1874

Annual Report of the Financial Affairs of the Town of Oxford, for the Year Ending March 1, 1874

Oxford (Me.)
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
OF THE
TOWN OF OXFORD,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1874.
COMPILED BY THE SELECTMEN.
MECHANIC FALLS:
ANDROSCOGGIN HERALD OFFICE.
1874.
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
OF THE
TOWN OF OXFORD,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1874.

COMPILED BY THE SELECTMEN.

MECHANIC FALLS:
ANDROSCOGGIN HERALD OFFICE.
1874.
TOWN OFFICERS, 1873.

CLERK.
THOMAS BAKER.

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS, AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.
FRANCIS HOLDEN, WILLIAM N. THOMAS,
SAMUEL B. WATERMAN.

TREASURER.
GEORGE E. HAWKES.

AGENT.
GEORGE P. WHITNEY.

AUDITOR.
SEBASTIAN S. SMITH.

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
HOWARD D. SMITH, FREEMAN B. ANDREWS,
HORACE H. HALL.

COLLECTOR AND CONSTABLE.
SETH H. FAUNCE.

ROAD COMMISSIONER.
SULLIVAN FULLER.
REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

VALUATION
Of the Town of Oxford, as taken by the Assessors April 1, 1873.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>$158,817 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Estate</td>
<td>41,989 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Valuation</strong></td>
<td><strong>$200,806 00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valuation in 1872</td>
<td>195,773 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,033 00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Polls</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TAXES FOR 1873.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Tax</td>
<td>$2,573 64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Tax</td>
<td>642 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Tax—Support of Schools</td>
<td>1,325 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>—Support of Poor—pay debts, &amp;c.,</td>
<td>1,500 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Library</td>
<td>300 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To purchase Hearse</td>
<td>250 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax on Dogs</td>
<td>73 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delinquent Highway Tax, 1872</td>
<td>143 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlaying</td>
<td>60 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total amount committed for collection</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,868 25</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HIGHWAY TAXES, 1873.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount raised</td>
<td>$3,000 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlaying</td>
<td>111 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,111 26</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Thomas Baker, Clerk, $1 50
Francis Holden, Selectman, &c., 80 00
William N. Thomas, " 48 00
Samuel B. Waterman, " 46 00
George E. Hawkes, Treasurer, 35 00
George P. Whitney, Agent—estimate, 20 00
Sebastian S. Smith, Auditor, 3 00
Seth II. Faunce, Collector, 103 02
Seth II. Faunce, Constable, 4 50
H. D. Smith, S. S. Committee, 21 25
F. B. Andrews, " 40 00
H. H. Hall, " 11 00

Total Town Officers' bills, $413 27

POOR ON FARM MARCH 1, 1874.

Abigail Leavitt, aged 89 years.
Mary Moore, " 49 "
Eliza Dean, " 48 "
David Cates, " 74 "
Geo. W. Peabody, " 69 "

TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

Stock, Hay, Furniture, Tools, &c.
4 Oxen, $400 00
4 Cows, 160 00
3 one-year olds, 30 00
3 Sheep, 12 00
3 Swine, 39 00
8 Tons Hay—first quality, 80 00
7 Tons Hay—second quality, 56 00
Furniture, 225 62
Farming Tools, all kinds, 288 30
Provisions on hand, 210 50

Total personal property, $1,501 42
### OVERSEERS OF TOWN FARM.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amount paid C. A. Records, one year’s services</td>
<td>$275.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for Labor on Farm</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on Farm, Stock, and Tools</td>
<td>120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax on Farm and Stock</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid for Clothing for Paupers, and Bedding</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; Grass Seed</td>
<td>8.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; Corn and Meal</td>
<td>53.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; 4 Oxen</td>
<td>400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; Blacksmithing</td>
<td>9.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; Tools, Wares, Dishes, &amp;c.</td>
<td>15.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; 3 Pigs</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; Super-Phosphate</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; Plaster</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot; Flour, Meat, Groceries, Provisions, &amp;c.</td>
<td>185.84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total, $1,217.52

### Cr.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By Cash paid into Treasury for Oxen sold</td>
<td>$176.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 2 Cows sold</td>
<td>89.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; 1 Veal</td>
<td>4.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount sold off farm</td>
<td>72.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid for cutting 30 cords wood</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; hauling 30 &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; &quot; cutting and hauling 101.57 feet Ash timber to Rawson &amp; Chapman</td>
<td>81.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase of Property on Farm</td>
<td>220.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total cost of Poor on Farm, $483.07
COST OF POOR NOT ON FARM.

