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DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Office of the Commissioner.

To the Honorable

The Common Council.

Gentlemen:

I herewith submit my report of the Detroit Police Department for the year ending December 31st, 1920, as follows:

The past year has been an extremely difficult one for the Police Department. In common with the rest of the country crime in Detroit during the first half of the year was above the average and continued to increase until in August it had reached alarming proportions. Up to that time the Police Department had been working under the handicap of being approximately 250 men short of the number allowed in its budget. About that time, however, the increasing unemployment throughout the city permitted the recruiting of additional men and a general drive on crime was instituted. Every available man was put on night duty, including men in clerical positions who had not been in uniform for years. A volunteer body of citizens was formed which also gave valuable assistance. The result of this extraordinary campaign was shown in the fact that while at the end of the year a serious condition was still reported from most large American cities, the city of Detroit, during the months of November and December, had less crime than in the corresponding months in many years, with a general condition in striking contrast to that reported from other large centers.

In the campaign against men carrying concealed weapons, and other criminals on the street at night, the police were compelled to shoot, in the last 90 days of the year 1920, 31 men, 9 of them being killed, while 6 policemen were shot, 2 of them giving up their lives almost instantly. In the work of the Department as a whole in 1920 there were 3 officers killed and 164 officers injured and disabled while on duty.

As a result of the experiment tried with volunteers an organization has been formed which will be known as the Detroit Police Reserve. It will be made up of patriotic citizens who, without compensation, will give their services to the Police Department in any emergency. It will have a distinctly separate form of organization, under its own officers, except when called to police duty, when it will automatically become a part of the regular force under the regular officers. These men, during the last three months of the year, gave valuable assistance, a force of approximately 100 of them being on duty several nights of each week.

Arrangements were completed in December for the formation of a Women's Division and the service of one of the country's leading women in such work was secured to take charge of it January 1st. This Department will undertake branches of work which cannot be handled by the regular force and will undoubtedly accomplish much good.

The Department as a whole was considerably inconvenienced by the fact that its various activities are housed in different parts of the city in temporary quarters, but plans for a new police headquarters were practically completed and gotten ready for the budget of the coming year.

The need of additional Precincts, also, has become acute and in that connection it is interesting to note that the last Precinct Station built in Detroit was constructed in 1908, when both the population and area of the city were considerably less than half the present figures. At present there are officers who are compelled in leaving their Precinct Stations to go over five miles to get to their duty.

PERSONNEL

The personnel of the Department remains the same as given in the report of one year ago, with a total, covering all activities, including civilians, of 1,782 persons. On account of the continued scarcity of men there was, however, a shortage of about 250 men for the first half of the year. This shortage was gradually cut down until in December, to meet the unusual conditions, the total quota was not only filled but somewhat exceeded. The Divisions, Bureaus, and Special Details of the Department remain the same as reported a year ago, leaving at the end of the year, with the Department recruited to its full strength, for actual street patrol duty and detective work, 897 patrolmen and 149 detectives.

The work accomplished in the last quarter of 1920, when men were taken from other necessary duty and put upon night work, demonstrated the necessity of a larger street patrolling force and an additional 300 patrolmen will be asked for in the coming year.

During the year 1920 there were 69 officers promoted to higher ranks, 14 were placed on the retired list, and 14 active and retired men died. Three officers, including one

Lieutenant, were shot and killed while in the performance of their duty.

CRIME

The crime report of the Department shows that while during the first half of the year the number of crimes was much in excess of the average the number of crimes for the entire year was somewhat less than in 1919 and is less than the average for the four previous years.

The total number of felonies committed in the city was 12,016 in 1920, as compared with 13,022 in 1919. For these crimes 8,556 persons were arrested as compared with 7,277 in 1919, and 2,236 were convicted as compared with 1,905 in 1919. The Department does not wish to take to itself all the credit for this increase in convictions but wishes to acknowledge the splendid support that it has received from the Municipal Court.

While the decrease of over 1,000 in the felonies committed in the city indicates an improved condition, the increase in misdemeanors shows a greater activity on the part of the Department in handling gambling and other minor offenses, the total number of misdemeanors being 38,425 as compared with 37,486 in 1919. For these offenses 33,028 persons were arrested, including those taken into Court on subpoena, and 14,175 convictions were secured. These figures do not include arrests for the Federal Government.

