

**ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE WIRE DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1910-11**

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Annual Report of the Wire Department for the year 1910-11 by Various

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VARIOUS

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WIRE DEPARTMENT
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF WIRES,
11 WARREN STREET, BOSTON, February 1, 1911.

HON. JOHN F. FITZGERALD,
Mayor of the City of Boston:

SIR,— I herewith submit report showing the appropriation and expenditures of the Wire Department and the work performed from February 1, 1910, to January 31, 1911, inclusive.

The underground district for 1911 has been prescribed as provided for in chapter 347 of the Acts of 1908, same being Dorchester avenue from Romsey street to the further side of Peabody square. This seems to have been the logical location to select as it is a continuation of last year's district, which was Dorchester avenue from Fort Point channel to Romsey street, and because the number and condition of the poles and wires on Dorchester avenue are such as to demand prompt attention.

In past years the complete clearing of the prescribed underground districts of poles and overhead wires has each year been delayed from one cause and another into the following year, but this year the hearty co-operation of the various interests makes it possible to report the 1910 district as cleared.

The losses during the year from fires found by the department to have been due to electrical causes have been unusually small, the total insurance losses from such fires being but \$3,936.99.

It is worthy of special mention, and it is a pleasure to report, that the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, whose long distance wires and poles for the support of same were exempt from the requirements of the underground acts, but whose representative agreed in consultation with the Commissioner in 1908 to have all their poles and overhead wires in the various prescribed underground districts in this city removed within three years, have fulfilled their word to the letter within the time agreed upon.

I feel it again necessary to call attention to the fact that the department's valuable records are not properly protected and that a fireproof vault should be provided.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES E. COLE,
Commissioner of Wires.

EXTERIOR DIVISION.

The prescribed underground district for 1910 comprised that portion of Dorchester avenue between Fort Point channel and Romsey street, a total distance of ten thousand six hundred forty (10,640) feet, which distance exceeded by eighty (80) feet the two miles as authorized under chapter 249, Acts of 1898.

Lines of poles stood on each side of the avenue the entire length, one hundred eighty-five (185) poles in all, owned by the following companies: Twenty (20) by the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, ninety-eight (98) by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and sixty-seven (67) by the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, these figures not including the iron trolley poles of the Boston Elevated Railway Company, same being exempt.

Attached to these poles, and passing overhead on Dorchester avenue between Fort Point channel and Romsey street, there was approximately six hundred forty-eight thousand seven hundred seventy (648,770) feet of wire, or nearly one hundred twenty-three (123) miles, not including the trolley or span wire of the Boston Elevated Railway Company.

The above wires were owned by the following companies: Edison Electric Illuminating Company, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, West End Street Railway Company, Fire Alarm Branch (Boston Fire Department), Police Signal Service (Boston Police Department) and the Mutual District Messenger Company.

In order to provide distribution facilities from the underground conduits along the route of the 1910 district, it has been necessary to grant, as provided for in chapter 347, Acts of 1908, fifteen (15) terminal pole locations. Of these, three (3) were for the Edison Electric Illuminating Company, and twelve (12) were for the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company and were located as follows: Those for the Edison Electric Illuminating Company on Alger street near

Dorchester avenue, Crescent avenue near Dorchester avenue and on Damrell street near Dorchester avenue; those for the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company were on Bellflower street, Dexter avenue, Damrell street, Edison green, Grafton street, Harbor View street, Howell street, Leeds street, Locust street, Romsey street, Sudan street and West Sixth street, all near Dorchester avenue, one pole each and underground connections from the conduits on Dorchester avenue to the poles. In addition to the above terminal pole locations along this year's district, three were granted in other parts of the underground districts, as follows: One on Myrtle street southerly from Revere street, city proper (iron pole for New England Telephone and Telegraph Company); one on Woodcliff street near Blue Hill avenue, the underground district for 1909, and one on Bray street near Washington street, Roxbury, in the underground district for 1904, both of these being for the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company.

