

1880

Annual Report of the Selectmen, Treasurer, and Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Oxford, for the Year Ending February 14, 1880

Oxford (Me.)

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Chas. Holbrook

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen, Treasurer,

—AND—

SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,

—OF THE—

TOWN OF OXFORD.

For the Year ending February 14, 1880.

—to:—

CHAS. HOLBROOK,

CARD & JOB PRINTER.

Otisfield, Maine.

TOWN OFFICERS.

— tot —

<i>Clerk,</i>	-	-	-	-	THOMAS BAKER.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	-			-	GEO. E. HAWKES.
<i>Selectmen,</i>	-	-	-	-	{ WM. N. THOMAS. W. E. HOLMES. S. D. EDWARDS.
<i>Collector and Constable,</i>				-	SETH H. FAUNCE.
<i>Constable,</i>				-	A. S. FAUNCE.

REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

————— (\$) —————

Total Valuation, \$14,705.00

APPROPRIATED AND ASSESSED.

State Tax,	2,059.60
County Tax,	575.73
Support Poor, Pay Town Charges and defray debts,	3,000.00
Support of Schools,	1,325.00
Delinquent Highway,	98.72
Overlay,	234.70
	7,293.75
Total	7,293.75

Poll Tax, \$3.00

Rate, .037

Supplementary Tax. \$18.00

School Account.

Amount raised by Town,	\$1325.00
Mill Tax from State,	535.64
School Fund from State,	232.20
Total	\$2092.84

APPORTIONED TO DISTRICTS.

District No. 1.	\$101.42	
" " 2.	105.00	
" " 3.	710.00	
" " 4.	150.00	
" " 5.	103.75	
" " 6.	110.00	
" " 7.	172.50	
" " 8.	100.00	
" " 9.	33.75	
" " 10.	292.50	
" " 11.	101.42	
" " 12.	112.50	2092.84

Poor now on Farm.

NAMES AND AGES OF INMATES.

David Cates, 80; Harriet Morey, 35; Thomas Dean. Transient
Paupers 6. Mary Moore died near close of year.

Value of Property on Farm.

4 Oxen,	\$250.00	
7 Cows,	190.00	
3 Three year Olds,	80.00	
3 Two " "	60.00	
3 Yearlings,	18.00	
3 Sheep,	12.00	
3 Swine,	27.00	
27 Hens,	10.80	
15 Tons of Hay,	210.00	
1 Ton Straw,	6.00	
Furniture,	270.17	
Farming Tools,	269.09	
Grain and Provisions,	242.31	
Total Value,	1645.37	1645.37
Value Feb. 15th. 1878,	1506.14	1506.14
Gain,	139.23	139.23

Expenditures for Farm.

Paid Superintendent's Salary,	\$225.00	
" Extra Labor,	80.00	
" Whitney & Clark for Flour and Grain,	95.85	
" Silas E. King, Store Bill,	89.39	
" Thomas Baker, " "	18.52	
" Durell & Hawkes, Store Bill,	17.94	
" I. A. Denison & Co., Bill 1878,	8.00	
" Blake & Edwards,	3.65	
" F. C. Merrill. Plow and Repairs,	18.65	
" S. Richardson & Co., Stove,	14.00	
" O. Descoteaux, Blacksmith Bill 1878.	3.78	
" J. F. Thomas, Cart,	28.00	
" Wm. N. Thomas, Grass Seed &c.,	8.55	
" C. A. Shurtleff, Phosphate,	11.12	
" Bolster & Robinson, Seed Corn (Fodder)	2.45	
" N. C. McKeen, Blacksmith Bill 1878,	13.28	
" W. E. Holmes, Beans for Seed,	2.00	
" S. H. Bumpus, Pigs,	6.00	
" J. S. Martin, Steer,	9.00	
" H. K. Pratt, Repairs,	3.75	
" N. C. McKeen, Blacksmith,	8.88	
" T. S. Robinson, Store Bill,	5.47	
" T. Baker, Coffin for Mary Moore.	12.00	
Cash paid by Supt. for Supplies &c.,	30.04	
Total Expenditures,	\$715.32	\$715.32

Receipts from Farm.

