New England Emigrant Aid Company special meeting minutes

Section 2, Pages 31 - 60

Official proceedings of a special meeting of the New England Emigrant Aid Company in Boston, Massachusetts.

Date: 1855

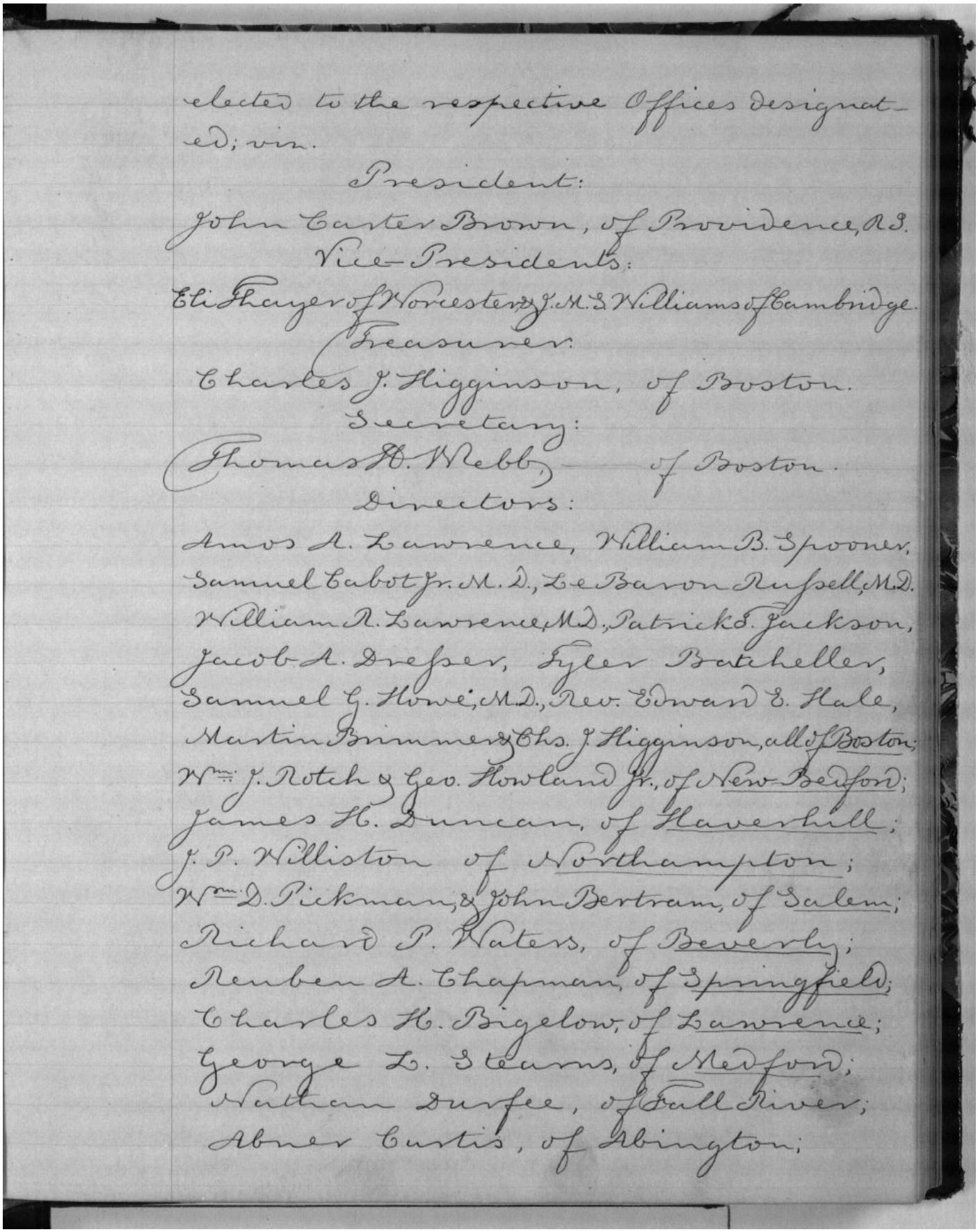
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New England Emigrant Aid Company special meeting minutes



elected to the respective Offices designated; viz.

President:

John Carter Brown, of Providence, R.I.

Vice-Presidents:

Eli Thayer of Worcester, J. M. S. Williams of Cambridge.

Treasurer:

Charles J. Higginson, of Boston.

Secretary:

Thomas H. Webb, of Boston.

Directors:

Amos A. Lawrence, William B. Spooner,
Samuel Cabot Jr. M. D., Le Baron Russell, M.D.
William R. Lawrence, M.D., Patrick S. Jackson,
Jacob A. Dresser, Tyler Batcheller,
Samuel G. Howe, M.D., Rev. Edward E. Hale,
Martin Brimmer & Chs. J. Higginson, all of Boston;
Wm. J. Rotch & Geo. Howland Jr., of New Bedford;
James H. Duncan, of Haverhill;
J. P. Williston of Northampton;
Wm. D. Pickman, & John Bertram, of Salem;
Richard P. Waters, of Beverly;
Reuben A. Chapman, of Springfield;
Charles H. Bigelow, of Lawrence;
George L. Stearns, of Medford;
Nathan Durfee, of Fall River;
Abner Curtis, of Abington;

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Oliver Ames Jr., of Easton;
William Willis, of Portland, Me.;
Ichabod Goodwin of Portsmouth, N.H.;
Thomas M. Edwards, of Keene, N.H.;
Albert Day, & Rev. Horace Bushnell, of Hartford, Ct.;
Prof. Benjamin Silliman, Sen^r of New Haven,
Wm. P. Bullock, & Seth Padelford, of Providence R.I.
Moses H. Grinnell, & Henry K. Elliot, of New-York City.
Horace B. Claflin, Edward W. Fiske,
and Rollin H. Sandford, of Brooklyn N.Y.;
J. L. Baily, of Philadelphia, Pa.,
Richard Bigelow, of St. Louis, Mo.

On motion of Mr. Atkinson it was
Voted that the thanks of the Stockholders be presented to Amos A. Lawrence Esq. for the valuable services by him rendered as Treasurer, gratuitously, from the first organization of the Company to the present time.

