

**PUBLIC DOCUMENT NO. 48:  
REPORT OF THE BOARD OF  
METROPOLITAN PARK  
COMMISSIONERS, DECEMBER,  
1914**

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**VARIOUS**

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DECEMBER, 1914**



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REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF METROPOLITAN PARK  
COMMISSIONERS.

DUPLICATE  
DISPOSED OF BY THE  
MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

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DECEMBER, 1914.



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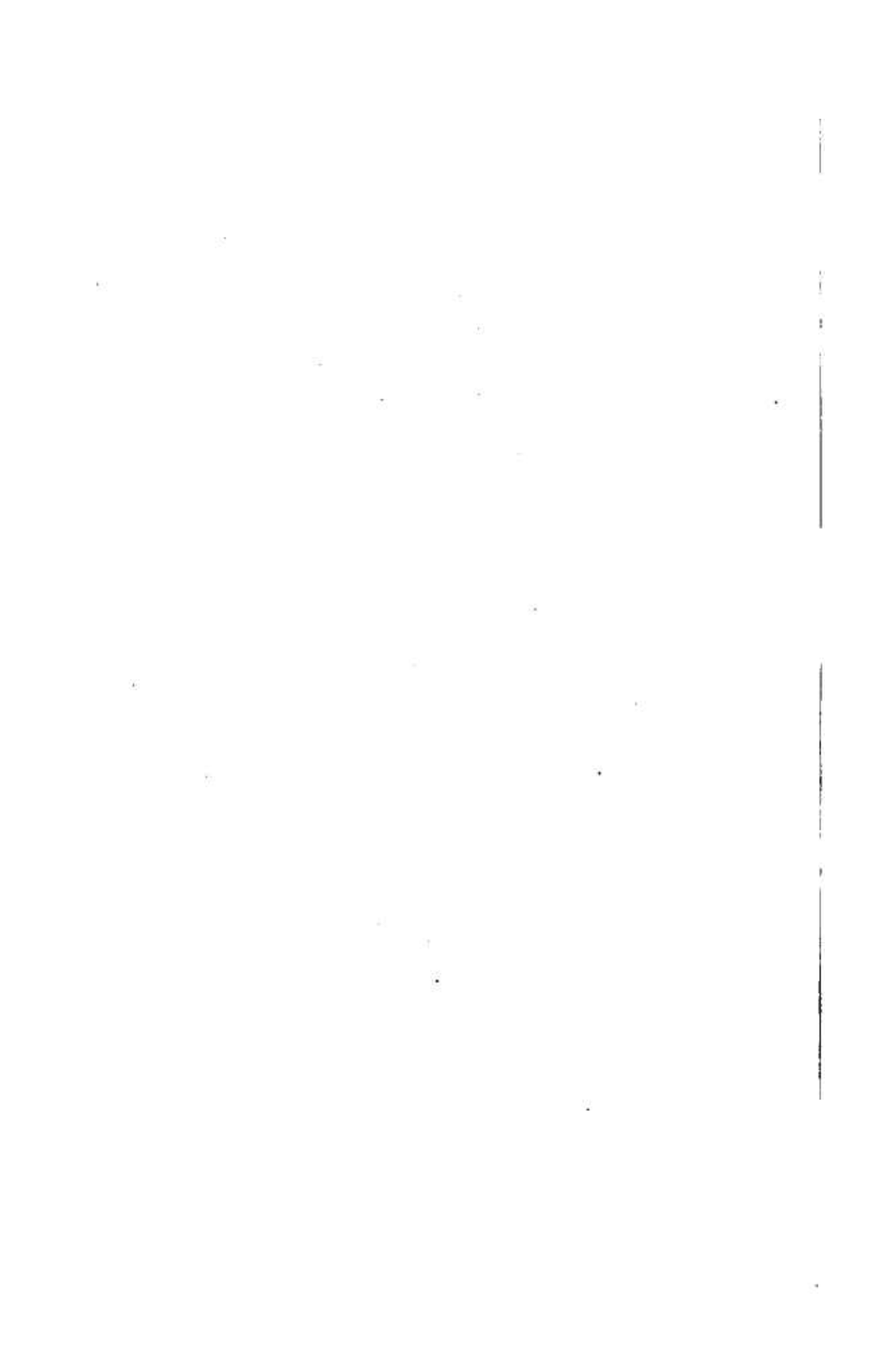
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APPROVED BY  
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

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## OFFICERS.

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### Commissioners.

WILLIAM B. DE LAS CASAS, *Chairman.*

EDWIN U. CURTIS.

EVERETT C. BENTON.

ELLERTON P. WHITNEY.

CHARLES J. BARTON.

### Secretary.

GEORGE LYMAN ROGERS.