HOMICIDES

(Exclusive of Traffic and Street Accidents)

In the year 1920 the number of homicides was unusually high, there being 128 investigated by the Department. Of this number, however, 34 were justifiable killings, divided as follows:

Killed by police officers in line of duty 13

Killed, while committing crimes, by citizens 6

Acquitted and dismissed as self defense 15

Of the persons arrested for the remaining 94 homicides, 24 were convicted, 7 acquitted, 2 cases were nolle prossed, 2 were sent to insane asylums and 9 are awaiting trial. In 19 cases the murderer is known but not yet arrested, 5 persons committed suicide after committing murder, 2 killed each other, 1 murderer was found killed and 24 cases, including 12 so-called fued murders, remained unsolved.

There were 22 fugitives, wanted for murder in other cities, arrested in Detroit.

The total number of cases investigated by the Homicide Squad, including murder, manslaughter, natural causes, accidental death, alcoholism, missing persons, assaults and various other causes was 589.

AUTO RECOVERY BUREAU

In 1920 there were 3,488 automobiles, with an estimated value of \$3,771,913.00 reported stolen, of which 188, with an estimated value of \$190,177.00, were found not to be larcenies. Of the remaining 3,300 cars, having an estimated value of \$3,681,736.00 actually stolen, 2,576, with an estimated value of \$3,043,638.00 were recovered. This shows a recovery of 78 per cent. 175 stolen automobiles were recovered

for other cities.

Automobile accessories to the value of \$60,300 were stolen and accessories and merchandise amounting to \$32,212.00 were recovered.

There were 558 arrests made in connection with the theft of automobiles and accessories.

CLEAN UP SQUAD

In the suppression of vice and immorality the Clean Up Squad in the year 1920 made 17,291 arrests, including 12,436 persons for gambling, 1,162 for investigation, 380 for violation of the prohibition laws, and 1,559 women and 360 men were sent to the Board of Health for examination. (In addition to the above number 1,262 women were sent to the Board of Health from the various precincts, making a total of 2,821 arrests of women known as or charged with being prostitutes.)

For the complaints made by the Clean Up Squad fines were imposed amounting to \$102,683.00. \$9,222.00 in money was seized in gambling raids, \$8,423.00 worth of stolen property was recovered, and narcotics to the value of \$19,030.00 were confiscated.

In the above work a large amount of liquor was seized and turned over to the Pure Food and Drug Commission. Stills, bar fixtures and gaming devices were destroyed.

The licenses of 35 places have been revoked.

PROHIBITION LAW ENFORCEMENT

In the work of enforcing the Prohibition Laws

the Department has for the first time made use of confiscated speed boats to prevent bootlegging trade across the Detroit River. This work has resulted in many important captures.

The number of persons arrested for violation of the Prohibition Laws was 1,592 as against 2,598 in 1919; 555 persons have already been convicted and many cases are now pending in Court. 61,574 quarts of liquor were seized and turned over to the Pure Food and Drug Commission, not including a large quantity of partially distilled liquor in the form of mash, seized with 457 stills of various capacities running up to 50 gallons.

The total number of arrests for drunkenness in the year 1920 was 5,989 as against 6,249 in 1919.

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION

During the year 1920 an entirely new system of filing has been installed in the Criminal Identification Bureau. 21,658 photographs have been made, which includes 2,233 criminals and 1,419 other subjects, such as murder scenes, automobile wrecks, collisions, unidentified bodies, etc. etc. 6,639 photographs of criminals have been made and sent to other cities. 7,578 sets of finger prints have been made and 4,166 persons have been measured by the Bertillon system. There were 1,277 persons identified by finger prints and 1,212 by the Bertillon system during the year.

DETECTIVE FLIERS

During the year two additional detective fliers have been purchased and stationed at the Sixth and Ninth Precincts. These cars have answered 3,823 calls, resulting in 530 arrests.

The above figures really represent the work of the original flier in the First Precinct as the other two fliers have been in operation only one and two months respectively.

EMERGENCY SQUAD

The Emergency Squad, consisting of one minute man in each Precinct, equipped with a light automobile, on duty at all times, answered during the year 1920 66,575 calls, resulting in 2,613 arrests. It has attended 1,603 fires, 966 accidents, removed 238 sick or injured persons and taken care of 803 lost children. In performing this work its men have travelled in automobiles 138,646 miles.