J. M. S. Williams Esq. stated that Mr. Charles J. Higginson (of the Executive Committee) had just returned from a visit to Kansas, and it was to be regretted that business necessarily prevented his being present to give

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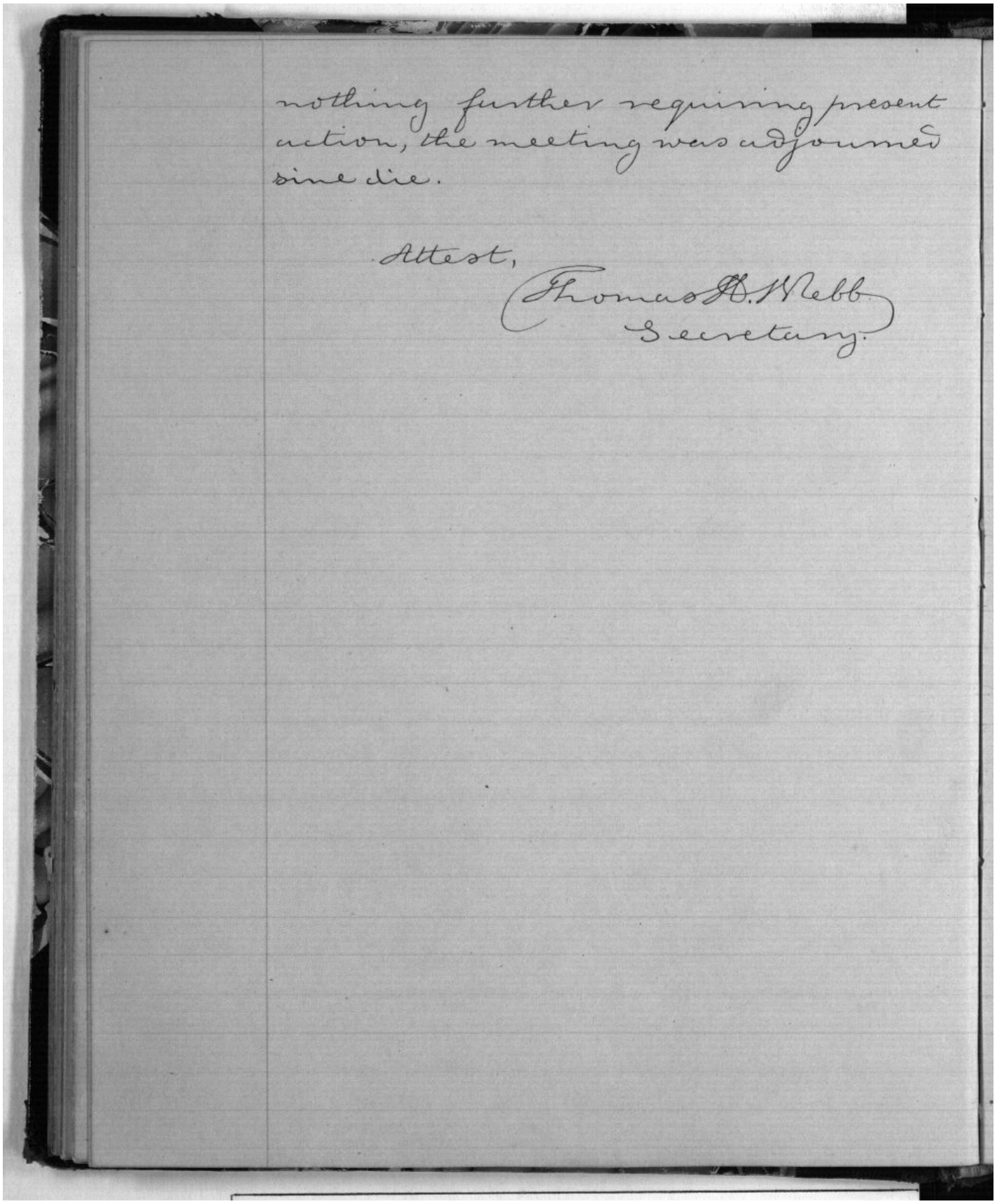
the result of his observations in the Territory. All which he saw confirm the correctness of the accounts that have been given of the exceeding beauty and fertility of the region, of the intelligence, energy, and industry of the people, and of the thriving condition and promising prospects of the principal settlements, which must go on flourishingly, if the inhabitants be secured and protected in their just and Constitutional rights.

On motion, it was

Voted that Messrs. George Atkinson and Martin Brimmer be a Committee to examine the Books, Accounts, &c. of the late Treasurer Amos A. Lawrence Esq., and transfer the same to the new Treasurer, Charles J. Higginson Esq.

A few remarks were then made by several of the Stockholders relative to the prosperous condition of the Company's business affairs; after which, there being

New England Emigrant Aid Company special meeting minutes



nothing further requiring present action, the meeting was adjourned sine die.

Attest,
Thomas H. Webb
Secretary.

New England Emigrant Aid Company special meeting minutes

Boston May 25th. 1858.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the New England Emigrant Aid Company was held at the Office, N° 3 Winter Street, at three o'clock P.M. this day.

The President and both Vice Presidents being absent, the Hon. Thomas M. Edwards, by request, presided.

The Records of the last meeting were read.

In the absence of the Treasurer the Secretary, in his behalf, made a brief statement relative to the condition of the Treasury, by which it appears the whole amount of funds on hand during the year from all sources was Thirty One Thousand Six Hundred and Twenty Five Dollars and Nine Cents; the amount expended during the same period was Thirty Thousand Four Hundred and Three Dollars and Eighty Nine Cents; thus leaving a balance on hand this day of Twelve Hundred and Twenty One Dollars

New England Emigrant Aid Company special meeting minutes

and Twenty Cents.

The Secretary also stated that he had on file the Treasurer's Report giving the details of the receipts and expenditures for the past year, and his estimate of payments and receipts for the coming year, which Document would be made accessible to any Stockholder desirous of examining it.

It was voted that a Committee of three be appointed by the presiding Officer to nominate a list of Officers for the ensuing year.

The Chairman appointed as said Committee Messrs. J. P. Blanchard, Otis Clapp, and Prof. Calvin E. Stowe.

Le Baron Russell M.D. presented and read the Directors' Annual Report, as follows; viz.

The Directors of the N. E. E. A. Co. present the following statement of the transactions of the Co. During the past year.

At Lawrence the Co's Saw Mill which

New England Emigrant Aid Company special meeting minutes

was the first ever set up in the Territory has been thoroughly repaired and rented to a competent person. The two new houses on Kentucky and Pinkney Sts. have been completed & rented. The Office Lot & building have been sold, & the Co's Office removed to a room in the house on Ky St. The arrangements for the sale of the Hotel Lot to Col. Eldridge were completed in a satisfactory manner, & a new & spacious building, erected by him on the spot, was to be opened to the Public as a Hotel on the 21st. of the present month, the day of the anniversary of the destruction of the original Free State Hotel by a mob acting under the direction of U.S. Officials.

At the last Annual Meeting it was announced that the Co. had completed the purchase of a large interest in the City of Atchison. The Directors immediately proceeded to erect a large Flouring Mill at that Place which is now in succesful operation. It is the only Flouring Mill in that section of the Country & is considered by competent judges as the most valuable Mill property in the Territory. Considerable additions have been made to the Hotel, included in the Atchison purchase, & both the Hotel & Mill are now rented to responsible parties. — The Co.

owns one hundred City Lots at Atchison which have risen largely in value since the purchase.

