

1919

Annual Report of the Municipal Officers of the Town of Monson for the Year 1919-1920

Monson (Me.)

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Annual Report, Monson, Maine
===== YEAR 1919 =====



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Municipal Officers

OF THE

TOWN OF MONSON

For the Municipal Year

1919-20

Press of
FAIRFIELD PUBLISHING CO.
1920

Municipal Officers, 1919

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor

L. A. THOMAS

E. H. FLINT

I. E. BODGE

Town Clerk

W. HARRY HUGHES

Treasurer

F. M. HESCOCK

Tax Collector

R. J. JONES

School Committee

W. S. KNOWLTON

R. M. HESCOCK

A. L. BRAY

EDW. JOHNSON

Superintendent of Schools

WILLIAM E. HEBARD

Auditor

R. M. HESCOCK

Board of Health

E. T. HESCOCK

W. H. FOGG

DR. F. L. VARNEY

JOSEPH DAVISON

Sealer

F. M. HESCOCK

Town Warrant

To R. J. Jones, a Constable of the Town of Monson, in the County of Piscataquis.

GREETING:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the said Town of Monson, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to assemble in the Town Hall, in said town of Monson, the fifteenth day of March, A. D. 1920, 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.

Article 2. To choose a town clerk for the ensuing year.

Article 3. To choose all other necessary town officers for the ensuing year.

Article 4. To see what sum of money the town will raise for the support of schools.

Article 5. To see what sum of money the town will raise for the support of poor.

Article 6. To see what sum of money the town will raise for the repair and maintenance of roads and bridges, and how the same shall be expended.

Article 7. To see what sum of money the town will raise to defray all incidental and town charges and for miscellaneous purposes.

Article 8. To see what sum of money the town will raise for the care of sidewalks, and how the same shall be expended.

Article 9. To see what sum of money the town will raise to pay interest.

Article 10. To see what sum of money the town will raise for free text-books.

Article 11. To see what sum of money the town will raise for the superintendent of school's salary.

Article 12. To see what sum of money the town will raise

and appropriate for free high school, and how the same shall be expended, and to authorize the school committee to make a contract with the Trustees of Monson Academy.

Article 13. To see what sum of money the town will raise for apparatus and supplies.

Article 14. To see what sum of money the town will raise for repairs on school houses.

Article 15. To see what sum of money the town raise for Memorial Day services.

Article 16. To see if the town will vote "yes" or "no" on the question of appropriating and raising the money necessary to entitle the town to State Aid, as provided in Section 19 of Chapter 25 of the Revised Statutes of 1916.

Article 17. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$533.00 for the improvement of the section of State Aid road as outlined in the report of the State Highway Commission, in addition to the amount regularly raised for the care of ways, highways and bridges; the above amount being the maximum which the town is allowed to raise under the provisions of Section 18 of Chapter 25, of the Revised Statutes of 1916.

Article 18. To see whether the town will vote to raise money, and what sum, for the maintenance of State and State Aid highways during the ensuing year, within the limits of the town under the provisions of Sections 9 and 18 of Chapter 130 of the Public Laws of 1913.

Article 19. To see if the town will charge interest on all taxes remaining unpaid September 15, at 6%.

Article 20. To see what sum of money the town will raise for street lights for the ensuing year.

Article 21. To see if the town will vote to raise a sum of money for the Monson Free Public Library.

Article 22. To see if the town will authorize the superintending school committee to use their discretion in regard to maintaining schools in those districts where there are less than the required number of scholars.

Article 23. To see if the town will raise a sum of money to be paid to the Monson Band for evening concerts.

Article 24. To see what sum of money the town will raise for the Fire Department.

Article 25. To see if the town will vote to raise money for the overdrafts on the 1919 accounts.

Article 26. To see what action the town will take in regard to the location of the school in the Vinton district.

Article 27. To see if the town will elect a "Budget Committee" to make recommendations for annual appropriations.

Article 28. To see if the town will vote to raise the sum of \$500 to be expended in connection with a like amount to be paid by the State, to aid in repairing a section of the highway leading from Abbot to Moosehead Lake in accordance with a Special Resolve passed at the State Legislature in 1919.

Article 29. To see if the town will vote to accept a certain piece of land near the "Hay Scales" given by Mrs. Henrietta M. Chapin in honor of her husband, the late Albert W. Chapin, on which to erect a Soldiers' Monument.

Article 30. To see what sums of money the town will raise for Mothers' Aid.

Article 31. To see if the town will vote to install two lights on the driveway leading from Morton Street to the residence of E. L. Morrill.

Article 32. To see if the town will vote to accept and maintain the street light installed near the Stevens & Greenleaf Garage.

