

Report of the School Committee of Hampden

School Committee

Lucien H. Guptill	1930
Elizabeth Sessions	1931
Charles F. Medicke	1932

Organization

CHARLES F. MEDICKE, Chairman

FREDERICK A. WHEELER

Superintendent of Schools and Secretary

The receipts on account of Education have been received by the Town for 1929.

General School Fund, Part I	\$1,543.57
General School Fund, Part II	1,687.47
Superintendent's Salary	216.20
State Wards	439.92
Other Tuition	40.00
High School Tuition	4,173.29
High School Transportation	3,176.07

Trade School Tuition	622.37	
Trade School Transportation	604.59	
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Total		\$12,503.48

Summary of School Expenditures

School Committee	\$127.08	
Superintendence	639.00	
Supervisors Music and Drawing	460.60	
Teachers	4,917.50	
Text Books	120.87	
Supplies	213.22	
Janitors	460.00	
Fuel	455.24	
Miscellaneous Operating	75.57	
Repairs	322.23	
Health	370.66	
Elementary Transportation	900.00	
Elementary Transportation East Longmeadow	31.68	
Elementary Tuition East Longmeadow	40.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	1.35	
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Total for Elementary Expense		\$9,135.00
High School Tuition	5,364.00	
Trade School Tuition	1,305.00	
High and Trade School Transportation	4,176.90	
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Total for High and Trade Schools		\$10,845.90
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Total for all Schools		\$19,980.90

Elementary Expense	9,135.00	
Reimbursements	3,927.16	
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Expense to Town		\$5,207.84
High School Expenditures	5,364.00	
Reimbursements	4,173.29	
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Expense to Town		\$1,190.71
Trade School Expenditures	1,305.00	
Reimbursements (1/2)	652.50	
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Cost to Town		\$652.50
High School and Trade Transportation Expenditures	4,176.90	
Reimbursements	3,780.66	
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Cost to Town		\$396.24
All School Expenditures	19,980.90	
Reimbursements	12,503.48	
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Cost of all Schools to Town		\$7,477.42
Appropriation for 1929		\$20,500.00
Expended		19,980.90
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Unexpended		\$ 519.10

The School committee recommend an appropriation of \$20,000.00.

School Committee	125.00
Superintendence	630.00
Supervisors	400.00
Teachers	4,600.00
Text Books and Supplies	400.00
Janitors	420.00
Fuel	475.00

Miscellaneous Operating	100.00	
Repairs and Maintainance	300.00	
Health	400.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	25.00	
Elementary Transportation	1,250.00	
High and Trade School Tuition	7,000.00	
High and Trade School Transportation	3,875.00	
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Total		\$20,000.00

We recommend to the Town the consideration of the article in the Town Warrant regarding a dental clinic as per recommendation in the report of the Superintendent of Schools. This is a health measure and comes under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health.

Respectfully submitted

CHARLES F. MEDICKE
ELIZABETH SESSIONS
LUCIAN H. GUPTILL

School Committee.

Report of the Superintendent of Schools

To the School Committee of Hampden:

Madam and Gentlemen:

Herewith is submitted my report as superintendent of Schools for the year ending December 31st, 1929.

REORGANIZATION.

The outstanding matter for discussion in this report is the reorganization made by the closing of the Scantic school and the consolidation of grades. For several years the proposal to consolidate the schools by putting the upper grades in one of the two room schoolhouses of the town, and the lower grades in the other, has been under discussion. At the annual town meeting in February, 1927, the citizens passed a vote approving of the plan; but, when the school board considered ways and means, difficulties appeared to make it inadvisable to carry out the wish of the citizens as expressed by that vote. I personally, doubted very much whether a consolidation as proposed could be made without incurring expense, inconvenience, and criticism.

At the close of the last school year conditions seemed to be favorable for putting into operation part of the plan as recommended at the town meeting. One circumstance that favored this was the loss in school enrolment. For some reason the total membership of the schools has dropped from 123 in 1926 to 96 at the present time. This has made it possible to bring together in one room without crowding all the pupils of the town in grades 7 and 8, and in the same way all the pupils in grades 5 and 6. It was found also that all pupils in the fourth grade could be assembled at the Center primary school, and all those in the third grade at the West Side primary school without any added expense for transportation.

