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Government of Rockland; its history, structure, and functions of officers.

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BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Thesis

GOVERNMENT OF ROCKLAND
ITS HISTORY, STRUCTURE, AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICERS 2

Submitted by

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(A.B., Holy Cross, 1949)

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements for
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INTRODUCTION

On June 28, 1949 an act making local history and government required subjects of instruction in public high schools was approved by the Massachusetts legislature. The law reads as follows:

"In all public elementary and high schools American history and civics, including the constitution of the United States, and in all public high schools the constitution of the Commonwealth and local history and government shall be taught as required subjects for the purpose of promoting civic service and a greater knowledge thereof, and of fitting the pupils morally and intellectually, for the duties of citizenship."

Just as is the case with other subjects of the curriculum, the content of the subject matter, the scope, the time allotted, etc. are under the jurisdiction of the local school committee.

The function of the public schools is to produce a good type of citizen. The course of study and school life endeavor to build a citizen. The education in schools does prepare students to earn a living after graduation, but the first aim is to produce a good citizen. This citizen is one who recognizes the duties and privileges of citizenship and who will govern his actions in accordance with the law.

More money than ever before is being raised and appro-

priated at our Town Meetings. Is it logical that one should show less interest in local government than ever before? The answer should be obvious. However, at times, Town Meeting does not even have the necessary quorum of two hundred voters. This indifference may lead to danger for a nation where the government is supposed to be of the people, by the people, and for the people, not only for those few interested people who do participate.

By describing the structure and functions of the government of the Town of Rockland and the duties, rights, and responsibilities of its citizens, the writer hopes to encourage a more alert and informed local citizenry.

The first chapter deals with a brief history of the more important changes in the town. Although it is not intended to include details, it should provide a background of the present town government, a background that helps to appreciate the changes that have taken place and to realize that it is a town to be proud of.

The second chapter deals with the election of town officers and the determining of the town's policies. It will clarify the important role of the town's citizens. The reader will read of democracy in action.

The third chapter concerns the functions of town officers. Their importance and their responsibilities are elaborated on.

Chapter four is a guide to the teaching of the local history and local government as required by the new State law. It is not to be adhered to in such a way that only what is suggested is followed. As the unit proceeds, there is room for development. The teacher is free to capitalize on related current events.

The writer sincerely hopes that the persons who read this paper will be stirred into action and do their share to make Rockland's government one of the people, for the people, and by the people.

Rockland is unfortunate in one respect because there is neither a history of the town nor is there any written material on its government other than the annual town reports. There is a definite need of a more complete history of the town. The writer is pleased to think that this paper will serve as a contribution to the above.

CHAPTER I
TOWN HISTORY

1. General Background

Topography.-- During the Great Ice Age in New England glaciers passed over the district leaving deposits worthy of mention, namely, the rocks off Oregon Avenue and those near Union and Summit Street.^{1/} These rock deposits show sand and pebbles in the strata as they were picked up and then dumped as the glacier passed on. The ridges in the eastern sections of Rockland are of glacial origin.

Indian trails.-- There is evidence of Indians having been in Rockland. Their arrowheads and their implements have been found about the town. Many of their crude tools and weapons have been found near the corner of East Water and Howard Streets. These Indians did not settle in town since there was nothing to attract them here. It is said to be King Philip's ground. Throughout the seventeenth century it remained an unbroken wilderness with vast forests of oak and pine which destined the community for manufacturing rather than agricultural pursuits.

1/Smith, Raymond, Rockland in the Service, Berhle Publisher Abington, Massachusetts, 1946, p. 93

Hatherly grant.-- The lands, now included in the town of Rockland, were entirely in the jurisdiction of the New Plymouth established by the Colony Court under the Royal Charter in 1729. This same court granted to Timothy Hatherly a certain tract of land, which was out of the bounds of any town, on the west side of Scituate, and three miles west until it reached the Patent Line, being three miles square. This Hatherly grant was to constitute a fair size of what later became Rockland.

First settlers.-- There being nothing too attractive in what is now Rockland it was slow to receive its first settlers. These people came here from Hingham to the Webster Grounds. It was the oak trees that seemed inviting to these newcomers. The quality of these trees was excellent for shipbuilding. What little farm land there was did persuade some of the Hingham farmers to move here. Years passed by with but a gradual increase in population.

Incorporation of Abington.-- It was not until 1712 that a petition was presented by the General Court and the town of Abington was incorporated. The several settlements which first formed the village of East Abington (now the town of Rockland) belonged to the town of Abington for one hundred and sixty two years. Therefore, Rockland's early history is that of early Abington.

Although the writer intends this chapter to be primarily a history of the more important departments of Rockland's government, it is necessary to show in brief the development of East Abington.

Shoe industry.-- The main industry in Rockland is the making of shoes. Shoe workers were attracted to Rockland to make their homes. It was in 1793 that Thomas Hunt introduced the shoe business. His home was in the Hatherly district near the Weymouth line. Mr. Hunt learned the shoe business in Quincy and taught it to his six brothers. They, in turn, taught it to others. These brothers went from house to house making shoes for the families. They had to travel to Boston and back on horseback to get their leather. The shoe business progressed from the home work bench with crude hand tools to the neighborhood shops. It has steadily grown from those early beginnings to the spacious factories and the modern machinery of today.

Until several years ago this district, with its allied products, was the largest shoe manufacturing center in the country. It is the current belief of some that the Brotherhood Union through its efforts for better wages and hours has driven away many of the one time big shoe companies. The Brotherhood insists that top wages be paid. This added to the total cost of shoes causes the shoes to sell sixty

cents higher than shoes from Nashville, Tennessee. Although the workmanship is better in this district, the total cost seems to be the determining factor.

2. Town Origin

Schoolhouse dispute.-- At the annual Town Meeting March 13, 1871 Abington Center had an article in the warrant as follows:^{1/}

"To see if the town will purchase a lot of land and build a High and Grammar Schoolhouse at Center Abington and make an appropriation of \$12,000.00 for the same."

The amount of \$12,000.00 was voted without opposition. A building committee consisting of several prominent citizens of Center Abington was chosen. This committee purchased a lot of land, procured plans, and entered into contracts. This involved an expense of about \$25,000.00 which caused considerable surprise among the townspeople.

This indignation was very great in East Abington (now Rockland). Feeling was strongly against the committee's action. However, the work of the school went on. The Selectmen paid the bills as they came in or until the funds were exhausted.

At this point the only thing to do was to call a Town Meeting to see if the town would vote to make an additional 1/Annual Report of the Town of Abington, 1871, p. 21.

appropriation for the schoolhouse. The meeting was called but the additional appropriation was voted down. One meeting followed another but with the same result.

Having completed their work, the contractors brought suit against the town and the court awarded the decision to the contractors. It was claimed that the committee was not to exceed the appropriation. The Town Clerk had no record of such a vote. Even today there is doubt as to whether there was such a vote or not. The result was the town paid bills amounting to \$26,500.00 for the school and lot and about \$1,500.00 for court expenses.

Petition for incorporation.--- The first petition for an act of incorporation was presented February 21, 1872. This was referred to the next session of the General Court. At that session a bill for incorporation was passed by the Senate but was defeated in the House March 27, 1873. In the session of 1874, it was again presented and the Senate again favored it. Having passed the Senate, it was ordered to its engrossment in the House March 4, 1874. It was approved by the Executive on March 13, 1874.

Statistics bearing upon division of Abington.--- Much credit is given to the Honorable Ellis Morton for having helped to secure the passage of the act of incorporation. ^{1/}

1/Morton, Ellis, Closing Argument of the Honorable Ellis Morton Favoring the Division of Abington. Alfred Mudge & Son, Boston, 1874, pp. I-III.

On February 5, 1874 he concluded his speech with the following statistics favoring the division of Abington. It will be clear from these statistics that the proposed town of Rockland was capable of becoming a town even more successfully than many incorporated as such.

Area of Territory

The whole town	16,100 Acres
The proposed town	6,666 Acres

The proposed town would be larger in area than 54 of the towns of the Commonwealth.

Population

The whole town	10,144
The proposed town	4,278

The proposed town would be larger in population than 279 of the towns of the Commonwealth.

Valuation

The whole town	\$4,756,480.
The proposed town	\$1,857,958.

The proposed town would be of greater valuation than 254 of the towns of the Commonwealth.

Number of Polls

The whole town (May 1, 1873)	2,789
The proposed town	1,127

Number of Voters

The whole town	2,400
The proposed town	970

Petitioners

Petitions, resident voters of East Abington	824
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Valuation Per Capita

The proposed town	\$434.00
The remaining town	\$494.00

Roads

North, Center, and South Abington situated on the Old Colony Railroad. East Abington situated on the Hanover Branch.

Direction of Growth

One hundred twenty of the one hundred sixty seven buildings erected in East Abington from 1869 to 1874 have been erected east of the main street.

Comparison of East Abington
With 70 Other New Towns

Incorporated since 1800 A.D.

Less In Population than the proposed town	66
Less in Valuation than the proposed town	44
Less in Area than the proposed town	21

Schools

The whole town	42
The proposed town (Average of 58 pupils per school)	17
The remaining town (Average of 50 pupils per school)	25

3. Major Town Departments

The rest of this chapter is devoted to a brief history of several of the Town Departments. The information for the most part has been obtained from the Department reports and from the Town Meeting reports. The writer believes this information could be presented best by a chronological type of history.

School Department.-- The School Department, like all the other town departments, is handicapped by insufficient funds. Rockland not being a wealthy town will continue much as it has in the past. This department will continue to show moderate progress. Like all departments, it cannot have all that it wants.

This past year the townspeople voted a six room addition to one school and also a new ten room school. These new schools will give the town school buildings comparable to other towns the same size as Rockland. Most important they will provide an adequate number of classrooms and will eliminate the undesirable double sessions held at Lincoln School.

It is safe to say that Rockland at this moment is not an educationally minded town. If it were, the double session would never have been necessary. The need for the new accommodation had to be immediately present before the seriousness

was realized by many voters.

Another drawback is the town's inability to compete with the salary schedule of neighboring towns. Teachers get their experience in Rockland and leave to teach in towns with a higher maximum salary. The town then has to hire a new inexperienced teacher to fill the vacancy. The writer believes the children are the ones most seriously affected because they are serving as the guinea pigs for teacher-training.

Remedial work is sadly needed in reading but since it is difficult to obtain regular teachers and pay them, the remedial work lags. Several children in the special class would never be placed there but for their reading disability. A special class in many cases is the result of not having an efficient remedial program.

