

some time in successful operation in many, if not most of the larger cities, permits the more prompt execution of business arising at the station house, in which detective service is required, and relieves the bureau at headquarters of much minor detective duty, giving the latter an opportunity for wider scope in its effective work. Besides, it puts in training for this important branch of police service, men to be available for recruiting the central detective office force as vacancies occur therein. But with the present number of detectives the Board is unable to make such station house assignments without seriously crippling the central office, now over-taxed. It therefore respectfully asks the General Assembly to authorize the appointment of eight additional detectives for the purpose as mentioned.

RETIRED OFFICERS.

It must, of course, be so that as time goes on the veterans of the police force, from exposure to all kinds of weather and the severely trying nature of their duties, must become worn out and unfit for active duty and drop out and give way for younger men after long years of faithful and efficient service, but the General Assembly of 1886, by Chapter 459, Section No. 2, provided for such, by authorizing the Board of Police Commissioners to retire those who have served 16 years and become incapacitated, on one-third pay. As the men, whose terms of service entitled them to it, reached this state of disability they have received the benefit of this wise provision of law, until now there are 115 on the retired list of this department. To pay this list there is required monthly a sum of about \$3,200.

The principal, and about the only source of income for the payment of the retired officers, is the department's half of the fines and the costs imposed by the police justices at the station houses, which go into what is known as the "Special Fund," out of which the law requires certain other expendi-