

1898

Annual Reports of the Municipal Officers and Board of Education of the Town of Farmington, for the Year Ending February 21, 1898

Farmington (Me.).

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

Repository Citation

Farmington (Me.), "Annual Reports of the Municipal Officers and Board of Education of the Town of Farmington, for the Year Ending February 21, 1898" (1898). *Maine Town Documents*. 1949.
<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs/1949>

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 REPORTS

OF THE

MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

AND

BOARD OF EDUCATION

OF THE

TOWN OF FARMINGTON,

For the Year Ending February 21, 1898.

FARMINGTON, MAINE :
PRESS OF KNOWLTON, McLEARY & CO.

1898.

TOWN WARRANT.

To Charles H. Pierce, a Constable in the Town of Farmington, in the County of Franklin,

GREETING :

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town of Farmington, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble at Music Hall, in said town, on the seventh day of March next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to act on the following articles, to wit. :—

- ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.
- ART. 2. To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year.
- ART. 3. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the support of schools the ensuing year.
- ART. 4. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the support of a Free High School.
- ART. 5. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the purchase of school-books.
- ART. 6. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the support of the poor the ensuing year.
- ART. 7. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to defray town charges the ensuing year.
- ART. 8. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to pay outstanding indebtedness.
- ART. 9. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to pay interest on outstanding indebtedness.
- ART. 10. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the repair of roads and small bridges.

- ART. 11. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the repair of large bridges.
- ART. 12. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to meet the expenses of Memorial Day.
- ART. 13. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the abatement of taxes for the ensuing year.
- ART. 14. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise for the collection of taxes the ensuing year.
- ART. 15. To see how the taxes shall be collected and when made payable.
- ART. 16. To see how the inventory shall be taken the ensuing year.
- ART. 17. To see if the town will vote to raise the sum of one hundred dollars to pay Mrs. Almira (Gilbert) Sawyer as per contract.
- ART. 18. To see what action the town will take in regard to the future support of the poor.
- ART. 19. To see if the town will vote to raise the sum of fifty dollars, to light Center Bridge and the road leading from Little Blue to the same.
- ART. 20. To see what sum of money the town will vote to raise to repair school buildings.
- ART. 21. To see what sum of money the town will vote to pay a Road Commissioner per diem for his services.

The Selectmen give notice that they will be in session for the purpose of correcting the list of voters in said town, and hearing and deciding upon the application of persons claiming to have their names entered upon said list, at the office of the Selectmen on Saturday, March 5, at two o'clock P. M., and at nine o'clock A. M. on the day of said meeting.

Given under our hands this eighteenth day of February, A. D. 1898.

J. W. FAIRBANKS, } *Selectmen*
 A. F. GAMMON, } *of*
 W. H. PEARSON, } *Farmington.*

A true copy.

Attest :

CHARLES H. PIERCE,

Constable of Farmington.

SELECTMEN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Citizens of the Town of Farmington :

The following report of receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending February 21st, 1898, is submitted to the tax-payers of Farmington :

VALUATION AND ASSESSMENTS.

The valuation as taken in April is as follows :

Real Estate,	\$1,319,165 00
Personal Property,	506,623 00
Total valuation of Real and Personal Property,	\$1,825,788 00
Number of Polls,	900

Upon the polls and estates we have assessed the following sums, to wit :

For State Tax,	\$5,398 97
County Tax,	3,175 39
Support of Schools,	3,500 00
Free High School,	1,000 00
School Books,	250 00
Support of Poor,	2,560 00
Town Charges,	2,000 00
Interest on Outstanding Indebtedness,	380 00
Roads and Small Bridges,	5,000 00
Large Bridges,	2,000 00
Memorial Day,	75 00
Abatement of Taxes,	200 00
Collection of Taxes,	300 00
Mrs. Almira Gilbert Sawyer,	100 00
School-house in Holley District,	500 00
Lighting Center Bridge,	50 00
Overlays,	1,041 35
Total,	\$27,530 71

On the 10th day of June, 1897, the lists of the above assessments were committed to Charles H. Pierce, Collector for the town.

Subsequently a supplemental tax was assessed and committed to the Collector, of \$216.34, making the total commitment \$27,747.05.

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Unexpended February, 1897,	\$1,674 95	
By appropriation,	4,500 00	
Mill Tax from the State,	2,389 64	
High School from State,	250 00	
Tuition received from Pupils,	90 06	
Interest on School Fund (estimated),	60 00	
		\$8,964 65

EXPENDITURES.

