

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS. SECOND ANNUAL  
REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF  
LABOR AND INDUSTRIES. JANUARY,  
1915, PUBLIC DOCUMENT, NO. 104**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649320820

The commonwealth of Massachusetts. Second annual report of the State Board of Labor and Industries. January, 1915, Public Document, No. 104 by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**VARIOUS**

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS. SECOND ANNUAL  
REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF  
LABOR AND INDUSTRIES. JANUARY,  
1915, PUBLIC DOCUMENT, NO. 104**



Public Document

No. 104

---

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

---

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE BOARD OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES.

---

JANUARY, 1915.



BOSTON:  
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,  
32 DERNE STREET.

1915.

STATE BOARD OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES.

---

ALFRED W. DONOVAN, *Chairman.*

JOHN F. TOBIN.

SELSKAR M. GUNN.

MARY H. DEWEY.

ALFRED H. QUESSY, M.D.

---

EDWIN MULREADY, *Commissioner of Labor.*

---

CORNELIUS J. CARMODY, *Deputy Commissioner (Labor).*

THOMAS F. HARRINGTON, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> *Deputy Commissioner (Health).*

<sup>1</sup> Appointed, May, 1915.

## CONTENTS.

REPORT OF STATE BOARD OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES:—	PAGE
Commissioner of Labor, . . . . .	7
Secretary, . . . . .	8
Homework, . . . . .	8
Medical and Surgical Chest, . . . . .	13
Customary and Prevailing Rate of Wages, . . . . .	14
Toilets and Washing Facilities, . . . . .	15
Toilets in Shoe Factories, . . . . .	16
Sanitary Notices, . . . . .	17
Employment of Women in Core Rooms, . . . . .	17
Exclusion of Minors from Dangerous Trades, . . . . .	17
Industrial Development, . . . . .	19
Legislative Recommendations, . . . . .	21
Conclusion, . . . . .	23
<b>REPORT OF COMMISSIONER OF LABOR:—</b>	
Enforcement of the Labor Laws, . . . . .	25
Inspection Work, . . . . .	26
Industrial Hygiene, . . . . .	28
Dust Removal, . . . . .	28
Fume Removal, . . . . .	28
Illumination, . . . . .	28
Humidity, . . . . .	29
Water Supplies, . . . . .	29
Casters on Boxes, . . . . .	30
Suction Shuttle Law, . . . . .	31
Homework Division, . . . . .	31
Extent of the Licensing System, . . . . .	32
Location of Homeworkers in the State, . . . . .	33
Location of Industries giving out Homework, . . . . .	34
(a) Shoe Ornaments, . . . . .	34
(b) Knit goods, . . . . .	34
(c) Pants, . . . . .	35
(d) Sewing and Crocheting, . . . . .	35
Responsibility of Mothers in the Family Group, . . . . .	35
Economic Status of the Family, . . . . .	36
Housing Conditions where the Workers live, . . . . .	37
Conditions of Living, . . . . .	38
Conditions of Workrooms, . . . . .	39
Nationality of Workers, . . . . .	39
Nationality and Ages of Members of the Family, . . . . .	39
Industrial Development, . . . . .	39
Conclusion, . . . . .	40
<b>APPENDICES:—</b>	
A. — Expenditures for the Year ending Nov. 30, 1914, . . . . .	43
B. — Estimate for Appropriations for the Year ending Nov. 30, 1915, . . . . .	44
C. — Number of Persons to whom Certificates were issued and the Number of Certificates issued under the Provisions of Acts of 1913, Chapter 779, from Dec. 31, 1913, to Dec. 31, 1914, inclusive, . . . . .	45
D. — Bills presented to the Legislature by the State Board of Labor and Industries, . . . . .	51

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.*

The State Board of Labor and Industries has the honor to submit herewith its second annual report.

