revoked (sentence suspended).
Common victualers	4	Sentence suspended.
Common victualers	1	Suspended 1 day.
Common victualers	2	Suspended 2 days.
Common victualers	10	Suspended 3 days.
Common victualers	20	Suspended 7 days.
Common victualers	2	Suspended 10 days.
Common victualers	10	Suspended 2 weeks.
Common victualers	1	Suspended 1 month.
Common victualers	4	Suspended (complaint of Board of Health).

4	Common victualers	4	Restrictions imposed.
Common victualers	3	Suspended indefinitely.	
Common victualers	4	Suspended balance of year.	
Common victualers	40	Placed on file.	
Common victualers	59	Granted after hearing.	
Common victualers	35	Rejected after hearing.	
Common victualers	26	Miscellaneous.	
Fruit etc.	37	Revoked.	
Fruit etc.	10	Revoked (sentence suspended).	
Fruit etc.	2	Suspended 1 day.	
Fruit etc.	2	Suspended 3 days.	
Fruit etc.	1	Suspended 4 days.	
Fruit etc.	8	Suspended 7 days.	
Fruit etc.	15	Suspended 2 weeks.	
Fruit etc.	1	Suspended 3 weeks.	
Fruit etc.	9	Suspended 1 month.	
Fruit etc.	5	Suspended balance of license year.	
Fruit etc.	1	Suspended (sentence suspended).	
Fruit etc.	3	Sentence suspended.	
Fruit etc.	12	Placed on file.	
Fruit etc.	29	Granted after hearing.	
Fruit etc.	13	Rejected after hearing.	
Fruit etc.	2	Miscellaneous.	
Billiard & Pool	6	Revoked.	
Billiard & Pool	1	Suspended 3 days.	
Billiard & Pool	7	Suspended 7 days.	
Billiard & Pool	1	Suspended 2 weeks.	
Billiard & Pool	1	Suspended 1 month.	
Billiard & Pool	6	Placed on file.	
Billiard & Pool	14	Granted after hearing.	
Billiard & Pool	10	Rejected after hearing.	
Billiard & Pool	7	Miscellaneous.	
Lodging houses	13	Revoked.	
Lodging houses	3	Revoked (sentence suspended).	
Lodging houses	2	Suspended 7 days.	
Lodging houses	1	Suspended 2 weeks.	
Lodging houses	2	Suspended (sentence suspended).	
Lodging houses	4	Sentence suspended.	
Lodging houses	11	Restrictions imposed.	
Lodging houses	32	Placed on file.	
Lodging houses	5	Granted after hearing.	
Lodging houses	7	Rejected after hearing.	
Lodging houses	14	Miscellaneous.	
Soft drinks	92	Revoked.	
Soft drinks	14	Revoked (sentence suspended).	
Soft drinks	4	Suspended 2 days.	
Soft drinks	1	Suspended 3 days.	
Soft drinks	29	Suspended 7 days.	
Soft drinks	1	Suspended 10 days.	
Soft drinks	27	Suspended 2 weeks.	
Soft drinks	1	Suspended 3 weeks.	
Soft drinks	21	Suspended 1 month.	
Soft drinks	2	Suspended 2 months.	
Soft drinks	8	Suspended balance of license year.	
Soft drinks	1	Suspended (sentence suspended).	
Soft drinks	8	Sentence suspended.	
Soft drinks	30	Placed on file.	
Soft drinks	33	Granted after hearing.	
Soft drinks	43	Rejected after hearing.	
Soft drinks	14	Miscellaneous.	
Intelligence offices	1	Granted after hearing.	
Intelligence offices	3	Rejected after hearing.	
Firearms	1	Placed on file.	
Merry-Go-Rounds etc.	2	Granted after hearing.	
Miscellaneous hearings	2		

LIQUOR.

The following is a classified list of the licenses in force Nov. 30, 1923:—

- Fourth-class dealer, 5.
- Fourth-class druggist, 5.
- Fifth-class licenses, 2.
- Third-class druggist, 203.

Number of Licenses issued and Amount paid into the Treasury from Dec. 1, 1922, to Dec. 1, 1923.

5 fourth-class dealers, at \$300	\$1,500 00
5 fourth-class druggists, at \$300 ¹	1,500 00
229 third-class druggists, at \$1	229 00
2 fifth-class alcohol, at \$1	2 00
Total	\$3,231 00

MISCELLANEOUS LICENSES.

TABLE 1.—COMMON VICTUALERS AND INNOLDERS.

<i>Common Victualers.</i>	
Applications granted	2,334
Places licensed	1,848
Canceled:	
Surrendered, 349	
For nonpayment, 84	433
Rejected	152
Revoked	53
Transferred	53
Withdrawn	7
Suspended	57
Fees collected ^{2, 3}	\$11,260 00

Of the licenses granted, 4 were for lunch carts, 2 of which are in actual operation.

Innholders.

Applications granted	79
Places licensed	71
Canceled:	
Surrendered	6
Rejected	1
Revoked	2
Suspended	1
Fees collected ⁴	\$400 00

The fee established by the Board is \$5.

TABLE 2.—BILLIARD, POOL AND SIPPIC TABLES AND BOWLING ALLEYS.

Applications granted	360
Clubs	43
	403
Places licensed	298
Places licensed (club)	41
Canceled:	
Surrendered, 31	
For nonpayment, 10	41
Rejected	11
Revoked	6
Transfers rejected	2

¹ One license unpaid.

² 2 unpaid licenses, 1922, accounted for.

³ 1 unpaid license, 1923.

⁴ Includes duplicate payment innholder.

Transferred	10
Withdrawn	29
Suspended	10
Additional ¹	17

Number of Tables and Alleys.