This past year the town finally adopted a salary schedule. It was one of the last towns of its size and valuation to adopt such a schedule. The writer believes this significant because in a few years it will tend to reduce some of the teacher turn-over.

Should there be a few modifications in the salary schedule, it would not only be satisfactory to the teachers but would prove to be an asset to the town. The School Department does very well with the money allotted. If this problem should be improved, great progress would be forthcoming.

- 1762 The first school sessions of East Abington (Rockland) were held in the southwest room of the Jacob Smith place on Liberty Street. This site is now occupied by the H. H. Arnold Machine Company.
- 1765 The first school building in East Abington (Rockland) was built on Liberty Street near the H. H. Arnold Machine Company.
- 1874 There were 17 schools in Rockland at the time of its incorporation.
- 1879 The town provided the school children with the necessary textbooks. The School Department was able to purchase these cheaper than parents could. This was a great step in education because formerly there always seemed to be several pupils with no texts. Classroom procedure was hampered by their not having books. Needless to say, it was much more convenient for all concerned.
- 1880 The Summit Street School was opened.
- 1881 Truant officers were appointed in hopes of reducing the high rate of absenteeism. Fortunately the desired outcome was achieved. Schools were closed on several occasions due to the outbreak of diphtheria.

- 1882 The school committee requested a full time superintendent. The town voted in the negative.
- 1889 The town voted to form a district with Abington to hire a superintendent of schools. The school committee proceeded, along with the Abington committee, in hiring a superintendent. Discussions arose in Rockland because an Abington man was appointed to the job. At a special Town Meeting it was voted to rescind the vote to join with Abington in hiring the superintendent. This, of course, caused difficulty with the town of Abington. Later that same year the superintendent resigned.
- 1890 The Church Street School was destroyed by fire. A new building was built in its place. Due to crowded conditions, the need of a new High School was realized.
- 1892 The town voted to construct a building suitable for the needs of a High School. This building was built at the corner of Howard and Church Streets. The school committee was instructed at Town Meeting to appoint a superintendent.
- 1894 The voters at Town Meeting voted in the negative to hire a superintendent. It was again voted

down at two special meetings in the same years.

1897 The town passed over the hiring of a superintendent.

1899 Rockland united with Whitman in the employment of a superintendent. He devoted two days a week to each town, and the odd day was devoted to both towns. Should an emergency of any type ever arise in either town, he was free to attend to it.

1903 The Town Meeting passed over an article to increase the number of the school committee to five. The schools in town were as follows: High School, School Street, Gleason, Church Street, Summit Street, North Union Street, Market Street, Plain Street, North Avenue, Central Street and Union Street.

1904 The town voted not to increase the number of school board members.

1906 The appointment of a school physician was made necessary by a school law approved on June 20.

1908 The Handel Poole lot was purchased and a New High School constructed.

1909 The former High School was remodeled and equipped to accommodate grade school children.

1912 An epidemic of measles and whooping cough affected about one half of the pupils. A large number of

children were not promoted while many were given trial promotions. Summer school was provided in order to help the children and to prevent certain grades from becoming overcrowded.

- 1914 The Gleason School was moved to where the North Union Street School had been, the North Union Street School having been destroyed by fire.
- 1926 The town voted to build and equip a schoolhouse. This building was to accommodate four classes.
- 1927 A committee of fifteen was appointed to investigate to the needs of the town regarding a new school building. On June 8 the report of the above committee was accepted and the town voted to erect a combined Junior-Senior High School.
- 1928 The former High School became a grade school. Only the first two floors of this building are used for the elementary school.
- 1932 The town voted to increase the number of school board members to five.
- 1949 After years of very little change, the rise in birth rate caused a serious overcrowding of schools.
- 1950 A committee was appointed to investigate the school housing problem. Their findings justified the

construction of new classrooms.

1951 The school accommodations were voted in the negative. A week later the article was opened again but still received a negative vote. This negative vote made it necessary for a double session for grades five and one sixth grade. The committee was instructed to bring in several other plans. It was voted to spend \$780,000.00 for the constructing, equipping, and furnishing of a ten room new school and a six room addition to the addition to the present Jefferson school. A vote to acquire Hartsuff Park for the purpose of a public playground or for site of a future school was voted in the affirmative. The long range plan being to construct a grade school there when needed. This should eliminate transportation of many children to school.

Water Department.-- The town's demand for water is constantly increasing. The trend is due not only to the new installations but also to the modern devices which require a great deal of water. Some of these devices requiring water are the air condition units and the garbage disposal units.

This demand for water has necessitated a supplementary water supply. Water is now obtained both from Big Sandy Pond

and from wells. A booster pump purchased recently is being used to draw more water from the pond.

Rockland has meters for every consumer of water. In this way people pay only for the water they use. This differs from many of the surrounding towns that charge either a flat rate or so much per faucet.

The present period of inflation has made it necessary to increase the water rate. It is in keeping with increased costs of labor and supplies. This increase is the first change in rates for over thirty five years, and at that, the Rockland rate is cheaper than several towns in the vicinity which have had several rate increases. Rockland is indeed fortunate to have a very capable Water Board.

The Rockland water supply consisted of only wells for a number of years. It was not until 1883 that a need of an adequate water supply was fully realized. The growth of the town necessitate some sort of action. As the amount of valuable property increase, there was need of more and more cisterns.

1883 A committee was appointed to study the problem of a water supply. It was guided by the following three questions:

1. What is the quality of the water?
2. What amount will the proposed source furnish?

3. What is the cost of obtaining it?

The committee was to act with the committees of Abington and South Abington. This committee made its report of the available sources of water supply.

- 1884 Another committee of five was appointed to confer with South Abington and Abington. This committee recommended Big Sandy Pond. This same committee petitioned the Legislature for an act enabling the towns to unite in obtaining water from Big Sandy Pond.
- 1885 An Act to supply the towns of Rockland, Abington, and South Abington with water was approved by the Governor on April 30.
- 1886 Abington and Rockland voted to accept the enabling act. South Abington refused by a small vote. Abington and Rockland proceeded to make contracts for the construction of the water system.
- 1889 The water main was extended on Union Street to the Weymouth line. In the event of a complete shut-off from our source of supply, we were able to obtain from Weymouth a fair amount of water for fire and domestic service.
- 1890 A threat to the water supply occurred during the

hot dry weather. It was necessary to put a restraint on the use of water. The Water Commissioners placed an indicator at a public place so citizens would know the amount of water in the standpipe.

- 1891 The long desired water extension through North Avenue to Abington was made. This made it possible to by-pass a section of the town should there ever be need of repair.
- 1902 The receipts of the Water Department were enough to pay bonds and interest along with the regular expenses of the department.
- 1919 The cottage owners' association at Big Sandy Pond were active in patrolling the shores in order to enforce the rules relative to sanitary conditions.
- 1935 The town voted to take by eminent domain a suitable site in Rice Park for the location of an elevated water tank with a capacity of about 530,000 gallons. A government grant paid for almost one half of the cost.
- 1939 The inhabitants of Pembroke brought suit against Abington and Rockland on the grounds that the sanitation rules hurt their business and damaged the value of adjacent property. The Court upheld

Abington and Rockland.

- 1945 The joint Water Board petitioned the Legislature for authority to take water from wells which were to be driven on lands owned jointly near the shores of Big Sandy.
- 1947 The old standpipe sprung a serious leak fifteen feet from the top. It was necessary to discontinue its use.
- 1948 A new gravel packed well in Pembroke supplied the town with water for several months until the high iron content of the pond was lowered.
- 1949 The demand for water exceeded the capacity of the supply system to deliver water. Continuous operation of the pumping station failed to provide water as fast as it was being used. This resulted in the lowering of the water in all storage tanks. One tank was emptied and the others were below normal. The pumping station is only able to supply water at one thousand gallons a minute. A demand of three thousand gallons is not uncommon during a fire. The balance would have to be supplied from storage tanks. The need of a supplementary supply was realized. A connection with the metropolitan supply was investigated but

the results were not encouraging. The only alternative was wells located within the towns. As the water act only allows water to be taken from Great Sandy Pond and from wells located 100 feet off the pond, it was necessary to obtain permission to take water from any source within Abington and Rockland.

1951 The most favorable location was found in Abington. The well here has proven itself able to supply the two towns. It operated for a full year on a 24-hour basis.

Police Department.-- As the town grows, so grows the Police Department. The early years of Rockland found no full time Police Officers, whereas today Rockland has seven full time men. The cruiser gives much better service than in the earlier years for now the whole town is protected.

The officers have recently attended a training school for local police officers. The purpose is to train officers of the small towns, like Rockland, who do not have the facilities to train officers as they do in the cities. The course was under the supervision of the State Police. Such a course should greatly increase the efficiency of the department.

This past year the officers went on a forty hour week.

These hours are still desired in many of the large cities and towns. Rockland, compared with surrounding towns of its size and valuation, offers its people excellent police protection.

1888 Nine Constables were elected by the people and were later appointed as Police Officers by the Selectmen.

1892 Complaints of not enforcing the liquor law were received. Not much could be done about it since the Constables were working part of the time in factories.

1893 A committee of ten was appointed to enforce the liquor law. A special officer was also appointed to care for that problem.

1898 The town changed its policy regarding the sale of intoxicating liquor, and decided to grant licenses. The regular police force was called to assist the night officer because of the alarming amount of drunkenness on the streets.

1899 An addition was built on the west end of the lock-up since it had proven to be inadequate for the purposes intended, and also because of the large increase in arrests after the licenses were granted.

- 1903 No one wanted the job of taking charge of enforcement of the liquor law. Due to this fact, the Selectmen appointed Constables as the liquor squad.
- 1915 The lock-up was repaired. A cement floor was installed for the steel cages, and a section prepared for handling emergency cases.
- 1927 A motorcycle was purchased by the town to be used in traffic work during the summer months.
- 1935 The growth of the community caused a traffic parking problem on our main street.
- 1941 The town voted to accept the provision relative to placing the police on civil service.
- 1949 The traffic situation was so bad requests were made for off street parking. It was passed over at Town Meeting.
- 1951 The town voted to put the School Street lot in suitable condition for parking purposes. The lot in front of the Fraternal Order of Eagles was also put in good condition for parking. The town now has two good parking areas very close to the business district.
- 1952 The town voted to put the policemen on a forty hour week. This came as somewhat of a surprise to many since they believed it would take several

years to pass that article.

Fire Department.-- The Fire Department is certainly equipped as well as any fire department in the state. The engines are all comparatively new and are a credit to the town. Fire protection in the town has never been better.

