

**TWENTY - FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE CITY OF ROCHESTER,
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649144105

Twenty - fourth Annual report of the city of Rochester, New Hampshire by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**TWENTY - FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE CITY OF ROCHESTER,
NEW HAMPSHIRE**



ROBERT V. SWEET, MAYOR

Twenty-fourth Annual Report

OF THE

CITY OF ROCHESTER

NEW HAMPSHIRE



For the Year Ending December Thirty-first
Nineteen hundred and fifteen

Rochester Printing Company

Inaugural Address

BY MAYOR ROBERT V. SWEET

Gentlemen of the City Council :

My first obligation is to the public spirited men of this city who have so many times, however mistaken in their judgment, urged me to be a candidate for the office of Mayor.

I have lived in Rochester long enough and have been sufficiently active in my efforts with our people, to know who of our citizens are most unselfishly interested in its welfare. Therefore I first want to thank those men from the bottom of my heart for their confidence in me and assure them that it will be my unstinted endeavor to show my deep appreciation of their good will and to justify their expectation so far as in me lies.

We shall not be immune from criticism ; in fact, honest criticism from people whose judgment we respect, we invite, for, in this way we shall be helped to give better and more efficient service. Chronic criticism from people whose chief employment it is should disturb or distress none of us. It is so much easier to criticise than it is to construct.

To me the idea of an inaugural address is a farce if it deals only in generalities and does not really give something tangible in the way of specific recommendations. I shall, however, not presume to advise you who are in a much better position than I to know the present

needs of the various departments, but I do hope by active consultation and coöperation with you to be able to make from time to time suggestions that may be helpful to us in arriving at correct conclusions in our work.

Before we take up for consideration the different phases of the city's needs I am sure you will join with me in more than an invitation; in fact, in an urgent request to the members of that active and very important organization in our city, viz., the Chamber of Commerce to coöperate and counsel with us in any way that may inure to the benefit of the general public.

FINANCES

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, DECEMBER 31, 1915

Debit

Outstanding notes	\$188,067 25
Accrued interest on notes	3,264 99
Sewer bonds	6,500 00
Interest on sewer bonds	113 75
City Hall bonds	50,000 00
Checks unpaid	1,844 35
Amt. due Water Works on acct.	13,857 52
Due on Gonic sewerage	1,028 36
Due on Isinglass bridge	545 20
	<hr/>
	\$265,221 41

Credit

Boston & Maine R. R. stock	\$ 800 00
Amt. due on sundry accounts	516 57

CITY OF ROCHESTER

5

Amt. due on Collector's list, 1911	\$	136 74
1912		517 81
1913		530 01
1914		3,791 42
1915		27,532 66
Cash in hands of treasurer		5,401 93
		<hr/>
		\$39,217 14
Indebtedness, exclusive of water bonds	\$	225,994 27
Water bonds		160,000 00

We recall, with some pride, that twenty-one years ago when we were paying four and five per cent on the city's notes aggregating nearly one hundred thousand dollars, Rochester was one of the very first cities in the United States to issue bonds in very small amounts and sell them over the counter, thereby serving the double purpose of making them available as safe investments to our own town people of small means and saving considerable amounts to the city. Today this is a very general practice. In eighteen ninety-five the city's indebtedness exclusive of water bonds was one hundred and two thousand, ninety-six dollars and thirty-two cents. Now it is two hundred and twenty-five thousand nine hundred and ninety-four dollars and twenty-seven cents. The amount in floating notes is one hundred and eighty-eight thousand, sixty-seven dollars and twenty-five cents. It has been the custom of the council to vote to refund notes, so that the original purpose of the loans is lost of track and therefore it is not always possible to tell just when a certain debt is cancelled. I hope in some way we may classify these notes in a manner that such uncertainty will be no longer possible.

The "pay as you go" policy should be adhered to as closely as possible.

The annual budget should be so prepared that it may cover all the annual expenditures of the year and in case of some unusual and unforeseen requirement presenting itself the council should arrange for this need in specific, serial, time notes, covering only a very short period. In the matter of appropriations, it seems to me, we must increase them in some departments and decrease them in others, exercising great care in the aggregate recommended that our tax rate may not be increased.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Our City Hall and Library are a source of pride to us all. The schoolhouses in the main are in splendid condition and reflect great credit upon those who gave the subject of their construction so much time and thought, and through whose foresight we are now in possession of such commodious buildings. I especially speak of foresight for two reasons,—first, to have you recall that when plans were being formulated for the Gonic schoolhouse there was much opposition to its proposed dimensions—in fact some of the men from Ward Three were severely criticised for their desire to have a building so unreasonably large that "it could never be filled." How fortunate for us now that wise counsel prevailed. Visit this school and you will find that we for some time have been obliged to use the small library for one of the grades. Secondly, that you may realise we shall very soon be called upon, on account of the rapid growth of our city, to remodel, enlarge or rebuild the Maple street school. When that time comes we shall be much less likely to err on the side of "penny wise and pound foolish" if we recall that not so long ago that