Orders Paid Teachers,	\$5,778 62	
Board of Teachers,	259 70	
Fuel,	412 55	
Janitors,	435 95	
Supplies,	262 65	
Repairs,	87 11	
Transportation,	232 95	
Insurance,	185 75	
Unexpended,	1,309 37	
		\$8,964 65

SCHOOL-BOOKS.

By Appropriation,	\$250 00	
Books sold,	3 80	
		\$253 80
Orders drawn,		253 57

SCHOOL-HOUSE, HOLLEY DISTRICT.

By Appropriation,	\$500 00
Orders drawn,	534 60

HIGHWAY DISTRICTS.

By Appropriations,		\$5,996 64
Orders drawn,	\$5,676 70	
Unexpended,	319 94	
		\$5,996 64

ROAD-MACHINE.

Orders drawn,		\$930 84
---------------	--	----------

LARGE BRIDGES.

Orders drawn,	\$1,985 72	By Appropriation,	\$2,000 00
Unexpended,	14 28		
	<u>\$2,000 00</u>		

INSANE AND POOR.

Appropriation,	\$2,560 00	
Received Burial of Soldier,	35 00	
from other Towns,	24 75	
Charged to other towns,	60 48	
Received for Insane,	399 47	
		\$3,079 70
Orders Paid Insane Hospital,	\$769 66	
Burial of Soldier,	35 00	
Edgar D. Wing and family,	8 75	
Mrs. Ivory Welch,	3 00	
J. P. Wills,	16 00	
Herman Welch and family,	20 49	
Frank H. Wright and family,	12 49	
George Elwell,	24 50	
Clarissa Backus,	60 00	
R. H. Smith, care of Town Poor,	1,708 80	
		\$2,658 69
To Balance,		<u>421 01</u>
		\$3,079 70
Due R. H. Smith on contract,		620 89

TOWN CHARGES.

Paid I. S. Jacobs, damages sustained on Centre Bridge,	\$ 155 00
E. H. Marwick, goods, order Board of Health, F. Pooler,	2 15
A. C. Norton, goods, E. Roderick, order Board of Health,	1 30
B. F. Makepeace, reporting births and deaths,	4 75
E. W. Whitcomb, costs and damage in Hovey case,	30 00
S. R. Lumber Co., lumber,	5 63
H. G. Eaton, damage to horse on highway,	4 25
J. W. Fairbanks, services as Selectman,	131 00
W. H. Pearson, services as Selectman,	124 75
A. F. Gammon, services as Selectman,	140 00
A. L. Fenderson, services as Superintendent of Schools,	200 00
P. P. Tufts, sundry expenses,	13 56
Louis Voter, Town Clerk,	25 00
P. P. Tufts, services as Town Treasurer,	100 00
J. O. Paul, work on highway,	2 40
Knowlton, McLeary & Co., printing,	51 00
A. J. Wheeler, hauling granite,	69 15
F. A. Luce, painting signs,	3 00
Albert Allen, work on highway,	15 00
Charles Hanscomb, crossing land,	5 00
J. S. Kempton, work on stone,	8 72
Mosher & Luce, repairing highway,	10 00
C. H. Pierce, posts for snow fence,	10 00
M. C. Hobbs, work near Walton's Mills bridge,	47 00
F. O. Lyford, reporting births and deaths,	7 25
For leached ashes for school-ground,	16 70
A. A. Atwood, wire for fence,	1 25
F. O. Lyford, services member Health Board,	23 25
Lynn Craig, labor and seed for school-ground,	10 27
Andrew Dusty, painting Centre Bridge,	35 00
E. W. Whitcomb, settlement of Stoyell case,	15 00
S. O. Tarbox, paint for iron bridges,	37 50
N. C. Norton, work on sidewalk,	30 30
W. H. Dixon, brick and lime,	2 56
P. P. Tufts, drain tile,	37 86
Silas Perham, for use of teams,	4 00
A. J. Wheeler, for hauling and setting curbing,	7 50
C. L. Curtis, lighting Falls bridge,	9 00