AUTO PATROL WAGONS

The Auto Patrol Wagons of the Department have, during the year, made 59,525 runs, bringing in 40,576 prisoners and 847 lost children. 2,002 accident calls have been answered and 4,463 emergency, sick or injured persons taken care of. 89 bodies were removed to the morgue and 204 fires attended. 50,710 persons have been transferred between the various Precincts and the Courts, and approximately 240 blind and crippled children have been taken to and from public schools each day during the school year. In performing these various duties approximately 100,000 persons have been handled with a total automobile mileage of over 200,000 miles.

PATROLLING AUTOS

The practice of patrolling certain sections of the city in light automobiles, which was instituted during the war on account of the shortage of men, has been continued but will be reduced as the regular force is numerically increased. These patrolling autos have during the year travelled 181,697 miles, made a large number of arrests and complaints for ordinance violations and among other various duties have recovered 69 stolen automobiles.

JUVENILE DIVISION

A comparison of the work done by the Juvenile Division in 1920 with 1919 shows that this activity has reached a point where it varies remarkably little in amount from year to year, there being 2,455 boys handled in 1920 as against 2,430 in 1919 and 430 girls in 1920 as against 437 in 1919. Of these boys 1,367 were turned over to the Juvenile Court, 741 returned to parents, 182 turned over to probation officers, 23 to the Saint Frances Home, 8 to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, 40 to the Ford Republic, 11 to the State Industrial School, 9 to the Michigan Training School, 2 to Immigration Officers, 34 to officers from out of the city, 7 to the Federal Court, 17 to the Parental School, 1 to the Saint Joseph School, and 13 were taken into Police Court. Of the girls 254 were turned over to the Juvenile Court, 129 returned to their parents, 14 turned over to Probation Officer, 1 to the House of the Good Shepherd, 3 to the Michigan Training School, 3 to the Children's Aid Society, 6 to the Immigration Officers, and 19 to officers out of the city. Of the 2,455 boys 950 were aged 8 to 12 years inclusive and 1,505 aged 13 to 16 years inclusive. Of the 430 girls 69 were aged 8 to 12 years inclusive and 361 aged 13 to 16 years inclu-

sive. 188 boys and 51 girls who had run away from their homes outside of the city have been apprehended and returned to their parents or sent to various other state institutions. This Department has also arrested 51 adults of whom 34 were for contributing to the delinquency of children, 11 for rape and 3 for admitting children to theatres during school hours or after 8:00 p. m.

HARBORMASTER'S DIVISION

The work of the Harbormaster's Division includes the policing of Belle Isle and the Detroit River.

The number of persons drowned in the Detroit River showed a considerable decrease in 1920 as compared with 1919, the total being 48 (42 male and 6 female) in 1920, as compared with a total of 63 the previous year. 26 bodies were recovered by dragging the river, 19 were found floating and 3 are still missing. Assistance was given to 37 launches and boats disabled or aground, 197 pleasure craft were ordered from the river before approaching storms or when the river was considered dangerously rough; stolen boats to the value of \$3,850.00 were recovered and returned to their owners. The docks of the City have been patrolled and 114 life preservers maintained at various points along the river front.

On Belle Isle 110 arrests were made, 97 male and 13 female. 134 lost children were cared for and returned to their parents. Assistance or first aid was given in 154 minor accident cases and to 51 sick persons, 41 of whom had to be taken to their homes or to hospitals.

TRAFFIC DIVISION

The wisdom of the action of the Department in creating, during the year 1919, a Traffic Division, commanded by an Inspector, giving its entire attention to the regulation of traffic, has been shown by the rapid advance which Detroit has made in this work.

This activity has been broadened during the past year to cover general public safety and has included a continuous public safety campaign under the direction of the Second Deputy Commissioner. The Division now not only has charge of all traffic work and the working out of new regulations and ordinances but carries on a constant campaign of education. In this campaign of education during the past year over 500 meetings of citizens have been addressed by representatives of the Department and over 20,000 talks have been given to school children by representatives of the Department and school teachers. These talks to school children have included safety films and other instructive entertainment. The result of this work has been so apparent that, during the preparation of this report, it has been officially announced, following a meeting of the Rate Committee held by the Conference of Insurance Companies in Chicago in December, that the automobile insurance rates covering theft, liability and property damage were materially reduced in Detroit and at the same time increased in New York, Chicago, Cleveland and other cities and it was also announced that this reduction was made as a result of the efficient regulation of traffic and safety work in Detroit. In addition, therefore, to the saving of life and prevention of injury accomplished by the work of this division, it is estimated that the drivers of the city of Detroit will save upwards of one million dollars annually in insurance premiums alone.

