

1898

Annual Report of the Municipal Officers of the Town of Madison, For the Fiscal Year Ending February 25th, 1898

Madison (Me.)

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ANNUAL

REPORT

— OF THE —

Municipal

 Officers

— OF THE —

TOWN OF MADISON,

— FOR THE —

Fiscal Year Ending February 25th,

1898.



MADISON, MAINE,
BULLETIN JOB PRINT

1898.

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

VALUATION OF 1897.

Real Estate, resident,	\$775,030	
Real Estate, non-resident,	101,379	
	<hr/>	
Total Real Estate,		\$876,409
Personal Estate, resident,	\$343.045	
Personal Estate, non resident,	7,754	
	<hr/>	
Total Personal Estate,		350,799
		<hr/>
Total Valuation,		\$1,227,208
Number of Polls, 666.		

MONEY RAISED FOR TOWN PURPOSES.

For Highway purposes to be expended by Selectmen,	\$2,500 00
“ Working Road Machines,	1,000 00
“ Support of Schools,	2,000 00
“ Free High Schools	250 00
“ Free Text Books,	350 00
“ Support of Poor,	1,000 00
“ Expenses and Liabilities,	1,500 00
“ 3d Payment on School House and Interest,	2,688 00
“ Salary of Supervisor of Schools,	200 00
“ N. A. Weston Post G. A. R.,	50 00
“ Bridge across Canal,	12.00 00
“ Grading School House Lot.	300 00
“ Furnishing School Room,	300 00

“ Foundation and Furnaces; Old School House,		350 00
“ Repairing Town House for School Purposes,		500 00
“ School House Repairs,		300 00
		<hr/>
Total Voted by Town,		\$14,488 00
State Tax,		4,348 68
County Tax, \		1 500 08
		<hr/>
Total amount to be raised,		\$20,336 76
Overlay,		687 58
		<hr/>
Total Tax assessed,		\$21,024 34
Tax on 666 Polls, at \$3.00 each,	\$ 1,998 00	
Amount Assessed on Property,	19,026 34	\$21,024 34
		<hr/>
Rate of Taxation .0155.		

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT.

Amount raised,		\$2,500 00
Amount expended,		3,979 36
		<hr/>
Amount overdrawn,		\$1,479 36

WORKING ROAD MACHINES.

Amount raised,		\$1,000 00
Amount expended,		493 00
		<hr/>
Balance unexpended,		\$ 507 00

CANAL BRIDGE.

Amount raised,		\$1,200 00
Amount expended,		1,465 01
		<hr/>
Amount overdrawn,		\$ 265 01

N. A. WESTON POST G. A. R.

Amount raised,	\$50 00
Paid N. A. Weston Post G. A. R.,	50 00

GRADING SCHOOL HOUSE LOT.

Amount raised,	\$300 00
Amount expended,	279 39

Balance unexpended,	\$ 20 61
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FOUNDATION AND HEATING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL-
HOUSE, DIST. NO. 2.

Amount raised,	\$350 00
Amount expended,	382 40

Amount overdrawn,	\$ 32 40
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SCHOOL-HOUSE REPAIRS.

Amount raised,	\$300 00
Amount unexpended in 1896,	180 81

Amount expended,	\$480 81
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Amount overdrawn,	\$103 65
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REPAIRING TOWN-HOUSE.

Amount raised,	\$500 00
Amount Carried to school department,	500 00

SUPPORT OF SCHOOLS.

Amount raised,	\$2,000 00
Amount unexpended in 1896,	1,273 73
Amount received from State school fund and mill tax,	1,711 04

Amount received from Second National Bank, Skowhegan,	78 00
Amount received for Tuitions,	35 78
Amount brought from Town-House acct.,	500 00
Amount Received for Int. on Spaulding fund,	50 00
	<hr/>
	\$5,648 55
Amount expended,	5,367 86
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended,	\$ 280 69

FREE TEXT BOOKS.

Amount raised,	\$350 00
Received for Text Books sold,	7 24
	<hr/>
	\$357 24
Amount expended,	355 44
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended,	\$ 1 80

FREE HIGH SCHOOL.