Mrs. John Ordway, $15.25
David Cates, 13.60
Nathaniel E. Rowe, 33.11
Josiah Temple, 59.00

$120.96

TOWN FARM IN ACCOUNT WITH ITSELF.

Cr.

Cash received of Thomas & Perry, for wood, $1,113.00
Thomas & Perry’s Note for the same, 2,100.00
30 cords wood at Mechanic Falls, 150.00
Due from Rawson & Chapman for Ash timber, 219.41

$3,582.41

Dr.

Paid for Shingles to cover buildings, $45.16
“ Nails—Shingling and repairing buildings, 100.76
“ Pump, 5.50
“ cutting and hauling 30 cords wood, 90.00
“ “ 101.57 ft. Ash timber, 81.25

$332.67

Balance of credit to farm, $3,259.74
ANNUAL RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1873.

Total amount of Assessments, $6,868.25
State Tax, $2,573.64
County Tax, 642 56
Money raised for Schools, 1,325 00
Discounts on sums paid before Sept. 15, 1873, 192 65
  “ “ “ Jan. 1, 1874, 22 97
Abatement on bills, 51 00 4,807 82
Available amount from cash taxes, $2,060 43

RECEIPTS OUTSIDE TAXATION.

Received B. F. Sturtevant, highway tax, $7 00
  “ 1 pair Oxen, 176 00
  “ for Ash timber, 65 00
  “ “ Wood, 227 70
  “ “ License for Show, 2 00
  “ “ Note and Interest Thomas & Perry, 1,112 48

$1,590 18

Total receipts during year, $3,650 61

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 1873.

Town Officers' Bills, $412 27
Expense of Poor on Farm, 483 07
  “ “ not on Farm, 120 96
Medical attendance for Poor, 42 50,
Paid interest on Debt, 104 72
Shingles and Nails for Town Farm, 130 43
Paid Freeland Holmes' Library, 600 00
Expended on Highways, 33 63 1,927 58

$1,723 03
FINANCIAL STANDING OF TOWN MARCH 1, 1874.

Outstanding Notes, $1,543.00
Outstanding Orders, 7,478.33
Interest due on Notes and Orders, 400.00
Due School Districts, 683.80
Town Officers’ Bills, 413.27
Other Bills unpaid, including amount due Records, 435.00
Amount claimed on Harrison Road case, 151.01

Total, $11,105.01

AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO MEET SAME.

Money in Town Treasury, $917.13
Thomas & Perry, Notes and interest, 2,310.00
Due from Collectors, 1,850.00
“ “ State for Pensions advanced, 209.60
“ “ for Wood, 150.00
“ “ from Rawson & Chapman for Ash Timber, 219.41
“ “ from John J. Perry, 112.00
“ “ “ town of Minot for supplies furnished John Hale, 14.82 5,782.96

Debt above resources, $5,322.05
### SCHOOL STATISTICS.

#### Teachers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>No. of District</th>
<th>Whole Number of Scholars in District</th>
<th>No. attending School</th>
<th>Average Scholar in School</th>
<th>Instances of Tardiness</th>
<th>Instances of Absent</th>
<th>Instances of Absent, not School Day</th>
<th>Visits by Citizens</th>
<th>Length of School in Days</th>
<th>Wages of Teachers per month</th>
<th>Wages of Teachers per week</th>
<th>exclude of Board</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annie E. Estes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>161513</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose S. Burns</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>251816</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cora Young</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>322323</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. H. H. Bryant</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>423323</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter Stetson</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>403344</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Emma Childs</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>391613</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. J. Colcord</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2420118</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. D. Smith</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>141288</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clara E. Dennen</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>231411</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clara E. Dennen, Winter Term</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>191335</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice M. Pratt</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>251218</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bennie M. Pratt</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>813111</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma E. Shurtleff</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>382612</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma E. Shurtleff, Winter</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>381412</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis M. Perkins</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>893430</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Dudley</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>383626</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clara A. Merrif</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>361311</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Barrows</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>201212</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augie Washburn</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>191412</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annie E. Estes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>108812</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCHOOL REPORT.