Report of Selectmen

VALUATION APRIL 1, 1919

Real estate, resident	\$146,050.00
Real estate, non-resident	148,205.00
	<hr/>
Total real estate	\$294,255.00
Personal estate, resident	\$ 63,195.00
Personal estate, non-resident	13,060.00
	<hr/>
Total personal estate	\$76,255.00
	<hr/>
Grand total valuation	\$370,510.00
Raised by town at annual meeting	\$12,614.98
State tax for 1919	2,755.50
County tax for 1919	374.25
Overlay	20.67
	<hr/>
Total amount	\$ 15,765.40
Number of polls, 315 at \$3.	
Rate per cent, .04.	

RAISED BY TOWN MARCH 17, 1919

Common schools	\$2,400.00
Support of poor	800.00
Roads and bridges	2,800.00
Incidental	1,000.00
Sidewalks	100.00
Interest	200.00
Text books	200.00
Free high school	1,600.00

Supplies	200.00
Repairs on schoolhouses	300.00
Superintendent of schools	225.00
Memorial Day	35.00
State Aid road	533.00
Street lights	450.00
Public Library	100.00
Monson Band	25.00
Fire department	125.00
Soldier's celebration	50.00
Overdraft in 1918	1,471.98
	<hr/> \$ 12,614.98

OFFICERS BILLS AND INCIDENTAL CHARGES

Raised by town	\$1,000.00
Raised by town for overdraft in 1918	362.82
Received from town of Hermon, acct. of Leonard Nason	57.00
Received from rent of Town Hall	18.00
Overdrawn in 1919	408.81
	<hr/> \$1,810.63

Overdraft in 1918	\$ 326.82
L. A. Thomas, 1st Selectman	200.00
E. H. Flint, 2d Selectman	100.00
I. E. Bodge, 3d Selectman	50.00
W. Harry Hughes, clerk	10.00
F. M. Hescock, treasurer	40.00
R. J. Jones, collector's commission	472.63
W. S. Knowlton, school committee	25.00
R. M. Hescock, school committee	25.00
Ed. Johnson, school committee	25.00
R. M. Hescock, auditor, 1918	5.00
W. H. Fogg, Board of Health	3.00
Dr. F. L. Varney, Board of Health	13.00
E. T. Hescock, truant officer	2.00
A. L. Brown, moderator	3.00

F. M. Hescock, sealer	5.00
Fairfield Publishing Co., 1918 reports	40.00
Loring, Short & Harmon, town books	26.60
W. H. Fogg, inspecting chimneys	37.00
D. D. Cowan, arrest and care of Leonard Nason	37.00
Dr. J. L. Potter, exam. of Leonard Nason	10.00
Dr. F. L. Varney, exam. of Leonard Nason	5.00
L. A. Thomas, ser. in Leonard Nason case	5.00
D. D. Cowan, arrest and care of Andrew Photo	9.50
John Evans, ser. in arrest of Andrew Photo	1.75
Straw & Martin, insurance	25.86
L. A. Thomas, cleaning cemeteries	96.25
W. H. Fogg, services sprinkling streets and at J. A. Larson fire	10.00
A. L. Farrar, ser. J. A. Larson fire	5.00
Dr. J. L. Potter, vital statistics	.25
Dr. F. L. Varney, vital statistics	6.25
W. Harry Hughes, vital statistics	5.47
W. A. Bray, adding machine	30.00
John Evans, night watch, July 3-4	6.00
Frank Libby, night watch, July 3-4	6.00
W. H. Fogg, ballot clerk	3.00
Oscar Peterson, ballot clerk	3.00
William R. Hughes, ballot clerk	3.00
Carl M. Poole, ballot clerk	3.00
E. T. Hescock, care of "policemen"	24.00
Ed. Johnson, making voting lists	1.00
Geo. E. Howard & Co., insurance	5.00
Ed. Johnson, oil for "policemen"	1.70
Harry W. Davis, fire warden expenses	7.30
G. P. Pullen, fire ward's supplies	2.70
Hudson & Hudson, legal advice 1917-18	8.10
Robert E. Hall, legal advice, 1919	2.00
E. R. Haynes, making cemetery deeds	26.00
F. J. Wilkins, inspecting chimneys	12.00

D. D. Cowan, night watch, July 3-4	6.00
L. A. Thomas, meeting State Assessors	3.00
E. H. Flint, meeting State Assessors	3.00
C. C. Towne, care of watering tub	3.00
R. M. Hescok, express	4.58
Ed. Johnson, broom for hall	.75
L. A. Thomas, postage and stationery	3.50
W. Harry Hughes, postage and express	2.24
L. A. Thomas, attending election	3.00
E. H. Flint, attending election	3.00
I. E. Bodge, attending election	3.00
W. Harry Hughes, attending election	3.00
F. M. Hescok, postage	2.38
	<hr/> \$1,810.63

