

**TWENTY - SECOND ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE CITY OF
ROCHESTER NEW HAMPSHIRE, FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN**

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Twenty - Second Annual report of the city of Rochester New Hampshire, for the year Ending December 31st Nineteen Hundred and Thirteen by Various

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VARIOUS

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REPORT OF THE CITY OF
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FRANK H. PRESTON, MAYOR

Twenty-Second Annual Report
OF THE
City of Rochester
NEW HAMPSHIRE

For the Year Ending December 31st
Nineteen Hundred and Thirteen



THE RUMFORD PRESS
CONCORD, N. H.
1914

Inaugural Address

OF

MAYOR FRANK B. PRESTON

JANUARY 7, 1914

Gentlemen of the City Council:

We have gathered here today as the chosen representatives of the people of our fair city for the ensuing year. May we conduct the affairs of this municipality so that we shall merit the honor that has been conferred upon us by our fellow citizens. At this time it is well for us to review some of the things that have been accomplished during the year just coming to a close.

The rate of taxation was lower than it has been for several years, although the expenses have been kept within the appropriation.

Our schools have increased in number, and the standard of education has been raised.

Our city has been kept practically free from contagious diseases, with a meagre appropriation.

We have installed an independent fire alarm gong, and have been fortunate in extinguishing our fires.

There has been more permanent work done on the highways and more sidewalks built than has ever been before in any one year.

The water has been kept in good condition and the supply unlimited for household purposes.

The police have kept our streets quiet and peaceful and our city free from turmoil and strife.

Our streets have been well lighted and with less expense than before.

There have been 450 shade trees set out and four beautiful parks laid out.

Our public library has been well patronized and its efficiency has increased.

Through the efforts of our solicitor several law suits against the city have been adjusted satisfactorily to both parties.

Gentlemen, these are a few, and a few only, of the things that have been accomplished during the year, and, judging by these actualities, you are entitled to, and should have the approbation of our fellow citizens.

FINANCE

Great care should be exercised in making the appropriation for the ensuing year. The expenses are constantly increasing, and we should strive to keep the tax rate as low as possible, and pay the current expenses.

I hereby submit the following approximate financial statement:

DEBIT	
Outstanding notes,	\$181,724.12
Accrued interest on notes to date,	2,461.45
Sewer bonds,	19,500.00
Interest on sewer bonds,	341.25
City Hall bonds,	56,000.00
Checks out unpaid (approximate),	858.56
Amount due Water Works on account,	6,781.09
Total,	\$267,666.47
CREDIT	
Boston & Maine R. R. stock,	\$800.00
Due on sundry accounts for miscellaneous charges and sewer,	300.20

Amount due on Collector's list, 1911,	8436.74
Amount due on Collector's list, 1912,	942.69
Amount due on Collector's list, 1913,	19,065.47
Cash in hands of Treasurer,	16,047.31
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Total,	37,232.41
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Net indebtedness, exclusive of water bonds,	\$230,437.06
Water bonds outstanding,	160,000.00

SCHOOLS

The schooling of the children of the city is one of the most important matters of any with which the municipality has to deal.

During the year 1913, the schools of the city have been larger than ever before, and in consequence more money has been expended for them than in any previous year.

The appropriation for schools for the year just closed was \$31,500; this amount has been increased by the Literary Fund received from the state, the dog license, tuitions, and some other minor items of income to \$33,900.61, about all of which has been expended for the schools during the year.

This certainly appears like a large sum, yet it is not quite one third of the taxes of this city, while in many places one half of the income is devoted to educational purposes. The cost of schooling the children per pupil during the year, based upon the average daily membership, figures out \$26.66. This is \$0.23 less per pupil this year than was the cost per pupil last year. So that while school expenses have as a whole been increasing, the cost per pupil per year has been about the same. This is due, of course, to the increase in the number of pupils.

The average cost of educating school children in the grades throughout the United States is given as about

\$30 per pupil per year, and in the high schools as about \$75. From these figures, it is found that Rochester is educating her children at a price considerably under the average for the entire country.

The reasons for the increase in the number of pupils seems to be the desire of more pupils for a high school education and the recent legislation concerning child labor.

We believe the schools of our city to be of a quality that compares favorably with the other schools of the state. This belief is based upon the work of our pupils in the colleges, where they have gone for further education, and on those who have gone into the offices, stores, and business life of the city.

HEALTH

We have been very fortunate in the past in carrying on this department with so small an appropriation. How to dispose of the refuse of the city is a question yet unsolved. If nothing better presents itself, I would suggest that we have a "clean-up week" the first of May, and that a city team be placed at the disposal of the Health Department for that purpose.

Considerable complaint has been made by the Street Department because so much rubbish is dumped beside the street. This practice should be stopped at once, and should receive the immediate attention and the watchful care of the proper authorities. It might be well to build a plant for the disposal of waste and rubbish by incineration.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our firemen have done good work considering the disadvantage under which they labor.

I would recommend one man to be added to the Bickford Chemical Company, and that the pay of the firemen in this

village be \$50 each per year; that the chief engineer receive \$250 annually, and that the first and second assistants each receive \$100 per year, all payable semi-annually.

I also recommend that the fire warden receive \$0.40 per hour, the deputies, \$0.35 per hour, and fire fighters, \$0.25 per hour.

It is generally conceded that we should have better fire protection.

The purchase of a steamer and the enlargement of the water pipes are subjects worthy of our careful consideration.

HIGHWAYS

It would seem wise for the city to make a special appropriation this year for the continuance of the permanent road work that has just begun. A road, said by experts to be one of the finest pieces of macadam road in the state, has been built this year under the supervision of the Street Department from the railroad crossing on South Main Street to connect with the state road.

We would recommend that this road be continued from the Boston and Maine tracks to the City Hotel. We would also recommend a like road to be constructed from Union Street to the stone bridge.

Liberty Street, Portland Street from Main Street to the railroad tracks, and Bridge Street—these thoroughfares, all in the heart of the city, should be resurfaced with native rock and oil bound.

The Meaderboro Road is the main artery of travel for many of the farmers of Strafford and vicinity, and is used much for teaming and subject to very hard use. We would recommend that this road be shaped and surfaced, and that at least a half mile of it, beginning at the top of Horse Hill, so called, and extending toward the city, be macadamized with native rock and oil bound.