

1898

Annual Report of the Municipal Officers of the Town of Monson, for the Year Ending March 12th, 1898

Monson (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Municipal Officers

OF THE

Town of Moulton,

For the Year Ending March 12th, 1898.



DEXTER, MAINE.
W. S. LADD, PRINTER,
1898.

ANNUAL REPORT

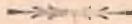
OF THE

Municipal Officers

OF THE

Town of Monson,

For the Year Ending March 12th, 1898.



DENTER, MAINE:
W. S. LADD, PRINTER,
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TOWN OFFICERS.

FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR. 1897.

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR:

E. M. BRAY,

P. S. KNIGHT,

S. L. GREELEY.

TOWN CLERK:

E. T. HESCOCK.

TREASURER:

W. A. BRAY

AGENT:

J. F. SPRAGUE.

COLLECTOR OF TAXES:

F. H. CRANE.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

E. T. HESCOCK,

E. M. BRAY,

R. J. JONES

O. R. EMERSON,

WALLACE HOMER.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

N. H. CROSBY.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

VALUATION APRIL 1, 1897.

Real estate, resident	\$ 101,770 00	
Real estate, non resident.....	65,745 00	
		\$ 167,515 00
Total real estate.....		\$ 167,515 00
Personal estate, resident	\$ 30,540 00	
Personal estate, non-resident	19,760 00	
		\$ 50,300 00
Total personal estate.....		\$ 50,300 00
Total valuation		217,815 00
Raised by town		\$ 5,389 60
State tax		709 65
County tax		273 46
Overlay.....		256 26
Number of polls 351; at \$3.00, Rate per cent., .0256.		

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Appropriation \$ 1,200 00

TOWN OFFICERS BILLS.

E. T. Hescok, town clerk	\$ 10 00
W. A. Bray, treasurer	25 00
E. M. Bray, selectman	75 00
P. W. Knight, selectman	45 00
S. L. Greeley, selectman	40 00
N. H. Crosby, superintendent.....	63 35

FIRE WARDENS.

A. S. Garland	\$6 00
J. Davison	6 00

TRUANT OFFICERS.

Frank Douglass	\$13 75
D. J. Jackson	5 25

INCIDENTAL.

Overdrawn in 1896	\$ 28 16
Frank Douglass, truant officer, in 1895 and 1896	8 00
Paid for stamps and stationary	4 00
Paid for books for town use.....	14 55
Paid Ladd Brothers for town reports.....	8 00
Paid Straw & Martin, insurance premium...	18 00
Paid E. M. Bray meeting state assessors ...	3 00
Perambulation of town lines in Monson and Abbot	17 31
N. H. Crosby, town physician.....	23 00
N. H. Crosby reporting births and deaths ...	5 00
N. H. Crosby, vaccinating.....	2 70
W. A. Bray measuring road and making plan.....	3 00

W. A. Bray paid for recording deeds.....	8 55
C. G. Anderson, work in cemetery.....	8 25
D. J. Jackson, collecting dog tax.....	6 50
J. F. Sprague, services in Peavey case.....	50 00
J. F. Sprague services in suit for taxes.....	14 50
J. F. Sprague, services as town agent in 1896 and 1897.....	20 00
C. C. Hall's county commissioner bills in 1893.....	22 60
S. S. Cole, labor on engine house and voting booths.....	4 00
E. T. Hescok, recording birth and death certificates.....	5 10
R. M. Hescok & Co., dog licence, blanks express.....	1 55
Crosby & Crosby attorneys legal services in 1893.....	3 00
H. E. Morrill labor on engine and hose ex- press paid, etc.....	16 05
A. Gray, improving force pump.....	5 00
Wm. F. Towne, commission on 1894, com- mitment.....	279 52
W. A. Bray treasurer, for back taxes on property deeded to the town.....	227 10

ABATEMENTS.

Estate of Mrs. E. T. Emerson excess valua- tion in 1897.....	\$ 15 36	
R. W. Emerson excess valuation in 1897....	12 80	
Wm. H. Strickland excess valuation several years.....	18 30	
Wm. F. Towne abatements to collector 1894.	175 23	
		\$ 1,317 48
Less amount overdrawn.....		117 48
		\$ 1,200 00

SUPPORT OF POOR.