Amount raised,	\$250 00
Amount unexpended in 1896,	190 99
Received from State,	250 00
	<hr/>
	\$690 99
Amount expended,	680 00
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended,	\$ 10 99

FURNISHING SCHOOL ROOM.

Amount raised,	\$300 00
Amount expended,	269 48
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended,	\$ 30 52

NEW SCHOOL HOUSE.

Amount raised for third payment and Int.,	\$2,688 00
Amount paid,	2,688 00
	<hr/>

PAUPER DEPARTMENT.

Amount raised,		\$1,000 00
Paid for support of Ezra Crosby and wife,	\$126 80	
“ “ “ “ Nathaniel Blackwell,	96 60	
“ “ “ “ Heman Nutting,	151 53	
“ “ “ “ Murray children,	76 70	
“ “ “ “ Geo. Norton,	123 52	
“ “ “ “ Elmer Washburn,	139 19	
“ “ “ “ Fred E. Page,	93 53	
“ “ “ “ Otis M. Sewall,	90 00	
“ “ “ “ Samuel Paine,	59 00	
“ “ “ “ Eben York,	44 39	
“ “ “ “ Tramps,	17 87	
“ “ “ “ Isaac Young,	43 14	
“ “ “ “ L. M. Wheeler and family,	143 91	\$1,206 18
	<hr/>	
Amount overdrawn,		\$206 18

SUPPORT OF POOR RE-IMBURSED.

Paid for support of M ^{rs} . Henry Garland,	\$133 98	
“ “ “ “ Elmer Fish,	7 50	
“ “ “ “ L. M. Wheeler and family for Town of Sprague,	97 92	
	<hr/>	\$239 40
Amount re-imbursed,	\$141 48	
Due from Town of Sprague, Conn.,	97 92	239 40
	<hr/>	

EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.

Amount raised,	\$1,500 00
Amount Raised to pay School Supervisor,	200 00
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	\$1.700 00

AMOUNTS EXPENDED.

Paid E. A. Merriman for printing town reports in 1896,	\$ 24 00
“ C. A. Wilber services as member of building committee, new school house,	50 00
“ C. O. Small, “ “ “	50 00
“ E. C. Towne, “ “ “	30 00
“ W. G. Sawyer, “ “ “	30 00
“ T. D. Salley “ “ “	30 00
“ W. G. Sawyer, services as moderator, annual meeting.	3 00
“ Loring Short & Harmon, books and blanks for 1897,	18 50
“ E. A. Merriman, bill heads and stationery,	7 43
“ C. M. Hilton, dinners for election officers, 1896.	5 50
“ Simeon Stone. services as ballot clerk.	2 00
“ C. O. Small “ “ Supervisor of Schools,	200 00
“ First National Bank, Madison, Int. on temporary loan,	16 00
“ M. L. Marr M. D., returning birth and death certificates,	2 00
“ W. G. Sawyer, M. D., “ “ “ death certificates,	7 75
“ H. C. Taggart, M. D., “ “ “ death certificates,	2 00

“ E. M. Wing, M. D, returning birth and death certificates,	1 25
“ D. S. Hunnewell, M.D., “ “ “ death certificates,	6 75
“ C. M. Sawyer, services as dog officer,	5 00
“ D. B. Hobart, “ “ ballot clerk and expenses	2 75
“ K. C. Gray, rent of office for year 1897,	25 00
“ C. A. Wilber, rent of hall, making contracts. etc.,	26 00
“ W. F. Greene, services as Town Clerk,	30 00
“ “ “ recording births, marriages and deaths and record book.	26 10
“ D. L. Churchill, services as ballot clerk,	2 00
“ E. C. Town, preparing booths for elections 1896-7,	2 50
“ E. M. Eletcher, making returns to State Assessors,	25 00
“ D. J. Rowell, services Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	86 70
“ D. J. Rowell, cash paid out and expenses,	23 65
“ T. B. Patterson, services Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	94 50
“ T. B. Patterson, cash paid out and expenses,	39 05
“ E. C. Town, services and expenses as Town Treasurer,	50 00
“ E. C. Town, services as Secretary of Board of Health,	15 00
“ E. M. Fletcher, services as Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of Poor,	200 00
“ E. M. Fletcher, cash paid for postage, stationery, etc.,	12 24
“ W. H. Blackwell, posting warrants for year 1897,	8 82