Another thing that favored the plan was a falling off in the membership at the Scantic school. Like so many of the one teacher schools in our rural districts, the membership in that school during the past few years has been subject to considerable fluctuation. The moving into or out of the district of a family with several children would nearly double or cut in two the total membership. At the close of school in June, 1927, the school board voted to close the school, but the coming of one or two families during the summer vacation so increased the prospective membership that the vote was rescinded. A similar vote was passed last June, and the pupils from the Scantic neighborhood are now enrolled in the Center and West Side schools. At present one conveyance is able at a single trip to bring in all the pupils from the Newall and Scantic districts.

As finally worked out, the schools are now organized so that the primary room at the West Side has grades 1, 2, and 3, and the grammar room at the West Side, grades 5 and 6; while the primary room at the Cen-

ter has grades 1, 2, and 4, and the grammar room, grades 7 and 8. The elementary school transportation is furnished by Mr. Richard Joyce. Mr. Joyce's morning route starts at the fork of the road just beyond the Newell schoolhouse, and runs first to the Buffington home beyond the Scantic school, then to the Center school, to the West Side school, and back to the Center. On this trip he leaves at the Center school all pupils entitled to transportation in grades 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8, from Scantic, the Newell, and the West Side districts. At the West Side school he leaves all pupils in grades 3, 5, and 6 entitled to transportation from the Scantic, the Newell, and the Center neighborhoods. The afternoon trip is the reverse of the morning trip. Before the opening of school last September Mr. Joyce purchased a new bus of larger capacity and better equipment than the one that he had previously used for the transportation of the Newell district children.

The closing of one school and the consolidation of grades made it necessary and advantageous to shift about the teachers of the town. But four teachers are employed this year, while five were required last year. The resignation of Miss Bodurtha, teacher of the West Side Primary school, made necessary by sickness at her home, freed the school board from the embarrassing problem of dismissing one of the five. As Mrs. Flynn had expressed a preference for grades 5 and 6, as Mrs. Thayer had moved to the village within easy walking distance of the Center school, as Miss Slight, by being transferred to the West Side primary, would be saved daily the drives past the West Side school to the Center, and as Miss Smith, placed in the Center primary school, would still be within walking distance of her boarding place of the year before, every teacher on the force was relocated for her own convenience, or according to her own wishes. So it hap-

pens that the town has no new teachers this year and has no teacher in the classroom in which she taught last year. Perhaps it will do no harm to add that the teachers are all normal graduates, that the four teachers represent three different normal schools of the state, and that it would be difficult to replace them at the salaries paid with teachers who would render equally as good service.

Educationally the reorganization seems to be an entire success. The teachers are unanimous in their endorsement of it. Especially the upper grade teachers, who have been accustomed to four grades in a room, and, at times, classes of only two or three pupils, find it much to the advantage of their pupils to have but two grades each. Each class is larger and has more class morale, more momentum, yet no class is so large as to be unwieldy. The teachers do not have as many grades and subjects for which to prepare work. This does not mean that they work less hard, but rather that they are able to make more thorough preparation. The length of the recitation periods, especially in the upper rooms, has been substantially lengthened, giving more time for instruction, discussion, drill, and review. All this tends to improve the quality of the work done in the schools.

Especially in those subjects which are taken by schools rather than by classes, the advantage of consolidation is apparent. The law requires the teaching of indoor and outdoor games. It was always difficult for the teacher at the Scantic school, with classes of one, two, three, or perhaps more, in grades from the first to the eighth, to plan outdoor sports that would meet the needs of both primary and grammar school children. She could have nothing to compare with the daily outdoor game which the pupils in grades 7 and 8 have had this fall. The same difficulty was present in the teaching

of music, of art, and penmanship. In these subjects, the practice often was for the teacher to present material of different grades of difficulty during the same period, and to divide her time during the period among the several groups, working with each according to the degree of its advancement. The present organization has largely done away with this plan.

