

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY
OF KEENE; CONTAINING INAUGURAL
CEREMONIES, ORDINANCES AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE
CITY COUNCILS: WITH REPORTS OF THE
SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS, FOR 1884**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649057627

Eleventh Annual Report of the City of Keene; Containing Inaugural Ceremonies, Ordinances and Joint Resolutions Passed by the City Councils: With Reports of the Several Departments, for 1884 by Various

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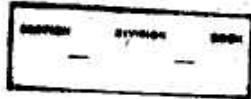
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VARIOUS

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4371



KEENE:
DARLING & KIMBALL, STEAM BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS.
1885.

Cc. 9371



YTIPOE MOTBOE
SREBMOE LIND

CITY OF KEENE.

In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four.

A JOINT RESOLUTION ordering the Printing of the Annual City Report.

Resolved by the City Councils of the City of Keene, as follows:

That the Joint Standing Committee on Printing cause to be printed in the usual form, for general distribution, fourteen hundred copies of the Report of the City Government, for the year ending December 1, 1884, including all the usual Committees and Officers of the various departments; the proceedings of the Inauguration of the City Government, the names of the respective officers, and such Ordinances and Resolutions and other matters as are deemed of public importance by them; that the same be published at the lowest reasonable rate, and delivered in the City Clerk's office as soon as practicable; provided, however, that if the whole number shall not be thus delivered, a corresponding deduction shall be made from the contract price.

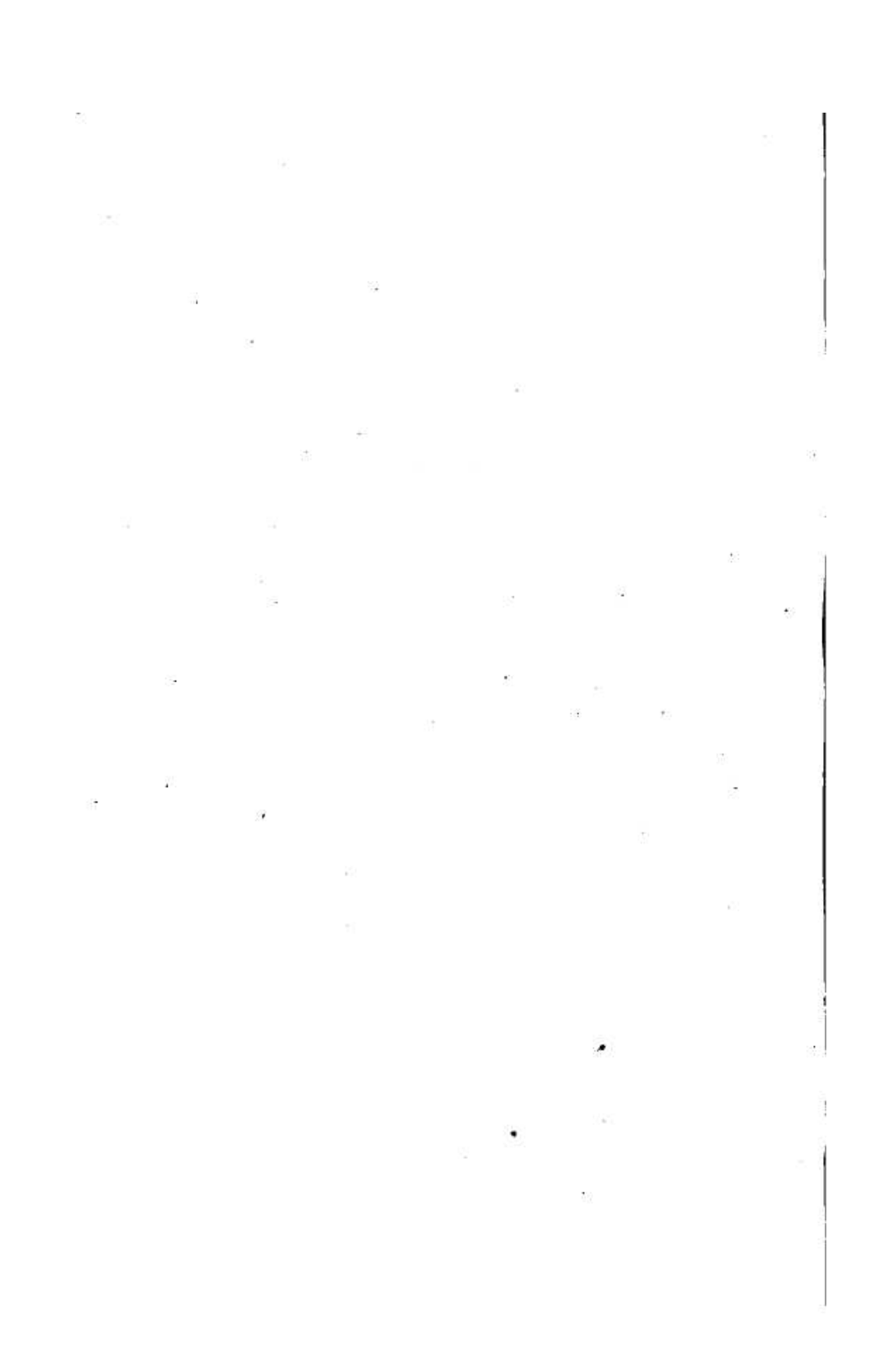
VIRGIL A. WRIGHT,
President Common Council.