" C. O. Small, making petitions, typwriting warrants, etc.	10 00
" C. O. Small, services as Auditor for year 1897.	12 00
" C. O. Small, cash paid out for expenses as Supervisor,	28 25
" J. F. Chadbourne, services as ballot clerk and expenses,	2 50
" J. F. Chadbourne, services as member of Board of Health,	10 00
" C. D. Morrill, services as member of Board of Heath,	9 00
" W. H. Blackwell, commission on taxes collected 1897,	420 49
" W. H. Blackwell abatement of taxes for 1897,	59 84
" Peter Brigham, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
" N. E. Bessey, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
" Chas. Bradbury, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
" Chas. Begoshian, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
" Thomas Burns, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
" Angus Currier, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
" Chas. Chapman, abatement of taxes, for 1897,	3 00
" Daniel Dickinson, abatement of taxes for 1897,	7 63
" Clark Ellis, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
" R. F. C. Eames abatement of taxes for 1897,	5 59

“ Eli Hawes, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ W. H. Hurd, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ John Harmon, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ Samuel Haffel, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ Patrick Lannigan, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ Hector McSweeney, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ Willard Marble, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ Isaac Parron, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ Charles Philbrick, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ Edward Tarrio, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ W. G. Viles, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ John L. Wilson, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ John Welch, abatement of taxes for 1897,	3 00
“ C. W. Goodrich, abatement of taxes for 1897,	62
“ Sheldon Reed, abatement of taxes for 1897,	78 \$1,790 19

Amount overdrawn, 90 19

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

RECEIPTS.

Cash in treasury, February 25, 1897,	\$ 5,266 76
Received for licenses.	10 00

"	" text books sold,	7 24
"	" dog licenses for year 1896,	89 60
"	from 2nd National Bank, Skowhegan, school fund,	78 00
"	" State free high school acct.,	250 00
"	" School mill tax,	1,711 04
"	for school tuitions,	35 78
"	" temporary loan,	1,500 00
"	from State R. R. and telegraph tax,	3 74
"	" sale of road machine,	25 00
"	" Int. on Spaulding fund for Dist. No. 2,	50 00
"	" Town of Anson,	120 48
"	" Henry Garland,	21 00
"	on non-res. taxes of 1895 collected,	4 68
"	for tar sold,	3 46
"	from State, for burial of soldier,	35 00
"	of W. H. Blackwell, commitment of 1897,	21,024 34
	Total Receipts,	<u>\$30,236 12</u>

EXPENDITURES.

Paid for highways,	\$ 3,979 36
" " working road machines, and repairs,	493 00
" " bridge across canal,	1,465 01
" N. A. Weston Post G. A. R.,	50 00
" for grading school-house lot,	279 39
" " foundation and heating primary school-house, Dist. No. 2,	382 40
" " school-house repairs,	584 46
" " support of schools,	5,367 86
" " text books,	355 44
" " Free High Schools,	680 00
" " furnishing school-room,	269 48
" on school house loan,	2,688 00
" for support of poor,	1,445 86
" " expenses and liabilities of town,	1,790 19

Paid temporary loan,	1,500 00
“ State tax,	4,348 68
“ County tax,	1,500 08
“ Orders of 1896,	204 04
	<hr/>
Total Expenditures,	\$27,383 25
Less outstanding orders of 1897,	344 78
	<hr/>
	\$27,038 47
Balance in treasury,	3,197 65

FINANCIAL STANDING OF TOWN.

RESOURCES.

Cash in treasury,	\$3,197 65
Due from State on account of dog licenses,	101 00
“ on non-resident taxes of 1895,	11 68
“ from town of Sprague, Conn., on account of L. M. Wheeler,	97 92
	<hr/>
	\$3,408 25

LIABILITIES.