The question may be asked whether the present arrangement is more or less expensive than the old. At first thought it might seem that the plan would mean a substantial saving in expenditures to the town, and it does. The town is paying at the rate of \$600 a year for transportation for the Scantic school children. The Scantic school teacher last year was paid \$900, and, according to the practice of the school board, would have been paid \$950 this year. The expenditures for janitor service, fuel, and repairs would amount to about \$150 more, making the total cost of maintaining the Scantic school \$1,100.00. That means a decrease in expenditures of \$500. But, because of the provisions of State Law under which the town receives grants from the state treasury on account of education, the closing of the Scantic school will make practically no difference in the amount of money that must be raised by local taxation for support of schools. The additional \$500 would have come from the state treasury rather than from the pockets of the citizens of Hampden.

For years it has been the practice in the Hampden schools to dismiss the first grade from both morning and afternoon sessions earlier than the upper grades. When first grade children are brought to school with children of other grades and are carried home at the same time as the other children, if they are "let out early", they must stay around on the playground until the transportation

bus comes, but in cold and stormy weather they ought not to be sent outdoors. Because of this situation, after the opening of school in the fall, it was thought best to change the schedule so that all grades should remain at school the same length of time. This arrangement seems to be entirely satisfactory to parents, is well liked by teachers, and has proved to be no hardship for the children. In fact, the modern primary school with its various activities, its recesses, its rest periods, its dances and games offer such a varied program of physical and mental activity that the strain which used to be imposed upon children who were required to stand in line or sit in order with folded hands has been very largely removed.

TWO POSSIBLE HEALTH MEASURES.

Nearly all the pupils in our schools eat their noon day lunches at the schoolhouses. This was true before the consolidation of grades went into effect. A check up made last year by the teachers showed seventy-four of the children bringing their lunches. Probably the number is greater this year. At the East Longmeadow Center school for several years a plan has been carried out under which, *beginning with Monday after Thanksgiving* and continuing during the winter months, the children have been able to buy for a few cents a bowl of hot soup at noon. A similar plan has been put in operation at the Wilbraham Street school this winter under the auspices of the Parent-Teacher Association of that school. Without a doubt the same service in the Hampden schools would be a good thing for the children. It would be easy to make a canvass of the parents to find out whether they would favor such an enterprise. It might not be as easy to provide satisfactory arrangements for carrying it out. There would be a small initial expense for equipment,

but the chief difficulty would be in finding women who would have time available and would be disposed to go to the school buildings shortly before noon to prepare and serve the soup. It should not be expected that this would be unpaid service.

A project which has the endorsement of the school nurse and is worthy of consideration of the citizens is to make some arrangement whereby the children of the Hampden schools can have the benefits of a dental clinic. The town is too small to justify the establishing of a clinic in either of our school buildings. So far as that is concerned, there is no room in either of the buildings that would be available for a clinic. I believe that it might be possible to arrange with the town of East Longmeadow for the use of its dental clinic equipment by the schools of Hampden for one or two half days a month at a price that would seem fair to both towns and not prohibitive to the town of Hampden. The East Longmeadow dental clinic has been of very great benefit to the children in the schools, and its cost to the town has been small. During 1928 this clinic was open thirty-nine half days. It gave treatment to two hundred and sixty-nine pupils. Eighty-six children had their teeth cleaned, one hundred and thirty teeth were extracted, two hundred and ninety fillings were put in. Of the teeth extracted, ninety-seven were found to be abscessed; the children were well rid of them. During the year the town expended \$277.65 on its clinic, and received back in fees \$197.50, making the net cost for maintaining the clinic for the year but \$80.15. As Hampden is not nearly as large a town as East Longmeadow, it is to be expected that if it can arrange for the use of the East Longmeadow equipment, the net annual cost will be even less for Hampden than it has been for East Longmeadow.

With regret I record the fact that Mrs. Ethel C. Morse, for six years the popular and efficient supervisor of music in the Hampden schools, because of the condition of her health, has had to give up her work. The school department has been fortunate in being able to secure her husband, Mr. Ralph L. Morse, also a music supervisor, to take up and carry on the work which she had to relinquish.