The Safety-First Campaigns and educational work of the Department have been carried on by the Police Department with the cooperation of the Detroit Automobile Club, the Board of Education and many other organizations.

Among the improvements worked out in Traffic Regulation during the year might be mentioned the block system installed on lower Woodward Avenue, the queue system of loading street car passengers on Cadillac Square, a trial of raised safety zones and the installation of a large number of new directory signs and pavement markings.

An Accident Investigation Bureau has been created which makes a thorough investigation of all accidents in which any person is injured, no matter how trivially, and also investigates other accidents where it is necessary to fix the blame. The establishment of this Bureau has resulted in a largely increased efficiency in the punishment of reckless drivers as compared with the previous system of conducting the investigations in each precinct.

In the year 1920 there were 9,612 street traffic accidents reported in 4,419 of which one or more individuals received serious or minor injuries. 228 people were killed on the streets, 90 of whom were in passenger automobile accidents, 47 being killed by trucks and 52 by street cars; 4 were killed by horse-drawn vehicles, 27 by steam railroads and 8 in bicycle or motorcycle accidents. Action was taken by the Department in connection with 56,132 violations of the Traffic regulations, of which 48,605 were committed by drivers of private autos, 260 by drivers of horse-drawn vehicles, the balance being in connection with heavy or light trucks, taxicabs, auto delivery vehicles or motorcycles. Of this total there were 22,442 complaints made in Court, 30,236 vehicles were impounded and 3,454 persons warned for minor offenses. In 3,851 of the foregoing violations persons were taken into Court for speeding, 2,697 of whom were fined,

332 received suspended sentences, in 433 cases the complaints were withdrawn, dismissed or the driver warned, and 389 cases were pending at the end of the year. The licenses of 263 drivers or chauffeurs were suspended by the Secretary of State and 80 cases where suspension has been asked were pending at the end of the year.

SANITARY SQUAD

The Sanitary Squad, working under the direction of the Department of Health, visited 53,294 houses, served 16,941 notices upon occupants and brought about the installation of garbage cans having a capacity of 250,233 gallons. Other officers of the Department have placed contagious disease signs for the Department of Health on 5,500 houses.

MOUNTED DIVISION

In addition to the usual work of supplementing all other forces when necessary, patrolling outlying districts of the city, serving as a public escort, regulating all parades and assisting in all emergencies, the mounted division has been used to do regular duty in the regulation of traffic on the alleyways and streets of the central portion of the city. Mounted officers have been found to be much more efficient than foot patrol in such work on account of the larger territory which each officer can cover. In the regulation of traffic this division has attached complaint tickets to over 10,000 automobiles.

WOMEN'S DETENTION HOME

The Women's Detention Home has taken care of 5,654 women prisoners, 65 lodgers and 672 lost children.

During the coming year this Department will pass entirely under the control of the Women's Division and all prisoners will be investigated and cared for by the police-women.

BUREAU OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Bureau of Weights and Measures has inspected 30,710 devices, which includes all varieties of scales, weights, measures, pumps, taxi-meters and containers, resulting in 24,901 approvals, 3,076 condemnations and 1,544 adjustments and 1189 confiscations. 1,873,477 milk bottles have been approved and 106,692 condemned. In this work 7,342 establishments were visited and 19,818 inspections were made in the office. On complaint of citizens 14,823 packages of various materials were reweighed or remeasured, resulting in 4,499 being found correct, 5,471 overweight and 4,853 underweight. 336 cases were considered serious enough to be taken to Court, resulting in 320 convictions.

LICENSE BUREAU

The License Bureau, during the year 1920, issued 67,030 licenses covering 51 subjects and turned over to the City Treasurer \$138,805.55 As a result of a systematic checking up by the entire Department of all parties who should have licenses, the income from this Department shows an increase of 27% over 1919.

MEDICAL BUREAU

The Medical Bureau consists of a Chief Surgeon and four physicians.

During the year 1920 2,347 cases of sickness among members of the Department have been treated, 164 officers injured in line of duty have been cared for, of whom

105 had to be sent to hospitals and 80 underwent surgical operations. There were 13,117 days lost through sickness and 1,989 days lost through injury. 1,796 prisoners were given medical attention and many persons injured at fires, in parades or on other occasions were cared for.