In accordance with the wishes of gentlemen connected with the Shoe & Leather interest in this City, who had contributed largely to the funds of the Co., negotiations were entered into with several parties for the establishment of two new towns in Kansas, which were to be called Claflin & Batcheller, after the names of gentlemen well known & highly respected in that business. Much difficulty was experienced in these negotiations, owing partly to the natural preference of Settlers for names of their own selection, & partly to the occurrence of the financial crisis, which had the effect to paralyze for a time all new enterprises. Agreements have however, at last been concluded with the Proprietors of two new Settlements to adopt the names referred to, and two of the Co's Mills will be placed in these Towns, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be completed.

At Manhattan the Mill has been greatly improved, & is now one of the most valuable in the Territory. It has contributed essentially to the prosperity of that Town. —

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The Mill formerly at Hampden has been removed to the flourishing Town of Burlington, & is now in operation there.

At Topeka the Co. has recently erected a large & commodious school-house. The Co.'s Mill at this Town is not in operation; but the property of the Co. there, in land, is valuable.

At Osawatomie, the destruction of the Co's Saw-Mill has been a serious calamity to the Town. A Saw-Mill has however been erected by other Proprietors. The Title to the Town Site, which was long in dispute, is considered now to be settled.

It is not deemed necessary in the present Report to enter more minutely into the details of the Co.'s business. The Books of the Treasurer are always open to the inspection of Stockholders, & a Schedule of its Property is in the possession of the Secretary.

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Directors have accepted the resignation of Messrs. S. C. Pomeroy & Charles H. Branscomb as Agents of the Company. The private business of the former had become so important as to require his undivided attention at Atchison City, where he has identified his name with all the great

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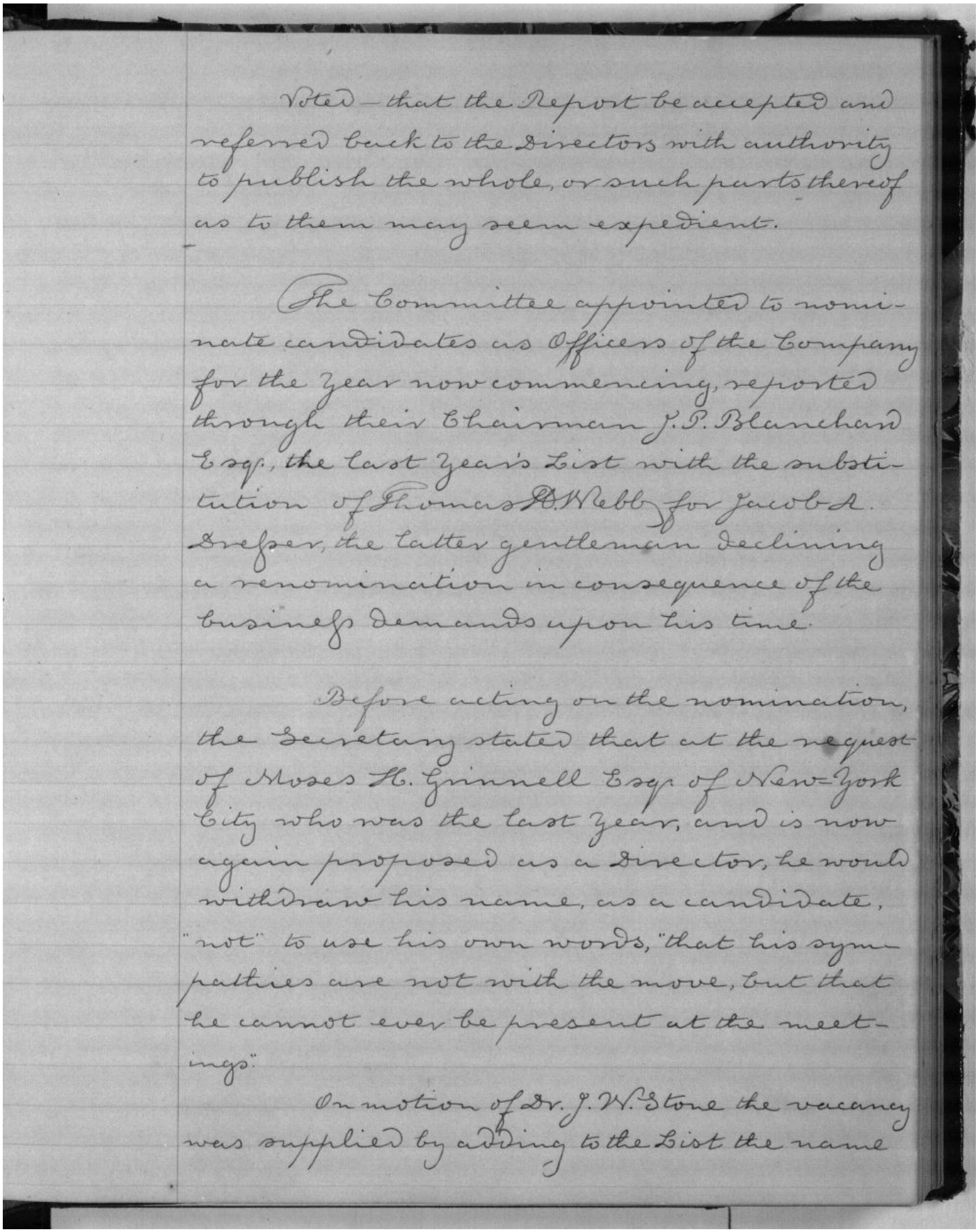
works of improvement looking to the future prosperity of the Territory.—At the request of the Executive Committee however, he consented to continue to serve the Company as its local Agent at Atchison & Kansas City for a period of six months from the date of the acceptance of his resignation.

On learning the intention of Messrs. Pomeroy & Branscomb to resign their agencies, the Executive Committee immediately entered into correspondence with M. F. Conway Esq of Lawrence which resulted in his engagement as general Agent of the Co.

Your Directors consider the Company fortunate in having secured the services of a gentleman of Judge Conway's well known ability & character to represent its interests in Kansas. They have entire confidence that its affairs will be ably & judiciously managed in his hands."

The preceding Report met with the approval of the Stockholders, and a desire was expressed that it might be printed. At the suggestion of the Secretary that it had better be disposed of in the usual manner it was

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Voted – that the Report be accepted and referred back to the Directors with authority to publish the whole, or such parts thereof as to them may seem expedient.

The Committee appointed to nominate candidates as Officers of the Company for the year now commencing, reported through their Chairman J. P. Blanchard Esq., the last Year's List with the substitution of Thomas ~~S.~~ Webb for Jacob A. Dreser, the latter gentleman declining a renomination in consequence of the business demands upon his time.

Before acting on the nomination, the Secretary stated that at the request of Moses H. Grinnell Esq. of New-York City who was the last Year, and is now again proposed as a Director, he would withdraw his name, as a candidate, "not" to use his own words, "that his sympathies are not with the move, but that he cannot ever be present at the meetings."