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Raised by town	\$2,800.00
Raised by town for overdraft in 1918	295.41
Received for use of truck	68.00
Received for use of road machine	5.00
Overdrawn in 1919	958.19
	<hr/> \$4,126.60
Overdraft in 1918	\$295.41
Chas. Erickson	10.00
Ellis Johnson	12.00
D. D. Cowan	3.50
Chas. Mountain	12.00
Thayer Smith	4.50
J. W. Tarr	21.00
E. H. Flint	35.00
I. E. Bodge	38.50
O. S. Arnold	9.50
W. F. Hammond	15.25
H. M. Chapin	16.00
L. A. Thomas	24.50
Ernest Sanberg	27.00
W. C. Kirk	18.00

Ellis Johnson	36.00
Ernest Sanberg	27.00
Ellis Johnson	27.00
Ellis Johnson	18.00
Chas. Jackson	46.00
Frank Libby	77.00
Otto Christensen	15.00
L. A. Thomas	10.10
John H. Johnson	3.00
Ernest Sanberg	27.00
Chas. Jackson	27.00
Ellis Johnson	34.50
Frank Libby	40.25
Ernest Sanberg	34.50
Chas. Bradford	2.35
Raymond Hammond	15.00
Chas. Johnson	3.00
Harry Brasier	23.00
I. E. Bodge	300.00
Ernest Sanberg	15.00
Albert Mattson	8.25
Ellis Johnson	12.00
James Wescott	45.00
J. W. Tarr	280.00
Frank Libby	17.50
Bernard Sanborn	15.00
Bernard Sanborn	34.50
F. T. Flint	28.50
Chas. Jackson	31.50
Chas. Jackson	12.00
Arthur Haggstrom	24.35
Albert Mattson	27.75
Henry Knox	11.00
Ernest Sanberg	13.50
Arthur Farrar	8.00
E. H. Flint	200.00
Harry Kirk	13.00

Albin Johnson	7.50
James Wescott	24.00
H. S. Knight	259.00
Leonard Nason	6.00
Otto Christensen	15.00
Frank Libby	3.50
Fred Elliott	7.00
A. W. Farrar	4.15
Roy B. Lloyd	9.00
O. S. Arnold	46.75
Ed. Copeland	11.00
D. C. Weeks	12.70
R. J. Jones	7.50
C. W. Weeks	6.00
Harry Brasier	30.50
Henry Grover	86.00
John Olson	2.25
Frank Wentworth	10.00
W. L. Dauphinee	11.00
Fred Degerstrom	22.50
J. D. Draper	8.00
Tom Leeman	9.35
C. F. Bradford	9.90
W. F. Hammond	9.75
Geo. P. Pullen	38.95
Stevens & Greenleaf	21.70
E. H. Flint	148.00
L. A. Thomas	5.00
J. W. Tarr	56.00
H. S. Knight	77.50
C. C. Towne	53.00
State Aid Maintenance	58.50
W. L. Dauphinee	42.50
Albin Johnson	12.00
Stanley Stevens	4.00
Frank P. Steward	20.25
R. R. Drake	56.00

I. E. Bodge	140.50
W. F. Hammond	4.70
H. Grover	67.15
Tom Leeman	9.00
Ed. Copeland	20.00
Portland-Monson Slate Co.	10.30
Chas. Erickson	11.25
O. S. Arnold	21.00
L. A. Thomas	2.50
Chas. Erickson	6.00
State maintenance, patrol	491.24
W. W. Pullen	26.50
	<hr/> \$4,126.60

TOWN POOR

Raised by town	\$800.00
Raised by town for overdraft, 1918	245.93
Received from M. C. Foss, 1918 acct.	5.00
Received from A. Vielle on 1918 acct.	12.50
Overdrawn in 1919	283.77
	<hr/> \$1,357.20
Overdrawn in 1918	\$245.93
Mattson children	380.21
Chas. Grover	259.87
John Dermott	201.69
James Wescott	198.00
Mary E. Morton	60.00
Lyndon Lawson	1.00
Tramps	10.50
	<hr/> \$1,357.20

INTEREST

Raised by town	200.00
Unexpended in 1918	76.50
Bank deposits	16.34
R. J. Jones	30.14
Overdrawn in 1919	27.06
	<hr/> \$ 350.04
Expended in 1919	350.04

SIDEWALKS

Expended in 1919	\$ 39.75	
Unexpended in 1919	60.25	
	<hr/>	\$ 100.00
Raised by town		100.00

MOTHER'S AID

Appropriated from town treasury	\$ 129.00	
Received from State	93.00	
	<hr/>	\$ 222.00
Expended in 1919		222.00

STREET LIGHTS

Raised by town	\$450.00	
Unexpended in 1918	3.92	
Overdrawn in 1919	43.13	
	<hr/>	\$ 497.05
Expended in 1919		497.05

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Raised by town	\$225.00	
Unexpended in 1918	17.89	
Overdrawn in 1919	7.33	
	<hr/>	\$ 250.22
Expended in 1919		250.22