Board of Job Dean, 1 year,	104.00	
Wood sold Harper Man'f'g Co.,	204.39	
Cash for Butter sold,	18.35	
" " Calves "	9.75	
" " Hay "	17.40	
" " Poultry "	2.00	
" " Lamb's Skin,	.40	
" " Cow's Hide.	4.18	
Paid Thomas Baker on Store Bill,	6.90	
" Silas E. King " " "	33.49	
" T. S. Robinson, " " "	2.24	
Keeping Tramps,	6.50	
Property more than last year,	139.23	
Total Receipts,	_____	548.83
Total Expenditure.	715.32	
" Receipts,	548.83	
Cost of Poor on Farm,	_____	166.49

We have hired the old Superintendent, Mr. Martin, another year for the salary as paid him last year.

Cost of Poor off Farm.

John Heyer,	\$2.50	
Sarah Hamlin,	13.70	
S. J. Young,	12.00	
Nicholas Tripp,	6.00	
James Hale,	6.75	
Alice Paine,	12.00	
Tramps,	10.25	
Total	_____	\$63.20
Due from Town of Raymond on account James Hale,	6.00	
" " " " Poland " " Nicholas Tripp,	6.00	
Total	_____	12.00
Net Cost,	_____	53.20

Town Officers Bills, 1878.

Roscoe Brown, Selectman,	\$9.75	
S. P. Stuart, "	10.25	
S. S. Smith, "	2.25	
Geo. Hazen, Supervisor,	3.25	
S. H. Faunce, Collector,	100.00	
	_____	\$125.50

Town Officers Bills 1878. brought up, \$125.50

Town Officers Bills, 1879.

Thomas Baker, Clerk,	\$2.00	
Geo. E. Hawkes, Treasurer.	20.00	
Wm. N. Thomas, Selectman,	70.40	
W. E. Holmes, "	48.25	
S. D. Edwards, "	38.00	
A. L. Hersey, Supervisor,	83.00	
S. H. Faunce, Collector,	80.00	
S. H. Faunce, Constable,	6.00	\$347.65
		<hr/>
		473.15

Resources for the year 1879

Total Assessment,	\$7293.75	
Supplementary Tax,	18.00	
		<hr/>
Total		\$7311.75
State Tax,	2059.60	
County Tax,	575.73	
Schools,	1325.00	
Discount allowed Coll.	192.52	
Abatement,	36.33	\$4189.18
		<hr/>
Available Taxes,		3122.57

Receipts Outside of Taxation.

For Boarding and Clothing Job Dean,	\$104.05	
" Licences for Shows,	6.25	
" Bonds sold for Cash.	830.43	
" Robinson Manf'g Co's Highway Tax.	151.26	
" Wood sold Harper Manf'g Co.,	108.87	
" Fines for Non-Attendance at School.	4.00	
" Jug seized with Liquor.	.16	
" Exchange of Bonds.	.20	\$1205.22
		<hr/>
Available Net Resources for 1879.		4327.79

Paid out for the year 1879.

Poor off Farm.	\$63.20	
" on "	166.49	
Repairs of Highways.	131.28	
Town Officers Bills. 1878.	125.00	
" " " 1879.	347.65	
Miscellaneous not included under other Heads	270.37	
Interest on Debt.	809.36	\$1913.35

Liabilities.

Outstanding Bonds,	\$7500.00	
" Orders,	6742.51	
Due School Districts,	472.45	\$14714.06

Resources.

Due from Collector, S. H. Faunce,	3751.23	
" " " S. Fuller,	94.14	
" " Harper Manf'g Co., for Wood,	162.14	
" " Town of Poland,	6.00	
" " " Raymond,	6.00	
" " " Hebron,	3.00	
" " Prebles,	2.50	
Cash in Treasury,	39.21	
State Aid,	36.00	
Tax Titles,	11.06	
Unpaid Nonresident Tax turned in,	197.92	\$4309.20
Debt above Resources,		10405.86
Debt less than last year,	194.66	

Treasurer's Account.