On motion of Dr. J. W. Stone the vacancy was supplied by adding to the List the name

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of Judge Thomas Russell.

The election was then proceeded with and the following gentlemen were unanimously chosen to the respective Offices designated; viz.

President:

John Carter Brown of Providence, R. I.

Vice Presidents:

Eli Thayer of Worcester, & J. M. S. Williams of Cambridge, Mass.

Treasurer:

Charles J. Higginson, of Boston.

Secretary:

Thomas H. Webb, of Boston.

Directors:

Amos A. Lawrence, William B. Spooner,
Samuel Cabot Jr. M.D., Le Baron Russell M.D.,
Charles J. Higginson, Samuel G. Howe M.D.
Patrick T. Jackson, Thomas H. Webb, M.D.
Tyler Batcheller, Rev. Edward Everett Hale,
Martin Brimmer, Thomas Russell, all of Boston;
Wm J. Rotch & Geo. Howland Jr. of New Bedford;
Richard P. Waters of Beverly;
J. P. Williston of Northampton;
Wm Dudley Pickman & John Bertram of Salem;
Reuben A. Chapman of Springfield;
Charles H. Bigelow of Lawrence;

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George L. Stearns of Medford;
Doctor Nathan Durfee of Fall River;
Abner Curtis of — Abington;
Oliver Ames Jr. of Easton;
William Willis of Portland, Me.;
Ichabod Goodwin of Portsmouth, N.H.;
Thomas M. Edwards of Keene, N.H.;
Wm. P. Bullock, & Seth Padelford, of Providence, R.I.;
Albert Day, & Horace Bushnell D.D. of Hartford, Ct.;
Prof. Benjamin Silliman, Sen. of New Haven, Ct.;
Henry H. Elliott, & Richard Bigelow of New York City;
Horace B. Claflin, Edward W. Fiske, and
Rollin Sandford of Brooklyn, N.Y.;
and J. L. Baily of Philadelphia, Pa.

On motion of Dr. Rufsell it was

Voted, that the Directors, or any Committee by them appointed from their Board for the purpose, are hereby authorized to sell the whole or any part of the property of the Company to such person or persons, and for such prices, and on such terms of payment as they shall think for the interest of the Company:

And that the Treasurer be and hereby is authorized under the direction of said Board or Committee to execute in the name and be-

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half of the Company any and all Deeds or Instruments of Conveyance of any and all Property so sold.

The Secretary stated that a Letter had just been received at the Office from Judge M. J. Conway, the General Agent, in which is given a description of the character and condition of the Company's Property situated in Kansas Territory.

Though an interesting and important Communication, from its extreme length, occupying twenty seven pages, he did not propose to trespass upon the time of the meeting by reading it, and more especially as it would meet with due consideration from the Directors or a Committee acting in their behalf.

He would remark however that scattered through it will be found the Agent's estimates of the value of the Real Estate and other Property; and deeming that some general idea in relation thereto might be acceptable to the Stockholders, he had, immediately prior to the meeting, hastily drawn up an abstract which he would read for the informa-

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tion of those desirous of it.

Presumed value of the Company's Property at certain Settlements in Kansas Territory; viz at

		$.
Lawrence — 116 Lots @ $.300 each		34,800
" — Two Houses —		2,500
" — Mill & Mill Site		5,000
Whole valuation at Lawrence		42.300
West Lawrence — 137 Lots at $.50. each		6,850
Osawatomie — 100 Shares @ $150. each	15.000.	
" Mill Machinery & Mill Site	1.500.	
" Claim from Williams) adjoining Town	4.000.	
Whole valuation at Osawatomie		20,500
Burlington — 10 Shares @ $.200. each		2.000
Topeka — 105 Lots @ $.200 each	21.000	
" School House	2.000	
" Whole valuation at Topeka		23000
Manhattan — 94 Shares @ $.100. each	9.400	
" Mill & Mill Site	6,000	
Whole valuation at Manhattan		15.400
Atchison — 100 Lots @ $.150. each	15.000	
Hotel	5.000	
Flouring Mill	7.000	
Whole valuation at Atchison		27.000
Quindaro — 10 Shares @ $.250 each		2.500
Making a total valuation of		139.500

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The Secretary stated there were property and claims belonging to the Company not included in the preceding estimate, among which were the following; viz.

	$.
The Kansas City Hotel Property worth say —	8.000
" Batcheller — " " "	2.500
" Claflin — — — " " "	1.200
" Topeka Mill Site " "	300
" Wabonsi — — — " " "	2.000
Claim vs. U.S. Govt. for destruction of Free State Hotel	25.000
" " Geo. W. Brown — — — — —	2.000
" " other individuals, say — — — —	1.500
footing — — — — — — — — — —	42.500

In conclusion the Secretary remarked it should be borne in mind that the estimate read is mainly based upon the judgement of a single individual; that others might entertain very different views in regard to the same property; some would deem it under, perhaps many over valued by Judge Conway. Further, were the property thrown into the market at the present time, it would bring nothing like the appraised amount; but after a few years of peace and prosperity, should it in the meanwhile be retained, it could without much doubt be dis-

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posed of at nearly, if not indeed quite the sum estimated. Yet even with a large deduction for various contingencies unexpected and anticipated, the sum eventually realised it is believed will prove satisfactory to most, and it is hoped to all of the Stockholders, more especially bearing in mind that the paramount object for which this organization has labored will unquestionably be triumphantly attained.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was then adjourned sine die.

Attest.

Thomas D. Webb.
Secretary.

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Boston May 24th. 1859.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the New-England Emigrant Aid Company was held at the Office, N.o 3 Winter Street, at three o'clock P.M. this day.

In the absence of the President, who is still abroad, Vice President Williams called the meeting to order and presided.

The Secretary read the Records of the last meeting, and stated that the present meeting had been duly notified in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws.

The following communication was received from the Treasurer, viz.

"The Treasurer begs leave to report that at the last annual meeting the bal.ce in the Treas.y was — $1.221.20
" in Mr. Conway Agt's hands in the Ter.y — 322.10
Since rec.d for sale of Stock (old subscription) 240. "
" " " " " Co's Notes for $.10.000 — — $388.50
" " " Interest — — — — — 79.15
" " " rents of Mills, Houses, &c. — 2.324. "
" " " Sales of lots of land — 995. "
" " from Collection of old debts — — — 155. "
$ 14.724.95

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There has been paid during the past year Co's Note for borrowed money falling due $6.000..

Salaries in Boston		2013.83
Rent & Office expenses	2550.40	504.25
Interest		32.32
Salaries & Com^ns to Agts in the Territory		1548.50
Taxes on Co's land		534..
Travelling Expenses Agents	2525.17	173.05
Legal Expenses		269.62
Sundry general Expendi^s in the Territory on the various properties		2501.13
Transferred from Cash balance, to his individual acct, E. Thayer's due bill for		476.67
Balances in hands of Agts. by their last a/c^s.		
S.C. Pomeroy	326.25	
M.F. Conway	297.12	
in Treasury in Boston	48.21	671.58
		$14724.95

Boston May 24th. 1859.