REPAIRS

Raised by town	\$300.00	
Raised by town for overdraft, 1918	43.30	
	<hr/>	\$ 343.30
Overdraft in 1918	\$ 43.30	
Expended in 1919	159.24	
Unexpended in 1919	140.76	
	<hr/>	\$ 343.30

SUPPLY ACCOUNT

Raised by town	\$200.00	
Raised by town for overdraft, 1918	1.28	
Overdrawn in 1919	171.73	
	<hr/>	\$ 373.01
Overdraft in 1918	\$ 1.28	
Expended in 1919	371.73	
	<hr/>	\$ 373.01

TEXT BOOKS

Raised by town	\$200.00	
Raised by town for overdraft, 1918	36.94	
Overdrawn in 1919	85.82	
	<hr/>	\$ 322.76
Overdraft in 1918	\$ 36.94	
Expended in 1919	285.82	
	<hr/>	\$ 322.76

FREE HIGH SCHOOL

Raised by town	\$1,600.00	
Received from State	500.00	
Received from State, extra	250.00	
	<hr/>	\$2,350.00
Paid Treas. of Monson Academy	\$2,100.00	
Unexpended in 1919	250.00	
	<hr/>	\$2,350.00

STATE AID HIGHWAY

Raised by town, 1918	\$ 533.00	
Raised by town, 1919	533.00	
Received from State	1,171.36	
	<hr/>	\$2,237.36
Expended by town in 1919		\$2,237.36

STATE AID MAINTENANCE

Received from State	\$ 50.00	
Appropriated from highway account	58.50	
	<hr/>	\$ 108.50
Expended in 1919		108.50

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Raised by town	\$125.00	
Unexpended in 1918	36.02	
Overdrawn in 1919	26.50	
	<hr/>	\$ 187.52
Expended in 1919		187.52

MONSON BAND

Raised by town	\$ 25.00	
Expended in 1919		25.00

PUBLIC LIBRARY

Raised by town	\$ 100.00	
Expended in 1919		100.00

MEMORIAL DAY

Raised by town	\$ 35.00	
Expended in 1919		35.00

ABATEMENTS

To. R. J. Jones	\$ 33.40	
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TAX COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNT

Committment for 1919	\$15,765.40	
Errors in assessment	27.00	
Interest collected on 1919 taxes	30.14	
	<hr/>	\$15,822.54
Abatements on 1919 taxes	\$ 33.40	
Error in assessment	34.75	
Net tax returned to Treasurer	15,754.39	
	<hr/>	\$15,822.54

LIABILITIES

Monson Academy loan at 4%	\$3,925.00
School fund at 4%	854.10
Carroll Pullen legacy	50.00
A. W. Chapin legacy	200.00
Order No. 533, 1913, Nettie F. Pullen	1,250.00
Order No. 98, 1917, W. W. Pullen	700.00
Order No. 391, 1919, Guilford Trust Co.	1,000.00
Order No. 508, 1919, Guilford Trust Co.	1,000.00
	<hr/> \$8,979.10

RESOURCES

Cash in Bank	\$ 497.43
Cash in hands of treasurer	340.88

TOWN PROPERTY

Estimated value of:	
Town building and lot	\$3,000.00
Old engine	100.00
New engine	2,000.00
Hearse	200.00
Road tools	450.00
Hose, pipe and hydrants	900.00
Two safes	300.00
Truck	500.00
Gravel bank	100.00
	<hr/> \$8,388.31
Liabilities in excess of resources	\$ 590.79

TOWN TRUCK

Appropriated from treasury	\$ 671.54
Expended in 1919	671.54

DAMAGE TO SHEEP BY DOGS

Received from State	\$ 52.50
Paid Frank P. Steward	\$ 30.00
Paid Otto Christensen	22.50
	<hr/> \$ 52.50

Treasurer's Report

Monson, Me. February 25, 1920.

F. M. Hescock, Treasurer, in account with the Town of Monson:

DR.

To cash on hand	\$2,056.84
Rec. C. M. Foss	5.00
Alfonzo Vielle	12.50
Town of Hermon, acct. ex. L. Nason	57.00
Town of Wilimantic, acct. use seal.	
outfit	1.00
Town of Abbot acct., sch. sup.	2.65
Elliottsville Plant., sch. sup.	2.69
Pero Morris, moving picture lic.	10.00
Edw. Johnson, bowling alley lic	5.00
Fred Jarvis, poolroom lic.	10.00
Town acct. dog taxes	60.00
Use of town truck	68.00
Rent of hall	18.00
Guilford Trust acct., inst on dep.	20.51
Mrs. Hittie Morrison, lot in cem.	12.00
Wallace Homer, lot in cemetery	12.00
Pierre Johnson, lot in cemetery	12.00
Mrs. Holmblom, lot in cemetery	12.00
Mrs. Riddle, lot in cemetery	12.00
Reubena Johnson, lot in cemetery	12.00
Mrs. S. J. Cowan, lot in cemetery	4.00
Otto Christenson, lot in cemetery	12.00
Henry Brown, lot in cemetery	12.00
J. B. Evans, lot in cemetery	8.00
E. A. McIver, lot in cemetery	12.00
Hired of S. L. Greeley	300.00
Hired of Guilford Trust Co.	2,000.00
Inst. on school fund	34.16