Paid C. H. Pierce, enforcing dog law,	\$ 7 00
J. W. Nichols, Ex. of F. W. Rich,	2 00
F. H. Russell, Ex. of F. W. Rich,	2 00
M. V. B. Hardy, breaking road,	4 00
W. H. Pearson, services in pauper case,	3 00
J. H. Plummer, for curbing,	116 55
A. E. Currier, for fitting curbing,	10 15
John LeClair, work on wells,	4 00
J. H. Holley, building walk at school-house,	4 50
Henry Briggs, sidewalk at West Farmington,	10 00
D. H. Currier, well covers,	24 00
Emily H. Dyer, reporting births,	75
E. V. Varney, labor and material,	10 96
Robert McCleery, barbed wire,	3 60
D. H. Currier, for curbing,	28 42
Thomas Gilbert, hauling curbing,	8 15
Frank Cutler, hauling curbing,	11 00
F. A. Hannaford, crossing land,	5 00
A. W. Judkins, work on well covers,	1 40
N. C. Norton, building sidewalk,	42 66
C. H. Pierce, posts and brick,	6 00
H. T. Knowlton, work on High School building, by order Health Board,	110 46
C. A. Gould, lumber, school building,	105 00
F. L. Butler, lumber, school building,	13 00
Durgan & Co., school building,	16 11
Durgan & Son, wire and material, highways,	10 95
Benjamin Stanley, work on school-house fence,	3 00
Eliza Perham, material for road,	4 80
F. L. Butler, tile, cement and brick,	201 92
Office rent,	40 00
H. P. White, for supplies,	13 05
Louis Voter, recording marriages, births and deaths,	26 40
W. G. Mallett, surveying,	3 00
F. O. Lyford, reporting births and deaths,	9 25
Frank Marshall, for cleaning office,	1 25
J. C. Tarbox, clothing for scholars, by order School Board,	7 30
For watering-tubs,	67 00

Paid For lodging tramps,	\$ 54 05
For rent of Music Hall,	30 00
Dr. J. W. Nichols, recording births and deaths,	6 24
J. M. S. Hunter, printing,	9 50
John C. Ames, damages crossing land,	5 00
C. E. Marr, supplies, per Health Board,	12 85
Ward S. Furbush, sheep killed by dogs,	3 00
T. H. Adams, casket for W. H. Smith,	7 90
Estate of S. R. Norton, sheep killed by dogs,	10 00
	<hr/>
Orders drawn,	\$2,472 27
Appropriation,	2,000 00
	<hr/>
Overdrawn,	\$472 27

MRS. ALMIRA GILBERT SAWYER.

Appropriation,	\$100 00
Orders drawn,	100 00

MEMORIAL DAY.

Appropriation,	\$75 00
Orders drawn,	75 00

COLLECTION OF TAXES.

Collection of Taxes,	\$300 00	
Orders drawn,		\$400 00

TAXES FOR 1897.

State Tax,	\$5,398 97	Paid on State Tax,	\$5,398 97
County Tax,	3,175 39	County Tax,	3,175 39
Town Tax,	19,175 69	Town Tax,	10,865 69

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Orders drawn,	\$238 07	Unexpended,	\$ 54 25
Unexpended,	16 18	Appropriation,	200 00
	<u>\$254 25</u>		<u>\$254 25</u>

INTEREST.

Overdrawn,	\$ 18 28	Appropriation,	\$380 00
P'd Int. on bonded debt,	370 00		
	<u>\$388 28</u>		

ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

Orders drawn,	\$49 27
Appropriation,	50 00

OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS.

Oct. 1, 1898, 3 per cent. Bond,	\$ 500 00
Apr. 1, 1898, 3 1-2 " "	1,500 00
Apr. 1, 1898, " " "	2,000 00
Apr. 1, 1900, " " "	2,000 00
Apr. 1, 1801, " " "	2,000 00
Apr. 1, 1902, " " "	2,000 00
	\$10,000 00
Town Order Out,	18 78
	<u>\$10,018 78</u>

LIABILITIES.

Balance due Schools,	\$1,309 37
Highways,	319 94
R. H. Smith, on contract,	620 89
Town Officers current year,	550 00
Supervisor of Schools,	200 00
Town Bonds bearing Interest,	10,000 00
Town Order Out	18 78
	\$13,018 98
Resources above Liabilities,	\$804 09
	<u>\$13,823 07</u>

RESOURCES.

Due from C. H. Pierce, Collector,	\$8,300 00
P. P. Tufts, Treasurer,	4,998 07
Tax Deeds,	75 00
Interest on School Fund, estimated	50 00
Real Estate,	200 00
Furniture in Selectmen's Office,	200 00
	\$13,823 07
Gain in Resources for the Year,	\$1,637 60

ESTIMATES FOR ENSUING YEAR.

For Support of Schools,	\$3,500 00
Free High School,	1,000 00
Support of Poor,	2,560 00
Defraying Town Charges,	2,000 00
Collecting Taxes,	300 00
Abatement of Taxes,	300 00
Memorial Day,	75 00
Paying Town Bonds,	2,000 00
Interest on Town Bonds,	350 00
Repairing Roads and Small Bridges,	6,000 00
Repairing Large Bridges,	1,000 00
Purchase of School Books,	300 00

To pay Mrs. Almira Gilbert Sawyer in full as per contract,	100 00	
For Lighting Centre Bridge,	50 00	
Repairing and Insurance on School Buildings,	1,000 00	
		\$20,535 00

J. W. FAIRBANKS,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
A. F. GAMMON,	
W. H. PEARSON,	
	<i>of</i>
	} <i>Farmington.</i>

Dr.

