

**THE FINANCE COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF BOSTON; REPORTS
AND COMMUNICATIONS,
VOLUME X**

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Boston (Mass .) Finance Commission

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BOSTON (MASS .) FINANCE COMMISSION

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THE FINANCE COMMISSION

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

VOLUME X.



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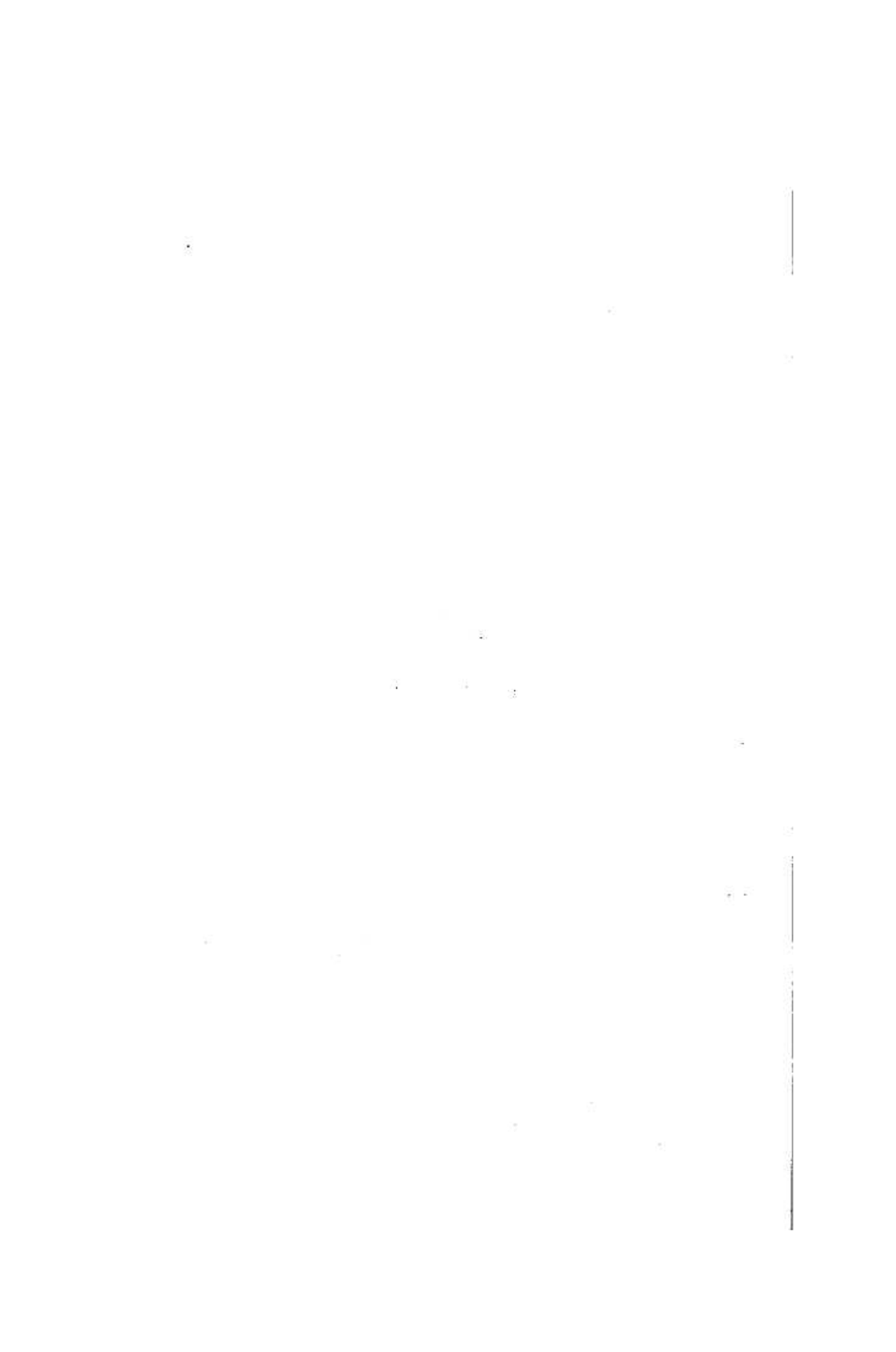
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PART I.