A number of other petitions from the two companies above mentioned were considered, hearings being given in accordance with the law, and the petitioners then given leave to withdraw, it not being deemed necessary or advisable to grant the locations requested.

The large number of new telephone installations and the changing over of existing installations to the new systems has necessitated a greatly increased number of inspections, there being this year some twenty-five hundred more inspections on this class of work than during the year previous.

In the selection of new pole locations by the various companies, our engineers have accompanied the engineers of the companies interested, as has been the custom for a number of years, and sketches of the proposed locations are kept on file in this office in catalogue form for comparison with plans filed when request is made to the Board of Street Commissioners for locations desired.

Aside from the number of poles set on the public streets and avenues, as recorded in the table printed elsewhere, a large number of poles have been set in private unaccepted streets and in the rear of lots, which are inspected and a record made of same.



PLATE NO. 2.—DORCHESTER AVENUE AT RAWSON STREET,
WITHOUT WIRES.

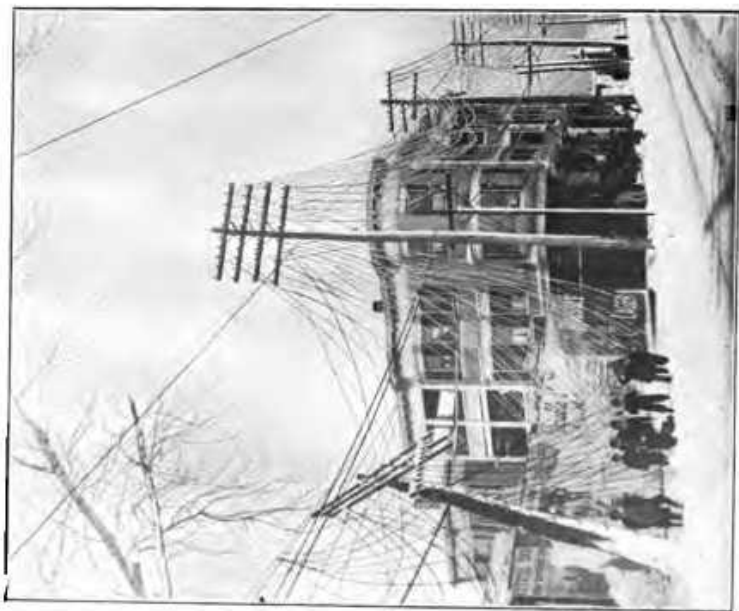


PLATE NO. 1.—DORCHESTER AVENUE AT RAWSON STREET,
WITH WIRES.
(Photograph taken after storm of 1909.)

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Accompanying this report will be found a plan showing poles and wires on and over that portion of the city which has been selected in accordance with the law as the underground district for 1911, namely, Dorchester avenue from Romsey street to Peabody square. Also photographs showing the condition of some of the streets already prescribed, both before and after overhead wires and poles supporting same were removed.

During the year the various companies doing underground work have opened one hundred thirty-five (135) different streets and avenues within the city limits for the purpose of constructing new conduits or extending or enlarging their existing conduits.

Fifty-six (56) of these were in the original underground district or the congested portion of the city lying north of Dover and Berkeley streets, while the remaining seventy-nine (79) were scattered throughout the rest of the city and suburbs.

The following table will show the overhead work for the year, from February 1, 1910, to January 31, 1911, inclusive:

Permits granted by the Board of Street Commissioners to set poles	82
Number of poles included in above orders	299
Permits granted by the Board of Street Commissioners to remove poles	72
Number of poles included in above orders	165
Number of streets or avenues included in above orders	127
Number of new poles set in new locations	323
Number of poles removed	334
Number of poles reset, straightened, renewed, etc.	1,305
Number of new pole locations selected	546
Number of poles now standing in public streets	14,762
Amount of dead wire removed by Wire Department (in feet)	266,860
Defect notices sent out	2,655
Number of defects included in these notices	7,278
Number of defects corrected	5,266
Notices of new work and special inspections	17,231
Amount of wire removed by owners (in feet)	3,694,010

The Board of Street Commissioners have also granted the following orders, which come under the jurisdic-