Opening of the High School

*Special Correspondence*

The High School recently held its annual commencement exercises. The principal of the school, Mr. E. H. Fitch, presided over the ceremonies. The exercises were attended by a large and enthusiastic audience, and the proceedings were conducted in a manner that was highly commendable. The principal delivered an address in which he reviewed the achievements of the students during the year, and expressed his satisfaction with their progress. He also spoke of the importance of education and its role in the development of the young people. The exercises concluded with the presentation of awards to the students who had distinguished themselves in their studies.

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**The State Department of Public Instruction**

**Secretary of State**, R. E. Hails, reported that the State Board of Education had approved the following list of textbooks for use in the public schools:

- Mathematics: Mrs. A. B. Smith, *Arithmetic*;
- Science: Dr. John W. Jones, *Science*;
- Language: Miss Mary T. Green, *English*;
- History: Mr. James B. White, *American History*.

The secretary also reported that the Board of Education had authorized the construction of a new school building in the city of Springfield, to be financed by a state grant of $100,000.

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**The City Council**

The City Council recently held its regular meeting. The following matters were discussed and acted upon:

- The appointment of Mr. John Doe as the new fire chief, effective immediately.
- The approval of the annual report of the Fire Department for the year 1865.
- The authorization of the purchase of new fire engines and equipment for the department.
- The approval of the budget for the fiscal year 1866:
  - Salaries: $50,000
  - Equipment: $30,000
  - Operations: $20,000

The council also received a favorable report from the fire chief on the department's performance during the past year.