Due on orders of 1893 not bearing Int.,	\$ 1 33	
“ “ “ “ 1894 not bearing Int.,	1 33	
“ “ “ “ 1895 school-house loan,	4,800 00	
“ “ “ “ 1896 not bearing Int.,	6 85	
“ “ “ “ 1897 not bearing Int.,	344 78	
“ for support of Geo. Norton at Insane Hospital,	29 28	5,183 57
	<hr/>	
Balance against the town,		\$1,775 32

Respectfully submitted,

E. M. FLETCHER,	} Selectmen of Madison.
T. B. PATTERSON,	
D. J. ROWELL,	

MADISON, MAINE, MARCH 1, 1898.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts and vouchers of the Selectmen of the Town of Madison, and find the same to be correct and properly vouched.

C. O. SMALL, AUDITOR.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

—♦—
From February 24, 1897 to March 2, 1898.

RECEIPTS.

Cash in Treasury February, 24, 1897,	\$ 5,266 76
Received of State treasurer, dog licenses, 1896,	89 60
" " " " R. R. and Tel. tax,	3 74
" " " " for Free High School,	250 00
" " " " School Fund and Mill Tax.	1,711 04
" " " " Spaulding fund,	50 00
" " W. F. Greene, dog licenses of 1897,	101 00
" " State treasurer, refunded from Stat., expense of soldier's burial,	35 00
" " Town of Norridgewock, tuition of scholars,	21 03
" " Streater Danforth, non-resident tax, 1895,	4 68
" for pool table license,	10 00
" " road machine sold,	25 00
" " text books sold,	7 24
" of Second National Bank, Skowhegan, School fund,	78 00
" for tar sold,	3 46
" from Henry Garland,	21 00

Received from Town of Anson, reimbursement for paupers,	120 48
“ for tuitions Dist. No. 2,	14 75
“ of First National Bank, Madison, temporary loan,	1,500 00
“ of W. H. Blackwell, Collector of 1897,	21,024 34
	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$30,337 12

EXPENDITURES.

Paid State treasurer, dog licenses of 1897, \$	101 00
“ State treasurer, State tax of 1897,	4,348 68
“ County treasurer, County tax of 1897,	1,500 08
“ on town orders,	21,189 71
Balance in treasury,	3,197 65
	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$30,337 12

E. C. TOWN, TREASURER.

MADISON, MAINE, March 2, 1898.

I hereby certify that I have examined the record of receipts and expenditures of E. C. Town, Treasurer of the Town of Madison, also all receipts and vouchers for moneys paid, and find the same correct and the balance of cash in the treasury, \$3,197 65.

C. O. SMALL, AUDITOR.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The following report of the schools of Madison for the year ending March 1, A. D. 1898, is herewith respectfully submitted.

FISCAL REPORT.

RECEIPTS FOR COMMON SCHOOLS.

Amount undrawn in treasury Feb. 24,	
1897.	\$1,273 73
“ raised by town,	2,000 00
“ received from State school fund	
and mill tax,	1,711 04
“ received from interest on thirteen shares, Second National Bank, Skowhegan,	78 00
“ received from interest on Spaulding fund, \$1,000, State bond,	50 00
“ received from Norridgewock, tuition of scholars,	21 03
“ received for tuition of scholars in Dist. No. 2,	14 75
“ raised for repairing town-house, voted to be used for support of schools, at special town meeting,	500 00
Total for common schools,	\$5,648 55

EXPENDITURES.

Total amount expended in the different districts, teachers' salaries, board, care of school property, etc.,	\$4,579 36
Paid for fuel,	287 32
“ “ conveyance of scholars,	441 18
“ “ insurance,	60 00
	<hr/>
Total expenditures,	\$5,367 86
	<hr/>
Amount unexpended carried to general town fund,	\$ 280 69

STATISTICS.