Respectfully submitted,

FREDERIC A. WHEELER

SCHOOL CALENDAR,

Fall Term:

Tuesday, September 3, to Friday, December 20.

Winter Term:

Thursday, January 2, to Friday, February 21.

Spring Term:

Monday, March 3, to Friday, April 25.

Summer Term:

Monday, May 5, to Tuesday, June 24.

TABLE OF STATISTICS

Children in the School Census and their Distribution. October 1, 1929

	5 to 7 years	7 to 14 years	14 to 16 years
Boys,	15	33	14
Girls,	10	40	14
Total,	25	73	28
Distribution:			
In public school,	12	73	21
In Trade School,	0	0	5
In private school,	0	0	1
Not enrolled in any school,	13	0	1
Total,	25	73	28

School Membership and Attendance, 1928-1929

Name of School	Aggregate Attendance	Av. Daily Attendance	Total Membership	Average Membership	Per cent of Attendance	Cases of Tardiness	Cases of Dismissal
CENTER:							
Grammar	4,677.	25.8	34	27.7	92.2	81	23
Primary	3,865.5	21.3	26	23.1	92.	89	16
WEST SIDE:							
Grammar	3,492.5	19.31	26	21.05	91.63	20	14
Primary	3,451.5	19.01	31	21.61	87.61	37	8
Scantic:	2,341.5	12.8	14	13.54	94.46	48	12
	17,828.	98.22	131	107	90.91	275	73

Membership by Schools and Grades, December, 1929.

Name of School	Number of Grade								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Center	4	6		8			19	9	46
West Side	5	4	14		16	11			50
	9	10	14	8	16	11	19	9	96

Grammar School Graduates, June, 1929

Cecile Blanche Duquette	William Newton Isham
Reginald Henry Isham	Charles Webber

Number of Pupils Attending Springfield Schools**December, 1929**

Central High School,	2
High School of Commerce,	11
Technical High School,	9
State Street Junior High School,	9
Trade School,	7
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Total,	38

HONOR ROLL

On Honor Roll of Springfield High Schools One or More
Times During 1929

(No Mark Lower Than B)

John Cone	Stanley Hooker
Cecile Duquette	Wesley Isham
Madeline Gunther	Edwin Luippold
	Muriel Pease

Awarded Final Certificate by the A. N. Palmer Co.,
1928-1929 for Excellence in Penmanship

Cecile Duquette

Perfect Attendance, 1928-1929

Robert Isham
Theodore Viggers

Awarded Physical Efficiency Buttons During 1929

Walleo Balsar	Howard Jones
Julia Bandoski	Audrey McCray
Valentine Bandoski	Lew H. Morse
Frank Ciang	Charles Webber
Bertha Gill	Robert Witkop
Eric Granroos	Dorothea Young
Dorothy Helm	

CORPS OF TEACHERS, JAN. 1, 1930

Center School

Mrs. Louise M. Thayer, Hampden, Grades 7 and 8
Barbara D. Smith, Hampden, Grades 1, 2, and 4

West Side School

Mrs. Catherine L. Flynn, Hampden, Grades 5 and 6
Lucy A. Slight, Agawam, Grades 1, 2, and 3

Supervisor of Music

Ralph L. Morse, 122 Fort Pleasant Ave., Springfield

Supervisor of Drawing

Mrs. Helen B. Tower, 23 Haskins St., Springfield

Superintendent of Schools

Frederic A. Wheeler, East Longmeadow

Superintendent's Clerk

Emily O. Cormier, East Longmeadow

School Physician

Dr. A. A. Starbuck, 20 Maple Street, Springfield

School Nurse

Signe L. Polson, 36 Summit Street, Springfield

Attendance Officer

Arthur H. Gerrish, Hampden

Town Clerk's Report

Births recorded Jan. 1, 1929 to Dec. 31, 1929	8
Males	4
Females	4
American born parentage	8
Foreign born parentage	0
Marriages recorded Jan. 1, 1929 to Dec. 31, 1929	4
Deaths recorded Jan. 1, 1929 to Dec. 31, 1929	15
Males	10
Females	5
American born	11
Foreign born	4
Documents recorded	7
Dog licenses issued	95