TOWN OF FARMINGTON in account with

To paid Town Bonds,	\$ 1,000 00
Town Orders,	15,336 59
School Orders,	7,659 78
State Tax,	5,398 97
County Tax,	3,175 39
Coupons,	370 00
Pensions,	468 00
State Treasurer (dog licenses),	177 00
Cash on hand, Feb. 23, 1898,	4,998 07

\$38,583 80

P. P. TUFTS, Treasurer.

Cr.

By Cash on hand Feb. 17, 1897,	\$4,475 56
C. H. Pierce, Coll. in full for 1896,	9,800 00
C. H. Pierce, Coll. in part for 1897,	19,450 05
State School Fund and Mill Tax for 1897,	2,389 64
State Railroad and Telegraph Tax,	326 54
State for Dog Licenses refunded,	158 60
State for Pensions paid,	468 00
State for Burial of Soldier,	35 00
State for Damage by Dogs,	197 00
State for Free High School,	375 00
Town Clerk, License on Dogs,	177 00
Town School Fund for 1897,	60 93
Other Towns, &c., for Support of Poor,	68 10
Support of Insane at Hospital,	417 43
Tuition Collected,	60 00
School District Property sold,	25 00
Tax Deeds paid,	49 58
Rent of Town Lot,	6 00
Sheep killed by Dogs,	13 50
Old Lumber sold,	10 70
Old Taxes collected,	12 37
School Books sold,	3 80
Town License,	4 00
	\$38,583 80

P. P. TUFTS, *Treasurer.*

TRUST FUND.

TO KEEP MONUMENTS, LOTS AND CEMETERY IN REPAIR.

George F. Blake fund to keep cemetery at Farmington Falls in repair, now due,	\$512 58
Matthew Brooks fund, now due,	273 47
Alice H. Page “ “ “	57 42
Benj. Huse “ “ “	50 50

P. P. TUFTS, *Treasurer.*

SCHOOL REPORT.

To the Citizens of Farmington :

Having performed the duties assigned to us we have the honor to present this annual report for your consideration. In acting upon the duties assigned to us we have endeavored in all ways to make the schools intrusted to us a success, and we feel assured that the condition of educational affairs in town bears witness that gratifying results have been obtained.

The attendance in the schools has been larger than in the preceding year, while the number of scholars in town remains practically the same as a year ago, viz.: nine hundred and eighty-six, according to the census taken April 1, 1897, as required by law. This shows conclusively that the citizens are taking an active interest in the welfare of the public schools, and are aiding the children to become noble men and women, worthy citizens of the State.

Some changes were made in the school laws during the last legislative session, and we have endeavored to conform to these laws so far as the interests of the schools seemed to demand. To call attention to all these laws would be to demand too much space, but the ones needing your consideration are mentioned.

The law relating to transportation of pupils is perhaps one of the most difficult questions we have to consider, in order to do justice to those who are some distance from a school, and at the same time expend the school money to the best of our ability. As this law is of interest to all the voters, we quote it as it is amended :

“This act shall not abolish or change the location of any school legally established at the time of its passage; but any town at its annual meeting, or at a meeting called for that purpose, may determine the number and location of its schools, and may discontinue them or change their location; but such discontinuance or change of location shall be made only on the written recommendation of the Superintending School Committee, and on conditions proper to preserve the just rights and privileges of the inhabitants for whose benefit such schools were established; provided, however, that in any case of any school having, as now established, or which shall hereafter have, too few scholars for its profitable maintenance, the Superintending School Committee may suspend the operation of such school for not more than one year, unless otherwise instructed by the town, but any public school failing to maintain an average attendance for any school year, of at least eight pupils, shall be and hereby is suspended, unless the town in which such school is located shall by vote instruct its Superintending School Committee to maintain said school. The Superintendent of Schools in each town shall procure the conveyance of all public school pupils residing in his town, to and from the nearest suitable school, for the number of weeks for which schools are maintained in each year, when such pupils reside at such a distance from the said schools as to render such conveyance necessary.”

The matter of transportation has been in nearly every case settled in an equitable manner, and but little dissatisfaction has been expressed. Those who live at some distance from a school have taken into consideration the fact that they get better results by attending a large school, and cheerfully have put themselves to much trouble that their children might receive good advantages.