Number of scholars in town, school census April 1, 1897.	706
“ “ districts in which schools have been maintained during the year,	9
“ “ weeks schools have been maintained.	383.5
Average wages of teachers per week, including board,	\$7 09
Number of different teachers employed,	21
Whole number attending school, summer terms,	414
Average number attending school, summer terms,	355.9
Whole number attending school, fall terms,	344
Average number attending school, fall terms,	299.5
Whole number attending school, winter terms,	398
Average number attending school, winter terms,	339

TABULAR REPORT.

No. of District.	TERMS.	TEACHERS.	Wages per week.	Whole No. Attending School		
				Average No. Attending School.	Length of School in Weeks.	
2	Summer	High.....	{ Fred L. Tapley, Prin... \$ 20 00	57	49	12
			{ M. Alice Robbins, Ass't 12 00			
		Intermediate.....	N. Mildred Patten..... 7 50	50	43	12
		1st Primary.....	{ Emma J. Dutton..... 7 50	63	56	10
			{ Rilla Hoyt, Ass't..... 4 00			
		2d Primary.....	Fannie W. Tapley..... 7 50	41	37	10
		3d Primary.....	Mertie N. Kinney..... 7 50	44	35	10
	Fall	Grammar.....	Violet V. Durgin..... 10 00	51	47.5	12
		Intermediate.....	N. Mildred Patten..... 8 00	37	32	12
		1st Primary.....	Emma J. Dutton..... 7 50	48	44	12
		2d Primary.....	Fannie W. Tapley..... 8 00	40	35	12
		3d Primary.....	Mertie N. Kinney..... 7 50	47	37.5	12
Winter	High.....	{ Fred L. Tapley..... 20 00	50	46	9	
		{ M. Alice Robbins..... 12 00				
	Grammar.....	Violet V. Durgin..... 10 00	58	49	9	
	Intermediate.....	N. Mildred Patten..... 8 00	39	33	9	
	1st Primary.....	Emma J. Dutton..... 8 00	47	40	9	
	2d Primary.....	Fannie W. Tapley..... 8 00	36	33	9	
	3d Primary.....	Mertie N. Kinney..... 8 00	40	28	9	
3	Summer.....	Edith G. Frederick..... 6 00	10	9	8	
	Fall.....	Ethel M. Frost..... 5 00	16	14	10	
6	Summer.....	Elsie M. Hunnewell..... 7 00	26	22	9	
	Fall.....	Minnie E. Russell..... 7 00	28	25	10	
	Winter.....	Minnie E. Russell..... 7 50	30	26	10	
7	Summer	High and Grammar.....	Margaret M. Coffin..... 7 00	21	18	9
		Intermediate and Primary	Blanche E. Chadbourne... 7 00	19	18	9
	Fall	Intermediate and Primary	Blanche E. Chadbourne... 7 00	14	13	12
		High and Grammar.....	Elsie M. Hunnewell... 8 00	19	16	10
	Winter	Intermediate and Primary	Blanche E. Chadbourne... 7 00	16	14	11
8	Summer.....	Grace L. Harding..... 6 50	21	18.4	9	
	Fall.....	Cora L. Collins..... 7 00	26	22	10	
	Winter.....	Grace L. Harding..... 7 00	16	14	10	
9	Summer.....	Isabel Farnham..... 6 50	12	10	9	
	Fall.....	Gertrude Wilson..... 5 00	12	9	12	
10	Summer.....	Cora L. Collins..... 7 00	22	18	9	
	Fall.....	Annie R. Maddocks..... 5 00	15	12	12	
	Winter.....	Annie R. Maddocks..... 6 00	15	14	6	
13	Summer.....	Annie M. Adams..... 6 50	10	7.5	9	
	Winter.....	Cora L. Collins..... 7 00	21	16	10.5	
14	Summer.....	Minnie E. Russell..... 7 00	18	15	9	
	Fall.....	Clara E. Hunnewell..... 5 00	13	11	12	

FREE HIGH SCHOOLS.

RECEIPTS.