Dist. No. 1, J. W. Morse, Agent.

In this district the people are well united and seem bound to enjoy the fullest advantages of a common school. And with such teachers as Miss Estes and Miss Burns cannot fail of general satisfaction.

Dist. No. 2, S. B. Libby, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Miss Cora Young. Miss Young is an excellent teacher, and we were much pleased with her manner of conducting her school. The order was good, and none but perfect lessons were tolerated.

The winter term was taught by Wm. H. H. Bryant, of Bethel. Mr. Bryant was an industrious, faithful teacher, and made the school show good progress.

Dist. No. 3, Seth T. Holbrook, Agent.

The primary department of this school has been under the instruction of Miss H. Emma Childs, of Rumford, for three successive terms; she is a teacher of experience, and has worked hard for the good of her pupils, and has given general satisfaction. We can say, however, that if the scholars were better disciplined at home the results of her teaching would have been more marked.

The first term of the grammar school was taught by Walter Stetson, of Summer. Mr. Stetson is a graduate of the State Normal School at Farmington, and brought both experience and ability to his work. His school was a success.

The second term was taught by Mr. H. E. Stetson, of Summer. Mr. Stetson needs more experience in order to either govern or teach.

We are obliged to finish the writing of our report before the
usual closing visit to the winter term. It is under the instruc-
tion of Mr. E. J. Colcord, from Colby University.

We found Mr. Colcord a firm believer in laying well the
foundation of an education. Although more interested him-
self in the higher branches, his previous experience in the
school room has rendered him alive to the difficulties of young
scholars.

We found much interest manifested both by teacher and
scholars upon our first visit, and improving an opportunity to
spend a short time with them about the middle of the term
were persuaded they were still working together with increas-
ing zeal. We hope the parents will make it a point to visit
their schools in this district. In answer to a request for a re-
port of his school as far as possible Mr. Colcord says: "In the
way of a general summing up of the whole let me say that the
school is well provided with a school-house, but let me hope
that the good people who have the highest interests of the
school at heart will not stop with the bare school-house, for
this includes none of the conveniences for teaching. Let the
people of the district get some good apparatus, a little more
blackboard room, and then look out for good teachers, and I
will warrant such a school in this village as cannot be met
with often in our State. The school is a most excellent and
agreeable one, nor will this give expression to one-half the
pleasure that I have taken while acting as teacher."

Mr. Colcord's advice we most heartily second, for we think
that a small amount of the school money can very profitably
be expended in the purchase of some apparatus for a teacher
to work with. In answer to the question upon the registers,
What Globes, Wall Maps, and Charts, if any, belong to the
school? the solitary answer comes back from one district, Map
of Maine! We are quite sure that the district may thank the
charity of one of its teachers for even this! O, school agents,
think how lonesome that map must be, and let it have plenty
of company before another year closes.

We call the attention of the district to the fact that some-
thing must be done to preserve their school property. We notice writing and marking upon the walls of the house, both inside and out, and other ill usage, that, if unnoticed, will be only an invitation to do more. We think some stringent measures must be adopted and carried into effect at once.

We see no reason why trespassers should not be held accountable for injuries to school property as well as private property.

Dist. No. 4, C. S. Russell, Agent.

Summer term taught by Miss Ida L. Faunce, of Oxford. This was her first attempt at teaching, and she met with fair success. The classes in reading made very good improvement. Miss Faunce gave good satisfaction to the district.

Winter term. Horace Sanborn teacher. For a first attempt at teaching Mr. Sanborn's success was above the average of beginners. He succeeded in keeping the school thoroughly interested. The deportment of the large scholars in this school was worthy of much praise, but that of the smaller ones was not so good as we could have wished, both in the summer and winter terms.

Dist. No. 5, W. L. Stanton, Agent.

The summer term was again taught by Miss Emma Barrows, of Paris, with her usual good success.