State Treasurer account

Pension for blind	96.00
Highways	95.00
Mothers' Aid	93.00
Public library	5.00
State pensions	216.00
Equalization fund	410.00
S. & M. fund	944.19
Common school fund	821.81
F. H. S.	500.00
H. S. maintenance	250.00
Improvement State roads	1,171.36
Damage to domestic animals	52.50
Telegr. and Teleph. tax	18.05
Dog tax refunded	7.40
Bounty on bear	10.00
R. J. Jones acct., 1919 taxes	15,822.54
	<hr/>
	\$25,296.20

CR.

By paid

Orders	\$20,439.90
A. Kronbolin, acct. blind pension	96.00
State pensions	216.00
State Treas., dog tax	60.00
Bounty on bears	10.00
Treas. Puplie library	15.00
State Tr. acct., road patrol	491.24
State Tr. acct., State tax	2,755.50
Co. Tr. acct., County tax	374.25
Amount in bank to balance	497.43
Amount in safe to balance	340.88
	<hr/>
	\$25,296.20

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Having this day examined the accounts of the financial officers of the Town of Monson I find them to be correct.

ROY M. HESCOCK, Auditor.

Report of Superintendent of Schools

To the Superintending School Committee and Citizens of Monson:

I present herewith my second annual report as superintendent of your schools. For convenience and clearness I have divided it in several parts as noted.

RURAL SCHOOLS:

During the spring as it was seen that there would be only three pupils the present school year the Burmah School was suspended for one year by action of the Superintending School Committee.

The Vinton School has continued during the year in the Champion house. As far as location is concerned this building is central for the pupils in that part of the town. However there are features which are not desirable for a school-room. The light for most of the desks comes from the right hand side which is very bad. There seems to be trouble to heat the room. I do not think that the whole trouble is with the jacket to that stove. There are so many doors that interfere with the necessary circulation of air currents which naturally heat any room. My solution for the school facilities in that end of the town would be to acquire a parcel of land in the vicinity of Mr. Stewart's and move the Vinton school building to it. The distance does not seem much greater from Mr. Christensen's to such a location than from Mr. W. Kirk's in the other part of the neighborhood.

The situation in the south part of the town may call for some statement of my ideas on the subject. In the first place the S. S. Committee have left the matter to my judgment and I anticipate there are those who entertain different opinions in the way the affair should have been handled. To open that school for a legal school it will be necessary for the com-

mittee to present a written recommendation for consideration at the annual meeting, or a meeting called for the especial purpose. If accepted two lines of procedure are open, —repair the old school house, or rent a house in the vicinity. I believe that the renting proposition would be more economical for the town for as I see the matter there will be a call for a schoolhouse in that part of the town only for a few years. I have noticed in general that when pulp and lumber are removed from farms they are not as desirable property as before. The rent of a house for three years would not equal the cost of repairing the old schoolhouse for in these times the requirements for heating, lighting and sanitation are different than previously. There is another side to the situation. I fail to see any chance for a teacher to board except in homes where there are many children and I know of few teachers who would care to board in large families. Another side of the matter is to consider what arrangement would be necessary for the children who may live on the main road to Monson. Surely a part of the year it would be costly for the Road Department to keep that cross road open, and legally no child can be made to use any logging road. In the final analysis it seems to me that it would be more economical for the town if the children attend the school at the Moosehorn in Abbot and divide the expense of the teacher. Arrange conveyance during the severe months of the year if necessary. As a matter of fact the amount of money expended for school purposes for pupils attending the Moosehorn School for *two* years for conveyance and tuition has been \$452.50. The cost of maintaining the Vinton School since last town meeting has been \$521.00 and the number of pupils is less! Now really, has the superintendent been extravagant in his school arrangements in that part of the town?

CONVEYANCE:

The amount of conveyance money expended during the year may cause apprehension and alarm. However I can

truthfully say that in no case can a teacher be engaged for the same sum that conveyance has been paid in the particular section of the town.

There was a time when teachers could be hired for \$6.00 or \$7.00 a week but that time is largely a matter of recollection and memory, so that the \$10.00 or \$12.00 per week paid for conveyance will not hire a properly certificated teacher. There is one thing can be stated—the statutes do not require conveyance only in so far as the Superintending School Committee of any city or town may determine. Each individual case may be decided according to the judgment of that committee.