Appropriation.....		\$ 1,000 00
Overdrawn in 1896.....	\$151 81	
Peter Akerson.....	127 35	
Mrs. Gertie Olson and family.....	183 00	
Peter Swan.....	85 31	
T. H. Williams.....	104 49	
Mary O. Tucker.....	132 95	
E. Holmberg.....	19 25	
John Lindgren.....	29 00	
E. L. Morton.....	150 28	
Addie Steward.....	96 00	
Will Brown.....	56 84	
David Evans.....	7 40	
B. L. Swift.....	10 00	
Lewis Green.....	16 00	
Tramps.....	8 50	
		\$ 1,178 18
Less amount overdrawn.....		178 18
		\$ 1,000 00

STATE PAUPERS.

T. H. Brown	\$ 58 02	
F. H. Parker	121 35	
	<hr/>	
Due from State	\$	179 37

HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation	\$ 800 00	
Unexpended in 1896	88 13	
	<hr/>	
	\$	888 13
Expended in summer	\$ 792 25	
Expended in winter	1,066 01	
	<hr/>	
	\$1,858 26	
Less overdrawn	970 13	
	<hr/>	
	\$	888 13

SIDEWALKS.

Appropriation	\$ 50 00	
Expended	\$ 50 00	

FREE HIGH SCHOOL.

Appropriation	\$ 500 00	
Expended	\$ 500 00	

AMOUNT OF SCHOOL MONEY.

Raised by town	\$ 989 60	
Unexpended in 1896	48 44	
Interest on school fund	51 25	
Bank and bill tax	1,039 71	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 2 129 00	
Amount expended	\$1,955 82	
Amount unexpended	173 18	
	<hr/>	
	\$2,129 00	

REPAIRS FOR SCHOOLHOUSES.

Raised by town	\$ 50 00	
Unexpended in 1896	37 42	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 87 42	
Amount expended	\$ 51 98	
Unexpended	35 44	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 87 42	

FREE TEXT BOOKS.

Raised by town	\$ 200 00	
Unexpended in 1896	14 58	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 214 58	
Expended	\$ 231 95	
Overdrawn	17 37	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 214 58	

RENT OF SCHOOLROOM.

Raised by town	\$ 25 00
Unexpended	\$ 25 00

MEMORIAL DAY.

Raised by town	\$ 25 00
Expended	25 00

PIPES HYDRANTS AND HOSE.

Raised by town	\$ 300 00
Expended	\$ 300 00

INTEREST AND TOWN DEBT.

Raised by town	\$ 500 00
Unexpended in 1896	385 30
Loans secured during year	3515 00
	<u>\$ 4400 30</u>

Paid interest	\$ 504 76
Paid on principal during year	3,015 00
Unexpended	890 54
	<u>\$ 4,400 30</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

LIABILITIES.

Outstanding orders at 3 and 4 per cent.....	\$10,340 92
School fund.....	729 10
Outstanding local orders	2,196 42
Fred H. Crane collector's commission on 1895 commitment	243 00
Fred H. Crane collector's commission on 1896 commitment	111 00
Fred H. Crane collector's commission on 1897 commitment	36 75
Due Maine Insane Hospital	98 99
	<u>\$13,756 18</u>

RESOURCES.

Cash in hands of treasurer	\$ 8 01
Due on commitment of 1895	927 40
Due on commitment on 1896	2,616 54
Due on commitment of 1897	4,528 97
Estimated value of tax deeds in hands of treasurer	446 59
Estimated value of taxes returned to treas- urer	200 00
Dog tax due from State estimated	40 00
Due from State for Free High School	125 00
Due from State for support of F. H. Parker	202 70
Due from State for support of T. H. Brown	97 00
Balance due on sale of lot in cemetery.....	10 00
Due from Mrs. L. C. Taylor for the support of C. L. Morton	588 76
	<u>\$9,790 97</u>

TOWN PROPERTY.

Estimated value of engine house and lot ...	\$ 1,000 00	
Engine.....	150 00	
Hearse.....	200 00	
Road machine	75 00	
One-half interest in Thad Green lot.....	50 00	
Force pump.....	350 00	
Safe	40 00	
	<hr/>	\$ 1,865 00
Total resources.....		\$11,655 97
Liabilities in excess of assets.....		2,100 21
		<hr/>
		\$13,756 18

Respectfully submitted,

E. M. BRAY,	} Selectmen of Monson.
P. W. KNIGHT,	
S. L. GREELEY,	

TREASURER'S REPORT.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1898.