The winter term was taught by Mr. H. D. Smith, chairman of your school board. One of your committee, with several teachers, took occasion to pay Mr. Smith a visit near the close of his term, and were very favorably impressed by the quiet and orderly appearance of the school. We found here one of the pleasantest school-rooms in town, and judging from the ready and cheerful attention of the scholars, the school is of the same character. Mr. Smith's method of instruction is largely practical in its character, and he endeavors to teach his scholars ideas rather than make them a mere storehouse for text books. We were particularly interested in his practical manner of teaching grammar, which included the synthesis as well as analysis of sentences.
This and several other districts have been favored with teachers who have tried to see how much they could do for their schools instead of seeing how easy it is to teach, and we think the results of their efforts show very plainly which class is the most profitable.

_Dist. No. 6, W. F. Caldwell, Agent._

Both terms were taught by Miss Clara E. Dennen. Miss Dennen proved to be an excellent teacher for this school, and by her energy and zeal made a very marked improvement. The order was very good.

_Dist. No. 7, II. K. Pratt, Agent._

Miss Alice Pratt, teacher of the summer school. The school made a good appearance at the closing examination, and we believe it was a profitable one.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Bennie Pratt. Mr. Pratt labored under the disadvantage of having for his pupils his former schoolmates, and the prejudice to be overcome in such cases. Yet with this difficulty he met with good success for a first attempt at teaching. The deportment and readiness to answer questions in this school are features worthy of imitation. Our visits are always pleasant to us.

_Dist. No. 8, G. C. Pratt, Agent._

This school has been under the charge of Miss Emma E. Shurtleff, of Paris, who has shown herself a faithful worker in the school-room, and we think no school in town has made greater progress during the year.

_Dist. No. 10, S. B. Waterman, Agent._

The first term was taught by Lewis M. Perkins, of Mechanic Falls, and was his first school. He labored well for the scholars, but lack of experience made it a hard school for a young teacher. We think that success in our schools depends on experienced teachers as well as on their ability.
The summer term was taught by Charlotte Dudley. Owing to sickness of some of the pupils the school was closed prematurely, and was not visited by your committee at the close, so that we are unable to judge of the progress.

The fall term was taught by Miss C. A. Merrill, a graduate of Wesleyan Academy, of Wilbraham, Mass. Miss Merrill came well recommended, and brought both experience and ability to aid her in her labors, and by her untiring zeal won the respect of her scholars and the confidence of her patrons. Winter term is also under her instruction, but does not close until after March meeting.

Dist. No. 11, Reuben Rich, Agent.

Both terms were taught by Miss Emma Barrows, of Paris, who met with fair success.

Dist. No. 12, Levi Dawes, Agent.

The summer term was taught by Miss Angie Washburn. The school was not well attended, owing to the fact that a teacher has not yet been found who could suit more than one or two families at a time. If one is pleased with the school it is reason enough why the rest should not like it. Miss Washburn made those that attended show marked improvement. The winter term was taught by Miss Estes, who met with fair success.

GENERAL REMARKS.

In reviewing the schools for the past year and comparing the results with those of previous years, we are gratified to find that good advancement has been made in a majority of our schools. Care has been taken in most instances to select good teachers, and we have granted certificates only where we felt certain that the candidates possessed the necessary qualifications.
An idea prevails that in a school of young scholars, “anybody will do for teacher.” If there is any place where a thoroughly trained teacher is needed, it is in a primary school. Scholars form habits as readily as older persons, and if through the influence of a poor teacher they form habits of indolence or negligence, it will take years of careful training to correct them.

If one of you had a valuable horse to train you would not employ a green boy with no experience, merely because he could be hired cheaply, but you would employ a man of experience.

And yet the aim of some agents seems to be, to hire the teacher that will teach the cheapest.

In conclusion let us add if you will take the same interest in your public schools, that you do in your ordinary business affairs, we should soon have a system of schools that would be a source of gratification to every true friend of education. But until you do this you cannot expect to have first-class schools.

One word to agents and we close. We particularly urge upon agents the importance of using their best judgment in the employment of teachers. We are confident that three fourths of the success of our schools depend upon having teachers adapted to the school. We believe the employment of the teachers should be the duty of the committee. But as the town has expressed a wish to have the teachers employed by the agents, we are relieved from this responsible and sometimes disagreeable task.

HOWARD D. SMITH,
Chairman S. S. Com.