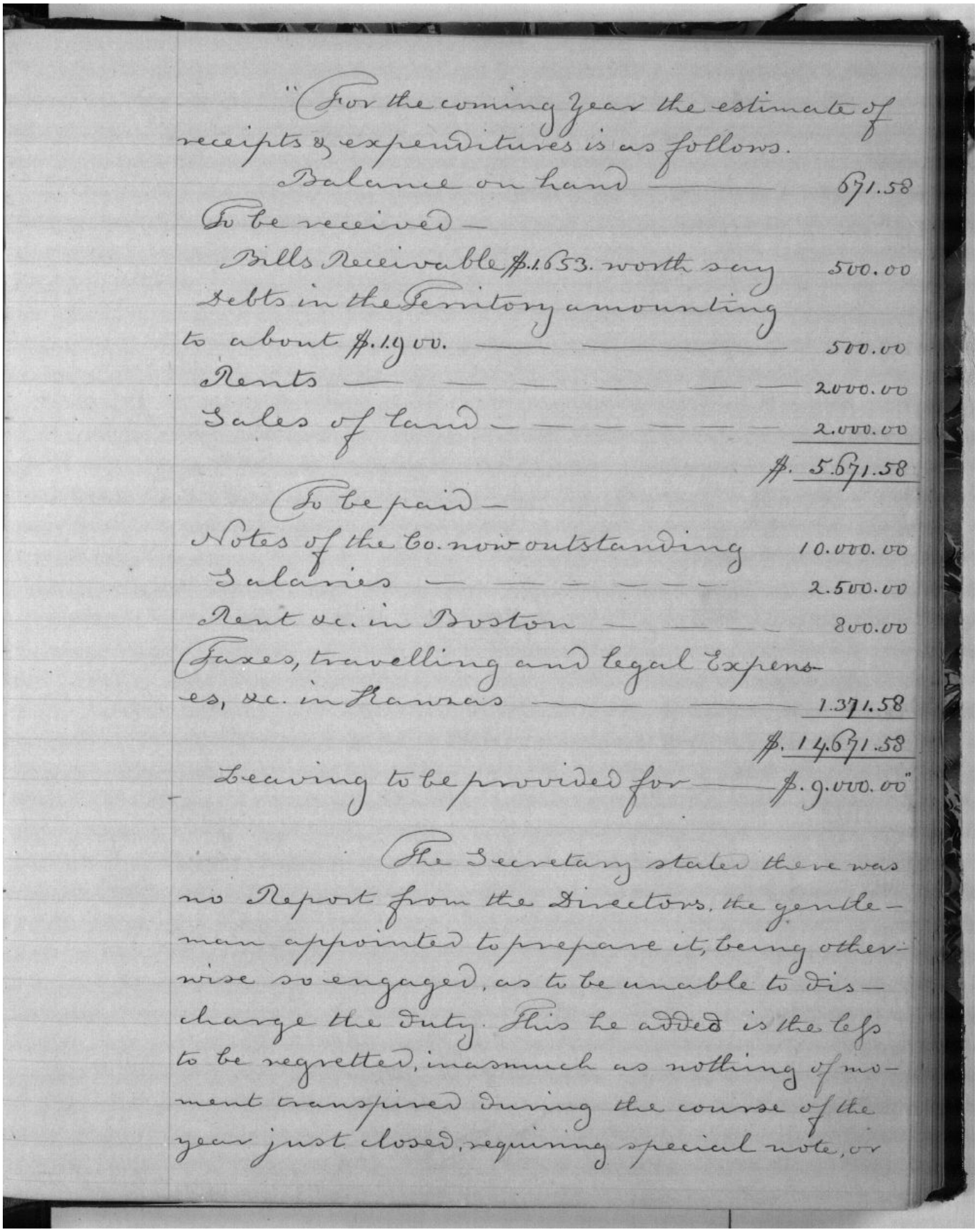
(signed)

C. J. Higginson Treas^r.
N.E.E.A. Co.

Appended to the preceding Report is an estimate for the succeeding year of which the following is a copy; viz.

14053.37

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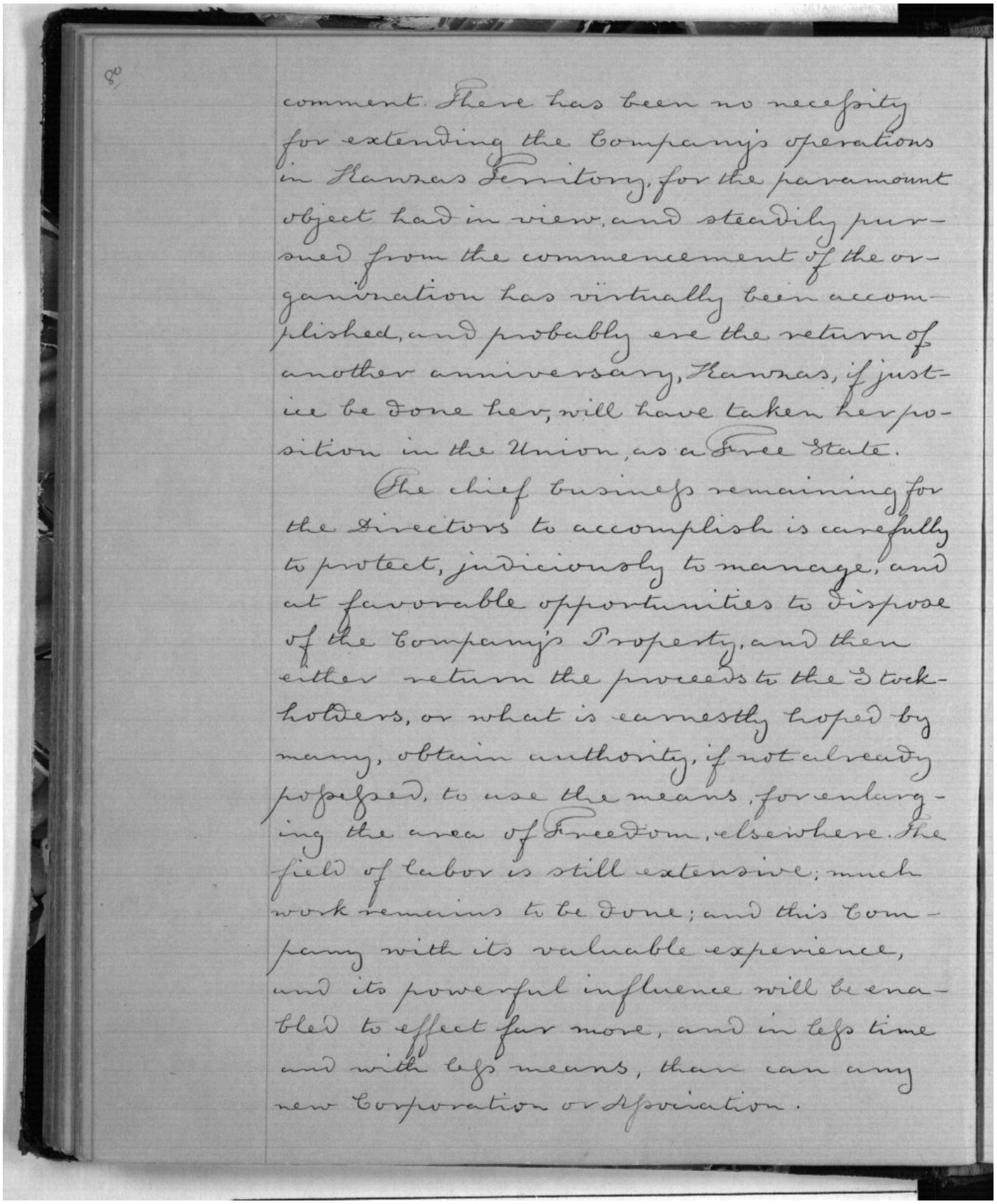