Geo. E. Hawkes,	Dr.	
To Cash in Treasury Feb. 15th. 1878.	\$.04	
" " Recd. from Bills of 1872.	1.30	
" " " " " " 1875.	30.00	
" " " " " " 1877.	150.00	
" " " " " " 1878.	2350.26	
" " " " " " 1879.	1803.51	
" " " " Non-Resident Taxes Paid.	25.93	
" " " Outside of Taxation.	1205.22	
" " " From State for Schools.	767.84	\$3334.10
Contra.	Cr.	
By Cash paid out as per vouches examined,	\$6096.97	
" Unpaid Non-Resident Taxes.	197.92	
" Cash in Treasury,	39.21	6334.10

We have this day audited the accounts of Geo. E. Hawkes, Treasurer, and find them correct in all particulars.

Oxford. Me., Feb. 14th, 1880.

WM. N. THOMAS, } Selectmen
W. E. HOLMES, } of
S. D. EDWARDS. } Oxford.

In accordance with a vote of the town to bond \$12,000.00 of its indebtedness, the Selectmen and Treasurer have raised bonds bearing 4 1-2 per cent interest to the amount of \$7500.00, thereby saving to the taxpayers, annually over One Hundred Dollars.

The remaining bonds are gradually being taken, notwithstanding the recent revival of business, and the rapidly increasing calls for money. We would recommend raising and appropriating funds as follows:

For support of Highways, at least	\$3,000.00
.. .. " Schools,	1,400.00
.. .. " Poor, Paying Debt, Interest, &c..	3,500.00
.. .. " F. Holmes Library the full amount allowed by law.	

We have examined the bills of 1874 and 1875, in collector Fuller's hands, and would recommend to the town to abate such uncollected taxes as seem to it to be worthless.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. N. THOMAS,	} Selectmen of Oxford.
W. E. HOLMES,	
S. D. EDWARDS,	

List of Orders Drawn from February 15, 1879 to February 14, 1880.

1879.	
182	Jno. B. Robinson, Interest on Orders, 12.84
183	C. A Strout Teaching District No. 10, 105.00
184	King & Hall, Orders taken up, 77.15
185	S. E. King, Interest on Order 217, 14.00
186	King & Hall, " " " 11.81
187	Emina C. King, Teaching District No. 8, 24.00
188	S. G. Walker, Repairs School District No 5, 4.00
189	S. B. Fickett, Boarding District No. 12, 10.40
190	S. C. Russel, Labor on Highway, 2.50
191	Allen & Moore, Printing Town Reports for 1878, 17.00
192	Hiram Gilbert, Care of Town House, 5.00
193	A. S. Faunce, Services with Hearse, 10.00
194	S. S. Smith, Wood School District No. 5, 9.25
195	S. P. Stuart, Services as Selectman &c., 10.25
196	S. S. Smith, " " " and Highway Labor, 2.25
197	Roscoe Brown, " " " 9.75
198	" " " Horse hire and Cash Paid, 20.60
199	Cyrus Brown, Labor on Highway in 1878, 9.76
200	T. S. Robinson, Plank and Lumber for Highway, 12.34
201	H. G. C. Perkins, Board and Teaching in District No. 1, 35.00
1	Town of Buckfield, Support John Hyer, 2.50
2	S. Richardson & Co., Stove for Farm, 14.00
3	Lizzie M. Griggs, Teaching District No. 3, 53.00
4	A. E. Briggs, " " " " 100.00
5	Electra Files " " " 12, 30.00
6	Nellie M. Pendexter, " " " 3, 46.90
7	Geo. F. Kavanough, Building Fires " " 8.00
8	Geo. Hazen, Bal. Supervisor Services, 3.25
9	" " Making Warrants Non-Attendance, 8.00