Last year the six permanent men were putting in an average of eighty four hours a week. This year the men were voted a fifty six hour week. The fifty six hour week is still desired in many towns and cities larger than Rockland.

The modern means of communication enables the department to offer the town very prompt service. One needs only to recall the firemen leaving their jobs and racing to the fire where the bucket parade would take place. The town has proceeded a long way from those days.

1874 The East Abington district had to be dissolved, after the incorporation of Rockland as a town. It was up to the Selectmen of Rockland to organize a town Fire Department by appointing the officers necessary. The resources of the department were one hand engine, one chemical fire extinguisher, about four hundred feet of hose and a set of hook and ladders. There was a good sized cistern under the engine house, one built by a private enterprise near the corner of Union and Vernon Streets.

There was a full company of 75 men.

- 1877 A new hook and ladder house was built by the fire engineers. The bell alarm was placed in the tower of this building.
- 1884 The need of a new and more efficient alarm was felt because many of the firemen were not able to hear the alarm. After a careful study it was learned that the same bell would be sufficient if the tower was raised to such a height as to be above the neighboring buildings. More cisterns were added because much valuable property was exposed to fire without a proper supply of water.
- 1886 The town was supplied with water from Great Sandy Pond. This provided the Fire Department with an ample supply of water.
- 1888 The King Philip Engine Company (by request of the engineers) voted to disband and form the King Philip Hose Company.
- 1889 The old hook and ladder which was bought by the town of Abington before the East Abington Fire Department existed was replaced. It was replaced because many new ladders were added which greatly overloaded the old truck. A new fire alarm system was authorized and the engineers purchased an

- electric striker alarm.
- 1891 The installation of an alarm in the northern part of the town was made.
- 1893 A new steam fire engine was purchased and kept in a newly built fire house.
- 1895 The fire apparatus consisted of one steam fire engine, one hand engine, one hose wagon, one hose reel, one hook and ladder truck, and one small hand chemical extinguisher.
- 1899 The town requested the manufacturers to allow their employees who were firemen to respond to calls.
- 1904 The King Philip hand engine was put in storage.
- 1912 A new motor combination fire truck and hose wagon was purchased.
- 1927 After years of little happening in this department, a committee was appointed to study the needs of a new fire station. This committee recommended a new building to be erected the following year. However, business was not good then and the question was put on the table for several years.
- 1938 The town voted to raise and appropriate \$61,500.00 for construction of a fire station. The building was built at the same side. The town obtained

funds under the Public Works Administration.

Rockland labor was used as far as possible.

1945 A new sixty five foot metal aerial ladder truck was purchased.

1951 A new triple combination pumping engine and equipment was purchased.

1952 The permanent members of the Fire Department were voted a fifty six hour week.

Board of Health.-- It will be observed that sewerage has been and still is the big issue facing the Board of Health. The problem of paying for such a program would be a serious tax burden upon Rockland residents. The trend, at present, seems more favorable than ever before. Unfortunately when the sewerage article came before Town Meeting last year, Rockland was faced with the need of more school accommodations. The town could not afford both, so sewerage was voted in the negative by a very small margin.

As the town grows, so does the sewerage problem. Sewerage would care for all water coming into the town. The only water to be consumed in the grounds would be snow and rain. Water in cellars would be reduced greatly as well as the need of purchasing cellar pumps.

Most people are not directly affected with the sewerage problem. However, the business section of the town and

several of the town's larger industries are seriously handicapped because the small area they occupy does not absorb the great amount of water they use. A sewerage program would not only stimulate business but encourage new industry in town.

The Board of Health has recently made an important law preventing the sale of raw milk. This should eliminate any of the diseases due to unpasteurized milk.

1886 Water mains were laid from Big Sandy Pond to Rockland. The demand for water has increased yearly yet the town has never installed a sewerage system to carry the water away.

1887 The first report from the newly created Board of Health mentioned that the most important cause of nuisances was drainage. (It will be noticed that this drainage problem will continue through to 1952.)

1891 The local Board of Health agreed with the State Inspector that the Gleason school was poorly ventilated. The Board carried out a very detailed study of the ventilating system and the School Committee had to make the recommended corrections. Four cases of typhoid fever were reported.

1895 The Board had to destroy books of school children having a contagious disease. Plumbing laws helped

the sewerage problem but by no means cured it. Some diseases could have been caused by defective plumbing.

- 1902 People using the sides of the town streets for dumping made it necessary to provide a town dump.
- 1903 The subject of drainage became most perplexing. The town having grown so rapidly the ground could not hold the amount of water coming from all the houses. Complaints of improper drainage became frequent. Problems were solved the best way possible. However, the same problems seem to have arisen elsewhere. The answer was a sewerage system but the town never could seem to afford it. The result is the town still has a terrible problem to face.
- 1904 The State Board of Health inspected the town and recommended a sewerage system.
- 1911 A committee was appointed to study the sewerage problem.
- 1912 The Board stated in its report the same as had been reported before, that in regard to a sewerage problem, the conditions will remain bad until such a system is installed. A full detailed report by the committee on sewerage was published in the

Annual Town Report. It is worthy of reading but much too long to be quoted here. However, the need of a sewerage system is made clear beyond any doubt.^{1/}

- 1914 Installation of a sewerage system was refused.
- 1915 Acceptance of the Sewerage Act was refused. Again at a special Town Meeting the town voted not to accept Chapter 338 of the Acts of 1913 which was entitled "An Act to authorize the town of Rockland to construct and maintain a system of sewerage and sewerage disposal."
- 1917 The town voted to accept the Act to authorize the town to construct and maintain a sewerage and sewerage disposal. While 103 voted against it, 355 voted in favor of it. This was referred to a Board of Sewer Commissioners who were to be elected by a special ballot. The Sewer Commissioners recommended that no action be taken because:^{2/}

"The estimates received were so high that the expenditures voted by the town and the proportional assessment authorized by the law would permit the construction of only about half the system which was presented to the voters and intended by them.

The committee believed the Act accepted by

1/Annual Town Report of 1912, pp. 210-238.

2/Annual Town Report of 1917, pp. 106-107.

the town should be amended in relation to assessments and annual charges to allow a more just and equitable distribution of costs and benefits."

- 1918 No bonds could be issued for any work because of Federal laws and regulations. The Sewerage Commissioners decided it was best to wait until the town could get what it wanted at an amount agreeable to all.
- 1935 The town passed over the raising and appropriating money to complete the plan and specifications of a sewerage system and file it with the State Board of Health. It was voted to raise and appropriate \$63,500.00 for financing the widening and rebuilding of Union Street and laying sewer pipes from North Avenue to Union Square. The Sewerage Committee filed an application to secure a grant of money to be expended in building a sewerage system in Rockland. The committee urged the start of such a system because the town had lost several industrial plants, and also because the Board of Health reported the soil of the town was near the saturation point with sewage.
- 1936 The town voted to petition the Public Works Administration to amend the above application in order to eliminate the laying of sewage pipes.

- 1938 The State Board of Health became interested in the health condition of the town. The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works suggested the town make an application for a grant toward installing a sewerage system. The amount of \$162,000.00 would be allotted to the town. The application was completed and received approval of the State, and Federal officials in Washington. The town was to raise \$198,000.00 to be used along with the above \$162,000.00. The matter was brought before the town and after presentation of the subject, it was voted not to accept the offer of the Federal grant.
- 1945 The Board of Health appointed a Food Inspector to make frequent inspections of all places including soda fountains where food and drink are sold or consumed.
- 1948 The Selectmen stated in the annual report that the town was in a good financial position to start a sewerage project if the State insisted that one be installed. The pollution of our natural waterways by domestic sewerage reached its climax in a demand by the State Department of Public Health for a sewage disposal plan for

the town. This demand and the laws enacted in 1945 pertaining to sewerage were turned over to the Sewerage Commissioners.

1949 The Board of Health made a law preventing the sale of raw milk.

1950 A motion to raise and appropriate \$500,000.00 for the construction of sanitary sewers in the business section of the town and adjacent territory, and for the construction of sewage treatment works of sewage disposal did not obtain the necessary two-thirds vote. At a special meeting later in the year it was defeated again. The town voted \$5,000.00 for legal defense of the town in a suit brought by the State relative to pollution of streams.

1951 The State was able to prove only one case of contaminating the streams. The town voted to remedy the situation.

Public Library.-- Reading has been greatly stimulated by the library. Each summer diplomas have been given to children reading fifteen books. A program such as this helps the school children with their reading.

Unfortunately, the circulation of both adult and children's books has decreased within the past few years.

Teachers in the schools seem to complain about the children not supplementing their school reading. Why has interest in such a valuable pastime decreased? The librarian and many teachers believe it is due to television. Television is good but it should not take the place of one's reading.

Since the library has not had any sizable money gift, it is dependent upon the dog tax and money raised by taxation.

1878 The town voted to establish a free public library.

1890 The library was destroyed by fire on July 16.

Many books were carried across the street to neighboring yards and later moved to the Studley building. It was opened again on August 23.

1891 The total number of bound volumes in the library was 8,053.

1898 A committee of seven was appointed to nominate another committee of three to study the location and plans for a new Memorial Library building.

1903 After a very lengthy discussion on the acceptance of the Andrew Carnegie gift for a public library building, it was voted to postpone the question for two weeks in order to vote by the Australian ballot. Two weeks later the town accepted the gift of \$12,500.00 under these conditions. Rockland was to agree to maintain a free public library at

a cost of not less than \$1,250.00 a year and provide a suitable site for the building. The town purchased the lot at the corner of Union and Belmont Streets known as the Gideon Studley lot. Rockland appropriated all the money held in trust for a Soldiers Memorial Library building together with all sums which were raised for the same purpose to be used in connection with the Carnegie fund.

1905 A. W. Perry provided the furnishings for the Public Library.

1914 An additional stock room was provided.

There have been no significant changes since 1914. The library continues to be used by many of the townspeople. Yearly circulation of books continued to increase until the past few years.

CHAPTER II
TOWN MEETING

1. General Background

Town meeting.-- A town meeting is an assembly of a town's qualified voters who elect the town officers, make appropriations, levy taxes, and pass local legislation. It is one of the few examples of citizens governing themselves rather than acting through representatives.

Town meeting of yesterday.-- A town or tun in the earliest times was a cluster of farmers' dwellings, barns, and cattlesheds.^{1/} Around the tun was either a wall of earth or a dense hedge and outside, encircling the mound or hedge, was a ditch. The tun was fortified against its enemies in this manner. The tun meeting of all the freemen of the tun was held in the center of the enclosure. It was at this meeting that newcomers were admitted to live within the tun, government laws of the tun passed, officers elected to carry out the laws, and land granted to freemen.

