

1855

City of Gardiner 1855. Mayor's Address, Annual Appropriations, and Municipal Register.

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CITY OF GARDINER....1855.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS,
ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS,
AND
MUNICIPAL REGISTER.



GARDINER:
A. M. C. HEATH, CITY PRINTER—JOURNAL OFFICE.
1855.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the City Council :

Being called again by the suffrages of my fellow citizens to fill the office of chief magistrate of the city, I avail myself of this occasion to express to them my thanks for so decided a proof of their confidence and regard, and to renew my promise, as I have already renewed my oath, to endeavor to discharge well the duties of the office.

Allow me, also, gentlemen, to congratulate you upon your election, and upon the favorable auspices under which we meet to inaugurate the new government. Most of you have been chosen to occupy seats here without opposition, and the views you entertain upon matters of public concern, it is fair to infer, are participated in by the great body of your constituents. Another circumstance favorable to harmonious action is to be found in the fact that no exciting questions are at this time dividing the public mind. The finances of the city, too, I am happy to be able to inform you, are in a healthy condition, and no extraordinary measures will have to be resorted to, to replenish an exhausted treasury.

The last year was a propitious one to our city in many respects. Nearly all branches of business pursued to any con-

siderable extent by our citizens were prosperous; no destructive fire or desolating flood visited us; the peace of the inhabitants was not once disturbed by mobs or riots; and, better than all, while wasting disease was spreading itself in other cities and towns in various parts of the country, our own community was mercifully spared from its direful visitation.— The contemplation of facts such as these will, I trust, awaken in us all emotions of gratitude towards the all-wise Disposer of events, who in his wisdom was thus pleased to favor and bless our city.

With these preliminary reflections, I address myself to the duty of calling your attention to some of the more important subjects which will shortly require your consideration. I have already alluded to the finances of the city, and have remarked to you that they are in a satisfactory condition, but it may be proper for me to go a little more into details, and to spread before you the actual state of the treasury. It is believed that the bills are nearly all in, and that the balance struck on the treasurer's book on the first day of March inst., cannot be varied materially by outstanding claims hereafter to be presented for allowance. Assuming the correctness of this conclusion, we find a balance in the hands of the treasurer at that date, due the city, of \$553.91, after providing for all known and recognized liabilities, excepting, of course, the permanent debt. The disbursements in the Highway department have exceeded the appropriation by the sum of \$106.75. A deficiency amounting to \$54.61 also exists in the Interest appropriation, but with these exceptions each department has kept within the appropriation made for it, and a small surplus stands to the credit of some of them. There will be, however, a deficiency in the appropriation for the Fire department of some \$275, when the bills are all in. To meet this deficiency, as also the Highway and Interest deficiency, a transfer

will have to be made from the contingent account, where a surplus exists of some \$724.48. Authority to make such transfer was conferred on me at one of the last meetings of the late city council. The sum of \$330 has been paid on the permanent debt of the city since the accounts were made up at the close of the last year. The whole amount of the permanent debt is now \$13,260, and I would recommend that an appropriation as large as can well be spared be ordered for its further reduction.

The expenditures in the course of last year for which no direct appropriation was made, were as follows, viz: for the continuation of the sewer along the line of Main Street at the South end of the causeway, \$102; for the repair of the Factory bridge, about \$250; for the repair of the New Mills bridge, \$350; for two new cisterns for the use of the fire department, and for removing and rebuilding the Ladder house, about \$375; for a new hearse, \$90; for gas fixtures in the City Hall, \$63.06; for damages in consequence of defect in the highways, \$85; for sewer assessment remitted to Mrs. Dorcas Parker, \$58.50. In all the sum of \$1303.56.

The receipts into the treasury not derived from appropriations, amounted to \$773.92, of which sum \$154 were received for rent of the City Hall, the basement under it and the land in the rear of it; \$103.92 were received from the State for board and expenses of an insane person at the Hospital; and the principal part of the balance was received from fines and forfeitures incurred for violations of the liquor law.