SIGNAL BUREAU

The equipment of the Signal Bureau now consists of 100 Bell telephones, 267 Police Telephones and 54 Dispatchers' telephones, 365 Patrol Boxes, 192 Patrol Box Flashlights, 6 signal switchboards, 5 telephone switchboards and 29 electric motors.

The Bureau has, during the year 1920, installed 36,702 feet of underground cable, 68 miles of new overhead wire, 28 new patrol boxes, 73 telephones, 36 flashlights, 2 traffic towers and a block system on Woodward Avenue, various safety signs and lights have been placed, 35 miles of overhead wire lines have been rebuilt and 36 patrol boxes have been reset and overhauled.

It is interesting to note that the Department has handled 8,499,671 switchboard calls during the year, of which 1,547,602 were Department Signal Calls and 6,952,069 were telephone calls.

RECORD BUREAU

In the Record Bureau improvements have been made which have simplified the manner of keeping crime statistics and tabulating them for the information of the Department and the public. A system of crime charts has been established by which the exact condition of the city is apparent at all times.

TRAINING SCHOOL

In the work of the Training School improvements are being worked out which are expected to greatly improve the standard of men taken on by the Department.

During the year 492 men entered the school, 449 finished and were assigned to duty and 43 were dropped or resigned during the course of training.

MILITARY TRAINING

The system of military training instituted during the previous year has been continued. A Department Band has been formed and battalion drills are regularly held during the summer season.

A riot squad, consisting of men armed with pump guns, has been thoroughly drilled and four machine gun companies, with five machine guns, have been organized and thoroughly trained for service in case of riot or for other emergencies.

DOG POUND

The Dog Pound has impounded 7,399 dogs of which 3,936 have been destroyed, 1,938 released to owners, 1,533 sold and the balance held in the pound at the close of the year. \$4,207.75 was received through the sale of unclaimed dogs and turned over to the City Treasurer.

PROPERTY OFFICE

The property office, in the disposition of lost and stolen property, has received 45,284 packages or articles, 387 slot machines and 586 bicycles, with a total estimated value of \$389,362.53. This property has been returned to its owners, or sold under the direction of the

City Purchasing Department.

The above property does not include bar fixtures, furniture or utensils seized in liquor raids nor liquor seized and turned over to the Pure Food and Drug Commission.

POLICE BOOTHS

The officers detailed to the 15 police booths established in the outlying districts of the city have answered, during the year, 58,036 calls, resulting in 615 arrests; attended 284 accidents, 402 fires and cared for 125 lost children.

POLICE GARAGES

The Police Garages at 962 Beaubien and 62 E. Fort Streets have, during the year 1920, had charge of and kept in repair, the Department's entire motor equipment, consisting of 131 motor vehicles, including automobiles, auto patrol wagons, trucks, etc., also 54 motor cycles and 50 bicycles. This service has required 31,317 repair jobs on automotive machines, 661 on bicycles, 16,159 on tires and 566 in the painting department.

CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

In the general construction and repair work of the Department there has been paid out for wages \$26,131.48 and \$15,233.81 for material. This work has included all of the repair and construction work on the various buildings of the Department.

TRIAL BOARD

During the year 243 members of the Department have been brought before the Trial Board, resulting in 73

patrolmen being dismissed from the service, 151 receiving lighter penalties, 17 being found not guilty of the charges preferred against them and two officers demoted to lower ranks.

PROMOTIONS

During the year 69 men were promoted to higher rank.

INTERESTING FACTS

Fines Collected in 1920

Ordinance fines for 1920	\$96,908.47
Impounded auto fees for 1920	43,138.00
Felony and Misdemeanor fines for 1920	274,538.00
Fines and assessments collected in the United States Court and Federal Prohi- bition Enforcement Office, as a result of work done in cooperation with Federal Officers	394,348.56
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	\$808,933.03
License fees collected in 1920	138,805.55
Lost children handled in 1920	1,899
Miles travelled by Department cars	1,524,239
Miles travelled by Department motorcycles	<u>187,138</u>
Total	1,711,377

Calls Made

Auto Patrols	59,525
Emergency Squad	66,575
Fliers	3,823
Booth Men	58,036
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	187,959

5,478 doors were found open by patrolmen
and secured and reported.

2,593 fires were attended by officers of
the Department;-

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Commissioner

IN MEMORY OF

Lieutenant Peter F. McGuigan,

Patrolmen William F. Wellberg

and

Patrolman Arthur R. Huhnke

shot and killed in the performance
of their duty during the year 1920