Receipts

67 Male dog licenses at \$2 each	\$134.00
13 Females dog licenses at \$5 each	65.00
15 Spayed dog licenses at \$2 each	30.00
	\$229.00

Expenditures

Clerk's fees, 95 at 20 cents each	\$19.00
Paid County Treasurer	210.00
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	\$229.00

WILLIE M. PEASE

Town Clerk

Treasurer's Report

TOWN OF HAMPDEN

Trust Funds

1929

Bequest of Cemetery fund of Josiah Bumstead deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 143425	\$2,000.00
Amount of interest to Jan., 1930	246.10
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	73.60
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Balance of interest	\$172.50
Bequest of Cemetery Fund of Helen E. Stacy deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book 199108	\$150.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	24.95
Paid approved bills of Selectmen	7.00
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Balance of interest	\$17.95
Bequest of Cemetery fund of Johanna B. Holt deposited with the Springfield Institution for savings, Book No. 206606	\$200.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	36.10
Paid approved Bills of Selectmen	6.20
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Balance of interest	\$29.90

Bequest of Library Fund of Johanna B. Holt deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 206726	\$500.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	25.30
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	25.30
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Balance Principal	\$500.00
Bequest of Cemetery fund of Catherine B. Twitchell, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Bk. No. 271344	\$200.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	29.46
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	5.00
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Balance of interest	\$24.46
Bequest of Cemetery fund of Rev. D. H. Stod- dard, deposited with the Springfield Insti- tution for Savings, Book No. 216868	\$50.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	1.75
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	1.00
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Balance Interest	.75
Bequest of Cemetery fund of Anna S. Leonard deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 208607	\$100.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	7.73
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	3.50
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Balance of interest	4.23

Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of Orrin Goodwill lot, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 287710	\$200.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	28.90
Paid approved bills of Selectmen	6.00
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Balance of interest	22.90

Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of Marcus Beebe lot, deposited with the Spring field Institution for Savings, Book No. 283671	\$150.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	12.80
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	4.50
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Balance Interest	8.30

Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of lot of John Q. Adams, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 289157	\$100.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	9.10
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	3.25
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Balance Interest	\$5.85

Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of lot of Lydia Morris, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 284691	\$100.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	13.80

Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	4.50
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Balance Interest	9.30
Bequest of Cemetery fund of Almira C. Thompson for perpetual care of lot of Betsey Chaffee Heirs, in the New Ceme- tery, deposited with the Springfield In- stitution for Savings, Book No. 309197	\$300.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	35.16
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	12.50
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Balance Interest	22.66
Town Library Building fund deposited with Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 328488	\$2,000.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	\$345.75
William Mowry Library Building fund depos- ited with Springfield Institution for Sav- ings, Book 327305	\$3,000.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	\$471.06
Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of William Johnson lot, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 319216	\$125.06
Interest to Jan., 1930	14.92
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	6.00
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Balance Interest	8.92

Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of Calvin Stebbins lot deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 331240	\$100.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	9.65
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	3.25
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Balance of interest	6.40
Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of Milo Chapin lot, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 332730	\$100.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	7.75
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	2.50
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Balance of interest	5.50
Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of Sessions lots, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 338129	\$1,000.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	97.77
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	31.00
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Balance of interest	66.77
Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of S. Stacy Hunt lot, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 339804	\$100.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	5.80

Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	2.00
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Balance of interest	3.80
Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of Henry C. Dickinson lot, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 341313	\$100.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	5.03
Drew from Bank to pay approved bills of Selectmen	2.50
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Balance of interest	2.53
Bequest of Cemetery fund for perpetual care of Jackson Dickey lot, deposited with the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 346062	40.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	.50
Bequest of Cemetery fund for the perpetual care of the George P. West lot, deposited the Springfield Institution for Savings, Book No. 346506	\$100.00
Interest to Jan., 1930	.83

WILLIE M. PEASE

Treasurer