

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER FOR THE CITY  
OF BOSTON FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1922.  
NO. 49**

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November 30, 1922. No. 49 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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30, 1922. NO. 49**



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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

POLICE COMMISSIONER

FOR THE

CITY OF BOSTON

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1922



BOSTON

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## In Memoriam.

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Hon. Edwin Upton Curtis, Police Commissioner for the city of Boston, died at his home, 131 Bay State Road, at 2.30 p.m., March 28, 1922, of valvular heart trouble.

Mr. Curtis was born in Roxbury, Mass., March 26, 1861. Receiving his early education in the Roxbury grammar and Latin schools and also in a private school at Farmington, Me., he entered Bowdoin College in the fall of 1878, graduating in the class of 1882 with the degree of A.B. In 1885 he received the degree of A.M., and in 1914 the degree of LL.D. from the same college. From 1897 to 1912 he served as overseer of the college, and as trustee of the college from 1912 until his death.

Mr. Curtis was admitted to the Suffolk Bar in 1885, and formed a law partnership with William Gardner Reed under the firm name of Reed & Curtis.

He early took an interest in politics and became Secretary of the Republican City Committee in 1888. In 1889 he became city clerk of Boston, and held that position two years, after which he resumed the profession of law and built up a large practice. In 1894 he received the Republican nomination for mayor and was elected by a plurality of more than 2,500.

In 1896 he became a member of the Metropolitan Park Commission and served in that office until Oct. 1, 1897, when he resigned to become the Republican candidate for mayor. He was reappointed a member of the Metropolitan Park Commission on May 26, 1898, and served in that office continuously under successive reappointments until his appointment as Police Commissioner. In 1906 he was appointed Assistant United States Treasurer in Boston, and held that office until 1909, when he became collector of the Port of Boston, which position he occupied for four years. He was elected and served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1918 and 1919.

On the death of Police Commissioner Stephen O'Meara, Mr. Curtis was appointed to that office by Governor McCall, and on Dec. 30, 1918, took the oath of office.



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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

# REPORT.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE POLICE COMMISSIONER, 29 PEMBERTON SQUARE,  
BOSTON, Dec. 1, 1922.

To His Excellency CHANNING H. COX, *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 the year 1906, a report of the Police Department for the year ending Nov. 30, 1922.

On March 28, 1922, the Police Department suffered a great loss in the sudden and unexpected death of the Hon. Edwin U. Curtis, Police Commissioner for the city of Boston. Despite great opposition and while not in the best of health, he pursued a course which he believed to be for the best interests of Boston, and produced a young, active and vigorous Police Department, the equal of any police force in any municipality in the United States. Untiring work in the building up of a practically new police force for the city of Boston gradually undermined his health, and after many years of valuable service to his city, State and country he was suddenly stricken when about to reap the reward of his labor.

On April 3, 1922, I assumed control of a Police Department which had then been raised to a high degree of efficiency through unsparing and unselfish sacrifice on the part of Mr. Curtis.

## RELATIVE TO THE LIQUOR PROBLEM.

The enforcement of the prohibition amendment to-day is of as great and vital importance as it was when the prohibition amendment went into effect three years ago. The action of the electorate of Massachusetts in the State election on November 7 in rejecting chapter 427 of the Acts of 1922, which was an act to carry into effect, so far as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts was concerned, the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, has a tendency to impede and hamper the effective enforcement by the Police Department of this prohibition amendment.

Under General Laws, chapter 138, section 75, a police officer may arrest without warrant "any person whom he finds in the act of illegally . . . transporting . . . intoxicating liquor." There is, however, no statute now defining the offense of illegally transporting intoxicating liquor, the existing provisions of law having been omitted when chapter 138 was enacted. If, therefore, those provisions as to transportation, as found in Revised Laws, chapter 100, and subsequent acts in addition and amendment thereto, are put back upon the statute books, with such changes as are necessary in view of the present situation, it will enable the police substantially to curtail the activities of the so-called "bootlegger."

To-day in Boston we find ourselves in an unfortunate situation, with numerous appeals from the district courts of convictions of violations of the liquor laws increasing the size of the docket of the Criminal Superior Court for Suffolk County, and the district attorney for that county practically forced to dispose of these cases by fines, although many of them are appeals from prison sentences of the lower court. Experience shows that trial by jury of these liquor appeal cases is not successful. Jail sentences are very rarely given in the State court for violations of the liquor law.

For the year ending Nov. 30, 1922, this Department made 359 prosecutions in the State court and 17 in the United States court for violations of the various drug laws, and for the same period, not including arrests for drunken-