You will soon be called upon to determine what appropriations will be required for the year now commencing, and I hold myself in readiness to afford all the aid in helping forward the work, which the experience of the past year will enable me to impart. I am not aware that any extraordinary expenditure will have to be provided for the coming year unless it should

be thought expedient to make extensive repairs on the City Hall or to purchase a new fire engine in place of the Protector. I will venture to suggest, however, in regard to the highways and sidewalks, that much still remains to be done in various parts of the city to bring them into such a state of repair as the comfort and safety of travelers require. The expenditures in the Highway department last year were large, but it must be borne in mind that labor and materials for road making were unprecedentedly high, and that as a matter of course, less was accomplished in proportion to the outlay than usual. Enough, I think, should be set apart for this department to make the ordinary repairs satisfactorily, and leave funds sufficient to defray the expense of gravelling pretty effectually the business portion of Water Street and portions of several others of the more important streets. Provision should also be made for altering and putting into a safe condition the road over the Lord hill so called. It will hardly be prudent to allow another season to pass without taking some measures to secure it against the operations of the rain and the frost.

The item for sidewalks is a considerable one in the disbursements of the highway department, and as population increases and new streets are opened or old ones extended, it is likely to be increased every year, unless some plan can be devised to diminish the cost of constructing them. It seems to me that the subject is worthy of the consideration of the Council, and I would advise that it receive early attention.

The education of the children and youth of our city, is now acknowledged on all hands to be of the first importance, and I doubt not it will be your pleasure to make suitable appropriations in its behalf. Our public schools are rapidly acquiring that hold upon the popular favor which is indispensable to their success. Parents are manifesting more interest in them

than formerly, and the necessity of having a good education to ensure success and respectability in life is beginning to be comprehended by all classes of our citizens.

It should be the policy of the city government to keep pace fully with the popular sentiment, when it is found to be moving, as in this instance, in the right direction. And to this end, I would venture to start the inquiry, whether our educational system would not be improved by dispensing with the division into districts, and by putting all the schools into one department under the immediate control of the city government, and thus, out of the various detached and independent agencies and districts of the present system, acting without concert and frequently without plan, to form one harmonious whole. I have not raised this inquiry without having first carefully considered it, and I am free to say that the conclusion to which I have come, is that such a change would be beneficial, and that its consummation ought to be no longer delayed. Without troubling you too much with details, my plan would be, first, to abolish the districts. Second, a School Superintendent should be chosen by the city council, to hold his office for three years, whose duties should be the same, substantially, as those of a school agent under the present district system. Third, a board to consist of six members, one from each ward in the city, to hold their office for three years, with an arrangement to have the term of two members expire each year. The duties of this board to be the same as those of the present district committee, and in addition to these, to advise with the Superintendent in all matters relating to the establishment and management of the schools, and in conjunction with him to determine how and where the money shall be expended. The foregoing is merely an outline of the plan, the filling up of which would require more space than can be allotted to it here. The advantages of such an

arrangement would be, a more judicious selection of teachers, a more prudent and intelligent oversight of the schools, increased facilities for grading them, a nearer approach to equality in the distribution of the school money, and a more economical expenditure of it.

One of the strongest objections to the present system is that the children in sparsely populated districts are in danger of growing up in ignorance, because the city fails to provide schools, of suitable length, accessible to them, to which they can resort to be educated. Five or six weeks of school in the winter and from eight to ten in the summer, which is all that can be afforded in some of our districts, will never satisfy the inhabitants of those districts, and ought not to satisfy them, and ought not to satisfy us who live in the midst of school privileges; for, nothing can be plainer than that the youth in these districts, if the present system is continued, must grow up without the advantages of that common school education which has been regarded as the birthright of every child of New England.