"For the coming year the estimate of receipts & expenditures is as follows.

Balance on hand	671.58
To be received —	
Bills Receivable $1.653. worth say	500.00
Debts in the Territory amounting to about $1.900.	500.00
Rents	2000.00
Sales of land	2.000.00
	$. 5.671.58
To be paid —	
Notes of the Co. now outstanding	10.000.00
Salaries	2.500.00
Rent &c. in Boston	800.00
Taxes, travelling and legal Expenses, &c. in Kansas	1.371.58
	$. 14.671.58
Leaving to be provided for	$. 9.000.00"

The Secretary stated there was no Report from the Directors, the gentleman appointed to prepare it, being otherwise so engaged, as to be unable to discharge the duty. This he added is the less to be regretted, inasmuch as nothing of moment transpired during the course of the year just closed, requiring special note, or

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comment. There has been no necessity for extending the Company's operations in Kansas Territory, for the paramount object had in view, and steadily pursued from the commencement of the organization has virtually been accomplished, and probably ere the return of another anniversary, Kansas, if justice be done her, will have taken her position in the Union, as a Free State.

The chief business remaining for the Directors to accomplish is carefully to protect, judiciously to manage, and at favorable opportunities to dispose of the Company's Property, and then either return the proceeds to the Stockholders, or what is earnestly hoped by many, obtain authority, if not already possessed, to use the means, for enlarging the area of Freedom, elsewhere. The field of labor is still extensive; much work remains to be done; and this Company with its valuable experience, and its powerful influence will be enabled to effect far more, and in less time and with less means, than can any new Corporation or Association.

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Business embarrasments have affected Kansas similar to those which have so seriously and heavily prefsed upon every other section of the Country; this condition of affairs has materially interfered with, and indeed in a great measure prevented sales being made on satisfactory terms, but as there is good reason for anticipating a brighter future, the Company's Agents will probably meet with better succefs in the course of the new, and next succeeding year.

The Secretary further stated that a long and interesting Letter from the General Territorial Agent, Judge M. F. Conway, had just come to hand, wherein is given an account of the character, condition, and value of the various species of property in Kansas Territory belonging to the Company. By this exhibit it appears that whilst some of the property has depreciated, other portions have appreciated in value, notwithstanding the stringency of the times; so that in the aggregate the worth is estimated to be somewhat greater than

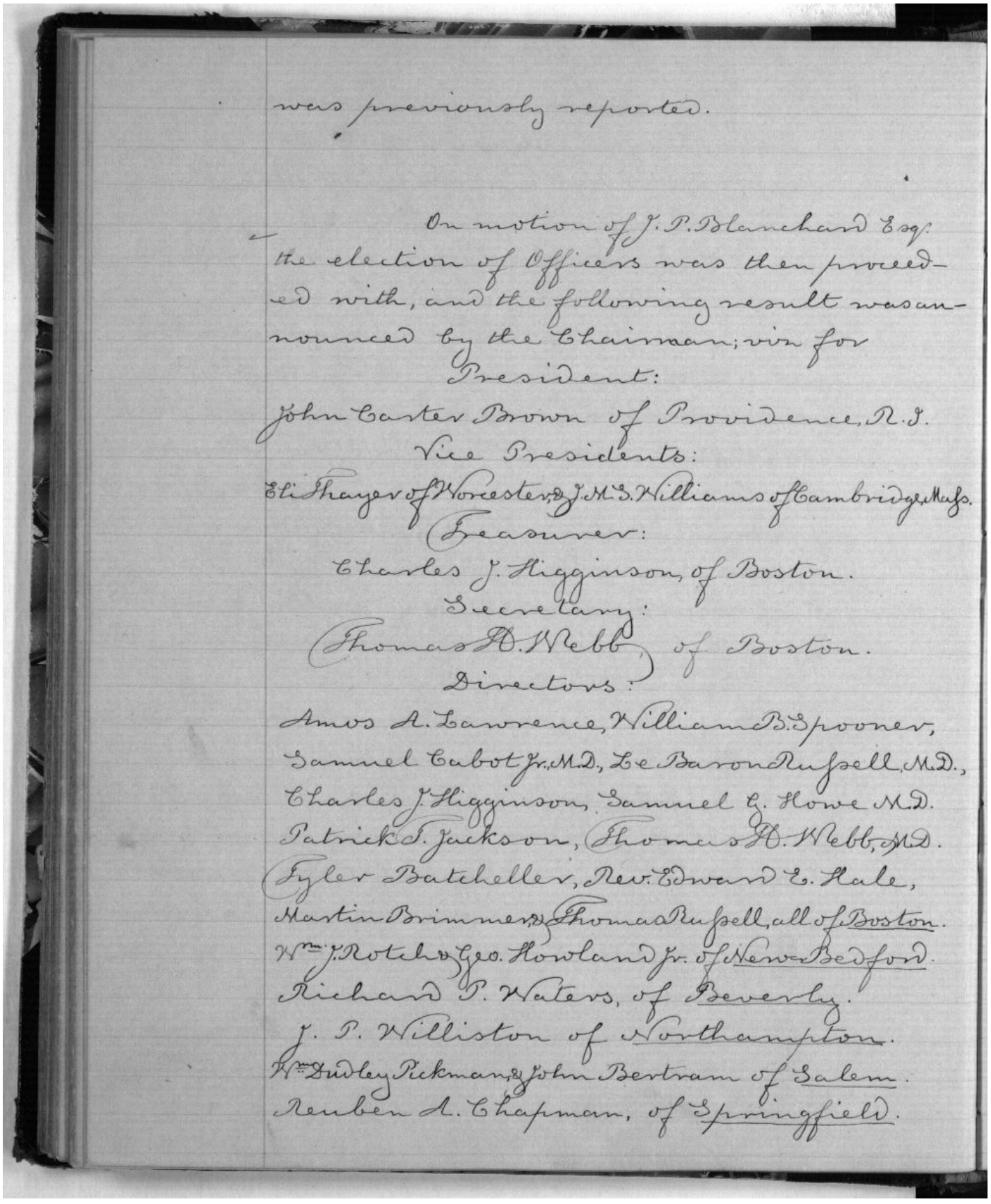
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Charles H. Bigelow, of Lawrence.
George L. Stearns, of Medford.
Doctor Nathan Durfee, of Fall River.
Abner Curtis, of Abington.
Oliver Ames, Jr., of Easton.
William Willis, of Portland, Me.
Ichabod Goodwin, of Portsmouth, N. H.
Thomas M. Edwards, of Keene, N. H.
Wm. P. Bullock, & Seth Padelford, of Providence, R. I.
Albert Day, & Horace Bushnell D.D., of Hartford, Ct.
Prof. Benjamin Silliman Jun., of New-Haven, Ct.
Henry H. Elliott, & Richard Bigelow, of New-York City.
Horace B. Claflin, Edward W. Fiske, and
Rollin Sandford, of Brooklyn, N.Y.
and J. L. Bixby, of Philadelphia, Pa.