Years ago our forefathers governed themselves in the tun moat (town meeting) in Germany. When they settled in W. B. Guitteau, Government and Politics in the United States, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1911, pp. 15-16.

England fifteen hundred years ago they carried the tun moat with them. Then a little more than three hundred years ago the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth. The Pilgrims came together in town meeting to transact public affairs.

The Englishmen who settled in New England were a very religious people. Among the first things they did was to build a church in a place convenient for all to attend. This church was called a meetinghouse because it was a common meeting place for all in the settlement. The people would meet here as citizens and transact public affairs. It is for this reason that local government in New England was centered around the church. A congregation of churchgoers was organized as a government and this government was called a town.

As towns grew, people of different religions came to this country, and voters were no longer required to attend church. Modifications occurred in the early form of town meeting.

Town meeting of today.-- Today the town meeting is the most important feature of town government. Once a year all the qualified voters of the town hold a meeting and discuss measures relating to town affairs. This meeting is held in an auditorium large enough to accommodate the townspeople. When the people were assembled, the Town Clerk would call

them to order and state the purposes for which the meeting was called. A Moderator was then chosen to preside at the meeting according to parliamentary rules.

Young and old, rich and poor, take a part in the meeting. Each article that is brought up is freely discussed. Those in favor of the article state their argument for it. Then those opposed to it state their objections. When the discussion is over, a vote is taken.

The New England town is now in its fourth century of development. An excellent example of democracy in action is found in the government in these towns. The opportunity is presented to all the townspeople to take an active role in the operation of his or her town. Although this is true at all levels of government, it is particularly so at the local level. The people, being familiar with their own local problems, manage their government by attending town meetings, and voting on election day. This type of government will insure us of a government for the people. We must remember it is intended to be a servant of the people and not its master. Thomas Jefferson once said "The town government of New England provides itself the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government and for its preservation."

In the period in which our town government developed

its characteristics, there were no automobiles, no problems of public health, water supply, sewerage disposal, police and fire protection, and only a few schools. There was little challenge to the talents and techniques of our local government in the days of our early settlement.

Today, however, town government finds itself in an entirely different environment. There are demands for better standards of performance, for more services. The contact with both state and national government has changed the administrative structure tremendously.

Today many people believe that the defects of town government outweigh its merits. Many of yesterday's administrative tasks are now centralized in the state. We find evidence in our state highway, state police, department of education, and the state board of health. The state through its legislature is causing hardship on our towns. They are passing laws which require the towns to perform tasks which actually need not be done. This is so because less concern is given to local peculiarities when the law makers are not local people.

The town is now appropriating more money than ever before, yet unfortunately the attendance at town meetings has decreased. The population increase has not been accompanied by larger meeting halls. People seem to vote

for their own interests rather than for the good of the town. The voters, relatively indifferent to many articles of the warrant, fail to avail themselves of information when made available to them. At times we find that there is a need of information causing the voter to be unqualified to vote intelligently.

There is no need to do away with our town government because of the defects mentioned. The merits are great in number. We need only to find the cures. With this in mind, let us reflect on its merits. Town meeting approaches one hundred per cent democracy. The people who know the problems, and are familiar with what the town needs, manage the town. People are forever in contact with their government through their schools, their policemen, their fire department, and their property taxes. It is for the very reason of being in constant contact with local government which makes this form of government responsible.

It is no longer practical to have monthly meetings as the Pilgrims did, so people now have an annual town meeting. Rockland's annual town meeting for the transaction of all business, except the election of officers and the matters which by law are required to be determined by ballot, is held on the first Monday of March beginning at 7:30 P.M. ^{1/}

1/By-Laws of the Town of Rockland, Article II, Section 1, p.3.

The warrant.-- Every town meeting is called by a warrant, signed by the issuing authority, which is usually the Selectmen of the town. This warrant states the time and place of the meeting and the articles to be acted upon. Any voter may submit in writing an article to the Selectmen. If the Selectmen believe it to be constructive, they will include it in the warrant. If not, they do not include it. The voter may then obtain ten signatures favoring his article and then the Selectmen must include it in the warrant. If it is for a special meeting, a hundred signatures would be required.

Notice of town meeting.-- Notice of every town meeting has to be given at least 7 days before the Constables post an attested copy of the warrant in the Town Office Building, the Post Office, and in the Rockland Standard or any newspaper circulating in the town as a local newspaper.

Selectmen's duty pertaining to the warrant.-- It is the duty of the Selectmen to cause a copy of the warrant, with the Finance Committee report, to be left at every occupied house, tenement, and hotel, at least 7 days before the day appointed in the warrant for any town meeting. At such time the annual town report is also left at every house.

The warrant for the annual town meeting is closed forty days before the day of the meeting. The Selectmen can only

reopen it for inserting additional articles if consent is obtained from the Finance Committee, and also provided that it is in time for the article to be included among those distributed 7 days before town meeting.

Whenever any article is inserted in the warrant for an annual or special town meeting, the Selectmen must forward copies of it to the Finance Committee.

The quorum.-- The number of voters necessary to make a quorum at town meeting, except such parts of meetings devoted exclusively to election of town officers, is two hundred. A number less than two hundred can take action on any article not requiring the raising and appropriating or transferring of money.

In order for a special town meeting to be called, a petition of one hundred registered voters is necessary.

2. Procedure at Town Meetings

Check lists.-- At any session of a town meeting held for the transaction of town business, other than for the election of officers, no one is allowed in the part of the hall reserved for voters unless their name is on the list of voters. This is enforced by checking each name against the list of voters as one enters the hall. This space reserved for registered voters is determined by the Moderator.

After a voter's name is checked on the list, he or she

is given a copy of the warrant with the Finance Committee's recommendations. The same pamphlet was delivered at the voter's house at least 7 days before the town meeting.

Order of acting on articles in warrant.-- The articles in the warrant are acted upon in the order that they come unless the meeting, by vote, determines differently.

Every report, motion, or resolution to be considered at the meeting involving an expenditure of money must be in writing. The Moderator may, if he desires, require any other report, motion, or resolution to be in writing.

Permission to speak.-- Every person who may desire to speak stands to address the Moderator in order to be recognized. After being recognized, the person stands while speaking. No one is allowed to speak for more than 5 minutes for a second time on any subject because there are often other people who desire to talk on the same subject. Should permission from the Moderator be given, it is then permissible to speak longer.

Counting of votes.-- The votes on the various articles are first taken by a show of hands. If the Moderator should be in doubt, he may ask for a second showing of hands. Should he still be in doubt, an actual count of votes in the affirmative, and also the negative, is taken. This count is taken by tellers appointed by the Moderator and

sworn in by the Town Clerk. Once a vote has been taken, it cannot be reconsidered unless there is a two-thirds vote in the affirmative.

Motion in order.-- When a question is before the meeting and any of the following motions are made, they shall be received and have precedence in the order listed. The first three of the following motions are decided without debate: (1) To adjourn; (2) To lay on the table; (3) For the previous question; (4) To postpone to a certain time; (5) To commit, recommit, or refer; (6) To amend.

No motion is in order if the effect of it would be to dissolve the town meeting until every article in the warrant has been duly considered and acted upon.

3. Illustration of Articles in Warrant

Examples of articles.-- In order to have a clear picture of the business which comes before the town meeting, the following extract from the 1952 warrant is inserted:

"Article No. 1 - To hear reports of the various town officers and committee who are to report at the meeting and to act on the same.

Article No. 2 - To see if the Town will vote to fix the salary and compensation of all elective officers of the Town in the amounts indicated herein and to make such salary or compensation retroactive to January 1, 1952 in accordance with the provisions of Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, as amended by Chapter 540 of the Acts of 1947, raise and appropriate any money therefor, or act anything thereon.

Article No. 3 - To raise such sums of money as may be deemed necessary to defray town expenses (exclusive of salaries of elective officers) for the ensuing year and make appropriations for the same.

Article No. 4 - To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of Fifty-eight thousand nine hundred and eighteen dollars (\$58,918.00) for the use of water commissioners and other expenses of the water department the same to be taken from Water Revenue.

Article No. 5 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) to be spent jointly with a like amount from the Town of Abington, if appropriated by said Town of Abington for the purpose of repairing the 365,000 gallon steel standpipe on Beach Hill or take any other action relative thereto.

Article No. 6 - To see if the Town will vote to transfer an unexpended balance of Nine hundred and sixty dollars and eighteen cents (\$960.18) appropriated to the Gravel Well Account at Big Sandy Pond in 1946 to Water Reserve or take any other action relative thereto.

Article No. 7 - To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue for the financial year beginning January 1, 1953 and to issue a note or notes therefor, payable within one year, and to renew such note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Section 17, Chapter 44, of the General Laws.

Article No. 36 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) for a Sand Body and Sand Spreader to be used by the Highway Department for ice control or take any other action relative thereto.

Article No. 37 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) for Chapter 90 construction on Hingham Street provided the State and County award their share.

Article No. 67 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two thousand three

hundred dollars (\$2,300.00) to resurface Lincoln Road as accepted in the preceding article or take any other action relative thereto.

Article No. 68 - To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) to repair and resurface Summit Street or take any other action relative thereto.

4. Election of Officers

Article to elect officers.-- Article No. 78 - to elect a Moderator, Town Clerk, Town Treasurer, and Tax Collector, all for one year; one member of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Public Welfare and Fence Viewers, for a term of three years; Highway Surveyor, for one year; Assessor, for three years, three Auditors, for a term of one year; two members of the School Committee, for three years; one Water Commissioner, for three years; one member of the Board of Health, for three years; two members of Library Trustees, for three years; one Park Commissioner, for Tree Warden, for one year."

The above Article No. 78 introduces the second part of Town Meeting. The election part of the meeting is declared open at 8 o'clock and remains open until 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Nomination papers.-- If a person desires to run for office, he obtains nomination papers at the Town Office. The person then proceeds to get the required number of signatures from voters of the town. This required number is one per cent of the number of votes cast at the previous town election. When the person receives these signatures, he signs the nomination paper and files it with the Town Clerk.

Voting procedure.-- The voter enters the auditorium,

gives his name to a teller, and has it checked off on the voting list. He then goes to a second teller where the process is repeated. He receives a printed ballot and with it he goes to a private booth where he marks it with a pencil. When the voter has finished, he gives his name to a third teller where it is checked off, and he places his ballot in the ballot box.