Another question arises under this section of the school laws, and that is in regard to the maintenance of several schools which, from present indications, will soon fail to maintain an average attendance of eight, as required. There seems to be

something of a pathetic nature in the passing away of the small schools, yet such is the case throughout Maine to-day, and if the small schools are to be retained as they are some action must be taken or, in conformity with this law, they will be suspended. We would respectfully recommend that these schools should remain as they now are, and that you take action favorable to maintaining them at least another year, as the most of the pupils are too small to attend schools at a distance from their homes, and as they are situated the cost of transportation will be nearly as much as the cost of maintaining a school, and better satisfaction will be given, because of the fact that the pupils are too small to go elsewhere during stormy or cold weather.

The cost of transportation has been nearly the same as last year, although more have become entitled to the same, as the school in the Bailey neighborhood has been suspended the greater part of the year, and several there have had arrangements made for them whereby they have received the same number of weeks of school that the other children in town have had during the year. Some of the children have been carried to the larger schools, and those too small to attend so far away from home, have been taught at home with satisfactory results.

TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

Realizing that the teacher fits the pupil for a life work, care has been taken to secure teachers possessing qualities and training fitting them to efficiently discharge their duties, and from the harmony and interest shown we believe we have been very successful. During the past year many have been refused schools because they have not had suitable training. School officers would like to aid untrained teachers, but cannot and be faithful to their duties. Teaching is a profession requiring many qualities to make one successful, and as the best-trained teacher, as a rule, will teach the best school, we would recom-

mend that only those be engaged who have attended some school especially designed for the training of teachers. We firmly believe that a decided improvement has been shown in all the schools, but much remains to be done.

The greatest obstacle, we find, to the progress of the schools is a too frequent change of teachers. We feel that the parents are largely to blame for this. In many cases a successful teacher has been judged, or misjudged, wholly by the reports of the children. This is wholly unfair, for while the pupils intend to be just and truthful they are not old enough to know or to judge as to what is best for them. No parent will take the judgment of a child and depend entirely upon it in the business matters of life. Why should they in so serious a matter as the training of that child? We have found that those who have the most and loudest complaints to make have never visited the school, but have relied on what they have heard. School officials, in such cases, have felt constrained to make a change of teachers, otherwise some children who have attended school the number of weeks required by law would be allowed to remain at home.

We are able to report that but very few have been removed because the teacher was not satisfactory. In those cases the teachers were able and experienced ones and were working for the best interests of the pupils, therefore no action was deemed necessary. In most cases where children have been irregular in attending school the parents have been amenable to the truant laws, but it was thought that if the parents were indifferent it was not the duty of the town to go to the expense of sending them to school when the money could be expended in aiding those who did attend.

In very few cases has there been any necessity of sending the truant officer after any delinquent child, and usually one visit has been sufficient. One parent was complained of the past year for neglecting to send a child to school, and as a result that boy has been regular in attendance ever since.

At the beginning of the fall terms Mr. George Cole resigned as one of the truant officers, as his duties as a government official obliged him to be away. Mr. Nelson Gould was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Cole's resignation. Mr. Gould has performed his duties faithfully and many children have been regular in attendance through his efforts who if left to themselves would have wasted their time. We commend Mr. Gould's efforts in this direction.

As noted in the report of the village schools, some of the pupils who enter the High School find the first year's work rather hard, and it is hoped that a course of study for all the schools in town will give a clearer idea of the work to be done before entering the High School. We are at work on such a course of study, and expect to have it ready at the beginning of the next school year.

VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

Our report of the village schools is, in effect, a repetition of last year's report. Very few changes have been made in the teaching force, and for the most part the schools are running very much as they have been for the past two or three years.

Very few jars and unpleasant occurrences have come up during the year, and in all cases in which such difficulties have arisen the teachers have settled them to the satisfaction of the School Board. For the most part the parents of the pupils attending school, have heartily co-operated with the teachers in their efforts to promote the welfare of the schools, and have tried to make the work pleasant to the teachers and profitable for the pupils. For this favor we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks.

The cases in which the teachers have not been supported by the parents have been very few. The want of sympathy with the teacher in such cases, has been due to the fact that the parents have been prejudiced by unwisely believing unreliable

reports circulated by pupils who have been disciplined for misdemeanors of a vicious nature that no teacher who is true to his trust could overlook. We hope the parents will not be too hasty in judging us. Reports circulated by disobedient pupils are usually unreliable. If a pupil puts himself in a position to receive punishment, he is very likely, upon reporting the details of the case, to clothe falsehood in the garb of truth. Hear the teacher's side of the story before believing it.

The Lower Primary, for three years so well directed by Miss Hersom, was put into the hands of Miss Rose Grounder at the beginning of the fall term. We have only words of praise for her work.

Miss Gay's remaining for the fourth year in the Upper Primary is ample evidence of the satisfaction of her work.