The number of persons receiving aid from the poor department at the Almshouse and out of it, has been diminishing for the last two or three years, but there still remains quite a family to be maintained at the public charge; for which, and for the relief of transient paupers, provision will have to be made. The appropriation for last year has all been used, but I believe the bills against the department have, also, all been adjusted, and, considering the high price of provisions during the whole of last year, I think the affairs have been managed with a due regard to economy of expenditure. I deem this a fit occasion to direct your attention to the necessity, which it seems to me exists, of having a Work House connected with our Almshouse, for the purpose of disciplining and setting to work, a class of idle, dissolute men and boys, who, too often

infest our streets. There is a law of the State empowering cities and towns to provide Work Houses, and prescribing rules for their government, and I hope you will regard the subject of sufficient importance to give it an investigation.

A small appropriation for printing will be required, and the usual appropriation for salaries, for the payment of interest on the permanent debt, for the fire department, the city watch and the contingent fund.

A word also in regard to the City Hall cannot be out of place here. It was proposed at one time last year to fit it up and put it in a better state of repair, but upon examination it was found that it must be newly shingled, newly painted outside and in, and that the hall must be newly papered, and as all this would require quite an outlay, which had not been provided for, the idea was abandoned. Should it be thought advisable to attempt to repair it this year, an appropriation for the purpose should be made. Perhaps it may be found necessary to shingle the roof to save the building from serious deterioration.

Reports from most of the departments showing their condition at the close of the last municipal year will be laid before you, and will furnish you, I doubt not, with much valuable information to assist you in discharging intelligently, some of the duties devolving upon you as members of the city council.

Having thus in a hasty and rather imperfect manner directed your attention to some of the more pressing matters requiring to be considered at your hands, and given, as it were, an outline of the business which must come before you, I tender to you my cooperation and assistance at all times when required, and I bespeak for myself in the discharge of those duties more peculiarly attached to the executive department, your countenance, encouragement and support. Permit me to express the hope that all our deliberations may be conduct-

ed with dignity, and that kindly feelings and goodwill may characterize the intercourse between the two boards, and also between the members who compose them.

Last of all, let us bear in mind, that the fiscal, prudential and municipal affairs of the city, not only, but its honor, character, reputation, and to some extent its prosperity also, have been for one year entrusted to our keeping and that we have this day, in the presence of each other and of these witnesses, bound ourselves in the most solemn manner, to discharge the trust faithfully.

N. WOODS.

APPROPRIATIONS.

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN, }
March 31, 1855. }

Ordered, The Common Council concurring, that the sum of *ten thousand, two hundred and thirty-five dollars* be granted, raised, and appropriated for the following objects, viz:

For District Schools,	\$2,500
City High School,	1,050
Poor and Insane,	2,000
Fire Department,	900
Police Department,	475
Interest on City Debt,	880
Contingent Fund,	600
Reducing City Debt,	450
Printing,	50
Salaries,	1,130

And the Assessors are hereby directed to assess the above sum of *ten thousand, two hundred and thirty-five dollars* upon the polls and estates within the city, according to law.

Ordered further, The Common Council concurring, that the sum of *three thousand dollars* be granted, raised, and appropriated in money to be laid out in making or repairing

Highways, Streets, Bridges and Sidewalks within the city, as the law directs.

And the Assessors are hereby directed to assess the aforesaid sum of three thousand dollars on the polls and estates, real and personal, of the inhabitants of the city—as highway taxes are by law required to be assessed—to be collected as other cash taxes are collected.

Read and passed. Sent down for concurrence.

C. P. BRANCH, *City Clerk.*

In Common Council, }
March 31, 1855. }

Read and passed in concurrence.

ANSYL CLARK, *Clerk.*

March 31, 1855.

Approved.

N. WOODS, *Mayor.*

MUNICIPAL REGISTER.

HON. NOAH WOODS, MAYOR.

Board of Aldermen.

Ward 1—ELBRIDGE BERRY.	Ward 4—JESSE B. TOZIER.
“ 2—SAMUEL AMEE.	“ 5—JAMES NASH.
“ 3—ROBT. THOMPSON.	“ 6—THADDEUS HILDRETH.

Common Council.