SALARIES:

This matter will cause a considerable discussion among the smaller towns where the resources are limited. All over this country the wages of the teachers are being raised and in general the rise has been twenty-five per cent, (25%). Even these wages are hardly to be compared with those that any girl in her teens can earn in a mill weaving which may call for a little experience but not two or more years of training in a normal school or college beyond the high school. Some people think because teachers are paid double what has been paid at some past time the teachers are twice as efficient. This does not hold. The earning power or perhaps the buying power of the dollar has decreased over a half in ten years. The salary scale as submitted for your concern at some later place has the approval of the State Department.

Along with the teachers do not omit the janitors. I believe that whoever is janitor at the Village should do only that work between 7:30 and 4 so as to be on call. If the present wage will not get a man under those conditions, pay the price that will. I foretell a wage of \$20.00 per week must be paid to get the work done next year.

ACADEMY:

The salary scale in the Academy must be revised if you desire to have competent teachers and have two assistants on

full time. We have been on curtailed schedule for two years now which is unsatisfactory and I doubt if the State Department will tolerate that condition and continue to furnish as much financial assistance this year about 40% of the cost of instruction. I would suggest a little change in the administration of academy affairs not with the intention of depriving any citizen of honors but to expedite the filing of returns to the State House to assist them in the awarding of such financial assistance as may come from time to time. The change I would recommend is that the superintendent of the district act as secretary or clerk of the Trustees. I am leaving the union shortly so that any voter will see I am not desirous of usurping the powers of school control but have in mind a change to improve school conditions. At no great future some means must be taken to make that Academy more habitable on cold, windy days. Make the building tight—overhaul the heating plan and air valves once a year and I think the janitor will not use as much fuel to have the building warm.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL, MONSON ACADEMY

To William E. Hebard, Superintendent of Schools:

In compliance with your request I have the pleasure of submitting for the consideration of the citizens of Monson the annual report of the condition and progress of Monson Academy.

At the beginning of the school year the register showed an enrollment of forty-nine pupils; fifteen boys and thirty-four girls. But due to the fact that some of the pupils have moved to other towns and others have been forced by illness to discontinue their school work, the Academy has at present an attendance of approximately forty pupils. A further decrease in attendance is threatened at times, by pupils who show an inclination to leave school with a view to taking up a trade or occupation. I should like to urge those who are interested in this type of pupil to do all in their power to discourage such tendencies, and to persuade the student to re-

main in the Academy until the work is completed and a diploma received.

The general progress of the school has been as a whole satisfactory. Practically the entire student body has shown an appreciation of the opportunities offered them and a commendable diligence in mastering the subject matter of the texts, and I feel that the year's work has been successful to date. However a few of the pupils have not measured up to the standards set for them. Yet I trust that, with the co-operation of the parents, the number of such pupils will be materially reduced and that at the close of the school year every student shall have satisfactorily completed the assigned work. But in order to realize this end the assistance of the parents is necessary in securing a greater number hours of home study. And while a pupil may receive passing marks in all his subjects without doing this outside work, he cannot fully realize the benefits of a secondary education unless some of the lessons ARE prepared at home. I believe that home study of at least two hours each night for four nights in the week is indispensable.

The progress of the school through the winter term has been somewhat retarded by the difficulty with which the building has been heated. While this trouble has caused several days of enforced idleness, to my mind a more serious view of the situation lies in the danger to the health of the pupils who are asked to carry on their work in a room where the temperature is far too low for complete safety to health. I fully believe that the general prevalence of colds among the pupils is due in a large measure to the unsatisfactory manner in which the schoolroom is heated. Certainly the prevailing distemper cannot but be aggravated by the condition of which I write, and every effort should be made to improve the situation. The omission of a few recitations may not matter much to the pupil; but the loss of health is, indeed, a serious consideration.

During the year all the traditional organizations of the school have been retained and new activities introduced. A

debating society has been organized, giving programs twice each month; an athletic association has been formed to encourage athletics; and plans have been made for the revival of the school paper. The organization of these activities has been founded on the theory that the repression of the play instinct in young people is an unfortunate policy, and that the surplus energy of youth should be so guided that it will find expression in legitimate channels.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the parents and pupils for their kindness and uniform courtesy to me. This attitude on their part inspires the teacher to give his best for the benefit of the school. Also I wish to express my appreciation of the able and sympathetic cooperation of the school officials and the assistant teachers. Whatever success the school has enjoyed came largely through their efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

E. E. HASKELL,
Principal Monson Academy.

February 21, 1920.

GENERAL REMARKS:

Last year the attendance was poor by reason of the Flu and mumps. This year the whooping cough and Flu have troubled. All things considered the pupils have made reasonable progress. This year since September we have been following the State Course Study. From a study of standard tests given at sundry times I feel secure to state that your pupils grade for grade will compare with pupils elsewhere. This is as a whole. There are poor pupils in every grade in any school wherever you may go. It does not follow because a child does not get all A's on his report that the teacher is at fault. All pupils even from the same household may not have the same mental ability. Pupils poor in books may be adept at a trade or housework. Each individual has some faculty, or gift, single to himself. The gift to study and make 100% recitations may not be included.

