Annual Report of the Selectmen, Town Treasurer, and Superintending School Committee, of the Town of Belgrade, for the Municipal Year Ending Feb. 25th, 1876.

Belgrade (Me.)

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs

Repository Citation
Belgrade (Me.), 'Annual Report of the Selectmen, Town Treasurer, and Superintending School Committee, of the Town of Belgrade, for the Municipal Year Ending Feb. 25th, 1876.' (1876). Maine Town Documents. 1383.
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs/1383

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Town Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN,

Town Treasurer,

AND

Superintending School Committee,

OF THE

TOWN OF BELGRADE,

For the Municipal year ending Feb. 25th,

1876.

AUGUSTA:
PRINTED AT T. A. CHICK'S JOB PRINTING OFFICE.
1876.
**Selectmen's Report.**

Paid Bills accrued prior to Feb. 18th, 1875:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pittston on account of C. Hunt</td>
<td>$440.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Crowell, on account of E. Damren</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Robinson, &quot;I. Trask</td>
<td>26.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown, &quot;D. Jewett</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta, &quot;W. Halsey</td>
<td>6.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Blake &quot;R. Foss</td>
<td>38.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manter &quot;rent</td>
<td>13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. M. Savage, shoemaking</td>
<td>34.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. R. Stevens, service of writ and expense</td>
<td>25.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. C. Taylor, S. S. Committee</td>
<td>29.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Kelley, &quot;</td>
<td>25.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. E. Minot, &quot;</td>
<td>34.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. A. Yeaton, selectman and ex</td>
<td>96.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. B. Crowell, &quot;</td>
<td>58.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. E. Faught, &quot;</td>
<td>59.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. A. Farnham, &quot;</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. W. Sawtelle, 4 year salary</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Yeaton, Collector, 1873</td>
<td>92.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abatement Tax, 1872, 1873, 1874</td>
<td>171.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $859.41

Large portions of Abatements being Delinquent Highway, having been worked.

The following Bills have been paid for the Repairs of Roads and Bridges:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chas. Richardson, for plank</td>
<td>$1.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For lumber, labor, etc., for Cram Bridge</td>
<td>66.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. H. Cummings, plank for bridges</td>
<td>9.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Morrill, &quot;</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. F. Branch, plank and spikes for bridges</td>
<td>8.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Hill, timber and labor, Hunt bridge</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Tibbets, Jr., labor on Dam Road</td>
<td>11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David A. Blairdel, labor on Dam Road</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses Downs, &quot;</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chas. Folsom, &quot;</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chas. M. Bickford, and others on Bickford Hill</td>
<td>35.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asa C. Stevens, labor on Pratt Road</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Clement, labor on Narrow's Road</td>
<td>8.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. L. Terry, &quot;Bridges&quot;</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Steel&quot;</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N. Lovejoy, labor on road</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. R. Damren, &quot;</td>
<td>17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ham, &quot;</td>
<td>7.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. R. Gleason, &quot;</td>
<td>6.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. A. Hersom, &quot;</td>
<td>2.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. H. &amp; J. Hersom, labor on road, Mill district</td>
<td>16.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. O. Frost, &quot;</td>
<td>10.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $269.43
The following Bills have been paid for Poor out of Poor House, the past year:

Paid Georgetown, on account of D. Jewett: $89.57
Hartland, on account of T. Palmer: $126.46
Dr. Pushor, for C. Hunt: $35.00
Pittston, on account of C. Hunt: $49.00
Dr. Small, for T. Fuller, Support of W. Hawse Family: $71.12
Dr. Dillingham, for Stephen Robinson, acct. H. Trask: $15.28
R. Foss, sup & acct: $25.00
Dr. Jewett, in town for C. Hunt: $35.55
Julia Chandler, Clothing: $4.92
P. Enmons, clothing and sup: $13.64
L. P. Mills, for N. Kahler: $9.37
C. R. Page, boots, G. Kahler: $3.25
Charity Trask, sup: $20.00
Geo. Palmer: $5.60
G. Haskell, for W. Hawse Farm: $123.16
Dr. Dillingham, acct: for W. Hawse Farm: $22.50
S. Whitehouse, keeping tramps: $4.80
Ed. J. Waren, clothing Lydia Holmes: $4.25
Christina Mills: $24.44