Passed Nov. 20, 1884.

HORATIO KIMBALL, *Mayor.*

A true copy. Attest:

L. C. DOOLITTLE, *City Clerk.*



ORGANIZATION OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

TUESDAY, January 1, 1884.

The members elect of the City Government having met for organization, agreeably to the provisions of the City Charter, the oath of office prescribed by law was administered to the Mayor elect, HORATIO KIMBALL, by City Clerk Doolittle, after which His Honor the Mayor administered the oath of office to the following Boards, viz :

Board of Aldermen :

DANIEL C. HOWARD,
GEORGE L. BURDETT,
HENRY N. STONE,
FREDERICK H. KINGSBURY,
REUBEN HYLAND.

Board of Common Council :

MARTIN V. B. CLARK,
CHARLES S. COBURN,
HARRISON R. WARD,
WILLIAM E. BURDETT,
FRANKLIN H. FAY,
JOHN GOULD,
HENRY GIFFIN,
ALBERT A. WOODWARD,
VIRGIL A. WRIGHT,
CHARLES WRIGHT,
ABEL E. JOHNSON,
CHARLES ABBOTT, 2D,
FRED A. BARKER,
WILLIAM H. ELLIOT,
PARKER C. BUTLER.

Prayer was offered by Rev. W. H. Eaton, after which the Mayor delivered his Inaugural Address, as follows:

MAYOR KIMBALL'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the City Councils: The prudent farmer, when the opening season approaches and calls for a preparation for the necessary labors in the several departments of his industry, looks over his fields and forests, his herds, flocks and buildings, and comparing their condition and wants with his capital on hand in the form of fertilizers, ready money and physical power, lays his plans for the year; and if he is endowed with sufficient foresight, can in his mind adapt his means to the ends required with enough exactness to enable him to run smoothly and pleasantly during the year, and come out at the end with a perceptible improvement in his material circumstances. And somewhat so should it be with us, gentlemen, who have been selected by our fellow citizens to manage the various affairs of the city during the coming year. In the beginning we should carefully canvass the work before us, and in view of the requirements of the city and the means supplied to meet them, take hold of the business as if it were a private enterprise, and give our best thought to it, so that at the end we may witness the good results of our labor. Parties and cliques should be unthought of and the importunities of personal friends unheeded, when they come in conflict with the public welfare; and our whole aim should be so to manage that not a dollar shall be drawn from the pockets of the people for any purpose that cannot be pointed to as upon the whole necessary and for the benefit of the city at large.

THE FINANCES.

You will find by referring to the report of the Finance Committee that large sums have been drawn from the treasury the past year for extraordinary purposes, and that our funded debt has been increased to \$366,500 since the previous report. But as \$136,000 of this debt is in water bonds, the interest of which is fully paid by the net profits of the water works, that much may fairly be deducted from our funded debt, leaving it practically \$230,000; with a balance of cash in the city treasury that reduces it below \$200,000. You will see on page 52 of the Report a table showing the dates at which all these bonds

are payable. The surplus in the treasury provides for the large amount maturing to-day; and there will still be a balance, and it lies with you to say whether it shall form the basis of a sinking fund to meet the large payments of bonds in future years, or be loaned for the best obtainable interest on the daily balances, as during the past two years. I think that by establishing a sinking fund it would be easier to keep an even rate of taxation, one year with another, which is in some respects desirable, besides giving the city a better rate of interest for its surplus money. The recommendation of the Finance Committee to raise \$8000 the present year for payment of bonds was in view of the establishment of a sinking fund. Should the Councils not endorse this method of providing for the payment of the city debt, this amount might be safely stricken from the appropriation recommended this year; which would cut down the amount required to be raised by taxation this year to \$31,650.00. This would make the tax levy \$4,300 less than last year, but add to the taxes in the future when the large payments become due. It is difficult to conceive of any call for extraordinary drafts upon the treasury this year. The fire department has been supplied with all the material its most enthusiastic friends have asked for, and can be considered pretty fully equipped, except, perhaps, a better place for the steamer may be thought necessary. The roads and bridges are requiring no extra expense; on account of the new law the charities for the city poor will probably be less than in the immediate past; there are no expensive law-suits on hand; no extension of water mains called for; so that except for some extraordinary expenses that may be incurred by Union District for school-houses, I fail to see why retrenchment cannot be applied to about every other department of our public interests. For minutiae of the financial matters of the city the Annual Report is quite exhaustive, and I think the most conservative among you will agree with me that come to foot up and strike the balance, our condition is better than one year ago it was feared it might be. And let us do nothing to prevent a continuation of the improvement.

THE SEWERS, ETC.

The public sewer system, which was completed and accepted