

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT, NO. 41; FIFTH  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD  
OF PRISON COMMISSIONERS OF  
MASSACHUSETTS. FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1905**

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**VARIOUS**

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD  
OF PRISON COMMISSIONERS OF  
MASSACHUSETTS. FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1905**



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FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**BOARD OF PRISON COMMISSIONERS**  
OF  
**MASSACHUSETTS,**

INCLUDING THE REPORTS OF THE

WARDEN OF THE STATE PRISON,  
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS REFORMATORY, AND  
SUPERINTENDENT OF THE REFORMATORY PRISON FOR WOMEN.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1905.

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JANUARY, 1906.



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BOARD OF PRISON COMMISSIONERS,

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON.

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FREDERICK G. PETTIGROVE, *Chairman,*

MARGARET P. RUSSELL,

MARY V. O'CALLAGHAN,

HENRY PARKMAN,

ARTHUR H. WELLMAN,

*Commissioners.*

*Secretary,*

J. WARREN BAILEY,

*List of State and County Prisons.*

## STATE INSTITUTIONS.

NAME OF PRISON.	Location and P. O. Address.	Name and Title of Principal Officer.	Annual Salary.
State Prison, . . . . .	Boston; P. O., Charlestown.	Benjamin F. Bridges, Warden.	\$4,000 00
Massachusetts Reformatory, . . . . .	Concord; P. O., Concord Junction.	Charles S. Hart, Superintendent.	3,500 00
Reformatory Prison for Women, . . . . .	Sherborn; P. O., South Framlingham.	Mrs. Frances A. Morton, Superintendent.	2,000 00
State Farm, . . . . .	Bridgewater; P. O., State Farm.	Hollis M. Blackstone, Superintendent.	3,000 00
Temporary Industrial Camp for Prisoners.	Rutland; P. O., West Rutland.	William A. Witham, Superintendent.	1,800 00

## JAILS AND HOUSES OF CORRECTION.

COUNTY.	Location and P. O. Address.	Name of Keeper or Master.	Annual Salary.
Barnstable, . . . . .	Barnstable, . . . . .	George H. Cash, . . . . .	\$600 00
Berkshire, . . . . .	Pittsfield, . . . . .	John Nicholson, Sheriff, . . . . .	1,000 00
Bristol, . . . . .	New Bedford, . . . . .	J. Arthur Taylor, . . . . .	2,000 00
	Taunton,* . . . . .	I. Granville Carrier, . . . . .	900 00
Dukes County, . . . . .	Edgartown,* . . . . .	Eben D. Earle, . . . . .	200 00
Essex, . . . . .	Ipswich, † . . . . .	Howard G. Lane, . . . . .	1,200 00
	Lawrence, . . . . .	Charles A. Stillings, . . . . .	1,300 00
	Newburyport,* . . . . .	Charles L. Ayers, . . . . .	1,200 00
Franklin, . . . . .	Salem, . . . . .	Sam'l A. Johnson, Sheriff, . . . . .	1,000 00
	Greenfield, . . . . .	Charles S. Richardson, . . . . .	1,000 00
Hampden, . . . . .	Springfield, . . . . .	Embury F. Clark, Sheriff, . . . . .	1,000 00
Hampshire, . . . . .	Northampton, . . . . .	Jairus E. Clark, Sheriff, . . . . .	1,000 00
Middlesex, . . . . .	Cambridge; P. O., East Cambridge.	John E. Fairbairn, Sheriff, . . . . .	1,000 00
	Lowell,* . . . . .	Alvah S. Baker, . . . . .	1,500 00
Nantucket, . . . . .	Nantucket, . . . . .	Frederick F. Parker, . . . . .	50 00
Norfolk, . . . . .	Dedham, . . . . .	Samuel H. Capen, Sheriff, . . . . .	1,000 00
Plymouth, . . . . .	Plymouth, . . . . .	Henry S. Porter, Sheriff, . . . . .	1,000 00
	Boston; Charles Street,*	Fred H. Seavey, Sheriff, . . . . .	1,000 00
Suffolk, . . . . .	Boston; Deer Island, Boston Harbor. †	James R. Gerrish, . . . . .	2,500 00
	Fitchburg, . . . . .	B. D. Winnell, . . . . .	1,400 00
Worcester, . . . . .	Worcester, . . . . .	R. H. Chamberlain, Sheriff, . . . . .	1,000 00

NOTE.—Places marked with a \* are jails only; those marked with a † are houses of correction only. All others have a jail and house of correction combined. In every case the keeper or master is provided with a residence free of rent, and in a few instances the other living expenses are paid by the county.



## Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JANUARY, 1906.