Total: $730.81

Due and Unpaid for Poor not at Poor House:
Due Portland, on account of Prime Family: $849.50
Hartland, for T. Palmer: $33.22
Pittston, for C. Hunt: $6.00
S. Robinson, for H. Trask: $13.00
Dr. Springer, for D. Jewett: $6.00

Total: $107.72

Lost of Poor off Farm: $838.53

The following Bills paid for support of poor of other towns:
On account of Stephen Cram, Mt. Vernon: $18.89
Caroline Howard, Litchfield: $14.00
Trask & Mosher of Rome: $113.43

Total paid: $146.32

Received from town of Mt. Vernon: $18.89
Litchfield: $14.00
Rome: $113.43

Total rec'd: $146.32

Cost of Poor at Poor House:
Paid Eldred & Stuart, sup: $84.86
A. Hammond: $30.72
J. Merrow: $64.54
C. Richardson: $43.22
A. W. Sawtelle: $11.08
N. G. Lyford, pigs: $9.00
Mrs. Brawn, cow and calf: $50.00
E. M. Stevens, hay: $2.50
T. J. Penney, laying chimney ................................. $7.50
A. Butterfield, carpenter work ................................ 4.50
C. Richardson, pasturing oxen ................................ 7.00
J. T. Fifield, shoemaking ........................................ 1.30
J. M. Savage ..................................................... 1.50
Edgar F. Branch, wood ........................................... 27.50
A. W. Sawtelle, 4 year salary ................................... 112.50

Received from sale of cow ......................................... 30.00

Accounts of Overseer from sales of produce, &c., duly accounted for.

Miscellaneous Expenses.

Paid David Farnham, damage to wagon .................. $5.00
H. Ellis, damage to plow on highway .................... 3.35
J. Tibbetts, " " ................................. 3.00
C. A. Yeaton, blank books, postage, &c. ........... 7.00
George E. Minot, S. S. Committee blanks .......... 2.00
D. L. Page, labor on grave yard ......................... 9.00
W. H. Cummings, lumber for grave yard ........ 2.18
J. Keegan, damage ............................................ 225.00
W. P. Whitehouse, atty ......................................... 37.00
C. B. Crowell, ex. to Hartland at different times 12.90
S. S. Committee, books, Sanford Fund .............. 17.42
Wyman & Clarey, for moving D. Jewett to Augusta 12.50
F. Bowman, keeping D. Jewett to Augusta .... 6.00
C. A. Yeaton, moving " to Belgrade and keeping same 8.00
F. E. Bunker, damage to stage .............................. 5.00
Est., J. J. Alexander, lumber and sawing ........ 7.42
L. W. Judkins, ser. con ..................................... 8.00
J. C. Mosher, " clerk .................................... 3.74
E Tillson, " 1873 ........................................ 1.00
Acknowledge of Deeds ....................................... 35.00
J. S. Cummings, coll tax book ......................... 1.00
For printing reports ....................................... 20.00

The following sums have been received into the treasury the past year, exclusive of loans.

By Cash in treasury, March 1st, 1875 ......................... $395.91
Received of A. Yeaton, coll 1873 ............................ 1750.00
J. S. Cummings, coll 1874 .................................. 6414.55
" " 1875 ........................................ 2432.00
Mt. Vernon ............................................... 18.89
Litchfield ................................................. 14.00
Rome ...................................................... 113.43
A. Hammond, from sale of land ......................... 347.00
Emery Tillson " rent of land .......................... 23.00
G. B. Staples, " sale of cow ........................ 30.00
Non resident tax .................................. 104.91

Total cash received .................................. $11643.69
SELECTMEN’S REPORT.

Resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due from A. Yeaton, Coll., 1873</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. S. Cummings, Coll., 1874</td>
<td>$792.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. J. Page, Guar. P. Smith, 1875</td>
<td>$530.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. F. Mitchel, Guar. J. Downs</td>
<td>$118.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Resident Tax</td>
<td>$29.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo. B. Staples, int.</td>
<td>$156.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State School Fund</td>
<td>$45.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Resident Tax</td>
<td>$870.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$7,739.08

Inventory of Stock, Provisions, etc., on Town Farm                           | $579.30

Cash in Treasury                                                              | $7978.38

Total resources                                                              | $8677.78

Liabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole amount of outstanding Treasury notes</td>
<td>$17754.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto Town orders</td>
<td>$249.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto School orders</td>
<td>$182.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto Int. due to March 1, 1876</td>
<td>$552.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$18,730.71

Due the several school districts                                             | $644.72
| Portland, on acct. Prime family                                            | $49.50   |
| Hartland, " Palmer "                                                        | $33.22   |
| Pittston, " Hunt "                                                          | $6.00    |
| S. Robinson, " H. Tra-k."                                                   | $13.00   |
| Dr. Springer, " D. Jewett."                                                 | $6.00    |
| Geo. E. Minot, S. S. Com.                                                   | $30.00   |
| J. C. Taylor,                                                               | $30.00   |
| H. F. D. Wyman, "                                                           | $27.50   |
| J. S. Cummings, Com. 1874–1875                                             | $164.25  |
| J. H. Mosher, Cons.                                                         | $3.00    |
| A. E. Faught, ser., as selectman                                           | $62.00   |
| C. B. Crowell, ditto                                                        | $64.25   |
| C. A. Yeaton, ditto                                                         | $91.50   |
| C. A. Yeaton, ex selectman, half year’s salary                            | $112.50  |

Total liability                                                              | $20083.80

The following were the Assessments of 1875:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Tax</td>
<td>$1849.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Tax</td>
<td>$677.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Tax to defray town charges</td>
<td>$6300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; for support of schools</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlayings on same</td>
<td>$212.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent highway</td>
<td>$63.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total assessment                                                             | $10,403.20

Whole amount collected on the foregoing assessment to October 1st, 1875   | $2587.00

Discount on same at five per cent.                                          | $129.35

$2716.35
SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

Whole amount of liabilities of town $20083 80

Ditto resources 8677 78

Liabilities above resources 11406 02

Treasury notes bearing interest less than last year 4434 49

Names of Paupers at the Town Farm the past year:
Isaiah Bickford 1 year.
Samuel Damren 1 "
Edwin Damren 1 "
Dorcas Hawse 1 "
Ida M. Kaherl 1 "
Willie Smith 1 "
Phebe Smith 6 and a half months.
Lydia Libby 3 and one-third do.
Patrick Emmons 2 weeks.
Anne Hawse moved there Feb. 25, 1875.
Angie Hawse ditto.
Ada Hawse ditto.

Belgrade, Feb 25th, 1875.

C. A. YEATON
CHAS. B. CROWELL
A. E. FAUGHT

BELGRADE.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

TOWN OF BELGRADE in account with JOHN S. MINOT, Treasurer, for the year ending Feb. 21st, 1876.

DR.

To paid Treasurer notes $19333 13
Interest on the same 1646 96
Town orders 2954 92
School orders 2451 17
Treasurer's commissions 50 00
Cash in the Treasury 699 40

CR.

By cash in the treasury March 1st, 1875 $395 91

Received of Andrew Yeaton, coll. of taxes for 1873 1750 00
Jos. S. Cummings, coll. of taxes for 1874 and 1875 8578 00
State Treasurer school fund and mill tax 871 07
Cash by hands of selectmen 933 57
For non resident tax for the years 1873 and 1874 120 39
From different persons and gave treas. notes 14898 64

$27449 58

JOHN S. MINOT, TREASURER.
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Sup. School Committee of Belgrade.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

In Summer taught by Miss Nancy M. Woodward, of Winthrop. Miss Woodward from long experience, is thoroughly familiar with the school-room, and well understands the wants of the school. She succeeded well in her management of this school, which was profitably conducted.

In Winter taught by Mr. Charles L. Philips, of Waterville. Mr. Philips has not had much experience as a teacher, though a good scholar; yet he was hardly adapted to the successful management of this school; though we have no doubt but what with practice he will make a good teacher. There was a lack of good order, and the teacher was too closely confined to his text-books.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Summer Term taught by Miss Hattie Cummings. This school was composed of very small scholars; all with one exception being less than twelve years of age. The order for the most part was good, and although the teacher has had no previous experience, her services in this school were as satisfactory as the average of young teachers.