At this place it may be fitting to recall how death has called from different branches of school work two valued servants, Miss LeClair, and Mr. Hescock. Each was faithful in the branch of school work engaged.

Where I am leaving this district for one in Massachusetts I wish to state that Mrs. Hebard and myself have enjoyed living in your midst and shall remember the acquaintances made meanwhile.

Before giving my estimates for the coming year some comments may be wise. Without a doubt they are the most staggering ever presented to local meetings but I am guided by conditions as I understand them to exist in the school matters. There may be one or two ways out of the dilemma. I shall state them but *do not recommend them*. If the enrollment falls off much before September it might be possible to combine the first two grades in the Grammar Building. The second grade would then have to go to school a full day. The room would be full and there would not be chance for small divisions as at present. I make no guarantee that it would be satisfactory. It might be possible to cut down from 36 weeks to 30 plus as much as the Equalization Fund would permit if applied for that purpose. However this arrangement would call for the ninth grade again which for a few years would cut down the enrollment in the Academy. Right here I shall insert a digression. Contrary to the imaginations of some the pupils entering the Academy after eight grades of work for 36 weeks each year are prepared to do that work. And the better teachers will seek those school systems having the longer school year as it means more money. The matter of conveyance is up to the S. S. Committee wholly.

COMMON SCHOOL ACCOUNT

Overdraft, 1919-1920	\$1,295.77	
Teachers' wages:		
VIII and VII	900.00	
VI and V	720.00	
IV and III	720.00	
II	720.00	
I	720.00	
Rural	720.00	
Janitors	800.00	
Fuel	600.00	
Conveyance, if any	1,000.00	
	<hr/>	\$8,195.77
Reductions—interest, and income from State School Funds		2,200.77
		<hr/>
		\$5,995.00

These figures are
based on a year
of 36 weeks

With a decreased census in view I see no chance for the State Funds to increase until there is some other means of their distribution.

FREE HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNT

Principal	\$1,500.00	
1st Assistant	1,000.00	
2d Assistant	900.00	
	<hr/>	\$3,400.00
Reductions from the State		1,000.00
		<hr/>
		\$2,400.00

In this connection it may not be amiss to call attention to the class of instruction furnished in your Academy. Here as in general of schools of its class the instruction is what is known as cultural. The graduate, now as twenty years ago has merely a cultural knowledge—a head more or less stored with some historic facts, a few chemical formulæ, the conjugation of the verb "amo", and a remembrance of the Pytha-

gorean theorem, with knowledge of the English classics. That is perfectly proper. Years ago a larger share of the graduates went to teaching or to college where such a knowledge was more useful to them than now in such occupations as they tend to engage. I advocate the addition of some vocational courses; manual training, domestic arts, commercial, or agricultural. The State will pay two-thirds not exceeding \$750 towards the instruction in Agriculture, domestic arts or manual training. Such a course does not mean an extra teacher—one of the assistants or the principal could have charge of that work. This is merely a suggestion to make your Academy more useful to the needs of the community.

TEXT BOOK AND SUPPLIES ACCOUNT

Any material with paper in it has advanced fearfully lately and I see no cause for a drop in the coming twelve months. Paper which cost 11 cents per package in pre-war times now costs 37 1-2 cents. There are overdrafts in each account but I do not feel that I have squandered the funds of these accounts. A look at the shelves of the supply room will not show quantity sufficient to carry through the month of April. The texts now in use in algebra, arithmetic, and some histories are quite worn. I think with the prevailing costs that \$300 for text books and \$350 for supplies should be appropriated.

REPAIRS ACCOUNT

In this account there is some balance. As far as I know about the Village Schools there is only minor repairs liable to be needed. The size of this appropriation will be governed by the wishes of the taxpayers in regard to certain abandoned schoolhouses. Bear in mind that where the repairs on any schoolhouse are to be over \$500 that the State Department by law becomes an interested party and enjoins certain requirements which may add expense. My idea is to

sell abandoned schoolhouses for what you can get whenever possible.

SUPERINTENDENCE ACCOUNT

It is evident that my statements in this connection will not be for personal advantage. The average salary paid to superintendents in the state at the present time is \$1700 per year. To equal that sum in this district I fear this town will have to expect as its share of the superintendent's salary \$300.