Billiards	400
Pool	1,511
Bowling alleys	673
Canceled for nonpayment ²	63

10 licenses for 63 tables and alleys.

Fees collected \$12,645 00

The fee established by the Board is \$5 for each table and alley.

TABLE 3. — INTELLIGENCE OFFICES.

Applications granted	145
Places licensed ³	128
Canceled:	
For nonpayment ⁴	6
Rejected	3
Transferred	14
Fees collected	\$7,180 00

Of the applications granted —

58 were first class, \$4,350.00	
Less 1 canceled for nonpayment, \$75.00	\$4,275 00
87 were second class, \$3,045.00	
Less 4 canceled for nonpayment, \$140.00	2,905 00
	\$7,180 00

The fee established by the Board is \$75 for a first-class license and \$35 for a second-class license.

TABLE 4. — PICNIC GROVES.

Applications granted	2
Places licensed	2
Fees collected	\$10 00

The fee established by the Board is \$5.

TABLE 5. — ICE CREAM, CONFECTIONERY, SODA WATER OR FRUIT.

Applications granted	2,429
Places licensed	2,036
Canceled:	
Surrendered, 279	
For nonpayment, 77	356
Rejected	124
Transferred	61
Transfers rejected	2
Withdrawn	89
Revoked	37
Suspended	43
Unpaid	1
Fees collected	\$11,755 00

The fee established by the Board is \$5.

TABLE 6. — LODGING HOUSES.

Applications granted	4,323
Places licensed	3,672

¹ 2 additional licenses granted to clubs.
² Includes unpaid licenses of Dec. 1, 1922.

³ 12 licensed places hold two classes of licenses.
⁴ Includes unpaid license of Dec. 1, 1922.

P.D. 74.

Canceled:

Surrendered, 553	
For nonpayment, 85	638
Rejected	28
Revoked	13
Transferred	155
Withdrawn	10
Suspended	3
Fees collected, ^{1,2}	\$8,490 00

The fee established by the city, \$2; ordinance went into effect May 1, 1922.

TABLE 7. — MERRY-GO-ROUND, HOOP-LA, ETC.

Applications granted ³	17
Places licensed	13
Rejected	2
Fees collected	\$257 00

The fee established by the Board is \$1 for each class for each day licensed.

TABLE 8. — RETAIL VENDOR OF SOFT DRINKS.

Applications granted	2,742
Places licensed	2,324
Canceled:	
Surrendered, 246	
For nonpayment, 76	322
Rejected	156
Suspended	96
Revoked	92
Transfers granted	57
Transfers rejected	2
Withdrawn	122
Unpaid	1
Paid twice	2
Fees collected ⁴	\$2,668 00

The fee is established by law, not to exceed \$1; established by Board, \$1.

TABLE 9. — FIREARMS.

Applications granted	72
Places licensed	72
Transferred	4
Fees collected	\$360 00

The fee established by the Board is \$5.

The fee for the books, required by law, is 60 cents each.

TABLE 10. — MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS.

Recording fees	\$241 00
Total amount received and paid into the treasury on account of miscellaneous licenses and receipts	\$55,266 00

¹ 2 unpaid licenses, 1922, accounted for.

² 5 duplicate licenses paid.

³ 4 applications granted for extension of time on licenses previously issued.

⁴ Includes \$1 on unpaid license of Dec. 1, 1922.

TABLE 11. — HOLDERS OF LICENSES ARRANGED ACCORDING TO NATIVITY.

	Lodging Houses.	Common Victualers.	Inn-holders.	Retail Vendors of Soft Drinks.	Fruit, Ice Cream, etc.	Firearms.
Albanian	4	11	—	51	46	—
American	2,178	1,002	79	746	689	25
Arabian	—	2	—	—	—	—
Armenian	19	42	—	139	155	—
Assyrian	132	42	—	99	109	—
Austrian	14	23	—	13	16	1
Belgian	7	—	—	2	1	—
Canadian	619	68	2	41	53	—
Chinese	—	40	—	2	1	—
Danish	7	2	—	—	—	—
Dutch	6	—	—	1	—	—
English	184	30	2	51	34	2
Finlander	4	—	—	—	—	—
French	74	15	4	7	5	—
German	41	36	—	24	13	—
Greek	44	375	—	233	215	—
Hebrew	—	—	—	153	39	—
Hungarian	2	3	—	2	2	—
Irish	630	142	9	249	158	—
Italian	29	254	8	551	598	6
Japanese	2	3	—	—	—	—
Lithuanian	3	13	—	37	24	1
Lettish	1	—	—	—	—	—
Norwegian	10	2	—	1	1	—
Polish	35	24	—	43	29	1
Porto Rican	—	1	—	—	—	—
Portuguese	24	14	—	9	6	—
Roumanian	—	5	—	2	2	—
Russian	83	322	5	422	451	41
Scotch	68	4	—	9	8	1
Serbian	—	1	—	—	—	—
Spanish	4	11	—	1	1	—
Swedish	114	22	1	4	3	—
Swiss	4	1	1	—	—	—
Turkish	5	8	—	5	5	—
Ukrainian	—	1	—	—	1	—
Welsh	1	—	—	—	—	—
West Indian	9	—	—	2	2	—
Total	4,357	2,519	111	2,899	2,667	78

EXPENDITURES FROM DEC. 1, 1922, TO DEC. 1, 1923.

Personal Service.

Permanent employees \$26,983 15

Services Other than Personal.

Printing and binding 73 20
 Light 642 12
 Rent 4,500 00
 Communication 205 90
 Cleaning 11 76
 Fees 2,075 30
 General plant repairs 49 60

Equipment.

Furniture 156 00
 Library 32 50

Supplies.

Office 1,590 82
 Food and ice 43 00

Total \$36,363 35