In Winter taught by Mr. J. S. Cummings. As this school has somewhat longer to keep, it has as yet been visited but once; but from what we saw at that time, and from what we know of Mr. Cummings' experience and success as a teacher, we have no hesitancy in saying that this term of school close alike profitable to the scholars and satisfactory to the district.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

Summer School in charge of Miss Emily F. Williams, of Readfield, who came to this school with a high reputation as a teacher, and most successfully did she maintain that reputation. The exercises at the close of the school being of the very best that it was ever our pleasure to witness.

In Winter Mr. Joseph S. Cummings conducted the school. Mr. Cummings needs no words of commendation from your committee; for his reputation as a successful teacher has long been established. This term of school was some thirteen weeks in length and very profitable to the district. In all our experience in the schools of this town, we have never known a year in which No. 3 has had so successful and profitable terms of school as they have had the past year.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Summer School taught by Miss Florence J. Yeaton. This was Miss Yeaton's first school, and we were much pleased with its management at both visits. The government of the school was all that we desired, and the pupils made commendable progress.

In winter Mr. M. C. Hardy, of Readfield, managed the school; and with no experience in teaching he readily adapted himself to the wants of the school-room, and being a good scholar we have no doubt but what he will make a very successful teacher.
DISTRICT NO. 5.

Summer Term taught by Miss Frank L. Morrell. At our first visit at this school, we found the order good, and the teacher honestly endeavoring to render her services profitable to the school; and although young in years, she was profitable in the school room: self-possessed and unretiring—yet firm and methodical. The classification of this school was bad on account of a diversity of text-books. We think the school was a profitable one.

In Winter taught by Miss Laura A. Page. This school at the time of making this report, is still in operation. On visiting it at its commencement we found the order good, and everything along in a manner indicating that it would be a successful term, and from what we can learn, are satisfied that such is the case.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

The Summer school was commenced by Miss Ella Gilmore, of Sidney, who has taught a number of schools, but this being not so easy a school to manage as some in town, she failed to give that satisfaction to the district which is desirable; and after teaching some five weeks, she left, after which, the services of Miss Louisa Case, of Readfield, were obtained; though a good scholar, she failed in the management of the school, there being so much unrest and moving about every way, that it entirely spoiled the profitability of the school.

In Winter Miss Angie Dolloff, of Mt. Vernon, teacher. This school has been in operation but a short time and of course has been visited but once, at which time everything was found in a satisfactory condition.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Miss Josephine Knowles, of Manchester, a teacher of large and usually successful experience, conducted the summer term. Her school gave evidence of painstaking and drill. Had there been less noise occasioned principally by whispering, it would have been perfectly satisfactory. This is one of our smallest schools, yet with the extra advantages it has enjoyed the past year together with the earnest cooperation on the part of parents, it is nearly, if not quite in advance of our larger schools in point of education.

In Winter taught by Miss Emily F. Williams, of Readfield. After having taught the high school in the fall, Miss Williams was fully prepared to enter upon her work, and conducted the term with credit to herself and to the satisfaction of the district.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

No Summer school.

In Winter this school was commenced by Miss Florence J. Yeaton. On visiting this school near its commencement, we found it in a prosperous condition, and the indications that it would be a profitable term of school. Miss Yeaton seemed very much interested in the welfare of her scholars and was confident that her efforts would be crowned with success. After this school had continued about eight weeks, we were informed by the Agent that a dissatisfaction had arisen with some in the district, and that we should investigate the school; but before we could get together for that purpose the school closed. We have to regret this, inasmuch as we believe the teacher was well qualified to carry it on in a manner alike creditable to herself and profitable to the scholars, and we can but think that she had injustice done her by some in the district, and that they were actuated by a revengeful spirit, rather than a desire to promote the best interest of the school.
REPORT OF S. S. COMMITTEE.

DISTRICT NO 9.