Recount privilege.-- When a candidate believes that a mistake was made in counting the ballots, a recount may be ordered. Should a person be elected other than the one declared to be elected, the Registrar of Voters sign a certificate to the newly elected person.^{1/}

5. Modification of Town Government

Finance committee.-- Rockland has taken a corrective measure and has eliminated some of the defects of local government. The Finance Committee considers town questions for the purpose of making reports and recommendations to the town.

By-Laws relating to finance committee.-- In order to have a complete understanding of the function of the Finance Committee, the writer has included the following extract from the By-Laws of the Town:^{2/}

1/General Laws, Chapter 54, Section 135, p. 631.

2/By-Laws of the Town of Rockland, Article XI, Section 1-6, p. 14-17.

"Section 1. There shall be a Finance Committee which shall perform the duties set forth in the following sections of this article and be governed by the provisions thereof. Said committee shall consist of fifteen citizens of the Town, and shall be appointed as provided in the following section. No person holding an elective or appointive town office shall be eligible to serve on said committee. If a member of the Finance Committee becomes a candidate for any elective town office his position on said committee shall immediately become vacant and the vacancy shall be filled as provided under Section 5, of this article.

Section 2. At each Annual Town Meeting the Moderator shall appoint from the legal voters dwelling in the Town, five members of said committee to serve for a term of three years. The terms of office of said members shall expire at the close or dissolution of the Annual Town Meeting at which their successors are appointed. The committee shall choose its own officers and shall serve without pay, except the Secretary, who shall be paid an annual salary of fifty dollars.

Section 3. There shall be referred to and considered by the Finance Committee all articles in any town meeting warrant. A public hearing may be held upon any article, and a notice of such hearing shall be given either by publishing the same in a newspaper published or circulated in Rockland as a local newspaper, or by posting a copy thereof in at least three public places in the town at least five days before said hearing. The committee shall complete its report on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in time to comply with the provisions of Section 4, or Article 2, of these by-laws and for any Special Town Meeting it shall report in print or otherwise, such recommendations on each article as it deems best for the interests of the Town.

Section 4. The Finance Committee shall consider the annual estimates and other requests for expenditures as prepared by the department heads of the town, and in the printed copy of the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, provided for in Section 2, Article 3, of these By-Laws, it shall add another column to the prepared statement giving the amounts which in its opinion should be appropriated for the ensuing year, and shall add thereto such explanations and suggestions as it deems

expedient, and the time and manner of reporting thereon shall be the same as provided in Section 3 of this article.

Section 5. Whenever any vacancy shall occur in the Finance Committee it shall be filled by the Moderator. If any member is absent from five (5) consecutive meetings of the committee, for cause other than illness, his position shall be deemed vacant and the committee shall report such vacancy to the Moderator, who shall proceed to fill the same. Any person chosen to fill a vacancy in the committee shall hold office for the unexpired term of the person whom he succeeds.

Section 6. All town officers and committees shall submit their estimates and requests for appropriations to the Finance Committee in due time for compliance with these By-Laws and no appropriation shall be made by the town until the Finance Committee has reported thereon."

Committee to study town government.-- At this writing the town has a committee studying the many and complex problems confronting all municipalities, and also studying the Town Manager form of government. Since no action has been taken by the town to adopt any of the committee's recommendations, the writer is not elaborating on this type of government except to mention what the Town Manager is. The Town Manager type of local government permits the centralizing of administrative responsibility for the various town departments in a professional executive chosen by an elected board. There is no basic change in other offices and functions of town government.

CHAPTER III

TOWN OFFICERS IN ROCKLAND

1. General Information Pertaining to Town Officers

The General Court of Massachusetts established the powers and duties of the town of Rockland. These are performed by the officers of the town. Several of these officers are appointed by boards. When the term of the incumbents expire, they are elected at the annual election. The law states that women shall be eligible to all town offices notwithstanding any law to the contrary. Wherever three or more members of a board are to be elected for terms of more than a year, one third shall be elected annually.^{1/}

Vacancies do occur for a number of reasons. If a vacancy occurs in any office, other than the offices of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Collector of Taxes, or Auditor, the Selectmen may in writing appoint a person to fill the vacancy. However, if the vacancy is in a board consisting of two or more members, the remaining member or members are to give written notice of it to the Selectmen

1/Tercentary Edition of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 41, Section 1, pp. 425-426.

who, with them, will fill the vacancy after a notice of one week has been given. Whoever is appointed or elected will carry out the duties of the office until the next annual election or until another is qualified.^{1/}

Should the vacancy occur among the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Treasurer, or Auditor, the Selectmen can appoint a temporary officer to fill the vacancy until either a special election or the regular election.

All the town officers take an oath of faithful performance of their duties. They are usually sworn in by the Town Clerk or the Moderator.

2. Duties of Town Officers

The following is a brief discussion of each officer of the town and the duties to be performed by each.

Town Clerk.-- This officer is elected annually. The Town Clerk has a vast knowledge of laws and regulations pertaining to the town. It is for this reason that he is often re-elected year after year.

He must give bond to the town for faithful performance of his duties. If he does not give this bond as required, the office may be declared vacant by the Selectmen. The sum of this bond is decided by the Selectmen.

1/Ibid., Chapter 41, Sections 10-11, pp. 427-428.

Some of the more important duties of the clerk are as follows: He records all votes passed at Town Meeting, administers the oath of office to all town officers who apply to him to be sworn in and makes a record of it, files these records and the records of oaths taken before a Justice of the Peace or the Moderator. The clerk must transmit to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, on a blank furnished to him, a complete list of all town officers. He must within 7 days after the qualification of a Constable, make return of his name to the Clerk of Courts and to the Sheriff of the county. The Town Clerk must record births, marriages, deaths, and mortgages of personal property. He issues licenses for dogs, hunting, fishing, bowling alleys, and auctioneers. All officers and committees give him an annual report. These reports are then printed in the annual Town Report along with other information and distributed to the town voters.^{1/} The Statutes give him many other miscellaneous duties. Other town officers rely on the Town Clerk for a knowledge of the laws. He is the person on whom people seem to place additional burdens.

The Town By-Laws state that the Town Clerk shall provide the list of voters for use at each Town Meeting. He must also keep on file the printed Town reports, all documents, 1/Ibid., Chapter 41, Section 15, p. 429.

plans, and copies of rules and regulations relating to the officers of the town. These are kept in a manner convenient for examination. The By-Laws continue to state that he shall have custody of the town seal. He notifies all persons chosen by the town or appointed to a committee of their election or appointment. He is not to allow original papers or documents of the town to be taken from his office, except as they remain in his custody. He is to record all By-Laws in the order in which they are adopted, and keep such records subject to public inspection.

Town Treasurer.-- He is elected annually. He too must give a bond of faithful performance of his duties. Officers who handle town money must post a bond. Although the State fixes the minimum amount of the bond, the Selectmen determine the amount of this bond.

The Treasurer receives and cares for all money belonging to the town. He pays out funds according to the order of the town or its authorized officers. He forwards State and County taxes to the proper persons. The Statutes provide him with a number of duties. He is to notify the director of accounts of all municipal indebtedness. He is to keep standards of weights and measure provided by the State in safe and accessible places.^{1/}

1/Ibid., Chapter 41, Section 52, p. 434.

According to Article VII of the Town By-Laws, he is to furnish information concerning the accounts, finances, and payments to the town as the Selectmen or Finance Committee may require. Also he is to pay no money from the treasury except upon a warrant or order signed by a majority of the Selectmen.

Tax Collector.-- He is elected annually. He receives the tax list and warrants from the Assessors. He then sends a tax notice to each person assessed. These people then pay their bill to the Collector who, in turn, gives it to the Treasurer.^{1/} He collects taxes on real estate, personal property, poll taxes, and the automobile excise tax. A written return is sent to the Assessors for each warrant he receives.

He may use all means of collecting taxes which a Town Treasurer may use when appointed Collector of Taxes.^{2/}

Selectmen, Board of Public Welfare, and Fence Viewers.-- These three positions are held by the same three people. One member is elected annually for a term of three years.

The position of Selectman is a responsible one. They have the general direction and management of the property and affairs of the town insofar as the law permits. It is 1/Ibid., Chapter 60, Sections 2-13, pp. 716-718.

2/Ibid., Article VII, Section 1, p. 13.

their job to have the annual Town Report printed and distributed 7 days before the Town Meeting.

The Selectmen, acting upon the advice of counsel, may settle any claims or suit against the town. They are not authorized to commit the town to any course of action.^{1/}

In addition to the above duties they do appoint various officers over whom they hold considerable control.

Board of Public Welfare.-- This board has to keep a record book which enables them to give information required by law pertaining to relief applied for, and whether it was given or refused. This board is responsible for the care of the poor and needy people who are legally settled in the town.

This same board has a division known as the Bureau of Old Age Assistance which grants assistance and service to aged persons. For this assistance the Bureau is reimbursed in part by the Commonwealth if it complies with the laws and is approved by the State Department of Public Welfare. This department has supervision over the work of the Bureau in respect to persons aided and service given. It is for this reason that the Department of Public Welfare may make rules and have access to all records.^{2/}

1/Ibid., Article V, Sections 1-4, pp. 9-10.

2/General Laws, Chapter 41, Sections 33-34, p. 433. Chapter 117, Section 1-3, p. 1428.

Fence Viewers.--- Their duties are concerned with fences that divide two properties. Should a person neglect or refuse to build or repair a partition fence, the person who wishes action notifies the Fence Viewers. The Fence Viewers study the situation and come to a decision. If the fence should prove insufficient or one is needed, the delinquent is advised to remedy the difficulty. However, if the delinquent should refuse to carry out the remedy, the complainant may do so. When the Fence Viewers believe the trouble is corrected, the complainant may collect by court action twice the cost of building the fence and twice the fees of the Fence Viewers.^{1/}

Director of Veterans' Services.--- This officer is appointed by the Selectmen. He looks after the veterans of all wars.

The Veterans' Officer has charge of veterans benefits. The town appropriates \$3,000.00 for his services. The town is partially reimbursed by the Commonwealth if the aid given to veterans is approved by the Commissioner of Veterans' Service. This is so because a veteran is ineligible for veterans benefits.

The Director of Veterans' Service is the veterans adviser. He serves as the liaison officer for the veteran
1/Ibid., Chapter 29, Section 1-20, pp. 534-538.

and the Veterans' Administration. He answers the questions of the veteran and serves him in whatever possible. Some of his activities are as follows: He helps the veteran with employment by furnishing him with suggestions. He has discharges recorded, free of charge, for veterans. Veterans having a ten per cent disability are allowed a tax abatement of \$2,000.00. The adviser provides the papers required. He provides the necessary forms for whatever the veteran may have in mind. Such forms deal with housing insurance, dental and out-patient treatment, hospitalization, burial allowance, bonus applications, allotments, etc. The adviser, after the veteran completes them, mails them to the correct office.