The Intermediate School is for the second year under the instruction of Miss Alice Lilly, whose work is highly satisfactory.

Miss Russell is teaching for the second year in the Grammar School. There is too much work for one teacher in this school. None but a strong teacher, physically and intellectually, can fill this position so creditably as does Miss Russell.

We feel that the pupils entering the High School, those from the Grammar grade as well as those from the rural districts, are for the most part too immature to do the first year's work in the High School satisfactorily. There should be another year's instruction somewhere, before the pupils are promoted to the High School. The condition of things is such at the present time that it must be the exceptionally able pupil who can complete satisfactorily the first year's work in the High School. This is wrong. The pupil of average ability should do this. In what school this extra year's instruction is to come is a matter of future consideration for the proper officials. This step would of course necessitate a little more money. But if the people of Farmington understand that a small additional appropriation to meet this need is the thing actually wanted, the money will be forthcoming.

I can assure the citizens that we could do more satisfactory work in the High School if the incoming classes had the benefit of another year's instruction before entering my school. This additional year would make our course of study similar to the courses in other villages in the State. We are trying to do here in Farmington thirteen years' work in twelve—a difficult thing to do. We hope that this defect in our system of education will be given careful consideration. We have a School Board fully competent to remove this defect in our system, if the town will vote a small additional appropriation to defray the extra expense. The benefit of such an addition to our course would be almost incalculable.

Our course of study in the High School is being carried out as exactly as possible, and is proving popular and highly satisfactory. We find that a very small proportion of the pupils who study Latin for one year, care to give it up at the end of that time, though it may be done, if the pupils wish to pursue the English course. Consequently the most of the school is pursuing the Classical or the College Preparatory Courses.

I have been ably assisted in my school by Miss Cutts and Miss King. The music in the schools, as formerly, has been under the instruction of Mrs. Wade. She has labored hard to secure good results, and has been eminently successful in this respect. The majority of the pupils have come to realize the fact that a knowledge of music forms a necessary part of a modern education. With this idea in mind they have tried hard to learn, and have made marked improvement. Much credit is due Mrs. Wade for inspiring in the pupils such a lively interest in the study of music.

Our janitor, Mr. Lidstone, is popular with the pupils, and does his work well. We should be pleased to have him remain with us another year.

The High School building is in need of quite extensive repairs. It has had practically nothing laid out upon it for

several years, and is now seriously in need of paint and a new roof. Money expended now will prove a saving in the end.

In conclusion I wish to extend my thanks to the School Board, for the substantial support that has been tendered me on all occasions. In every instance of discipline that has come up during the year I have had their cordial approval of my course. The town may well be congratulated upon having so efficient and so fearless a body of men at the head of its most important institution, the public school.

CHAS. M. PENNELL,
Principal Village Schools.

TEXT-BOOKS.

One important change has been made in books. The written work in the schools has shown that many children were very poor writers, and after carefully considering this matter and inquiring of other places as to their methods of improving the penmanship of their pupils, it was decided to introduce an entirely new system. After examining the copy-books of the leading publishing houses, it was decided to introduce Silver, Burdett & Co.'s system of vertical writing. These books were put in the schools at the beginning of the fall terms, and a decided improvement in penmanship is noticed in every school.

There have been no other changes in books. We would advise a change in historical text-books, as those now in use are very old. By making a gradual change the expense will be small.

BUILDINGS AND REPAIRS.

As voted at the last annual meeting, a school-house was built in the Holley District. This building was ready for occu-

pancy at the beginning of the fall term, and all are satisfied with the location and style of the house. The change from the old to the new building has been pleasing to the children, and the school there presents a decidedly improved appearance. The entire cost of the building, furniture, etc., was \$516.30.

No new school buildings are now needed in town, but quite extensive repairs need to be made the ensuing year. Necessary repairs only have been made during the year last past, such as repairing black-boards, replacing glass, etc. Several of the buildings need to be newly plastered, painted, and to have such other repairs as are necessary to keep them in a proper condition, but as there was not money enough to repair buildings and maintain the number of weeks' school that has been received in previous years, it was deemed best to put off repairs until the town had been asked to take some action. The most extensive repairs need to be made on the High School building. This building should be painted the coming year as a matter of economy. Attention was called to the condition of the roof a year ago, and while something should be done in regard to this it is considered best to let that remain as it is for another year and call your attention to the building in regard to another matter. The upper room is in regular use as a school-room, and in the morning is occupied by all the pupils and teachers in the building, making nearly two hundred people in that one room; yet in case of fire there is but one way of egress, consisting of a single stairway. In case of an accident we believe the town would be criminally liable for allowing such a condition of affairs to exist. We believe that by calling your attention to this matter, action will be taken that a fire escape, or at least another set of stairs will be provided.