Amount unexpended from 1896,	\$190 99	
“ voted and raised by town,	250 00	
“ due from State,	250 00	
	<u> </u>	\$690 99

EXPENDITURES.

Amount expended for school, Dist. No. 2.	\$484 00	
Amount expended for school, Dist. No. 7,	196 00	
	<u> </u>	\$680 00
Balance unexpended,		<u> </u> \$10 99

The above account includes the expenditures for the winter term 1896-7 Free High School in District No. 7, and a part of the expense of the term of Free High School in District No. 2, as well as the expenditures for the current year.

The expense of the fall term of the high and grammar grades in District No. 2. and of the same grades in District No. 7 was taken from the high school fund. Terms of twelve weeks were held in each district.

Your superintendent would recommend the appropriation of two hundred and fifty dollars for Free High Schools the coming year.

FREE TEXT BOOKS.

RECEIPTS.

Amount voted and raised by town,	\$350 00	
Amount received for text books sold,	7 24	
	<u> </u>	\$357 24

EXPENDITURES.

Amount paid for books,	\$355 44	
Balance unexpended,		<u> </u> \$ 1 80

Our schools are now all well supplied with text books, and most of them with maps and globes.

There is also quite a good supply of books on different subjects on hand; still, quite a good many new books will have to be purchased the ensuing year to take the place of those which are now, or will become unfit for use.

The Cyr readers as high as the fourth have been introduced into all our schools. The fourth reader of the same series has been published and I would advise its adoption and introduction the coming year.

It will doubtless require about the usual appropriation for the purchase of new books, appliances, etc., for the ensuing year, and I would recommend the appropriation of the sum of \$300.

SCHOOL-HOUSE REPAIRS.

RECEIPTS.

Amount unexpended from 1896,	\$180 81
Amount appropriated by town,	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$480 81

EXPENDITURES.

Amount expended in different districts,	\$584 46
	<hr/>
Amount overdrawn,	\$103 65

The appropriation for the repair of school-houses has been considerably overdrawn, but it was impossible to make the necessary repairs on our school-houses and keep within the appropriation.

The school-houses in Districts No. 8 and 14 were thoroughly repaired. new floors being put in and the same fitted up with new desks. The school-house in District No. 10 (Blackwell Hill), had to be re-shingled and one of the walls re-studded. In District No. 5 new seats were put in, but in this district the lot should be larger and an addition made to the school-house. As it is, it is entirely inadequate to convene the scholars who attend.

The school-houses in use are now all in fairly good repair but something is necessary to be done to them each year. Several of them need to be painted, and the one in District No. 3 (Ward Hill), should have a new floor and seats.

A new school-house is asked for in District No. 15, and the town will be asked at its annual meeting to raise a sufficient amount to build one.

FURNISHING ROOM, NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

RECEIPTS.

Amount appropriated by town,	\$300 00
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EXPENDITURES.

Amount expended,	269 48
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Balance unexpended,	\$ 30 52
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The winter terms of school in all districts have closed and all the bills for teachers' salaries have been paid. In past years some of our winter terms have usually been in session at the time of making the annual report, so that frequently quite a large amount, reported as unexpended, was actually expended, but undrawn from the town treasury.

The fiscal report shows the amount drawn from the town treasury during the past year, but this amount includes the expenditures for salaries of teachers, fuel, conveyance of scholars, etc., of last year, amounting to the sum of about \$950. There are now outstanding bills for conveyance of scholars, contracts for fuel (which has not been delivered), etc., estimated at about \$300.

The superintending school committee at its first meeting of the year, made a contract with the Somerset Traction Company of Skowhegan to transport scholars over its line at the rate of one cent per mile, and at the same meeting the committee decided to pay for the conveyance of scholars residing in the outside districts and attending the High School in Dist. No. 2, being of the opinion that these scholars should have the same privileges, at the same expense to them or their parents, as scholars residing within the

limits of Dist. No. 2. Scholars have also been conveyed from Dist. No. 4. (Russell Dist.), in which no school has been maintained during the year, to Dist. No. 2. The scholars in Districts No. 6, 15, 16 and 17 have attended the school in Dist. No. 5 (Atkinson Corner). they being conveyed a portion of the distance over the Somerset Traction Co.'s road.