Assessors.-- The Assessors like many other departments are elected for a term of three years. One is chosen each year in order to prevent inefficiency in case a whole new Board should be elected. Each member receives a salary of \$600.00. However, the chairman receives \$2,100.00. Should the Assessors fail to perform their tasks, the State Tax Commissioner may appoint other residents of Rockland.

If the Assessors should fix the valuation of property greater or smaller than its fair cash value, they could be fined or even imprisoned. They assess both real estate and personal property by the first of January for its fair cash value.

In order to determine the total amount of money to be raised, the State and County levies are added to the town appropriation and indebtedness. The total, after the poll tax is deducted, is divided by the total assessment of the town and a tax rate per thousand dollars is established. A report of the above is sent to the State Tax Commissioner. If this report is approved, the Tax Collector receives a tax list and a warrant for collecting taxes. The Assessors send warrants to the local Tax Collector for the collection of the motor vehicle excise tax.

Every male over 20 years of age is assessed two dollars for his poll tax. The Assessors send a tax list and warrant to the Collector of Taxes in order for him to collect it. They may abate the poll taxes of men who are over 70.^{1/}

The Assessors are to publish periodically a list of the valuations fixed by them on real estate. These publications occur at intervals of 10 years.

School Committee.-- This committee consists of 5 members. They are elected for a term of 3 years, two being elected each year, except for the third year when only one comes up for election.

They appoint a chairman who presides at each meeting and a secretary who keeps a record of each meeting. All 5 members

1/Ibid., Chapter 59, Sections 1-56, pp. 685-706.

serve with no compensation. No superintendent, principal, or teacher in the town is eligible for this office.

The five members have charge of all the public schools in the town. They determine the hours and the number of school sessions insofar as they comply with the State laws. They have charge of all school buildings. All the purchases of the superintendent are with the approval of the School Committee. This committee appoints and fixes the salary of the superintendent, teachers, principals, school nurse, and the janitors.

The superintendent is the executive officer of the Committee. He has the care and supervision of the schools. The superintendent helps the committee in making their records, reports, and accounts, and recommends teachers, textbooks, and courses of study to the Committee.^{1/}

Park Commissioners.-- There are three Park Commissioners, one elected annually for a term of three years.

They plan, lay out, and improve the town's public parks and playgrounds. They make rules for the government of the parks and appoint the officers that are necessary. In the places which are under their jurisdiction, they have the powers of the Selectmen, Road Commissioner, and Tree Warden. They too serve without compensation. Each year they make a 1/Ibid., Chapter 71, Sections 36-63, pp. 862-867,

report which appears in the Town Report. ^{1/}

Water Commissioners.-- One of the three Water Commissioners is elected each year. Rockland has a Joint Water Board with Abington. Each commissioner receives \$400.00 for his services.

For the reason of this Joint Water Board, one must go back to 1884. Up to that time, Rockland Abington obtained all their water from wells. The two towns petitioned the legislature for permission to obtain their water from Great Sandy Pond and from Little Sandy Pond. The passage of this legislation enabled them to lay pipe through Hanson into Rockland. This pipe comes as far as Summer Street then it branches off to Abington and continues to Rockland homes. The purpose of this Joint Water Board was to share the initial expense and the repair of the water system as far as Summer Street. Each board takes care of the water system throughout its own town. If it had not been for this Joint Water Board, there would have been considerable delay from the departure of using wells.

The Board has full power in the building, extending, and upkeep of the water system. ^{2/} It fixes the water rate but as a matter of courtesy, it usually refers the rate to 1/Ibid., Chapter 45, Sections 2-14, pp. 502-505.

2/Ibid., Chapter 41, Sections 69a-69b, p. 441

Town Meeting. Income from consumers is appropriated at Town Meeting for the expenses of the department.

Trustees of the Memorial Library.-- There are six trustees of the Rockland library. Two are elected annually for three years.

They have the care and the management of the library. The board spends the money which is raised and appropriated by the town for the support and the maintenance of the library. The money which is received as a gift or as a bequest is handled in accordance with the provisions of the bequest or gift. The money which is received from the dog fund along with the appropriations is used for operating expense.

Planning Board.-- There are five members on the Planning Board, one being elected annually for a term of five years.

They concern themselves with the problems of the town. They carefully study the problems of the town and its possibilities of development.^{1/} They make a report of the condition of the town, of any plans for its development, which is published in the annual Town Report. The board has no authority to enact any of their plans. These plans must be on the warrant and action taken at Town Meeting before the plans materialize. A copy of their report is 1/Ibid., Chapter 41, Sections 70-72, pp. 441-442.

sent to the State Department of Public Welfare.

Auditors.-- There are three auditors who are elected annually. They examine the accounts of the town officers and committees entrusted with the receipt, custody, or expenditure of money.^{1/} They have free access to all items once a month. An examination must be made at least once a year. A written report of their findings is required. The Auditors verify the cash balances of each officer and committee by an actual count of the cash and by reconciliation of bank balances.

Tree Warden.-- The Tree Warden is elected annually. His salary, which comes from the appropriation for the tree department, is \$1.45 per hour.

It is his job to care for the trees of the town except for those under the care of the Park Department.^{2/} He has the responsibility for the control and destruction of insect pests along the public highways. If necessary he removes trees that are dead, diseased, or dangerous along our highways. As far as possible he replaces the trees that are removed.

Highway Surveyor.-- He is elected annually. His salary of \$2,600.00 comes from the appropriations made for this

^{1/}Ibid., Chapter 41, Sections 49-50, p. 436.

^{2/}Ibid., Chapter 41, Section 106, p. 450.

department.

He has control of the maintenance and the ordinary repairs of public ways, sidewalks, guide posts, and the street drains.^{1/} He sees that the obstructions, such as snow, which delay or prevent travel on the public highways, are removed. All town highways that are built or resurfaced are under his supervision.

Special Police.-- The Special Police are appointed by the Selectmen. The town has 22 men appointed as Special Police. These men exercise the powers of a policeman under certain conditions.^{2/} Their main duty is to protect private property by arresting persons guilty of trespassing, or other crimes which are punishable by law, when the regular officers are not present.

Constables.-- There are two Constables appointed annually by the Selectmen. The Constables are used mainly to serve papers in civil cases.^{3/} They have the powers of Sheriff to require aid in the execution of their duties. They serve all warrants and other processes directed to them by the Selectmen for notifying the people of Town Meetings.

1/Ibid., Chapter 41, Sections 62-68, pp. 440-441.

2/Ibid., Chapter 31, Sections 48-49, pp. 245-255. Chapter 41, Sections 97-98, pp. 447-448.

3/Ibid., Chapter 41, Sections 91a-95, pp. 446-447.

Keeper of the Lockup.-- The Keeper is appointed by the Selectmen of the town. A town with more than 3,000 inhabitants has to maintain a secure lockup, to which persons arrested may be committed.^{1/} He has the care and custody thereof and of persons committed to the lockup. He has the power of a Police Officer and receives compensation for this task. The Keeper must have the lockup accessible to the State Police, Sheriffs, and Police Officers.

Registrars of Voters.-- One is appointed annually for three years by the Selectmen. These members are not to hold any other elective or appointive office in the town.

It is their job to post notices which tell the time and places of registration.^{2/} At these times they examine the people applying to register. Proof of being able to read and write the English language must be given. They prepare a list of registered voters to be used at elections and at Town Meetings.

Sealer of Weights and Measures.-- He is appointed annually by the Selectmen. He is to keep accurate records of all weighing, measurements, or surveys made. These are open to inspection. Should the Sealer of Weights and Measures wilfully misrepresent the weight, quantity, or

1/Ibid., Chapter 40, Sections 34-37, pp. 416-417.

2/Ibid., Chapter 51, Sections 15-55, pp. 550-559.

measurements of any goods he is punishable by a fine.

Weighers of Hay and Coal.-- They are also appointed by the Selectmen. They go once a year to each hay and coal scale to test, adjust, and seal or condemn them. The weigher shall make a record of measuring or weighing and shall state the day and hour of the measuring.^{1/}

Measurer of Wood and Bark.-- The Selectmen appoint a Measurer of Wood and Bark. This position assures people these particular goods actually contain the amount claimed.

All loads of wood and bark that come into the town are inspected by the Measurer before they are sold.^{2/} A ticket has to be signed and a fee collected from the driver who, in turn, is paid by the purchaser. Should any article be sold before being measured, the driver is subject to fine.

The Measurer of Wood and Bark is entitled to fees for his services. These fees are established by the Selectmen.

Measurer of Leather.-- One is appointed annually by the Selectmen. He determines the area of each skin submitted to him.^{3/} He uses only such racks, and measures as have been legally tested and sealed. He marks each skin with indelible figures stating the measurement in square feet.

1/Ibid., Chapter 94, Section 246, p. 1149.

2/Ibid., Chapter 94, Section 176-178, 296-303, pp. 1129, 1163-1165.

3/Ibid., Chapter 95, Sections-1-5, p. 1167.

Inspector of Animals and Stables.--- The Selectmen appoint an Inspector annually before April 1. He must make regular inspections of all cattle, sheep, and swine in the town. He must also inspect other domestic animals if believed to have a contagious disease. Should he find the animals free from contagious diseases, he gives the owner a certificate of healthy condition.^{1/} However, if the animals were affected with a contagious disease, they are to be quarantined until further order of the Inspector.

In addition to the above inspections, the Inspector examines the places in which meat cattle are kept, with reference to their cleanliness, light, ventilation, water supply, and general condition of the place. A detailed report is made.

Superintendent of Gypsy Moth.--- The Selectmen annually appoint a Superintendent of gypsy and brown tail moths. He is to destroy the eggs, caterpillars, pupae, and nests of the gypsy and brown tail moths within their limits.

He can enter private property to determine whether there are any moths there.^{2/} If there should be, he may order the owner to destroy them. If the owner does not do so, the town does. The cost is then paid by the owner up

1/Ibid., Chapter 29, Sections 15-27, pp. 1583-1584.

2/Ibid., Chapter 132, Sections 13-26, pp. 1655-1659.

to one half of one per cent of the assessed valuation of his land affected, the rest is apportioned between the town and the state.

He is authorized to destroy the tent caterpillar, elm beetle, and other pests which destroy the trees or shrubs of the town.

Board of Health.-- There are three members on the Board of Health. One is elected each year for a term of three years. They select a chairman and a secretary from their own number.