*To the Honorable the Senate and the House of Representatives in General Court assembled:*

The fifth annual report of the Board of Prison Commissioners is respectfully submitted herewith. The details of this report cover the year beginning Oct. 1, 1904, and ending Sept. 30, 1905. In the various parts of the report there will be found itemized information concerning the condition of the prisons, commitments, sentences, etc., with the required statistics as to arrests, probation and criminal prosecutions, together with a general account of the industries.

The whole number of sentences to all prisons was 28,545; this is 1,149 less than last year, and but 1,079 more than the number in the census year of 1895. The population of the State has grown about 20 per cent. in ten years, but the prison statistics show a diminution in the total commitments for crimes against the person, only a slight increase for crimes against property, and if the offence of drunkenness were omitted there would also be a large reduction in the number for crimes against public order. In 1895 there were 1,936 commitments for crimes against the person; in 1905 there were only 1,402. For crimes against property in 1895 there were 3,045 persons committed, and in 1905 there were 3,149, — an increase of 104 only. For crimes against public order, exclusive of the commitments for drunkenness, there was a large reduction; the whole number of commitments in 1895 for all crimes of this class, excepting drunkenness, was 4,112, and in 1905 the number of such commitments was only 3,346.

The prison population on Sept. 30, 1905, was 6,415; this is smaller by 475 than last year and 1,213 less than were held in custody ten years ago. The State Prison had a larger number of inmates than in 1895, but the Massachusetts Reformatory had 159 less, and the Reformatory Prison for Women, 147 less. The other places, including the State Farm and county prisons, had 1,050 less than in 1895.

*State Prison.*

The number of prisoners in the State Prison on September 30 was 843, being 29 less than at the close of the preceding year. The population still exceeds the number of single cells, but it has not been necessary to keep a number of prisoners in a dormitory, because the large rooms in the separate imprisonment building can readily accommodate two prisoners. By the exercise of care in the assignment of the prisoners who are to occupy the large cells together, the warden has avoided any annoyance or disturbance of discipline on that account.

It was found necessary last summer to strengthen the chapel floor, because an examination by experts disclosed a defect that might develop into a serious weakness if not immediately remedied. The small expense of this work was paid out of the general appropriation.

As far as the statutes will permit, and the limited facilities of the prison will allow, the prisoners have been well employed; and the industries are in good financial condition. Within a short time repairs will be needed on the shop buildings, and it is suggested that authority may be granted to use part of the industries fund for that purpose, and for making the special repairs on the houses as recommended by the warden.

Six prisoners have been sentenced to the State Prison for the third time during the year, but none of them were indicted and sentenced under the habitual criminal act. During the year, 4 prisoners held as habitual criminals have been released by the Governor and Council, and there now remain in custody 9 such prisoners, who have served severally from one year and a half to fifteen years.

Under an act passed in 1894 and amended in 1895, the commissioners have power to release by unanimous vote of all the members of the Board a prisoner who has served two-thirds of his sentence as shortened by deductions for good conduct. This applies only to prisoners sentenced for crimes committed prior to Jan. 1, 1896, when the maximum and minimum law took effect and established other conditions for the release. During the year 10 prisoners have been released by virtue of the parole law, which is now contained in section 114 of chapter 225 of the Revised Laws. There are left in the prison only a few prisoners who are subject to the terms of

this law, and some of them, having long sentences, will not become eligible for several years.

Ever since the establishment of the State Prison, the physician and surgeon there has received but a nominal salary, as he has always continued in private practice. The rules have never required his constant attendance, but only that, in addition to the daily visit named by the statutes, he should respond immediately to any special call from the prison. There has never been any legislation proposed to change this condition; but a literal reading of the Revised Laws would bring a physician hereafter appointed under the general prohibition against outside business for officers appointed by the warden. This restriction does not apply to the present physician because he holds his office under the old law. But it will be impossible to secure the services of a competent physician in case of a vacancy unless this restriction is removed or the salary is largely increased. It is recommended that section 17 of chapter 223 of the Revised Laws be amended by excepting the physician and surgeon from its provisions.

*Massachusetts Reformatory.*

At the Massachusetts Reformatory on Sept. 30, 1905, there were 852 prisoners, a reduction of 102 as compared with the preceding year. The buildings give sufficient accommodation for a much larger number of prisoners than are now at the place, and the cell-house and all administration departments are in good condition. Some repairs have been made on the wall this year, but no other special expenditures are required on the prison proper at the present time. The superintendent suggests that the means for the disposal of the sewage could be greatly improved by the addition of extra pumps and other appliances, at an estimated cost of \$5,500; and it is recommended that this sum be granted for that purpose. His recommendation for the installation of electric light fixtures in the houses occupied by the subordinate officers is also approved; it is not proposed that the electric light shall be supplied at the expense of the State, but that each tenant shall purchase the light from an outside plant.

The trade schools have become an exceedingly valuable part of the reformatory work, and the law in reference to making goods for public use has made it possible to derive a small income from the work of these schools as a partial offset to the expense of maintain-