The Works Program

--- Works Progress Administration ---

For release in morning papers
Saturday, February 1, 1936.


Praising the work of Arthur G. Rotch as Works Progress Administrator in Massachusetts, Harry L. Hopkins, Works Progress Administrator, today accepted Mr. Rotch's resignation and appointed Paul Edwards, Chief Regional Examiner for the WPA in the Northeast, as Acting WPA Administrator for the State.

Mr. Rotch had asked several times that his resignation be accepted; Mr. Edwards will begin his duties in Massachusetts on Monday, February 3.

Mr. Rotch's letter of resignation follows:

"Dear Harry— In December 1934 I told you in Washington that I did not wish to continue as Administrator in Massachusetts for any length of time, and on several occasions since I have asked you to accept my resignation; on Feb. 11th 1935 and on March 4th 1935 I wrote you letters offering my resignation and asking you to find a successor. On March 8th you wrote to me asking me to stay on for a little longer. I accepted the position of W.P.A. Administrator at your request, but I told you at that time that I should resign later on when the W.P.A. was set up and functioning. I now ask you definitely to accept my resignation to take effect just as soon as you can find the person you wish to succeed me.

"I want to thank you for the unfailing support and help that you have given me and to tell you how much I have appreciated the confidence that you placed in me. I also want to say that it has been a privilege and a valuable experience to have been a part of the relief program that you have so ably directed. It also has been a satisfaction to me to think that I may have been of service to the Administration.

"With best wishes -

"Very Sincerely yours,"
Mr. Hopkins' letter accepting Mr. Rotch's resignation follows:

"Dear Arthur: I have your letter this morning in which you renew your desire to retire from your position as Works Progress Administrator for Massachusetts.

"I appreciate more than I can tell the fine work you have done in your difficult task. I realize, however, that you accepted the position as Relief Administrator in Massachusetts on the understanding that you could get away within a year, and that time is now long past.

"I appreciate, too, how, in administering this job you have lived up to the fundamental purposes of the program, and particularly that it has been administered in a way that reflects great credit upon you.

"Very cordially yours,"

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