Summer Term taught by Miss Laura A. Page. This was a very small school, and owing to a misunderstanding as to the time of its close, was visited but once. At that time it was evident that the teacher was doing all in her power to instruct her pupils, and from what we can learn, gave entire satisfaction to the district.

In Winter taught by Miss Mary L. Damren. Miss Damren is a young teacher, but at the examination, her pupils indicated that they had been well drilled in the branches taught—thoroughness being her object rather than to go over much ground and have it imperfectly understood.

DISTRICT NO. 10.

Both terms were under the instruction of Chas. D. Austin, of Belgrade. Although this teacher came into this school without experience as an instructor, he conducted the first term so satisfactorily he was engaged for the second. At our several visits, the school appeared well and prosperous. Although unable to be present at the close of the last term, have no hesitancy in pronouncing it a success from all that we can learn. Mr. Austin is a young man of more than common ability, and with close application to study we predict for him an honorable and useful life.

DISTRICT NO. 11.

In Summer Miss Elenora Savage, of Augusta, had charge of the school, but she was not such a teacher as this district needs. With no experience in teaching, though well qualified as far as books are concerned, she did not prove a success. This district needs a teacher of experience both in summer and winter.

Mr. Wm. Blaisdell, of Rome, had charge of Winter term, and proved an excellent teacher, such as this district needs. His long experience has enabled him to understand every want of the school-room, and being a good disciplinarian, and practical in all his methods of teaching, his pupils could not fail of improving. Mr. Blaisdell having to leave before the school was finished, the remainder of the term was taught by Miss Ida F. Pettingill, of Augusta, and when we visited the school we found it in good condition in every respect. We speak more fully of this teacher in No. 12. If this district could secure the services of Miss Williams, who taught in No. 7, they would be fortunate, for she is such a teacher as they need.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

In Summer taught by Ida F. Pettingill, of Augusta. What was said of Miss Pettingill in our report of last year, we say in this. She is wide awake and earnest in the school room, thoroughly comprehending all the wants of her school, and with an easy faculty of importing knowledge to her pupils; we regard her as a most excellent teacher.

Winter term was in charge of Mr. Manly H. Blaisdell, of Rome. When we visited this school near its commencement we found it in good condition; both teacher and scholars endeavoring to perform well their respective duties. The attendance of this school is the largest of any in town.

DISTRICT NO. 13.

No school in summer.

In Winter taught by Mr. C. M. Weston. Mr. Weston has had many years in teaching schools in this and in other towns, and is so well known in this town as one of our most successful teachers, it is only necessary for us to say that his efforts in this school the past winter, have been highly satisfactory.
DISTRICT NO. 14.

Summer School taught by Miss Carrie A. Craig, of Readfield. This was Miss Craig's first school. At our first visit we found the order good and her manner of teaching was such as to interest her scholars. At the examination we found fair progress had been made.

In Winter taught by Mr. Manly E. Lowe, of Sidney. This district was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Lowe, as he is one of our best teachers. Having received a Normal school training, he is enabled to bring to his scholars a variety of ideas concerning the branches taught, which infuses a new interest into their minds, relieving them of the dull routine of too close confinement to textbooks. This school was a success.

DISTRICT NO. 15.

Summer term taught by Miss Hattie McClure, of West Waterville. This was her first endeavor in this capacity, and we believe laborously conscientiously to discharge the perplexing duties incumbent upon her; had she put a little more energy into the work, with firmer discipline, her labors would have been crowned with better results; still some of her classes made fair proficiency. This is quite a large school of small children, and we think it is for their interest to have the benefit of an experienced teacher.

The Winter term is still in operation under the charge of John Downes, of Smithfield, who walked into the schoolroom, pulled off his coat and went to work faithfully, earnestly and energetically, to discharge his whole duty, and is meeting with good success.

DISTRICT NO. 16.

Both terms in this district were taught by Miss Lucy E. Hutchins, of West Waterville, who, in her quiet unassuming manner, soon gained the love and respect of those committed to her care, and carried them through twenty-one weeks very successfully. An examination at the close of each term, indicated that the pupils were not indebted wholly to their text-books for the knowledge they had gained, but very much to general exercises conducted each day by their teacher.