10	O. Descoteaux, Blacksmith Bill,	3.78
11	T. L. Robinson, Supplies, District No. 10,	5.03
12	" " " " " " " " 3,	63.98
13	Rosco Brown, Interest on Orders,	42.29
14	Abner B. Faine, Wood, District No. 7,	6.80
15	Julia M. Wardwell, Orders taken up,	437.23
16	Levi Daws, Boarding, District No. 12,	7.80
17	C. H. Thayer, Wood, " " 6,	9.00
18	Freeland Howe, Insurance, District No. 3,	67.00
19	Jno. F. Thomas, Cart and Wheels for Farm,	28.00
20	A. S. Faunce, Whitewashing, District No. 3,	3.67
21	S. H. Faunce, Abatement Bills 1872,	40.25
22	Lavinia Smith, Orders taken up and Interest,	500.00
23	Interest on Orders taken up,	31.94
24	Rose M. Giles, Teaching, District No. 8,	40.00
25	W. M. Hall, Boarding, District No. 3,	39.00
26	Jonas W. Strout, Wood " " 11,	9.00
27	James W. Downing, Painting House, District No. 2,	15.00
28	Rosco Brown, Interest on Orders,	63.33
29	Geo. F. Walker, Repairs, District No. 3,	14.58
30	Wm. N. Thomas, Supplies for Farm,	8.55
31	Geo. F. Walker, School-yard Fence District No. 3,	11.28
32	Chas. Wight, Lumber for School-yard Fence, " "	13.99
33	Ann Dean, Orders taken up and Interest,	1072.16
34	Seth H. Faunce, Interest on Orders,	37.15
35	" " " " Vestry Agent, Interest on Orders,	5.06
36	Edward P. Faunce, interest on Orders,	9.15
37	C. A. Shurtleff, Supplies for Farm,	11.12
38	Bolster & Robinson, Supplies for Farm,	2.45
39	Ann Dean, Bal. of Interest on Orders taken up,	3.57
40	Jno. F. Martin, Labor on Farm,	50.00
41	" " " " Boys " " " "	20.00
42	W. E. Holmes, Beans for Farm, and Keeping Tramps,	3.00
43	N. C. McKean, Blacksmith Bill for Farm	13.22
44	A. W. Potter, Teaching, District No. 3,	81.00
45	Annie Tenney " " " " 2,	40.00
46	Laura Dean, Interest on Orders,	71.92
47	Lizzie M. Griggs, Teaching District No. 3.	63.00
48	Nellie M. Pendexter, " " " " " "	49.50
49	H. B. Rich, Timber for Highway, District No. 20,	5.00
50	S. A. Lamb, Boarding Teacher District No. 4,	10.40
51	C. H. Flood, Labor on Highway " " 18,	13.50
52	F. S. Chadbourne, Wood District No. 2,	7.00
53	A. G. Hinds, Keeping Tramps,	6.00
54	Bertie M. Phillips, Board and Teaching, District No. 12,	45.00
55	Rosco Brown, Interest on Orders,	10.02
56	Ada V. Haskell, Teaching, District, No. 10,	45.00
57	Myra A. Allen, " " " " 7,	40.00
58	Chas. F. King, Board, " " " " 4,	20.00
59	Ella F. Chadbourne, Teaching, District No. 4,	30.00
60	Lizzie A. Wardwell " " " " 11,	35.25
61	W. S. Dodge, Board, " " " " 10,	25.00
62	M. Lizzie Sawyer, Teaching, " " " " 4,	32.00
63	Wm. N. Thomas, Cash paid Hamlin Family,	5.00
64	Whitney & Clark, Supplies for Farm,	48.71