The financial statement for the past year follows :

COMMON SCHOOL ACCOUNT

Receipts

Appropriated by town	\$2,922.30
State, equalization fund	410.00
State, school and mill fund	944.19
State, common school fund	821.81
Interest	34.16
Overdraft, 1919-1920	1,295.79
	<hr/> \$6,428.25

Expenditures

Overdraft, 1918-1919	\$ 522.30
Teachers' wages	3,802.00
Fuel	465.70
Janitors' services	419.00
Conveyance	853.25
Tuition, Abbot, 2 years	315.00
Rent, Champion house	51.00
	<hr/> \$6,428.25

Teachers' Wages :

Elsie Stover	\$ 289.00
Bernice Fogg	651.00
Huldah Keene	363.00
Myrtle Smith	292.50
Mary Larson	363.00
Esther Johnson	607.00

Marian Arey	591.00
Helen Hammond	192.00
Bernice Martin	216.00
Cecilia LeClair	187.50
Marjorie LeClair	50.00
	—————\$3,802.00

Fuel:

Jos. Davison	\$ 24.00
A. C. Gilbert Co.	142.50
E. H. Flint	10.00
W. Champion	37.00
P. W. Smith	175.00
Cutting and housing	47.20
	—————\$ 465.70

Janitors' Services:

E. T. Hescok	\$ 228.00
Henry Smith	125.00
Lyle Towne	37.50
Marjorie LeClair	7.50
Bernice Martin	11.00
Helen Hammond	10.00
	—————\$ 419.00

Conveyance:

Esther Goodell	\$ 108.00
Fritz Elliott	152.25
Royal Spencer	100.00
W. W. Pullen	150.00
E. F. Forbus	120.00
Mrs. Frank Cowan	57.00
O. S. Arnold	96.00
Floyd Hammond	70.00
	—————\$ 853.25

FREE HIGH SCHOOL ACCOUNT

Receipts

Appropriated by town	\$1,600.00
Received from State	500.00

Received from State, additional*	250.00
	<hr/> \$2,350.00

Expenditures

Paid Treasurer Monson Academy	\$2,100.00
Balance unexpended	250.00
	<hr/> \$2,350.00

*This additional amount was awarded to the town to be expended in the following manner:

Instruction	\$150.00
Library	75.00
Science	25.00
	<hr/> \$ 250.00

TEXT BOOK ACCOUNT

Receipts

Appropriated by town	\$ 236.94
Overdraft, 1919-1920	85.82
	<hr/> \$ 322.76

Expenditures

Overdraft, 1918-1919	\$ 36.94
The Macmillan Company	16.98
Ginn and Company	71.17
D. C. Heath & Co.	16.22
C. C. Birchard & Co.	1.19
Houghton Mifflin Co.	17.42
Benj. H. Sanborn & Co.	51.55
E. E. Babb & Co.	20.99
Allyn & Bacon	20.95
American Book Co.	29.76
Chas. Scribners' Sons	17.09
Silver, Burdett & Co.	2.50
Lewiston Journal Co.	20.00
	<hr/> \$ 322.76

REPAIRS ACCOUNT

Receipts

Appropriated by town	\$ 343.30
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Expenditures

Overdraft, 1918-1919	\$43.30	
E. T. Hescock, labor	30.62	
Nellie Erickson	17.50	
C. M. Conant Co., labor and material	42.96	
Hughes & Sons Piano Mfg. Co.	7.00	
D. C. Weeks, labor and material	12.65	
C. F. Bradford, labor	.25	
American Railroad Express Co.	19.92	
Stewart & Marston	2.00	
W. Champion	3.50	
Hazen Poole	1.50	
G. P. Pullen, material	21.24	
Balance on hand	142.76	
	<hr/>	\$ 343.30

SUPERINTENDENCE ACCOUNT

Receipts

Balance, 1918-1919	\$ 17.89	
Appropriated by town	225.00	
Overdraft, 1919, 1920	7.33	
	<hr/>	\$ 250.22

Expenditures

William E. Hebard, services as Supt.	\$ 239.00	
William E. Hebard, expense to Augusta	11.22	
	<hr/>	\$ 250.22

SUPPLIES ACCOUNT

Receipts

Appropriated by town	\$ 201.28	
Overdraft, 1919-1920	171.73	
	<hr/>	\$ 373.01

Expenditures

Overdraft, 1918-1919	\$ 1.28	
Monson Light & Power Co.	18.08	
H. L. Palmer	11.52	

E. E. Babb & Co.	59.17
J. L. Hammett Co.	11.76
Milton Bradley Co.	64.28
American Book Co.	13.88
D. H. Knowlton & Co.	2.50
Funk & Wagnalls Co.	38.88
Town of Willimantic	4.43
World Book Co.	32.76
The A. N. Palmer Co.	40.55
Jos. Davison	4.40
L. E. Knotts App. Co.	28.44
W. A. Bray	.80
Edward Johnson	6.13
Brown Bros.	6.91
R. M. Hescock	1.95
E. H. Flint	2.50
L. A. Thomas	1.00
William E. Hebard, freight, express, printing, postage, 2 years	21.79
	—————\$ 373.01

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM E. HEBARD, *Supt.*

Union District No. 61.

February 17, 1920.