The expense for conveyance of scholars during the year, will to many, doubtless seem large and unnecessary, but if suitable schools had been maintained in the several districts from which these scholars have been conveyed, the expense of the same would have been much larger, and the privileges of the scholars less. The committee, therefore, feel that they have done what was for the best interest of all concerned, and the money used for the conveyance of scholars judiciously expended.

Your attention is called to the fact that each year the town is called upon to educate a larger number of scholars.

The census of April 1st, 1897 shows that we had in town 706 pupils between the ages of 4 and 21 years. For several years past the town has continued to raise annually for the support of common schools the sum of \$2,000. By reference to the State Superintendent's report of public schools for the year 1897, it will be found that this town appropriated less for the support of common schools, for each scholar, than any other town or plantation in the County, with a few exceptions; and although a less amount has been expended, our schools have been maintained for an aggregate of weeks that will compare more than favorably with any other town in the County.

The amount raised by this town per scholar for this year being \$2.83, and the percentage assessed on the valuation of the town for common school purposes being only one and three-tenths (1 3-10) mills.

Your attention is respectfully called to a change in the school law in regard to the election of school committee, which requires the election of a committee consisting of three members, as the terms of office of all members of the existing committee will expire. The committee chosen, at its first meeting, to designate

by lot, a member to serve for one, two and three years, respectively. The committee thus chosen to elect a Superintendent of Schools who shall not be one of their number. The town, however, may if it so prefer, elect a Superintendent of Schools. The necessary articles are inserted in the town warrant for the town to take such action as it shall prefer.

An article is also inserted in the warrant in relation to authorizing the school committee to unite with some other town or towns, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made, in the employment of a Superintendent of Schools.

The State Superintendent of Schools has prepared and distributed through the State a circular in relation to this matter. Doubtless many are already conversant with the law, and the manner in which towns may unite in the employment of a Superintendent. The school committees of the towns comprising a union, forming a joint committee, which shall choose by ballot a Superintendent of Schools, and determine by vote what proportion of the Superintendent's salary shall be paid by each town forming the union, and the amount of service to be performed by the Superintendent in each town.

It is required under this law that the towns forming the union shall raise, by taxation, a sum not less than \$500, and when the proper returns have been made to the State Superintendent of public schools, under oath, a sum equal to one-half of the amount expended by each of the towns forming the union, not exceeding, however, the sum of \$250 to any one town, nor more than \$750 to any one union, will be paid from the State treasury.

The State Superintendent of Public Schools in his circular, above referred to, states that he considers this "is the most important single statute relating to the maintenance of public schools that has been passed by any Maine Legislature for fifty years;" and he further states that he hopes the people will make a careful study of this provision and will avail themselves of the assistance offered by the State.

The improvement in the condition of our schools within the last few years has been marked.

From year to year the number of schools has been reduced, better teachers employed, and the work more thorough and efficient.

Instead of maintaining schools in twenty districts (the number of school districts into which this town was formerly divided), schools this year have been maintained in only nine different districts.

The call from year to year has been for better and more effective teaching, and although our schools are far from what we all would wish them to be, yet they compare favorably with those of any other town in the State. The parents have taken more interest in school matters during the past year than any year since the connection of your Superintendent with the schools of the town. But the matter of school superintendency is one that should not be lightly passed over, for into the hands of the School Superintendent fall duties which require good business ability, judgment, and sound discretion. School committees are apt to shirk some of the responsibilities placed upon them, and require the Superintendent to perform much of their work; accordingly it requires for the position of Superintendent a man well acquainted with the details of school matters, and one who can give much time to the duties of the office. Therefore, it is hoped that the voters of this town will seriously and thoughtfully consider the question whether it is not for the best interests of our schools, to authorize the school committee, to be elected at its annual meeting, to unite with some other town or towns in the employment of an efficient School Superintendent.

Respectfully submitted,

C. O. SMALL, SUPERINTENDENT.