65	Lloyd Andrews, Wood, District No. 10,	16.00
66	Dustin Martin, Labor on Farm, haying,	10.00
67	Geo. R. Paine, " " Highway,	11.18
68	Lloyd Andrews, Supplies, District No. 7,	2.27
69	Franklin Sargent " " " "	.55
70	I. A. Fletcher, Interest on Order,	41.67
71	Thomas Baker, Coffin and Robe for Sarah Hamlin,	8.70
72	Dora M. Jackson, Teaching, District No. 5.	20.00
73	Chas. L. Hathaway, Shingles, " " 4,	17.87
74	Samuel H. Bumpus, Pigs for Farm,	6.00
75	Elba A. Potter, Teaching, District No. 6,	30.00
76	Rosco Brown, Interest on Order,	18.00
77	David H. Millet, Board, District No. 1,	16.00
78	Benj. Sanborn, Interest on Order,	12.00
79	Cyrus S. Hayes, Bridge Stringers and Trucking,	11.42
80	Horatio K. Pratt, Orders taken up and Interest,	237.27
81	T. J. Frost, Boarding, District No. 5,	13.60
82	T. L. Robinson, Lumber for Bridge,	22.64
83	Seth H. Faunce, Discount on Taxes to Sept. 15,	161.02
84	" " " Abatement,	27.00
85	" " " " "	6.00
86	A. T. Stone, Wood, District No. 12.	6.00
87	Mary A. Nelson, Interest on Orders.	78.04
88	F. C. Merrill Plow and Repairs for Farm.	18.65
89	C. R. Millet, Repairs on Bucknam Bridge,	5.00
90	A. W. Potter, Teaching, District No. 3,	101.25
91	E. C. Andrews, Referee in Preble Case,	5.00
92	S. E. Ripley, Teaching, District No. 8,	35.00
93	Nellie M. Pendexter, Teaching, District No. 3,	60.75
94	Lizzie M. Griggs, " " " "	72.00
95	Jno. F. Martin, Labor on Farm,	25.00
96	Jacob S. Martin, Steer for Farm,	9.00
97	Ada V. Haskell, Teaching, District No. 10,	45.00
98	Whitney & Clark, Supplies for Farm and Paupers off,	65.14
99	Mark Crockett, Wood, District No. 4.	3.00
100	Blake & Edwards, Repairs for Stove on Farm,	3.65
101	W. S. Dodge, Board, District No. 10,	20.00
102	Mary Ann Nelson, Orders taken up,	84.95
103	Laura A. Nelson, Interest on Orders,	53.15
104	H. K. Pratt, Interest on Orders taken up,	68.73
105	V. A. Greenleaf, Teaching, District No. 2.	53.80
106	Ann Dean, Order taken up and Interest,	308.21
107	J. F. Fuller, Repairs, District No. 6,	11.49
108	C. S. Hayes, Wood, District No. 3,	11.85
109	S. H. Faunce, Interest on Orders,	4.83
110	Rosco Brown, " " " "	6.55
111	Geo. H. Jones, Stationery, Blank Books, &c..	7.88
112	A. W. Potter, Teaching, District No. 3,	30.98
113	Lizzie M. Griggs, " " " "	40.00
114	Nellie M. Pendexter, " " " "	37.75
115	Geo. F. Kavanough care of house District No. 3,	13.10
116	Wm. F. Caldwell, Interest on Order.	12.00
117	Seth H. Faunce, Discount on Taxes to January,	31.50
118	Lavinia Smith, Interest on Order.	20.01

119	H. K. Pratt, Repairs, District No. 7	1.60
120	" " " " Town Farm,	3.75
121	N. C. McKeen, Blacksmith Bill for Farm.	8.88
122	F. B. Andrews, Teaching, District No. 12.	64.00
123	Lizzie A. Wardwell, " " " " 11,	68.06
124	John H. Armstrong, " " " " 1.	25.50
125	" " " " Wood, " " " 1.	7.00
126	E. V. Walker, damage on Highway,	8.00
127	Emma E. Shurtleff, Board and Teaching, District No. 5,	65.00
128	S. E. Ripley, Teaching, District No. 8,	40.00
129	Annie B. Crooker, " " " " 9.	33.75
130	Rosco Brown, Interest on Orders.	12.00
131	Jno. F. Martin, Services on Farm,	117.96
132	I. A. Denison & Co., Cider brls. for Farm 1878,	8.00
133	Town of Norway, Road Material,	3.00
134	S. D. Edwards, Cash paid for Drain Pipe,	8.00
135	King and Hall, Interest on Order.	10.37
136	S. H. Faunce, Abatements of Taxes.	54.50
137	S. H. Faunce, Collecting Taxes 1878,	100.00
138	" " " " " " 1879,	80.00
139	" " " " Services as Constable 1879,	6.00
140	Jno. F. Martin, Labor on Farm,	60.00
141	A. L. Faunce, Services with Hearse.	18.17
142	S. S. Smith, Guardian, Interest on Job Dean's Order	14.69
143	Durell & Hawks, Bal. of Town Farm Acct.,	24.44
144	Thomas Baker, Services as Clerk,	2.00
145	" " " " Bal. of Town Farm Account,	11.62
146	Silas E. King, " " " " " "	55.90
147	T. L. Robinson, Bal. of Town Farm Account.	3.23
148	" " " " Bridge Plank,	12.19
149	Dr. A. L. Hersey, Medical attendance on Poor.	35.00
150	Geo. E. Hawkes, Stationery and Stamps,	1.36
151	" " " " Services as Treasurer,	20.00
152	Dr. A. L. Hersey, Supervisor,	83.00
153	Silas E. King, Goods for District No. 10,	2.98
154	Geo. E. Andrews, Abatement of Highway Tax,	3.16
155	W. E. Holmes, Cash paid out,	2.92
155 1-2	S. D. Edwards, Cash paid out,	5.14
156	Thomas Baker, Coffins, Alice Paine and Mary Moore,	24.00
157	Wm. N. Thomas paid Frank Rawson for labor on new road,	125.00
158	A. G. Hinds, Keeping Tramps.	1.50
159	W. E. Holmes, Services as Selectman,	48.25
160	Wm. N. Thomas, " " " " " "	70.40
161	S. D. Edwards " " " " " "	38.00
162	Rosco Brown, Attending Preble Case,	1.50
163	Geo. H. Jones, Goods furnished District No. 3,	7.43