The Board appoints and fixes the salary of those necessary to carry out the health laws. Among those appointed are the Inspector of Plumbing, Inspector of Slaughtering, Inspector of Food, and the Milk Inspectors.

This department concerns itself with the health of the citizens of Rockland. They make sanitary investigations and inquiries relative to the causes of diseases.^{1/} It advises the town concerning the location and sanitary conditions of the public institutions. It has supervision of inland waters, and sources of water supply. The Board examines each year all main sewer outlets and the effect of sewerage disposal.

Inspector of Plumbing.-- The Board of Health appoints
1/Ibid., Chapter 111, Sections 26-189, pp. 1333-1371.

an Inspector of Plumbing for a period of three years. The compensation is determined by the Board of Health.

The Inspector is to inspect all plumbing in process of construction, alteration, or repair for which permits are granted by the town.^{1/} He reports to the Board of Health any violations of laws, or rules relative to plumbing.

This Inspector cannot inspect or approve any plumbing work done by himself or his assistant. For this purpose another Inspector is appointed.

Inspector of Slaughtering.-- This Inspector is also appointed for a term of three years by the Board of Health.

The Inspector is to visit each place in his area where animals, intended to be used for food, are housed.^{2/} He has free access to such places as a railroad car, or other vehicles in which such animals are transported. He is to be present at each licensed slaughter house when slaughtering is carried on in order to examine the carcasses of all animals at the time of slaughter. Should any carcass meat or product be diseased or unfit for food, the Inspector is to seize it and cause it to be destroyed. A report of such examinations is submitted to the Board of Health.

Milk Inspectors.-- The Board of Health appoints the

1/Manual of Health Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (1948) Chapter 142, Sections 9-21, pp. 147-148.

2/Ibid., Chapter 94, Sections 121-139a, pp. 63-66.

Milk Inspectors and determines the compensation for this job. No persons whose business is the buying or selling of milk shall be appointed as such Inspector. The Board of Health are the present Milk Inspectors. They usually collect the milk and send it to the State to be analyzed.

Each Inspector of Milk shall enforce the laws, as to the milk supply in his town, and shall make complaint for any violation upon the information of any person giving him satisfactory evidence whereby to sustain such complaint.^{1/} He is to keep a record of the names and places of business of each person selling milk in the town. An Inspector of Milk may take samples for analysis from wherever the milk is produced, stored, or even from the delivery truck. This sample is tested and the result of such test is recorded. The Inspector must send the result to the person responsible for the condition of the milk within 10 days after obtaining the result.

Inspector of Food.-- The Food Inspector, appointed by the Board of Health, concerns himself primarily with the sanitation problems where food is either sold or consumed. Such places are both public and semi-public.

The Inspector examines the restaurants, rest homes, school cafeteria, and the food stores in town. Much

^{1/}Ibid., Chapter 94, Sections 33-41, pp. 47-49.

improvement has been noticed within the past several years. He has informed the citizens of the danger of using insecticides.

Moderator.-- The Moderator is elected annually for a term of one year. He presides and regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and makes public declaration of all votes at Town Meeting.^{1/} Should a vote so declared be immediately questioned by seven or more voters, he is to verify it by polling the votes. If a two-thirds vote of a Town Meeting is required by Statute, the count is taken, and the vote put in the records of the town by the Town Clerk. If a vote is unanimous, a count need not be taken and the Clerk records the vote as unanimous. The Moderator counts the votes of any person whose name is on a voting list or has a certificate from the Registrars of Voters.

No person addresses the Town Meeting without leave of the Moderator. Should a person not remain quiet after a warning from the Moderator, the Moderator may order the person out. If the person does not go out, he is removed to a convenient place until the meeting is adjourned.

Finance Committee.-- The town by its By-Laws provides for the appointment and duties of the Finance Committee.^{2/}

1/Ibid., Chapter 39, Sections 15,17,18, p. 291.

2/Ibid., Chapter 39, Section 16, p. 291.

This committee considers the town questions in order to make recommendations to the town. The By-Laws provide that the committee appointed by the Moderator may continue in office for a term not exceeding three years from the date of appointment. The committee consists of fifteen members.

Police Chief.-- Several years ago the people elected Constables who were appointed officers by the Selectmen. At that time the Selectmen would appoint the Police Chief. Since that time the town voted to place the department under civil service. Now the Police Chief and his officers cannot be removed without a hearing before the proper authorities.

The Chief of Police determines the number of police officers needed. Should there be need of an added officer, he includes a provision for his salary in the department's appropriation. If this passes Town Meeting, the man who obtained the highest number of points in the civil service examination is appointed.

The Chief of Police has control of all town property used by his department, and of all police officers who must obey him.^{1/} The officers' duties are to prevent and suppress all the disorders in the town.

Forest Fire Warden.-- The Forest Fire Warden used to be appointed by the Selectmen subject to the approval of the General Laws (1932), Sections 96-98, pp. 447-448.

State Forester. Today the Warden is the same person as the Fire Chief. Technically he is the head of a separate department but for all practical purposes it is the same as the Fire Department.

The Warden can use the regular firemen and the call-firemen to extinguish all grass and forest fires. He has to make a report of such fires to the State Forester on a form provided for him. A permit is obtained from the Forest Fire Warden for all outdoor fires.

Chief of Fire Department.-- The Fire Chief has charge of extinguishing all fires in the town except for grass and forest fires. However, as stated above, the Fire Chief is also the Forest Fire Warden. If necessary the Chief may call upon the assistance of all capable men to suppress a fire. He has control over all the equipment, property of the fire department, and the fire alarm system.

The Chief inspects all public buildings and stores in the business district for fire hazards. He has to make out a form for any oil burner installation and also for installations of bottled gas. After every fire, the Chief tries to determine the cause and the estimated fire loss. The report of the above inspection is sent to the State Fire Marshal.

CHAPTER IV

UNIT ON TEACHING LOCAL HISTORY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Unit

A more alert and informed citizenry is to be desired. Citizens should take a more active part in their Town Meeting. If one would vote intelligently for the best interest of the town, there would be a progressive government. A study of the town's history reveals that progress has taken place. However, it reveals the possibility of making even more progress. Progress is also made possible by efficient town officers. It is for this reason that one should exercise great care in selecting capable officers.

Delimitation of the Unit

1. The rocks in Rockland are the results of a glacier passing over the town.
2. The rocky soil discourages farming.
3. The rocky soil encourages industrial development.
4. Indians passed through Rockland.
5. Hatherly Grant constitutes much of the present Rockland.
6. The first settlers came from Hingham.
7. Rockland was once known as East Abington.

8. The shoe industry invited people to Rockland.
9. Rockland was once in the largest shoe manufacturing district in the country.
10. East Abington separated from Abington because of the large expense of a schoolhouse in Center Abington.
11. At one time parents had to buy the school books for their children.
12. The first school sessions were held in a room of a house.
13. Rockland was many years without a superintendent of schools.
14. People used to obtain their water from wells.
15. The water supply comes from Big Sandy Pond in Pembroke.
16. The town has three standpipes which help ease the supply during hot summer days.
17. The town being connected with the neighboring towns could be supplied with emergency water in case of a complete breakdown of our water system.
18. Constables used to be elected by the people.
19. The Selectmen used to appoint Police Officers.
20. The town police are now on civil service.
21. The sewerage problem will be a problem to the Board of Health until the town votes for a sewerage system.

22. Andrew Carnegie gave a substantial gift to the Memorial Library.
23. The problem of boarding tramps at the Town Infirmary was settled by requiring them to work for what they received.
24. Town Meeting had its origin in Germany.
25. Town Meeting is an assembly of the town's qualified voters who elect the town officers, make appropriations, levy taxes, and pass local legislation.
26. Young and old, rich and poor, take a part in the Town Meeting.
27. Town Meeting is the most important feature of town government.
28. Town government of today demands more than it did in the times of the Pilgrims.
29. A more active participation in town affairs by all of its citizens is to be desired.
30. A warrant states the time and place of the Meeting and the articles to be acted upon.
31. Any voter may submit an article for the warrant to the Selectmen.
32. Proper notice of every town meeting must be given at least 7 days before said meeting.
33. The number of voters necessary to make a quorum at

- Town Meeting is 200 when money is to be raised, appropriated or transferred.
34. A careful check is made to insure only registered voters of the town take part in voting.
 35. A person who desires to run for office must fill out nomination papers.
 36. A recount may be ordered when a candidate believes that a mistake was made in counting the ballots.
 37. The town manager type of local government permits centralization of administrative responsibility for the various town departments in a professional executive chosen by an elected board.
 38. The powers and duties of the town are established by the General Court of Massachusetts.
 39. It is the duty of the Town Clerk to keep a record of the important matters pertaining to the town.
 40. The Town Treasurer keeps the accounts of the town.
 41. The Tax Collector collects taxes on real estate, personal property, poll taxes, and the automobile excise tax.
 42. The Selectmen have the general direction and management of the property and affairs of the town insofar as the law permits.

43. The Board of Public Welfare is responsible for the care of the poor and needy people who are legally settled in the town.
44. The duties of the Fence Viewers are concerned with fences that divide two properties.
45. The Assessors assess both real estate and personal property in order to determine the amount of money to be raised.
46. The Director of Veterans' Services looks after the veterans of all wars.
47. The School Committee has charge of public schools in the town.
48. The Park Commissioners plan, lay out, and improve the public parks and playgrounds of the town.
49. The Water Commissioners have full power in the building, extending, and upkeep of the water system.
50. The Trustees of the Memorial Library have the care and the management of the library.
51. The Planning Board studies the problems of the town and its possibilities of development.
52. The Tree Warden cares for the trees except those under the jurisdiction of the Park Department.
53. The Auditors examine the accounts of the town

officers and committees entrusted with the receipt, custody, or expenditure of money.

54. The Highway Surveyor has control of the maintenance and the ordinary repairs of public ways.
55. Special Police under certain conditions exercise the power of a Policeman.
56. Constables serve papers in civil cases.
57. The Keeper of the Lockup has the care and custody of the lockup and of persons committed to it.
58. The Registrars of Voters register the people qualified to be voters.
59. The Sealer of Weights and Measures keeps a record of all weighing, measurements, and surveys made.
60. The Weighers of Hay and Coal go once a year to each hay and coal scale to test, adjust, and seal or condemn them.
61. The Measurer of Wood and Bark assures people buying these particular goods that the claimed amounts are true.
62. The Measurer of Leather determines the area of each skin submitted to him.
63. The Inspector of Animals and Stables makes regular inspections of all cattle, sheep, and swine.
64. The Superintendent of Gypsy Moth destroys the eggs,

caterpillars, pupae, and nests of the gypsy and browntail moths.