W. A. BRAY, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF MONSON.

DR.

1897.			
March	To cash on hand	\$	43 63
"	To received of selectmen auctioneer's license		3 00
"	" of State pauper money		82 25
"	" of town of Blanchard, for school-		21 00
June 24,	" of State Peavey bill		247 15
July 14,	" of State for pensions		78 00
Aug. 10,	" of town clerk, dog license for 1897		42 00
Oct. 13,	" of State High school money		70 00
Nov. 20,	" Guilford National bank		990 00
1898.			
Jan. 1,	" of State, High school money		125 00
Jan. 1,	" dog license refunded		48 38
" 10,	" State and mill tax	1,039	71
"	" of selectmen		200 00
"	" State pensions		78 00
March 3,	" bear bounty		5 00
" 10,	" of selectmen		300 00
"	" on non-resident taxes back of 1895		364 23
"	" balance of W. F. Towne 1894 bills		463 36
"	" on Fred Crane 1896 bills		1,700 00
"	" on Fred Crane, 1897 bills		2,100 00
			\$ 8,000 71

CR.

March 14,	By paid orders	\$6,804	09
Sept. 13,	" dog license		42 00
Nov. 15,	" bear bounty		5 00
Jan. 10,	" State tax		709 65
Jan. 10,	" county tax		273 46
March	" State pensions		156 00
March	" W. F. Towne on 1892 bills		2 50
March	By cash on hand		8 01
			\$8,000 71

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I hereby certify that I have examined the accounts of the treasurer of the town of Monson for the year 1897 and find the same correctly cast and vouched for.

F. H. CRANE, Auditor.

March 14, 1898.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

Whole number of scholars in town April 1, 1897.....	432
Whole number attending summer schools.....	181
Whole number attending fall schools.....	307
Whole number attending winter schools.....	180
Whole number attending spring schools.....	
Average number attending summer schools.....	147
Average number attending fall schools.....	258
Average number attending winter schools.....	154 5
Per cent. of attendance of whole number of scholars in town: Summer, 41.2 per cent; fall, 71.5; winter, 41 6.	

In all terms of the school year except the summer, the attendance has been very good and all that could be expected.

That for the winter and spring terms exceeds that of the previous year. If we could have snow every month there would be no complaint from poor attendance, for during this part of the year the village schools are over crowded; all except the academy. We are pleased to see such an interest in their studies shown by many living a considerable distance away.

During the summer term, very many, in the rural districts, who ought to be at school, find an excuse for their absence, in work at home. Even if not at work, their parents are willing that they should stay away from school; and as the teachers may not have enough personal influence over the pupil to draw him to school, and as they dislike to employ the truant officer, so the schools are smaller than they ought to be.

The fault here is partly with the teacher, but more with the parent. If the people do not desire good schools, it is almost useless for the teachers and school officers to try to make them successful. If the parent would tell his children "If you are punished at school I will also punish you when you come home," the teacher's work would be almost wholly teaching and the results would be greater than they are at present.

HIGH SCHOOL.

In the High school, at the beginning of the fall term, we had a new principal in J. E. Roberts, A. B., and also a new assistant, Miss Agnes J. Powers. It was not an easy term for the instructors, because in raising the grade of the school many students were compelled to review the unsatisfactory work done under former teachers. This is apt to breed dissatisfaction with both their teachers and their studies. The attendance was less than for any recent previous term. But this must not be ascribed to any fault of the teachers, at least not during school hours. Although quite large classes enter this school each year, yet in a short time too much of a tired feeling creeps over some of its members, and after a few weeks of fitful attempts to do poor work, we find one student after another loafing about the store ready at a moment's notice to stir up trouble in the school.

There is in this town an element that ought to be crushed out. There are too many people who never go near the school but still spend much time and do great injury to the town by talking about the mistakes of the teachers, making them appear worse than they are. They tell of events in certain schools that actually never happened at all.

Often when a pupil is punished for a misdemeanor, they make it appear to him that his teacher has done him a personal injury, thus leading him on to further opposition to his teacher. Every teacher makes some mistakes, but usually they are corrected as soon as discovered.

