

**THIRTY - SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE CITY OF ROCHESTER
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

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Thirty - Second Annual report of the City of Rochester New Hampshire by Various

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VARIOUS

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THE CITY OF ROCHESTER
NEW HAMPSHIRE**



WILLIAM S. DAVIS, MAYOR

Thirty-Second Annual Report
OF THE
CITY OF ROCHESTER
NEW HAMPSHIRE



For the Year Ending December 31st
Nineteen Hundred and Twenty-Three

ROCHESTER PRINTING COMPANY
ROCHESTER, N. H.

Inaugural Address

By Mayor WILLIAM S. DAVIS

Gentlemen of the City Council:

My address to you today will be brief. The citizens of Rochester have elected you and I to take charge of the City's affairs for the year 1924. I appreciate very much the honor conferred upon me, and I realize the responsibility of my position deeply. The one gratifying feature, however, is to know that you are to share that responsibility with me. I know I speak your mind when I say, "We want to make good," therefore, I plead for unity. With your assistance, your Mayor can accomplish most everything required of him. Without your cooperation his work will be difficult. The tax payers of this City will watch us closely; we will be criticised, but if we are honest with each other and honest with the City, then as this year draws to a close we can look with pleasure on the service we have rendered. We live in an age of action; the public demands service; let us continue the good work by helping to make Rochester a larger and more progressive City in which to live.

Gentlemen, in the discharge of my duties I pledge to you to do the right as God giveth me to see the light.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, JANUARY 1, 1924

DEBIT

Municipal Bonds	\$126,000 00
Municipal Highway Bonds	5,000 00
City Hall Bonds	14,000 00
Checks out unpaid	1,577 16
Amount due Water Works on Account	1,881 00
	<hr/>
	\$148,458 16

CREDIT

Boston & Maine Stock	\$ 800 00
Due on sundry accounts	1,528 47
Due on Collector's list, 1923	10,930 48
Cash in hands of Treasurer	3,485 69
	<hr/>
	\$ 16,744 64
Net Indebtedness	\$131,713 52
Decrease of debt during 1923	23,052 56

ASSETS OF WATER WORKS

United States Certificates	25,000 00
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SCHOOLS

The public school we look upon with pride, for herein lies the future success of this City. The greatest public institution this city supports by taxation is the School. A larger per cent. of taxes goes to this department than to any other. However, I believe this is right. Similar conditions are found in all progressive cities. The teacher is the most important asset toward developing an efficient school. We should see to it that Rochester has as efficient teachers as it can afford. Many of the larger communities and nearly all of the cities in the

State have vocational courses in their public school systems. Possibly it is time for Rochester to be fully informed upon this subject. Rochester cannot afford to let its school buildings deteriorate. A few repairs and improvements made each year is a good business proposition.

STREET LIGHTS

Nothing is so noticeable as one enters a city in the evening than to find it poorly lighted. I have thought a few added lights would improve our square. I find there is less danger from burglary when a city is well lighted, and for this reason alone, I would favor a well lighted business section.

ROADS, BRIDGES AND DRAINS

I am a strong believer in good roads. The high cost of State and City tax one must pay before one is allowed to start their automobile, makes the automobile owner expect good roads, and you will find that there will be a greater demand from the public for better roads. Many of our streets are in very much need of repair. I think it very poor economy to neglect our highways for one year as it is very hard to regain what you have lost even in that short time. The heavy trucks are so much in use on our streets, that the very day that the street starts to give way, it is soon destroyed. I am in favor of keeping the highway in the rural district in good repair; by so doing, you bring business to our City. I am a strong supporter of Hot Top streets, and I will favor a liberal appropriation for this department.

SHADE TREES, PARKS AND COMMONS

We should bear in mind that our shade trees and commons will add either credit or discredit to our City, therefore, we should have them properly cared for. I think Dominicus Hanson Park could be made one of the most beautiful parks in this section. I would favor having more swings and settees for the public use, also, having a care taker to look after the property during the vacation season, as I find you cannot keep the property protected unless you have someone on the grounds most of the time.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

My attention has been called to this department many times this year, as Rochester has had many sad and destructive fires, and I know you will agree with me when I say that our Fire Department cannot be beaten for the valuable service they have rendered. I have visited the Fire Chief and had him tell me what improvements he would like. I ask the gentlemen that represent this committee to visit Chief Nute, and I recommend that you take such measures as you deem advisable to improve this department. I know you will find it in very much need of attention.

SIDEWALK DEPARTMENT

We all like good sidewalks and I am in favor of building all we can, but, one thing I promise you, I shall try and improve our sidewalk on South Main Street. I, like many others, have come to grief by not being familiar with the rise in the walk at one certain place.