65. The Board of Health concerns itself with the health of the citizen.
66. The Inspector of Plumbing inspects all plumbing in process of construction, alteration, or repair for which permits are granted by the town.
67. The Inspector of Slaughtering is present at each licensed slaughter house when slaughtering is carried on in order to examine the carcasses for disease.
68. The Milk Inspectors take samples of milk for analysis.
69. The Food Inspector is concerned with the sanitation problems where food is either sold or consumed.
70. The Moderator presides and regulates proceedings, decides all questions of order, and makes public declaration of all votes at Town Meeting.
71. The Finance Committee considers the town questions in order to make recommendations to the town.
72. The Police Chief has control of all town property used by his department and of all Police Officers who must obey him.

73. The Forest Fire Warden is in charge of extinguishing all grass and forest fires.
74. The Fire Chief has charge of extinguishing and preventing all fires in the town.
75. A good government is dependent upon the ability of those in the administration.

Indirect Learning Products

1. A realization that it is one's duty to take an active participation in government,
2. A realization that an active interest makes for a responsible government,
3. An appreciation of the role the school plays in the development of future citizens,
4. An understanding of the responsibilities that an elected officer holds,
5. An attitude of respect for town officers,
6. An appreciation of the efforts made by our ancestors in acquiring the present form of government,
7. A realization of the necessity of one's paying taxes.

The Unit Assignment

A. Introduction: A class discussion about local town government being of, by, and for the people. The discussion is centered around such questions as: (1) How important can one vote be? (2) Do people participate in their government the way they should? (3) What can people do to participate in their government? (4) Can the local government be improved? (5) Is the local government an efficient government? (6) What changes have taken place to indicate that progress has taken place? (7) How important are the officers of the town government? The teacher supplements the answers to the above discussion questions and concludes with a summary.

B. For individual study and investigation:

1. In what ways has the rocky soil affected the vocations of Rockland men?
2. What Rockland industry predominates the most? Is this industry growing larger or smaller? Why?
3. Compare the present day school system with the schools of the nineteenth century. Bring to class the more important changes.
4. Why would a sewerage system be beneficial to Rockland?
5. Make a list of hazards of the town's present

system of sewerage disposal.

6. Do you believe the town meeting is an example of democracy in action? Give reasons for your answer.
7. Note the changes which have taken place in town meeting. Give reasons for the changes.
8. Make a warrant concerning the changes that you would like to have at school.
9. Give the duties of ten important town officers.
10. Write a short paper on how the Board of Health helps you.
11. Why is it necessary that your parents pay taxes to the town of Rockland?
12. What is meant by the following sentence: A good government is dependent upon the ability of those in the administration.
13. Is the position of a town office holder a responsible position? Why?
14. Why should people of today appreciate the efforts made by their ancestors in acquiring the present form of government?
15. What part does the school play in the development of future citizens?
16. Why should people exercise care in selecting officers?

Problems

These problems are intended to put the pupils into an interrogative frame of mind. Students should find some of these problems interesting and worthy of further investigation.

1. Are you or your family in any way affected by local government?
2. Perhaps the local government performs some service for you or your family. Do you know which department or departments give these services?
3. You can be a great help to your government. Can you think of ways you and your friends can help your local government?
4. Do you know what each town officer has to do in his job? How could you find out?
5. Can you think of ways to interest the older people to take a more active interest in government?
6. How do you help the government by attending school every day?

Optional Related Activities

Optional related activities are projects. That is, they are activities engaged in by the pupils because they want to. Even though these activities are optional, it is expected the child selected it with the advice and approval

of the teacher. Children may perform as many of the following activities as they can.

1. Give examples of how the local government carries out the provisions of state laws.
2. Can you name many laws that were passed by local government?
3. Are you able to think of reasons why holding a public office is a duty? a privilege?
4. If you have ever attended a Town Meeting, can you tell the class about what happened?
5. If your local government does anything for the poor, perhaps you could write an interesting report on what it does.
7. See how many town officers you can think of. Do you know the duties of each officer?
8. Can you think of any nuisances that should be reported to the Board of Health?
9. Perhaps you could write a report on how the Board of Health can correct the drainage problems.
10. An interesting report could be written on the disadvantages of having rocky soil.
11. A study which would prove very interesting could be written about the division of East Abington and Rockland.

12. A valuable study would be about the growth and decline of the shoe industry.
13. You could contribute some welcomed information by writing a paper on how to improve the schools in Rockland, or any other department.
14. There are modifications taking place in government at the local level. A report on the advantages and disadvantages would be a big job but very useful.
15. Find what you can about the first schools in your town. How do they differ from the schools of today? How long did they have to go to school? Did all the children attend? If not, why not?
16. You can help your town by naming the ways in which people are wasteful. In the home? In the government of the town?
17. Show how a few dishonest pupils in a school will tend to destroy confidence throughout the whole school.
18. What were the means of fighting fires in town in the days just after Rockland was incorporated as a town?
19. A most interesting report would be on the water-works system of Rockland.

20. Could you make a list of the chief causes of the fires in Rockland in the last year?
21. Describe the Police Department. What qualifications must a man have to become a Policeman?
22. Write a composition on the subject "The Relation of Athletics in Schools to the Health of the Community."
23. What does Rockland do to make sure people can obtain good pure food? A report in detail would be interesting.

Drawing Activities

1. The school can use some good posters about cooperating with the Town Departments.
2. You might enjoy making a cartoon which suggests a common problem in the town.
3. A map of Rockland would be a great help to the new pupils in your school. Perhaps you could put all the town buildings on the map.
4. An interesting but rather difficult project would be to draw a graph which would indicate the changes in the town's valuation for the last 25 years.
5. A graph showing the increase in the tax rate for the last 10 years should prove interesting.

Collection Activities

1. A collection of pictures about early Rockland would be valuable to your class.
2. A very interesting collection of articles which are manufactured in the town would provide an excellent exhibit for your school.
3. A collection of pictures about the old and new fire fighting equipment.
4. A collection of old town reports would provide a source of information for the pupils.
5. Old newspapers of Rockland could provide a wealth of information about your town.

Dramatizing and Debating Activities

1. Write a play which shows the importance of people taking an active part in town government.
2. The class may enact the procedure followed at Town Meeting.
3. Plan a debate: "Resolved that the Representative Form of Town Meeting is more efficient than the Form of Town Meeting that the town enjoys today."

Matching Test A

In the blank before each officer in the left hand column, write the number from the right hand list which corresponds to the duty of the Town Officer.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| ___ 1. Town Clerk | 1. Decides all questions of order, makes declaration of all votes at Town Meeting. |
| ___ 2. Tax Collector | 2. Keeps records of weighings, measurements and surveys made. |
| ___ 3. Moderator | 3. Has care and custody of jail. |
| ___ 4. Keeper of the Lock-up | 4. Has control of maintenance and ordinary repairs of public ways. |
| ___ 5. Highway Surveyor | 5. Keeps records of important town matters. |
| | 6. Gathers assessments on real estate and personal property. |

Matching Test B

In the blank before each officer in the left hand column, write the number from the right hand list which corresponds to the duty of the Town Officer.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Board of Health | 1. Studies town problems and possibilities of development. |
| ___ 2. Planning Board | 2. Makes a valuation of real estate and personal property. |
| ___ 3. Assessors | 3. Has charge of public education in the town. |
| ___ 4. School Committee | 4. Controls all Police Officers. |
| ___ 5. Board of Public Welfare | 5. Is concerned with town sanitary conditions. |
| | 6. Cares for the poor and needy people legally settled in town. |

Completion Test

In the following sentences a word has been omitted where each blank appears. Show you know the omitted words by writing them in their proper places.

1. The general direction and management of town property and officers insofar as the law permits is under the jurisdiction of the Board of _____.
2. The person who keeps the town accounts is _____.
3. The accounts of Town Officers are examined by the _____.
4. The Fence Viewers are concerned with fences that divide two _____.
5. The Tree Warden cares for all trees except those under the jurisdiction of the _____ Department.
6. A person who desires to run for office must fill out _____ papers.
7. Town questions are considered in order to make recommendations to the town by the _____ Committee.
8. The extinguishing of all grass and forest fires is under the jurisdiction of _____.
9. People qualified to be voters are registered by the _____.
10. The power of a Police Officer may under certain conditions be exercised by _____ Police.

Multiple Choice

Each of the following sentences can be correctly completed by one of the four following phrases. In the blank at the left of the sentence, place the letter of the phrase which completes the sentence.

- _____ 1. The result of the glacier having passed over Rockland many years ago is:
- a. a very fertile soil.
 - b. a handicap to farming.
 - c. discouraging to industry.
 - d. the reason why the first settlers came to Rockland.
- _____ 2. Indians were never attracted to Rockland because:
- a. white settlers occupied the town first.
 - b. King Philip ordered them not to.
 - c. the oak and pine trees were too tall.
 - d. the land was not attractive.
- _____ 3. The first settlers in this area came from:
- a. Abington
 - b. Plymouth
 - c. Scituate
 - d. Hingham
- _____ 4. Rockland was once a part of Abington known as:
- a. East Abington
 - b. South Abington
 - c. North Abington
 - d. Center Abington
- _____ 5. The supply of water comes from:
- a. Reeds Pond
 - b. Accord Pond
 - c. Great Sandy Pond
 - d. Little Sandy Pond

- _____ 6. The time and place of Town Meeting is stated in the:
- a. schools
 - b. warrant
 - c. courthouse
 - d. library
- _____ 7. Proper notice of every Town Meeting must be given at least _____ days before said meeting.
- a. seven
 - b. fourteen
 - c. five
 - d. thirty
- _____ 8. When a candidate believes a mistake was made in counting the ballots, candidates may request a:
- a. ballot
 - b. new election
 - c. warrant
 - d. recount
- _____ 9. When money is to be raised, appropriated or transferred, 200 voters are required to make a:
- a. forum
 - b. request
 - c. quorum
 - d. general court
- _____ 10. The Town was incorporated in the year of:
- a. 1712
 - b. 1874
 - c. 1884
 - d. 1886

Key to Previous Tests

Matching Test A

5	1
6	2
1	3
3	4
4	5

Matching Test B

5	1
1	2
2	3
3	4
6	5

Completion Test

1	Selectmen
2	Treasurer
3	Auditors
4	properties
5	Park
6	nomination
7	Finance
8	Forest Fire Warden
9	Registrars of Voters
10	Special

Multiple Choice

b	1
d	2
d	3
a	4
c	5
b	6
a	7
d	8
c	9
b	10

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