CHARLES DANFORTH, Esq., *President.*

Ward 1 { ARCH MORRELL. WM. C. BATES. WM. DAY, JR.	Ward 4 { HENRY FOY. ARTHUR ANDREWS. SAMUEL HOOKER.
Ward 2 { JOSEPH PERRY. JAMES ELWELL. CHARLES BRIDGE.	Ward 5 { CHARLES DANFORTH. WARREN REED. FREEMAN TROTT.
Ward 3 { ROBT. WILLIAMSON. WILLIAM PERKINS. N. O. MITCHELL.	Ward 6 { JOSEPH C. SIPHERS. THOMAS BOOKER. GEORGE W. BEEDLE.

CHARLES P. BRANCH,
City Clerk, and Clerk of the Board of Aldermen.

ANSYL CLARK,
Clerk of the Common Council.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES.*On Accounts and Claims.*

Aldermen—Amee and Hildreth.

Common Council—Perkins, Hooker and Bridge.

On Public Buildings.

Aldermen—Thompson and Amee.

Common Council—Elwell, Reed and Mitchell.

On Highways, Sidewalks and Bridges.

Aldermen—Tozier and Nash.

Common Council—Mitchell, Foy and Booker.

On Laying out New Streets and Assessing Damages therefor.

Aldermen—Berry and Thompson.

Common Council—Day, Andrews and Beedle.

On Burying Grounds.

Aldermen—Nash and Hildreth.

Common Council—Bridge, Siphers and Morrell.

On Finance.

Aldermen—Thompson and Nash.

Common Council—Williamson, Perry and Trott.

On Fire Department.

Aldermen—Tozier and Amee.

Common Council—Bates, Williamson and Siphers.

On Schools and School Districts.

Aldermen—Berry and Nash.

Common Council—Reed, Foy and Bates.

On Printing.

Aldermen—Nash and Tozier.

Common Council—Perry, Morrell and Andrews.

On Engrossed Ordinances.

Aldermen—Hildreth and Thompson.

Common Council—Trott, Foy and Beedle.

On Poor Department.

Aldermen—Thompson and Berry.

Common Council—Trott, Perkins and Perry.

Assessors and Overseers of the Poor.

Phineas Pratt, Samuel Hooker, Samuel Newcomb.

Superintending School Committee.

Noah Woods, Wm. L. Hyde, J. C. Aspinwall.

Directors of City High School.

The Mayor, The Superintending School Committee.

Phineas Pratt, N. B. Norton, George Burgess.

City Solicitor.

Charles Danforth.

City Physician.

E. J. Ford.

Treasurer and Collector.

Elbridge Berry.

City Marshal and Street Commissioner.

Elbridge Berry.

Chief Engineer of Fire Department.

James G. Donnell.

Second Engineer.

John C. Goding.

Third Engineer.

William C. Bates.

Assistant Engineers.

Elbridge Berry.

J. B. Tozier.

Samuel Amee.

Robt. Thompson.

James Nash.

Thaddeus Hildreth.

Sealer of Weights and Measures.

James G. Donnell.

Tithing Men.

Moses S. Wadsworth.	E. A. Andrews.
Wm. L. Witham.	James M. Colson.
Franklin Foster.	Jos. R. Lawrence.

Fence Viewers.

Isaac Lawrence.	Samuel Hooker.
Freeman Williams.	R. Williamson.
Elbridge Berry.	James Nash.
Charles Bridge.	T. Hildreth.

Cullers of Bricks.

Jos. C. Siphers.	Chas. Merrill.	A. Morrell.
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Culler of Staves and Heading.

Abel Whitney.

Scalers of Leather.

Myrick Hopkins.	George Plaisted.
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Weigher and Guager.

John Dennis.

Measurers of Stone.

Sullivan Washburn.	Nahum Hildreth.
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Committee to enforce Truant Law.

Elbridge Berry.	Phineas Pratt.	Henry Foy.
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Pound Keeper,

Arthur Plumer.

City Crier,

Moses Dunton.