The school building in the Gilman District and the "Red School-house" can be repaired at an expense of about one hundred and seventy dollars each.

By a small outlay each year every school building in Farm-

ington may be put and maintained in a condition second to none in any town of the State. As the school laws are, towns are not allowed to use school money for repairs. Any town so doing is liable to the forfeiture of the school money due from the State. It will be seen that in order to make repairs the town will have to appropriate money for that purpose.

We trust that this matter will receive the careful consideration it deserves, and that favorable action will be taken at the next annual meeting. It will be readily understood that repairs include insurance, furniture, etc.

Before closing this report we have to call your attention to the new law relating to the election of a School Committee. This law says that every town shall choose by ballot at its annual meeting a Superintending School Committee of three, and shall fill vacancies arising therein at each subsequent annual meeting. No person is ineligible on account of sex. If we adhere to this a new committee of three must be elected, but as Farmington has a special law adopted at its annual meeting held March 2, 1891, which the new law does not conflict with, allowing the town a committee of five, we think it would be for the best interests of all to have a committee of five instead of three, and we respectfully recommend that we continue under the special act. This renders it necessary to elect two new members for the ensuing year. The terms of J. W. Carsley and W. P. Holley expire this year.

The School Board the past year has been organized as follows: Chairman, J. W. Carsley. Sub-Committees as follows: On Instruction, W. P. Holley and George McL. Presson; on Text-Books, Ernest Crosswell and Carleton P. Merrill; on Rules and Regulations, George McL. Presson and Ernest Crosswell; on School Property, W. P. Holley and Carleton P. Merrill.

Trusting that a general idea of the work of the various schools and their needs will be brought to the attention of our people, and desiring to thank all who have aided us in our du-

ties the past year, we respectfully submit this report for your consideration.

A. L. FENDERSON,

Superintendent of Schools.

J. W. CARSLY,

W. P. HOLLEY,

GEO. McL. PRESSON,

CARLETON P. MERRILL,

ERNEST CROSWELL,

} *S. S. Committee*
 of
 Farmington.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Balance unexpended Feb. 15, 1897,	\$1,674 95	
Appropriation for Common Schools,	3,500 00	
Appropriation for Free High School,	1,000 00	
School Fund and Mill Tax,	2,389 64	
Amount from State for Free High School,	250 00	
Amount on School Fund,	60 00	
Amount received for tuition,	90 06	
		\$8,964 65

EXPENDITURES.

Paid Teachers, Board, Wood, Janitors, Repairs,		
Transportation, etc.,	\$7,655 28	
Balance unexpended, Feb. 19, 1898,	1,309 37	
		\$8,964 65

BOOK ACCOUNT.

Amount Appropriated,	\$ 250 00	
Received for Books,	3 80	
		\$ 253 80
Overdrawn, Feb. 15, 1897,	\$ 1 41	
Expended,	252 16	
Balance Unexpended,	23	
		\$ 253 80

DETAILED REPORT OF EXPENDITURES.

Teachers' salaries and board,	\$6,113 87
A. T. Starbird, wood,	2 75
Postage, express, and stationery,	29 68

Edgar Savage, Janitor,	\$ 4 00
T. L. Stewart, repairs,	6 48
Charles Waugh, transportation,	15 00
Sandy River Lumber Co.,	3 12
B. C. Hardy, Janitor,	3 15
E. Prince, wood,	44 50
A. L. Brown, Janitor,	27 00
Henry King, wood,	11 25
J. W. Carsley, supplies,	48 08
David Spaulding, transportation,	15 00
Joseph Wellman, transportation,	4 00
M. G. Field, wood,	180 00
Charles Gilman, Janitor,	6 00
Charles Gay, wood,	25 00
H. Crowell, transportation,	15 00
L. Vehue, labor,	6 75
J. T. Luce, sawing wood,	19 40
H. H. Jennings, labor,	4 00
J. W. Whittier, transportation,	19 00
John Hunt, wood,	52 00
L. S. Plaisted, transportation,	24 00
George Dustin, labor,	9 70
Henry Knowlton, wood,	28 00
R. L. Lidstone, sawing wood,	3 00
Charles Eveleth, transportation,	5 50
Carl Curtis, Janitor,	7 00
W. E. Mosher, Janitor and wood,	20 50
H. Jewell, Janitor,	158 00
F. E. Voter, insurance,	140 10
Warren Voter, wood,	11 25
T. H. Adams, labor,	3 40
Hattie Fenderson, labeling books,	5 00
Tom Gilbert, sawing wood,	4 40
A. W. Holley, labor,	2 00
Harley Greenwood, hardware,	3 56
M. J. West, seats,	11 90
E. May. Gay, supplies,	3 00
Geo. Lowell, labor,	14 62
H. A. Marble, Janitor and labor,	12 25