Several gentlemen made brief addresses congratulating the Company upon the great success which has resulted from the judicious efforts of those having the immediate direction and management of its affairs both within and outside of the Territory.

After which, there being no further business requiring action

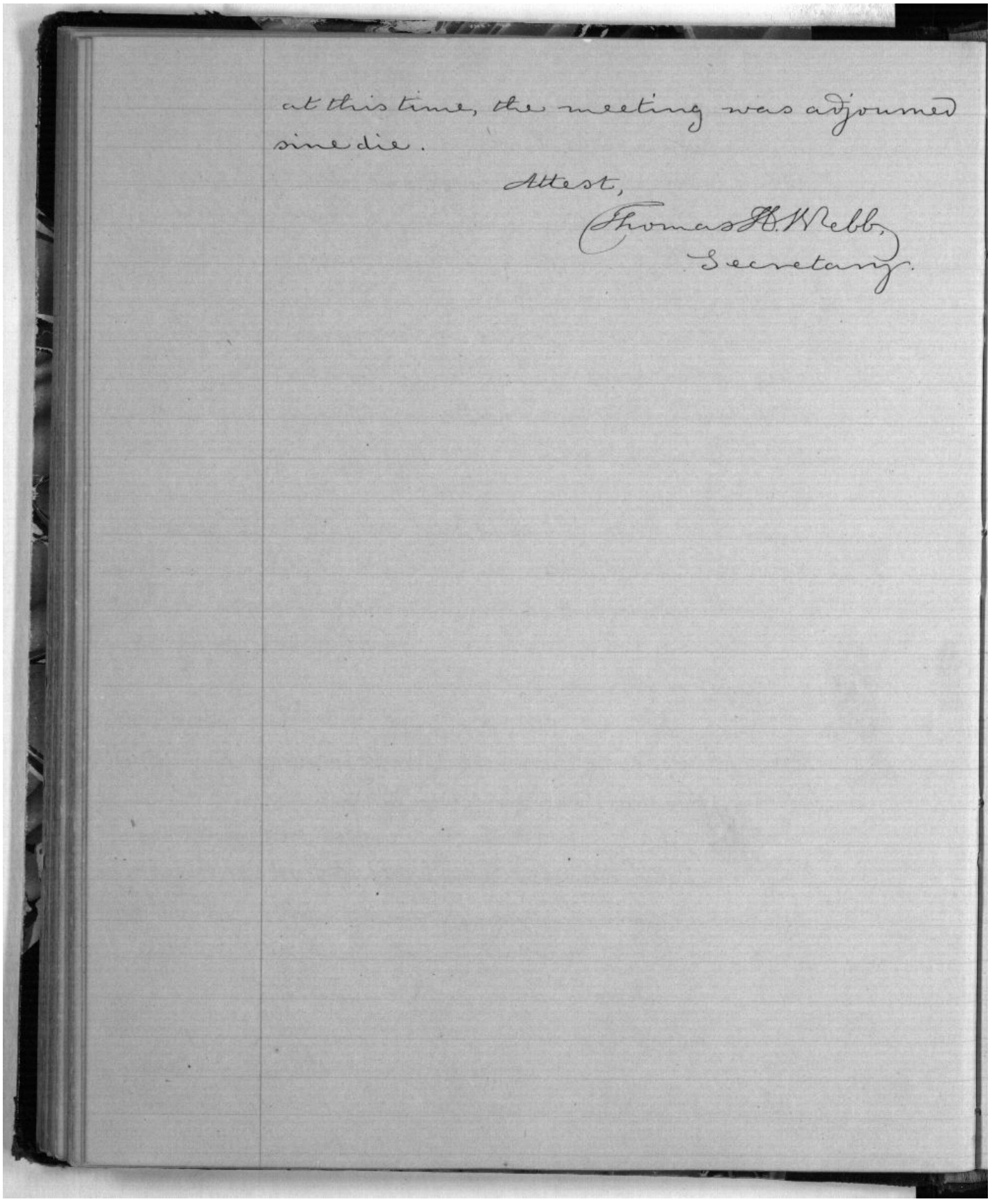
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was previously reported.

On motion of J. P. Blanchard Esq:
the election of Officers was then proceed-
ed with, and the following result was an-
nounced by the Chairman; viz for
President:
John Carter Brown of Providence, R. I.
Vice Presidents:
Eli Thayer of Worcester, & J. M. S. Williams of Cambridge, Mass.
Treasurer:
Charles J. Higginson, of Boston.
Secretary:
Thomas H. Webb of Boston.
Directors:
Amos A. Lawrence, William B. Spooner,
Samuel Cabot Jr. M.D., Le Baron Russell, M.D.,
Charles J. Higginson, Samuel G. Howe M.D.
Patrick T. Jackson, Thomas H. Webb, M.D.
Fyler Batcheller, Rev. Edward E. Hale,
Martin Brimmer, & Thomas Russell, all of Boston.
Wm. J. Rotch & Geo. Howland Jr. of New Bedford.
Richard P. Waters, of Beverly.
J. P. Williston of Northampton.
Wm. Dudley Pickman, & John Bertram of Salem.
Reuben A. Chapman, of Springfield.

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at this time, the meeting was adjourned sine die.

Attest,
Thomas H. Webb,
Secretary.

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Boston May 29th. 1860.