Early in the year, for reasons which need not be stated in this report, a change was made in the personnel of the State Board of Labor and Industries, Mrs. Mary H. Dewey being the only member on the former Board to remain. The newly appointed Board, comprising the following: Alfred W. Donovan, chairman, John Golden, Mrs. Mary H. Dewey, Prof. Selskar M. Gunn and Dr. A. H. Quessey, assumed its duties on April 22, 1914. Mr. John Golden resigned Sept. 23, 1914, and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Mr. John F. Tobin on Dec. 16, 1914.

Because of the interruption of the different activities of the State Board of Labor and Industries, resulting from the appointment of a new Board in midyear, this report cannot be as complete or as satisfactory as it might have been if those having charge of the department had been in continuous service during the period covered by the report. In this connection attention is called to the report of the Commissioner of Labor attached hereto, which contains a detailed statement of the different activities of this department.

#### COMMISSIONER OF LABOR.

At the first meeting of the present Board Mr. Robert N. Turner, Commissioner of Labor, presented his resignation and the same was accepted. Prof. Selskar M. Gunn, a member of

the Board, was elected Acting Commissioner of Labor. Professor Gunn continued in this position until July 1, 1914, when the Board elected Edwin Mulready of Rockland as the Commissioner of Labor.

#### SECRETARY.

At the beginning of our work it was found that the former Board had created the office of secretary, and had fixed the salary for that position at \$2,500 per year. The law governing the duties of the Board was new, and made more difficult because many duties heretofore performed by other boards were transferred to this department. Many technical, legal questions were constantly arising. The duty of prosecuting cases in court obliged the former Board to employ an attorney, whose duties in court and outside increased so rapidly that his salary was very properly raised a number of times. On the other hand, the duties of a secretary were purely nominal. To take the minutes of the meetings of the Board was very little work, and recognizing this fact the incumbent of the office had taken on the duties of a chief clerk. It was felt that his salary was in excess of the amount that should be paid for work of this nature, and it was therefore decided to employ a counsel who might, in addition to his duties in court, attend meetings of the Board, take minutes of proceedings when required to do so, and assist by legal advice in matters under consideration. In consequence of this decision the office of secretary was abolished. The secretary, who was an appointee under civil service rules, denied the right of the Board to abolish his position, and when this action was taken he applied to the Supreme Court to protect him in his rights. The matter was heard by a master, who, after hearing the evidence, decided in favor of the Board, the court afterwards accepting the report of the master. The secretary and the gentleman acting as attorney were discharged and a counsel was secured.

#### HOMEWORK.

Enforcement of the laws by which the manufacture of wearing apparel in tenements or dwelling houses is regulated involves the granting of licenses to all workers; the maintenance

of a list of all such workers engaged by employers; continuous inspection of all such tenements or dwellings to see that they are kept clean; and the revocation of licenses for workers dwelling in tenements or dwellings where contagious or communicable diseases may appear.

Seven distinct processes are necessary to attain these ends: —

*First.* — The State Board of Labor and Industries must receive applications from any member of a family which desires to do such work.

*Second.* — The inspectors of the State Board of Labor and Industries must examine “every room and apartment in which garments or articles of wearing apparel are made, altered, repaired or finished, for the purpose of ascertaining whether said room or apartment or said garment or articles are clean and free from vermin and from infectious or contagious matter” before a license can be granted.

*Third.* — A license must be granted to the member of the family desiring the license.

*Fourth.* — The Board must require the employer to send each month to the Board a register of the names and addresses of all persons so employed.

*Fifth.* — Inspectors must investigate dwellings and tenements where licenses have been granted frequently enough to be assured that they are “kept in a cleanly condition.”

*Sixth.* — Inspectors must protect the public safety by revoking the license whenever infectious or contagious diseases shall appear as reported daily to the State Board of Labor and Industries by the local department of health.

*Seventh.* — Licenses must be re-issued, if desired, when such dangers to public safety shall have passed.

Contemplation of the problem of industrial homework has raised many queries and has developed many diverse theories as to its basis, as to its value, both social and economic, as to its validity, and as to the extent of regulation and restriction desirable. The following analysis of data secured by the State Board of Labor and Industries in the process of performing its function of inspection and regulation endeavors to answer the questions suggested above: —

Homework is defined, in “Industrial Homework in Massa-