Russell Bros., Estes and Co.,	\$ 3 00
William Pearson, transportation,	15 00
Owen Mann, wood,	7 00
Arthur Gordon, Janitor,	6 00
Knowlton, McLeary & Co., printing and supplies,	41 66
Geo. M. Currier, insurance,	63 75
F. E. Voter, office rent,	28 00
Andrew Crosswell, supplies and repairs,	30 08
Burton Hardy, Janitor,	2 50
Ranger-McLeary Co., labor,	10 50
Charles Hovey, transportation,	17 25
L. A. Smith, supplies,	10 00
S. O. Tarbox, supplies,	11 00
Town of Chesterville, tuition,	19 00
C. A. Gould, lumber,	2 05
H. A. Morton, trucking,	1 00
Chas. Tarr, transportation,	22 00
Henry Brawn, transportation,	5 00
Chas. Pierce, lime,	2 00
R. Lidstone, Janitor,	61 54
Jennie Whitney, transportation,	18 60
Nelson Norton, labor,	1 00
C. Bangs, wood,	2 25
Arthur Thompson, Janitor,	5 14
W. A. Haley, transportation,	19 60
Harry Stinchfield, Janitor,	6 00
Lock Pease, labor,	1 50
W. P. Holley, wood,	6 00
Town of Industry, tuition,	5 00
L. Marble, labor,	6 50
Tom Dustin, labor,	2 00
J. B. Holley, transportation,	20 00
C. H. Jones, labor,	3 00
H. P. White & Co., supplies,	21 46
Thomas Kane & Co., seats,	27 44
H. I. Spinney, repairs,	16 50
Frank Marden, labor,	2 50
M. P. Tufts, wood,	10 25

APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDED.

For Common Schools,	
Free High School,	\$3,500 00
Repairs,	1,000 00
Text-Books,	1,000 00
	300 00

Tabular View of School Work.

NAME OF SCHOOL.	NAME OF TEACHER.	Attendance.			Average Attendance.			Length of Term.			
		Spring.	Fall.	Winter.	Spring.	Fall.	Winter.	Spring.	Fall.	Winter, 1896-7.	Winter, 1898.
Farmington Falls. Primary.	Juliet Keith.	24			23			8			
	Florence Watson.	25			18.3			8	12		
	John Butterfield. Patia Emery.		23			20.5		12			*
Norton Flat.	Maud Pinkham. Juliet Keith.	23			20			8		9	
	Parker Pearson.		27			20		10			*
Village.	Chas. Pennell, Prin.	86	102		76	93.3		10	13	12	*
	Jane Cutts, Asst. Clara Berry, Asst. Helen King, Asst.										
	Grammar. Intermediate.	40	44		33.5	36.3		10	13	12	*
	Second Primary.	34	36		31	32		10	13	12	*
	First Primary.	33	34		29	29		10	12	12	*
Fairbanks.	Hortense Hersom. Rose Grounder.	42			36			10			*
	Rose Grounder. Jennie Tirrell.		35			26.5		13	10		*
	Chas. Shaw.	45			35			8			
Sprague.	Sarah Blanchard. Ella Page.	9	10		8	8.2		5	10		
	Chas. Shaw.			31			25	6			10
West Farmington. Primary.	A. L. Fenderson. Hattie N. Fenderson.	38	33		30.6	31		10	12	11	*
	Hattie Gay. Gertrude Gile.	44	45		38	32.5		10	12	11	*
Greenwood.	Hattie Gay. Ida Cowan.	9			8			8			
	Ida Cowan.	16	10	10		9	7	10			8
Knowlton's Corner.	Lena Sewall. Mary Pinkham.	16	17		15	13		8	10		
	Ida Cowan.			16			11	8	8		8
Briggs.	Mary Pinkham. Ida Cowan.	8	8		4.28	7.1		8	8		10
	Ida Cowan.			8			7	8	12		6
Russell's Mills.	Nettie Sewall.	17	15	15	13.3	13	13.9	8			
Bailey.	Belle Jones.										
Mosher.	Nina Backus. Ina Eldridge.	10			8.9			8			
Holley.	Corra Kenerson. Eliza Pratt.	10	12	11		9.8	9.8	8	10		8
	Eliza Pratt.	10	10	10		7.9	8.4	8	10		8
Walton's Mills.	Nellie McLeary. Lilla Scales.	15			13.8			8			
	Lilla Scales.		13	16		1.2	4.4	10	10	9	

*In session.