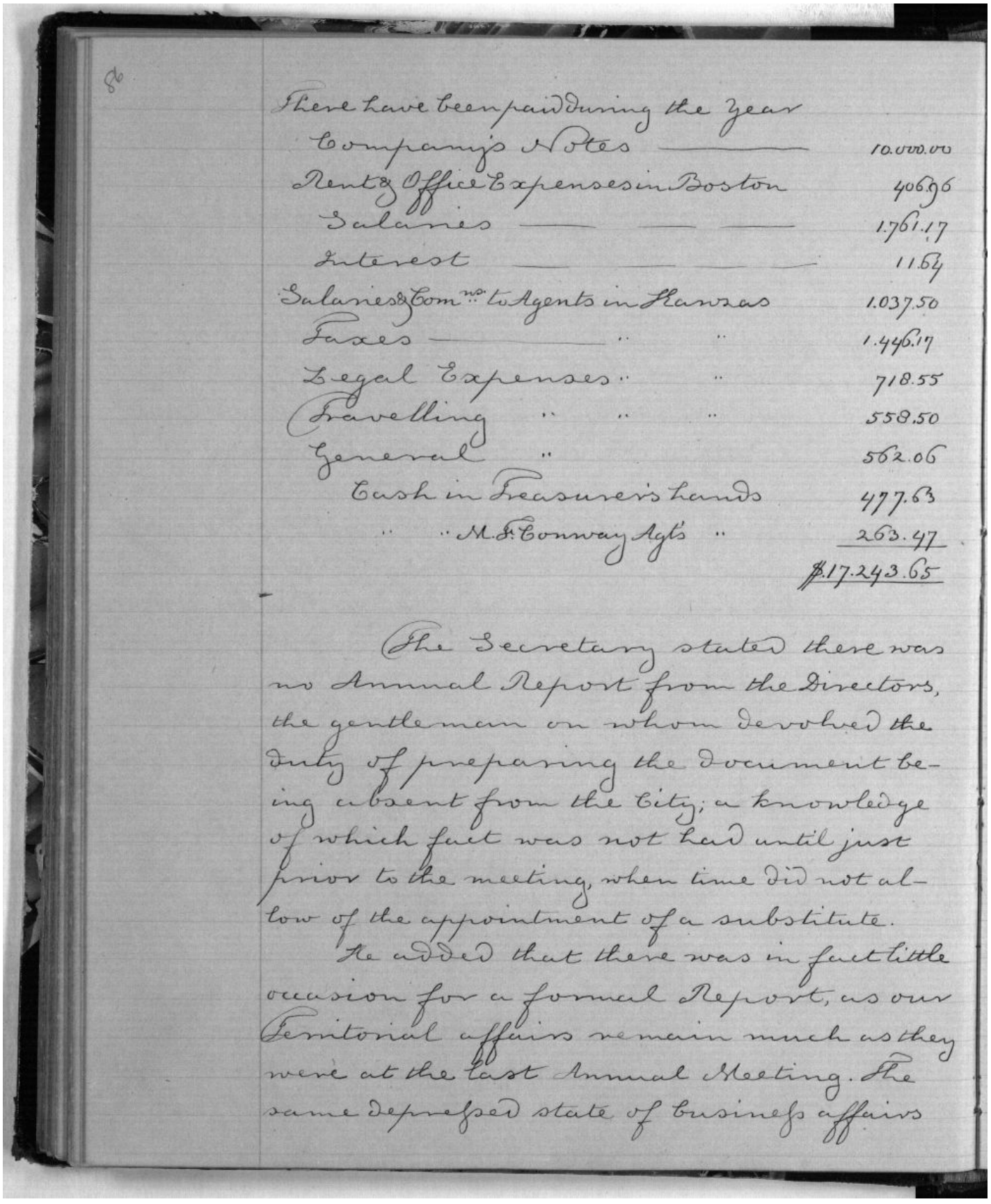
The Sixth Annual Meeting of the New-England Emigrant Aid Company was held at the Office No 3 Winter Street, at three o'clock P.M. this day.

The President being absent, the First Vice President, Hon. J. M. S. Williams called the meeting to order, and presided.

The Secretary read the Records of the last Annual Meeting, and stated that the present one had been duly notified, in accordance with the requisition of the By-Laws.

A Report was received from the Treasurer, by which it appears, that the Balances of Cash in the Treasurer's and General Agent's hands by last year's Act were — $ 671.58
Amt rec'd for sale of Co's Notes for $10.000 was 9.266.72
" " " Interest — 11.25

" " " Rents at Manhattan	368.	
" " " " " Topeka	25.	
" " " " " Atchison	1.050.	
" " " " " Lawrence	389.99	1.832.99
" " " Land " Atchison	3.455.	
" " " " " Manhattan	785.	
" " " " " Lawrence	150.	4.390.00
" " " Machinery "	20.	
" " " " " Topeka	275.	
	100.	375.00
" Collected on Debts —		392.25
" due S. C. Pomeroy Agt.		303.86
		17.243.65



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There have been paid during the year

Company's Notes ———	10.000.00
Rent & Office Expenses in Boston	406.96
Salaries ——— ——— ———	1.761.17
Interest ——— ——— ———	11.64
Salaries & Com^ns to Agents in Kansas	1.037.50
Taxes ——— " "	1.446.17
Legal Expenses " "	718.55
Travelling " " "	558.50
General "	562.06
Cash in Treasurer's hands	477.63
" " M. & Conway Agt's "	263.47
	$17.243.65

The Secretary stated there was no Annual Report from the Directors, the gentleman on whom devolved the duty of preparing the document being absent from the City; a knowledge of which fact was not had until just prior to the meeting, when time did not allow of the appointment of a substitute.

He added that there was in fact little occasion for a formal Report, as our Territorial affairs remain much as they were at the last Annual Meeting. The same depressed state of business affairs

which had then interfered with effecting sales, has continued ever since to prevail, and in consequence, comparatively little has been accomplished in the way of disposing of property. The directors, as heretofore, still entertain the opinion that the Property should not be sacrificed by forced sales at such an unpropitious period as the present; but that the true policy is to await a favorable change, husbanding the resources of the Company, and keeping down its expenses as far as practicable; in the future availing of every good opportunity to make judicious sales, and in due time to either return the proceeds to the Stockholders or use them, with additional funds raised for the purpose, to operate elsewhere, adopting the one or the other course, as may hereafter be deemed advisable, or as the Company may direct.

Mr. J. P. Blanchard remarked that inasmuch as it was extremely difficult, if not impossible to procure a full attendance

during May meeting week, it being the anniversary season of many Societies, with a greater or less number of which our Stockholders are connected, and consequently necessarily elsewhere engaged, and furthermore in the hope of securing a larger attendance, as well as to give the Directors further time for preparing their Report, he would offer the following Resolution; viz:

Resolved that this meeting be now adjourned to Wednesday of next week.

Messrs. Webster, Bradford, and Dr. Stone spoke on the Resolution.

Dr. Stone observed that the present was a more than usually full meeting, that there seemed to be no special business requiring an adjournment, and it was very doubtful if the numbers in attendance would be thereby increased. One object in holding the Annual meeting at this particular time was to have the attendance of out of Town Stockholders, a considerable number of whom usually meet with us,