

**TENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF  
THE CITY OF LACONIA, NEW  
HAMPSHIRE, FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING FEBRUARY 15, 1903**

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Tenth annual report of the receipts and expenditures of the city of Laconia, New Hampshire, for the year ending february 15, 1903 by Various

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1903

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

OF THE

CITY OF LACONIA

NEW HAMPSHIRE,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 15, 1903,

TOGETHER WITH OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS AND PAPERS RELAT-  
ING TO THE AFFAIRS OF THE CITY.



LACONIA, N. H.:  
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1903.

# INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF MAYOR JARED ALONZO GREENE, MARCH 25, 1902.

*Gentlemen of the Council:*

For a second time it is my proud privilege to stand before you as the unanimous choice of our people for mayor.

I fully appreciate the high honor and am not unmindful of the many responsibilities accompanying the exalted distinction.

The cycle of time has brought the closing year of the first decade of the existence of Laconia as a city. During the year just passed our community has met with an irreparable loss by the death of several prominent and progressive citizens. The state has been forever deprived of the valuable advice and agreeable companionship of our highly respected first mayor and ex-governor, while the nation has been called upon to mourn the tragic fate of a martyred president.

Notwithstanding these deeply lamented and sadly unfortunate occurrences, our country enjoys the blessings of peace and prosperity, our state continues to be most excellently and satisfactorily governed and our city pursues the even tenor of its way with much to be thankful for and more prospectively.

The continued good health of our people is a matter for much congratulation. Our various industries continue their fairly satisfactory progress while our bankers and merchants find nothing upon which to base complaint.

I make bold to venture the assertion that Laconia will experience marked and pronounced improvement and advancement during the coming year. Already your mayor has been importuned regarding the number of skilled mechanics, teams and laborers our city can furnish to work on the construction and grounds of the new state institution which will, in the near future, grandly ornament our northern suburb. Our electric road is about to be improved and extended and several important manufacturing concerns are considering our advantages with a view of location.

The Fair association will place before the people next fall an exhibition on a scale of grandeur never before attempted in a community of our size, thus calling the attention of outsiders to Laconia, as well as furnishing agreeable, profitable, instructive amusement and recreation to our own citizens.

A most valuable addition to our city from an artistic and educational standpoint is the imposing and welcome public library now rapidly approaching completion. Its value and benefits to both old and young cannot be overestimated. The widening of Church street, the removal of the North church and the erection of a soldiers' monument on the lot tendered by the B. & M. R. R. company would greatly enhance the beauty and increase the attractiveness of the library and surroundings, but just how this much desired result can be obtained, is a question as yet unanswered, a problem as yet unsolved. That this public improvement is inevitable no one will attempt to deny, still, the prosecution of the matter under its present status would necessarily produce a long train of complications far-reaching in effect and uncertain in results. I hesitate about offering any suggestions or making any recommendations.

Our finances for the year just passed, show a healthy condition. We have not only confined our disbursements

to the appropriation, but have effected settlements of several law suits, and have liquidated old bills to the amount of over two thousand dollars. Through the careful, energetic and persistent efforts of the former city solicitor, the Gold street law suits have been decided in our favor. We have also paid for the Main street bridge and reduced our bonded debt three thousand dollars without extra appropriations.

In this connection I will take the liberty of affirming that the so-called sewer debt is not a burdensome incumbrance, but rather a most valuable investment of a permanent character, the material benefit of which we are receiving year after year.

The system is of much greater value than its cost, is the property, or assets, of the city and well represents the outlay. The life of the sewers will long out last the life of the bonds. Ever since Laconia assumed the dignity of a city, there has been carried on the books, what purports to be an available asset in the shape of the "Gilford tax list." I have looked into this matter and find the account worthless. I do not consider it good business policy to carry meaningless figures on the books, or to allow old bills to remain unpaid at the end of the year for the sake of making a favorable showing. I recommend that the account be charged off.

That there exists a pressing need for a new central fire station no one will deny, and you will be called upon to immediately consider this matter. I have inspected the present building and, to say the least, it does not meet the requirements of the department. Our city has the best equipment procurable with the means at command and the highest efficiency of service that is obtainable with our yearly appropriation. Consideration for public safety and well-being demands a modern up-to-date structure, in which to house a portion of the men, the horses, machines and fire extinguishing paraphernalia.



I have given myself the pleasure of making extended visits to our schools and I pronounce them inferior to none. I unhesitatingly affirm that, with our proficient and painstaking instructors and our bright, intelligent children, we should furnish to all, the comforts, safety and necessities of a well lighted, thoroughly ventilated school building, equipped with modern sanitary arrangements.

With this object in view a new building for the accommodation of the little folks now attending the Chase block and the People's church schools, as well as for the wee tots who will see the inside of a schoolroom for the first time this fall, seems an absolute necessity and should receive your careful consideration. The amount now paid for rentals would go far towards payment of interests on the cost of the schoolhouse now needed, and I recommend its construction so as to be ready for occupancy next fall.

A reliable and faithful standing army is the best conservator of the peace of a nation. In like manner is a thorough and proficient police force the best safeguard and protection against wrong doing. It is far preferable to prevent crime than to punish criminals. Our city has become almost immune from major crimes because of the most excellent discernment and judgment of our commissioners, the stern but well merited justice meted out by our police judge and the well-known watchfulness and faithfulness of our chief and his officers, which facts are noted among the professional criminal class, who very considerably avoid our city.

Agreeable to my suggestion last year the so-called Folsom park property has been deeded back to its original owner. There was no unpleasantness manifested by anyone interested in the matter. The council felt that it would be injudicious to comply with the terms imposed and Mr. Folsom, thoroughly understanding the

situation, received his property in the same friendly spirit that it was tendered. Laconia is fortunate in being in the very centre of a vast natural park, whose magnitude and grandeur is not exceeded in the known world.

I desire to thank the councilmen most heartily whose term of office expires today, for their universal kindness towards me during the past year. In all our deliberations the utmost harmony prevailed, the minority always accepting the decision of the majority gracefully, pleasantly and philosophically. This is as it should be and I part with you, gentlemen, officially, with feelings of deep regret. To the new members I extend hearty and kindly greetings and the right hand of friendship.

In conclusion, gentlemen of the council, I can but believe that the experience of the old members during the past year will lend added knowledge to our work in the year to come, which will re-act to the benefit of all; and that every energy will be directed so as to conduce to the well-being of our people and the prosperity of our city.

# MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS,

## FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS AGAINST THE CITY.

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All bills against the city must be approved by the person authorizing the charge; and unless this is done, no action can be had upon the bill by the committee on accounts and claims, and no order will be given for its payment. When bills are certified to as above, and left with the city clerk not later than Thursday, at 12 o'clock m., preceding the last Monday of each month, they will be audited by the committee on accounts and claims, and if approved by them and allowed by the council, will be ready for payment on the following Wednesday, at the office of the city treasurer.

Meetings of the committee on accounts and claims are held on the Friday preceding the last Monday of each month, at 7.30 o'clock p. m., at the city clerk's office.