SECOND ANNUAL MESSAGE OF CHARLES F.
WARWICK WITH ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE
DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
SAFETY
AND CHIEF OF THE ELECTRICAL BUREAU FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1896. ISSUED
BY THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, 1897

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649520633

Second Annual Message of Charles F. Warwick with Annual Reports of the Director of the Department of Public Safety and Chief of the Electrical Bureau for the Year Ending December 31, 1896. Issued by the City of Philadelphia, 1897 by Various

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SECOND ANNUAL MESSAGE

CHARLES F. WARWICK

Mayor of the City of Philadelphia

WITE

ANNUAL REPORTS:

DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

PUBLIC SAFETY

AND

CHIEF OF THE **ELECTRICAL BUREAU**

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1896. ISSUED BY THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, 1897.

PHILADELPHIA:

DUNLAP PRINTING CO., 1306-8-10 FILBERT STREET

Compliments of R. Usiket.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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SECOND

ANNUAL MESSAGE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, CITY HALL,

Philadelphia, April 5, 1897.

To the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia.

Gentlemen:—In accordance with the provisions of the Act of Assembly of June 1, 1885, I herewith transmit to your Honorable Bodies this, my Second Annual Message, upon the financial and general conditions of the Municipality. I also send the annual reports of the Directors of the Departments of Public Safety and Public Works, and of the President of the Department of Charities and Correction for the year 1896.

FINANCE.

The City Controller's report shows that the total receipts from all sources for the year 1896 were \$27,965,890.26; and that there has been credited a proportion of the moneys due by the State for Personal Property Tax and Schools, in accordance with a resolution of Councils dated January 22, 1897, amounting to \$1,459,569.03 making a total of \$29,425,459.29. The total expenditures were \$29,228,617.82 showing an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$196,841.47.

This is an improvement over the condition of affairs as shown by the report made in 1896 for the year 1895, in which year there was an excess of expenditures over receipts.

The net funded debt of the City for the year 1896 is about the same as it was for the year 1895; the report of the Controller for 1896 shows that there is but a slight increase of about \$240,000.

The real estate owned by the City of Philadelphia as appraised by the Board of Revision of Taxes for the year 1897 shows an increase over the appraisement of January 1, 1896, of \$1,934,600.

The City's credit has been steadily maintained as has been shown during the last year in the sale of her bonds.

The question in relation to the capacity of the City to further borrow money under certain loans authorized by your Honorable Bodies is to be submitted to the Court at an early date for an opinion. It is to be hoped that this matter will reach a speedy termination as many improvements of a pressing and urgent nature are dependent upon a favorable opinion in this case.

Councils very properly passed ordinances providing for the creation of loans having in view the appropriation and expenditure of moneys for important public work, and until this money be made available many improvements will be delayed, and the progress of the City, in a great measure, held in check.

The City has continued to advance and her progress is very perceptible, but it will still require vast sums of money to bring about many improvements that are abso. lutely necessary and essential to her well being.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

The present Director of the Department of Public Safety took office on the seventeenth day of February, 1896. He has loyally and intelligently discharged the duties of his office.

Bureau of Police.

On the evening of April 29, 1896, a railway strike was ordered by the Board of Street Railway employees. Every precaution was taken for the preservation of order, and it was known that the authorities were fully prepared and equipped to enforce obedience to law and to maintain the public peace. Fortunately the excitement subsided and the peril passed away.

The police force is under complete disciptine, and toomuch commendation cannot be given to the officers and men for the faithful discharge of their duties.

In this connection let me say that it will be greatly tothe advantage of the City to further increase the number of patrolmen. There are some localities that do not receive sufficient police surveillance, and it requires constant and careful watching to provide ample protection. The increased traffic in the centre of the City necessitated the stationing of Reserve officers at street corners and crossings to protect the lives of pedestrians.

It will be seen that the Director in his report suggests that there should be an increase of about seven hundred patrolmen, which would be sufficient to meet every requirement, and would protect not only the crowded sections of the City, but the suburbs as well. Let me say, just here, that the Park Guards should be brought under the direction and control of the Department of Public Safety as provided for by law.

Philadelphia has a large area, and every foot of it if possible should be fully protected and amply guarded.

A most efficient arm of the service is the mounted squad. Not only is this body able to cover extensive beats in the rural sections, but it is of the greatest use in times of excitement and turbulence.

A matter of importance for the consideration of your Honorable Bodies is that provision should be made for the erection of more station houses and the improvement of many of those that now exist.

Bureau of Fire.

This Bureau is in a high state of efficiency, and the heroism so often displayed by the members of the force is worthy of special comment.

I must urge that appropriations be made providing in many instances better accommodations for the men and for the fire apparatus.

The case in which the question has been raised as to the right of the City to appropriate money to the Police and Firemen's Pension Funds has been argued in the Supreme Court, but the opinion has not yet been delivered. It is, however, most anxiously awaited, and, as I stated in my last message, it is to be hoped that the Courts may find some way that will allow the Municipality to make appropriations for the relief of those men who undergo such dangers and perform such heroic work. This is a matter in which the Municipality has a deep interest.

Even brave men will hesitate to assume a risk in the face of danger when they feel that in case of accident or death there is no provision made for them or their families, and surely these men who so often are compelled to imperil their lives in the preservation of the public peace or in the protection of property should, if possible, from simple motives of gratitude and humanity, be provided for in case they meet with injury.

During the last year three deaths of firemen occurred, resulting from injuries received in the actual performance of duty and 190 men sustained injuries.

Electrical Bureau.

The Electrical Bureau is one of the best equipped Bureaus of this character in this or in any other country.