DISTRICT NO. 17.

Summer term taught by Florence Clement, of this town, who came to this school without experience—soon gained the confidence and respect of her pupils and gave general satisfaction to the district.

In Winter, Mr. Weeks, of Sidney, conducted this school in a commendable manner—maintaining good order, requiring good lessons, and conducting recitations with a view to implant the principles involved thoroughly in the minds of his pupils. The scholars are quite punctual and the average attendance good.

DISTRICT NO. 18.

Summer term taught by Miss Abbie Knowles, of Manchester, who, without previous experience, entered upon her duties with great zeal and a firm determination to succeed in her new calling. She conducted her recitations in a thorough critical manner. The interest evinced through the entire term was largely due to the general exercises, which were varied and engaged in daily with a zest. If this teacher can manage a large school as well as this small one, we bespeak for her a place in the van among our teachers.

The Winter term under the care of Miss Stone, of Augusta, whose previous labors in this school had been quite satisfactory, but were not entirely
REPORT OF S. S. COMMITTEE.

District No. 7, in the fall, maintained a Free High School, which was under the direction of Miss Emily F. Williams, of Readfield, and it was one of the most profitable schools that we ever had in this town. Miss Williams, when she enters a school room, has entire and absolute control over her pupils, and that without any seeming effort on her part. The pupils love and respect her; and everything moves pleasantly and harmoniously along.

The examination at the close of this term was highly satisfactory, and it spoke well for both teacher and scholars. We were pleased to meet at this time so many of the district, and others outside, to witness the closing exercises of the school.

In conclusion, we would say that most of your schools the past year have been in a prosperous condition, while others have not come up to your expectations, which has been the result of various causes; but the main cause of failure has arisen from the want of experience of the teachers, who, though possessing fair literary qualifications, yet they seemed to be strangers in the school-room—not understanding the wants and responsibilities required of them when they enter upon the discharge of the most arduous and responsible duties which falls to the lot of any one in the varied duties of life. Now while it is not expected that every one who teaches school can be a teacher of experience, for there must always be beginners in every avocation; yet, those who intend to make teaching a profession, should so prepare themselves for the work required of them, that they can at once enter upon the discharge of their duties, and have that confidence in their own ability, to so conduct the multitudinous duties, which will fall to them, that they can give good satisfaction to those who employ their services in one of the most intricate and responsible situations to which any person can be called.

We have often called your attention to the importance of manifesting more interest in your schools and their management, if your school is poorly conducted, and nearly worthless, it is so much taken from the future success and welfare of your child, who looses so much of his education for what little you may take, though it may look small at the time; yet it may make a vast difference in the coming years of that child's life. Many agents are controlled entirely in their actions for the employment of teachers by personal considerations, without any regard to the fitness or adaptability of the person whom they employ as a teacher of their children, and the person who is to mould their characters in coming years. If agents would be more cautious in their actions, and look more for the interest of all, than for the interest of their friends and connections, we should have less trouble, and more satisfactory results from our teachers and schools.

There has been one thing in connection with our schools the past year, with which we have been pleased, and that is of parents visiting their schools; several instances of which have come under our observation, and we feel assured that those that have visited their schools went to their homes with a higher appreciation of the importance and value of education of their children, and determined to manifest, hereafter, more interest in a cause which is so closely interwoven with all the future happiness, not only of themselves, but of their children and their future success and standing in life. Let every parent who has a child to educate, make it a
rule to visit every term of school, at least, once; it will strengthen the teacher in the perplexing and arduous duties which are ever connected with the school-room, and give your children the strongest assurance that you are deeply interested in their efforts to require an education. If schools were oftener visited by parents, we should have less complaint about poor schools than we now have; it would bring parent and teacher into a closer understanding of each other and each other's wants, and the results would be plainly seen in the increased interest, which would be plainly discernable in the improved condition of our schools in general.

If your children's education is neglected they go down the vale of life under a dark cloud, whose overshadowing power is ever felt; if they have a good education it lifts the darkness of the future, and gilds with radiant light their journey on the great voyage which is before them.

GEORGE E. MINOT, Superintending
JOHN C. TAYLOR,