

**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE POLICE COMMISSIONER
FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON,
DECEMBER, 1906, NO. 49**

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First Annual Report of the Police Commissioner for the City of Boston, December, 1906, No. 49
by Various

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REPORT.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER, 29 FENNER SQUARE,
BOSTON, Dec. 1, 1906.

To His Excellency CURTIS GUILD, Jr., *Governor.*

YOUR EXCELLENCY: — As Police Commissioner for the city of Boston, I have the honor to present, in compliance with the provisions of chapter 291 of the Acts of 1906, a report of the work of the police department for the year ended Nov. 30, 1906.

Because of the changes made by chapter 291, a symmetrical report for the year is not possible. Under the provisions of that chapter, the authority of the former Board of Police ended June 1, in so far as it had controlled licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors and for the keeping or the use of intelligence offices, bowling alleys, picnic groves, skating rinks and billiard tables. On the first Monday in June, the fourth day of the month, the Board ceased to control the police department, which was then taken over by the present commissioner.

Later, under authority of chapter 291, and on his appointment by the mayor of Boston, John M. Minton, Esq., the chairman of the Board of Election Commissioners, together with the Police Commissioner, became the Listing Board, charged with the duty of listing the male residents of Boston twenty or more years of age. But while in office, the former Board of Police had for six months attended to the license matters afterwards entrusted to the Licensing Board, and had carried on for two months the work of listing. This report will therefore cover for the entire twelve months the work of the police department as such, and the operations connected with the listing of male residents; but, as the authority vested in the Licensing Board is now wholly

removed from the police department, and as the records are no longer in its possession, it has been agreed between the Licensing Board and the Police Commissioner that the Board shall report fully for the whole year upon the subjects now under its control. Necessary exceptions will be the inclusion in this report of certain receipts and expenses, and the records of work done by the police department in aiding the Licensing Board.

RELATIONS WITH THE LICENSING BOARD.

By careful and harmonious action on the part of the Licensing Board and the Police Commissioner, the division of the business was made without interruption to its progress. The Licensing Board was accommodated with offices in the police headquarters building, as provided by law. All the clerks of the Licensing Board were taken from among the clerks already employed by the police department, and those remaining were found to be sufficient for police purposes; so that the whole transaction, involving, as it did, the setting up of a new department, was carried through without the discharge or the employment of even one clerk.

The relations of the Licensing Board and the Police Commissioner are so close that neither law nor official courtesy, nor both together, could alone guarantee the thorough performance of their joint duties. They require, in addition, singleness of purpose in carrying out the laws, and cordiality in personal relations, both of which, I am happy to be able to say, have always existed. Though the police department neither issues nor revokes the licenses placed by law under the control of the Licensing Board, yet the police are necessarily, in all matters of detail, the eyes and the ears, the hands and the feet of the Board. At the time of the separation, the police were warned by the commissioner that their vigilance in discovering and reporting violations of laws affecting subjects transferred to the control of the Licensing Board was to be even greater than before; and I feel sure that they have done their full duty.

SECRETARY TO THE COMMISSIONER.

The act under which the office of Police Commissioner was established made it compulsory upon him to appoint a secretary, at an annual salary of \$3,000, for a term of five years. The act, on the other hand, left it optional with him to expend for legal services in any one year a sum not exceeding \$3,500. It seemed to the commissioner that by securing a lawyer for secretary he might reserve the special allowance for legal emergencies. He therefore appointed Leo A. Rogers, Esq., who for six months has performed to the commissioner's perfect satisfaction all the duties of secretary, and in addition has taken care of a large volume of legal matters. It has not been necessary to draw upon the special allowance, but, as important questions calling for the services of senior counsel may arise at any time, it is a wise provision of the law.

ATTITUDE OF THE POLICE FORCE.

The first efforts of the Police Commissioner were directed to the task of convincing the members of the admirable police force over which he took control that they were to be absolutely free from outside interference; that the commissioner himself in coming into the department had no entanglements and no obligations, — that his duty was to the law alone; and that they, in turn, were to look only to their department superiors for rewards and punishments. The commissioner now has faith to believe that the members of the force are convinced that only their own conduct will count for or against them; that they may do and must do their full duty fearlessly; and that there are no hidden ambushes, from which, for doing that duty, they can be attacked and injured. In six months of watchfulness the commissioner has discovered no evidence of that corruption which is the curse of the police departments of some other large cities. Doubtless there may be some bad spots in a force of more than twelve hundred men, exposed to many temptations; but superior officers, in whom I have full confidence, have been unable to find them, and no person bring-