The winter term was quite successful and the spring term seems to be still more.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

At the Grammar school, young teachers can very profitably visit again and again. The methods of instruction seen there could be copied by many teachers to their own benefit. To do everything in the most thorough manner seems to be the rule for the school which has improved under the guidance of W. S. Knowlton.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

In the Intermediate school, Mrs. Belle J. Dermody was the teacher for the spring term. Her work was of an excellent character both in and out of the schoolroom, and nearly all of her pupils made fine progress. She is a valuable teacher for the position.

In the fall a change was made in the length of the period devoted to this course of study. Class A entered the next grade while class B became class A, and class C united with the incoming class to form class B. This made a very large class, too large to be handled with ver good results by any teacher.

The room has been too crowded for perfect order, but all seem to be making excellent progress in their studies under the instruction of Miss Flora Gilbert. Good work has been done also in free hand drawing. The attendance was extra fine during the fall term but this was partly due to the watchfulness of the school committee and the zeal of the truant officers. Too many of the boys afflicted with a desire for staying at home to rock the babies and watch the cows. Until class B reaches the High school its large number will crowd any school of which it is a member.

FIRST PRIMARY.

At the First Primary room, Mrs. Orrin Arnold was an excellent teacher for the summer term and her work needs no words of praise to commend her for future schools.

By cutting down the length of the school year for the Intermediate grade from 32 to 28 weeks and by reducing the wages of the teacher of the same, we obtained enough money to lengthen the year of the 1st Primary grade to 28 weeks instead of 22 weeks as formerly. The school year has been so changed that within a year this school has been in session four terms including the present one.

Beginning with the fall term, Miss Blanche Humphrey has been instructor. Being able to inspire her pupils with enthusiasm for their work, they have made good progress in their studies and all seem anxious to win the good will of their teacher. They are orderly and quiet and keep neat the floor about their desks and in every way during school hours seem to be trying to be model scholars.

SECOND PRIMARY.

In the Second Primary school, during the summer term, the work of Miss Humphrey was excellent as was that of the teacher of the fall term, Miss Ethel Knowlton. It was not intended for this term to begin until the close of the 3d Primary, but learning that many of the parents were anxious for the school to be in session at once, we decided to start the school although under a great disadvantage. We could find but one room in town at all suitable, and this one at W. S. Knowlton's was too small for the whole school. So one class recited in the forenoon and the other in the afternoon. While they had but one small blackboard and the room was over-filled with settees and tables, they made up in zeal for their studies for what they lacked for comfort.

At the present time most of the village schools are overcrowded and we need another schoolroom of good size.

THIRD PRIMARY.

One of the difficult schools of the town is the Third Primary, often spoken of as the Kindergarten, though there is little about it to suggest such a name.

Miss Marion Heseock taught both terms. The second term was more successful than the first which was her first school. The attendance was excellent, and the quality of the work of the second term gave promise of an earnest, careful and successful teacher.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

In District No. 2 for the first term Miss Agnes Steward gave excellent satisfaction. Her methods of instruction are of the character that we would like to see in all of our rural schools. We wish more of our teachers could see their way to attend our Normal schools.

Miss Cora Steward had the same school in the fall with good success. The school was smaller than during the summer, as some became members of the village schools. In some studies, the pupils belonged to the Intermediate grades, while in others they are advanced far enough to enter the Academy. This shows that they have been advanced in some studies to the neglect of others. A too common practice in the rural schools.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

This school with its three terms was not quite as satisfactory as last year, though the teachers were earnest, faithful and careful in their work. Both need to study more modern methods of instruction.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

The attendance was good during the first term with an enthusiastic teacher; one who tried to obtain thorough work from her pupils. Her discipline was not always first-class, but on an average with the rest of the rural teachers.

During the second term the attendance fell off, which was due partly to a mistake made by the teacher, and partly to some scholars going to the village schools. The few remaining pupils made fair progress.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

Under the instruction of both teachers the scholars made excellent progress. The first one was more successful with

the younger pupils, the second with the older ones. The attendance was excellent. At the present time it is not a difficult school, even though quite large.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

The work of this school was very good. Some who ought to be at school, partly play the summer away and partly work. Their attendance in the fall improved the school by increasing the interest.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

This school had three short terms, which to me, was not perfectly satisfactory, while the work of both teachers was good. The teacher of the fall and winter terms gave excellent satisfaction. Although an undergraduate, her work was really superior to that of several older teachers. Her pupils gave evidence of having done more thorough work than seen there for some time.