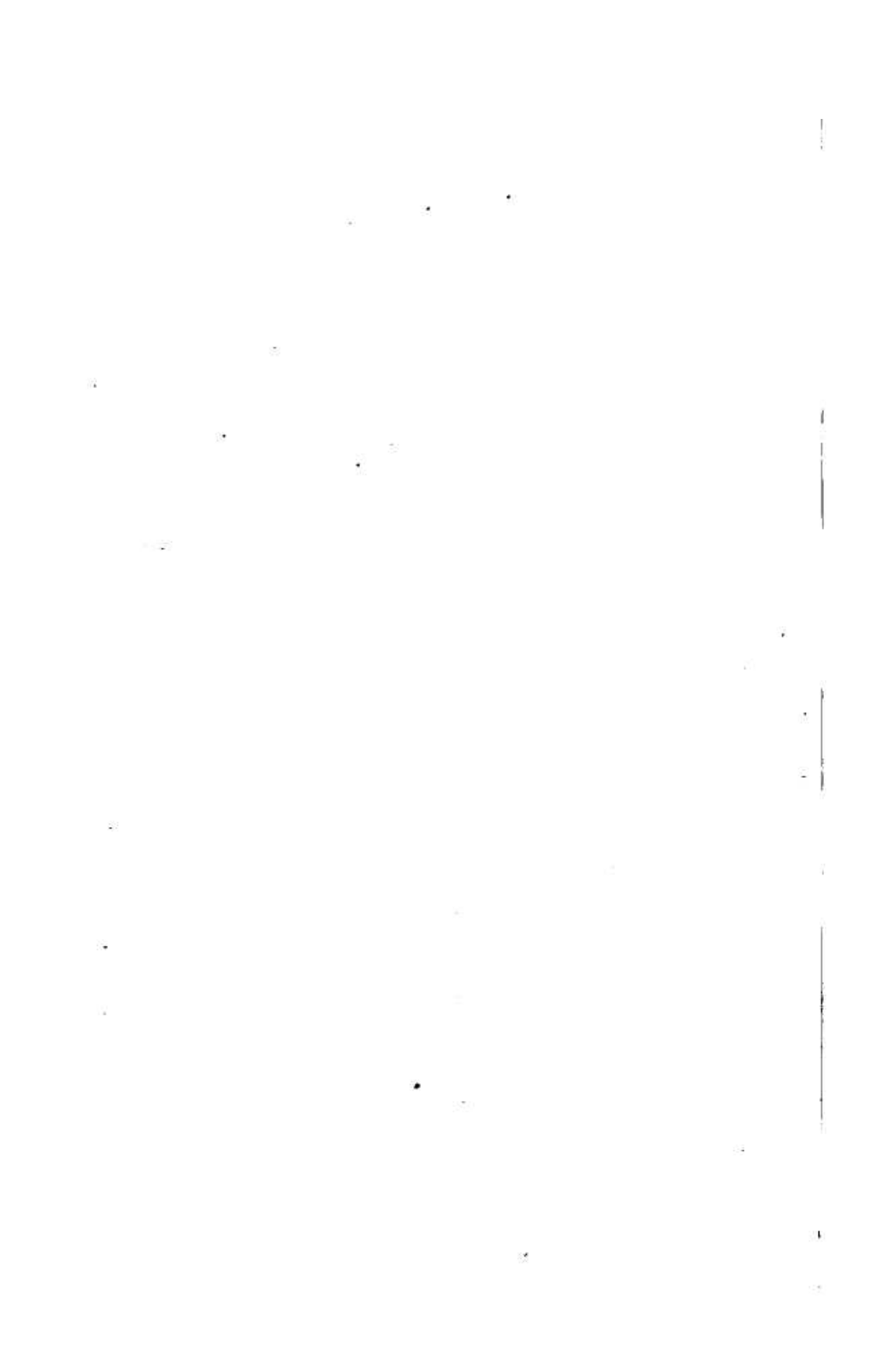
### Assistant Secretary.

WILLIAM H. GOWELL.

### Engineer.

JOHN R. RABLIN.

OFFICES, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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## REPORT.

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The Metropolitan Park Commission presents herewith its twenty-second annual report.

The most dramatic occurrence of the year 1914 has been the burning of Wellington Bridge on the fifth day of June, and the attendant and following circumstances. This might alone be the text of the principal part of this report.

When this Board was established in 1893, the report of the Preliminary Investigating Commission of 1892 was thought to be a sufficient compendium of the work and procedure to be entered upon. That report has proved a most remarkable one, and in no way more than that after twenty years it is still looked to as the authoritative outline of the Park System now so far advanced. It is no lessening of its value to say that it did not fully estimate the extent to which it would rouse public interest, or the rapidity with which that public interest would advance not only the acquirement of lands but their development, and would even turn to this Board as a convenient agency for the accomplishment of incidental public works, which could not be so easily accomplished by co-operative action of separate municipalities.

The preliminary report of 1892, while suggesting in general form the acquirement of the land desirable for a completed Metropolitan Park System, expressed the opinion that the land when acquired might be held for many years without much development or expense for maintenance. This Board has always regarded that suggestion as in effect one of the terms of its trust, and has endeavored to follow it as far as possible. The experience of each year, however, has demonstrated that public ownership had brought a responsibility and public