REPORT TO THE GENERAL COURT.

MAY 3 1915
Part of Finance Committee



Boston, January 26, 1915.

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

The finance commission submits herewith its report for the year 1914-15, as required by sec. 18, ch. 486, Acts of 1909.

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION.

The personnel of the commission has changed since the date of the last annual report. On February 3, 1914, the chairman of the commission, Mr. John A. Sullivan, was appointed by the present mayor to the position of corporation counsel and immediately tendered his resignation to the governor. He was succeeded as chairman on February 25, 1914, by Mr. John R. Murphy, to fill out Mr. Sullivan's unexpired term, and on June 24, 1914, Mr. Murphy was reappointed as chairman of the commission.

On June 23, 1914, Mr. Geoffrey B. Lehy, after five years of continuous service, resigned and was succeeded on September 26, 1914, for his unexpired term of one year, by Mr. James M. Morrison.

The commission wishes to record here its appreciation of the work done by both Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Lehy. The city of Boston has lost by their retirement the services of zealous and efficient men, devoted to the work of the commission and with absolute courage and integrity in the fulfillment of their duty. The citizens at large who have known the commission only through its published reports can hardly realize the large amount of work which these men did during their long service, or how intelligently they performed their part to solve the many difficult questions brought before the commission for solution.

On August 19, 1914, Mr. James P. Magenis sent his resignation to the governor to take effect upon the appointment of his successor. As no successor has been appointed, Mr. Magenis has continued his service.

The office force has remained unchanged since January, 1914, with the exception of a special investigator who resigned to take up work in New York. His place was filled on October 16, 1914, by another appointment.

2. APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURES.

The commission requested from the mayor and city council an appropriation of \$35,000 for the year 1914-15, but was allowed by the mayor only \$30,000, which appropriation was made mandatory by statute. This appropriation has been expended in the following manner:

Salaries, regular employees	\$18,341 57
Salaries, temporary employees	650 16
Fees of experts and special services	3,900 16
Rent	2,506 00
Printing and binding, including stock	840 17
Copy of testimony given before city council	13 65
Office supplies	623 91
Office equipment, including two new typewriters,	153 50
Electric light	61 80
Telephone	240 15
Postage	27 50
Messenger service	1 00
Constable, interpreter and witness fees	178 90
Traveling expenses of employees	9 40
Books, papers, maps, etc.	110 45
Miscellaneous	4 00
	<hr/>
Total	\$27,662 71
Balance	2,337 29
	<hr/>
	<u>\$30,000 00</u>

3. THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

During the past year the commission has been busy examining the land purchases and sales of the city, the land and buildings owned and not in use by the city, the

occupation of city-owned houses rent free by city employees; appointments of heads of departments and their subordinates; increases in salary in city and county departments, as well as new appointments to the various institutions of Suffolk county; the various questions relating to the administration of departmental work; the award of contracts and the allowances for extra work; the necessity and reasons for awarding contracts without advertising; the methods of purchasing supplies in Boston; the contracts for lighting the streets of Boston by gas and by electricity; overtime payments allowed to city employees; transfer of the quarantine service to the federal government; specifications for different contracts; introduction of the segregated budget into Boston; the standardization of salaries in Boston; the undesirability of establishing a central heating and power plant at Deer Island, and the laying out of certain streets in Boston; and the various legislative bills affecting the financial interests of the city of Boston or the county of Suffolk.

The commission has made a special study of the over-seeing of the poor department, its organization, its administration, and its efficiency as an agency of indigent relief.

The above work has called for numerous hearings with heads of departments, their subordinates, and with contractors doing city work.

During the last fiscal year the commission has held 70 meetings; there have been 210 hearings, and 362 witnesses on various subjects have been examined. The commission has published 47 reports or communications and has also submitted to various governmental officials or bodies 34 unpublished reports. The published reports are as follows:

- Jan. 23, 1914. The Mayor. Reply to his statement that the report of the commission stating that he had attempted to break down the system of approval of his major appointments by the Civil Service Commission was untrue.