It was said at the last annual town meeting that the town's indebtedness for books was less than one dollar. So the town books made it appear, and were given \$200 for new books, according to our own estimate. It was soon found, however, when the bills began to come in, that a false statement had been made and that the town was really in debt, for books, \$63 20. Hence we have been unable to buy all books needed, and while the town books may show that we spent only the sum raised, yet in reality, the town owes for school books, \$42 44.

The work of the Truant Officers has been satisfactory, especially that of S. Frank Douglass. Their duties are, at times, most disagreeable, for they cannot refuse to bring in those for whom they are sent whether they be relatives or children of their best friends. Hence no one ought to accept the position unless he be willing to obey the law. They ought to be better paid.

Repairs have been made upon the Pullen schoolhouse and upon the lower room of the Grammar building. This room needs further repairs at an expense of about \$20. It was decided not to repair the Draper building this year. N. H. CROSBY.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Amount unexpended for 1896.....	\$ 48 44
Town appropriation for 1897.....	989 60
Bank and mill tax	1,039 71
Interest on school fund.....	51 25
	<hr/>
	\$2,129 00

EXPENDITURES.

Paid teachers in village.....	\$1,122 00
for wood in village.....	50 97
for janitors in village	79 50
for teachers in rural districts	648 00
for wood in rural districts.....	16 00
for cleaning rural schoolhouses	6 00
for supplies for all the schools	20 85
for tuition of scholars by Abbot.....	12 50
Unexpended.....	173 18
	<hr/>
	\$2,129 00

TABULAR STATEMENT.

Term.	Name of School	Name of Teacher.	No. weeks taught	Pupils registered	Average attendance.	Wages per week.
Fall	Academy	J. E. Roberts, Prin. A. J. Powers, Asst.	11	34	29.19	\$21.87 10.00
Winter	Academy	J. E. Roberts, Prin. A. J. Powers, Asst.	10	31	27.4	21.87 10.00
Spring	Academy	J. E. Roberts, Prin. A. J. Powers, Asst.	11			21.87 10.00
Fall	Grammar	W. S. Knowlton	11	36	32	12.50
Winter	Grammar	W. S. Knowlton	10	40	35	12.50
Spring	Grammar	W. S. Knowlton	11			12.50
Fall	Intermediate	Flora A. Gilbert	11	54	50	7.00
Winter	Intermediate	Flora A. Gilbert	9	54	49	7.00
Spring	Intermediate	Flora A. Gilbert	8			7.00
Summer	1st Primary	Mrs. A. S. Arnold	8	27	25	6.00
Fall	1st Primary	Blanche Humphrey	10	30	28.83	6.00
Winter	1st Primary	Blanche Humphrey	9	38	27.6	6.00
Spring	1st Primary	Blanche Humphrey	9			6.00
Summer	2d Primary	Blanche Humphrey	10	35	29.97	6.00
Fall	2d Primary	Ethel W. Knowlton	11	30	27	6.00
Summer	3d Primary	Marion A. Hescoek	10	39	31	6.00
		Marion A. Hescoek	12	42	26.75	6.00
Summer	No. 2	Agnes E. Steward	10	6	5	5.50
Fall	No. 2	Cora L. Steward	11	5	4.2	5.50
Summer	No. 3	Ella M. Goodwin	8	14	11.7	5.50
Fall	No. 3	Fred W. Pullen	8	18	14.26	5.50
Winter	No. 3	Fred W. Pullen	5	14	11.7	5.50
Summer	No. 4	Estella R. Wheeler	9	11	7.9	5.50
Fall	No. 4	Mabel J. Goodell	12	6	4.76	6.00
Summer	No. 5	Ethel W. Knowlton	10	18	14.29	5.50
Fall	No. 5	Lettie Pennington	11	20	14	6.00
Summer	No. 6	Lettie Pennington	10	21	18	5.50
Fall	No. 6	Bertha Steward	11	21	17.96	5.50
Summer	No. 7	Bertha Steward	8	05	4	6.00
Fall	No. 7	Stella H. Pullen	7	6	5	5.50
Winter	No. 7	Stella H. Pullen	5	3	3	6.00