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT.

—:(\$):—

Your Supervisor having in a measure attended to the duties pertaining to his office, would respectfully submit the following as his report:

A faithful discharge of my duty to the Town requires that I should give credit to all parties where such is justly due, and that I should not withhold censure or criticism in any case where it is called for, however unpleasant it may be to me. I desire to exercise the greatest charity for all, and heartily disclaim malice towards any. Our Schools are far from occupying the high standard I could desire, although it is my pleasure to note some improvement in the right direction. A want of interest and active cooperation are the part of Parents in many of the districts, is, as it always has been, an unfortunate hindrance in the way of success. The district school should claim the first place in the minds of all parents having scholars, whose success in life almost wholly depends upon the foundation, which in the present condition of affairs must be laid here if at all. Send a child into the world destitute of that amount of preliminary outfit so bountifully provided for him here, and the outlook is truly deplorable. I have to record that there are in our midst several cases where parents neglect to send their scholars to school, even the time required by the compulsory law, in spite of the fact, that the penalties were enforced in several cases last spring. This neglect, as the part of parents, is criminal, and should be frowned down by public opinion. These parents are, I believe without exception destitute of education, and for this reason perhaps, are more the object of pity than contempt. That dog-in-the-manger disposition that would consign a child to the same misery that the parent endures, is, truly incomprehensible to the ordinary mind. Irregularity in attendance at school is next to no attendance, as the scholar who pursues this plan will take no interest in the studies, as he must of necessity be so far behind his class as not to be able to do thorough work, and a persistence in this course will soon drive him from the school altogether, as his pride, if he happens to have inherited any, will lead him to choose this course rather than to step down into a class much below him in age.

Faithful and constant attendance engenders a love for the work, and the most stupid child by diligent application will acquire such an education as will fit him to take a place among the intelligent class in community.

The demands upon the coming generation will be much greater than upon the present, and there is no longer the excuse that the doors of the school house are closed to any. Ample provision is made for all and I believe the time is coming when the man must receive a certain amount of education, or he will be deprived of the right to take part in the affairs of government. Bills have been before the Legislature in our own State, for several years past, proposing an educational test for eligibility to hold office, and nothing can be plainer, than the entire unfitness of an individual for any position without such qualification. Self government demands intelligence and such an amount of culture as is comprehended in our common school course. To deprive the child of this, or in any way defraud him of any considerable portion of it, is a crime against the child and society. I believe our common school course should embrace at least eight months in the year, and that all between the ages of seven and eighteen should, unless detained by physical irascibility, be *compelled* if need be, to avail themselves of the full course. If laws will not reap the

delinquents in this matter all powerful public opinion can. Let no person be employed by any service to deprive him of the public school; allow no scholars, or those who should be such, in the shops or loafing places. Enforce the compulsory and truant laws if they can be reached in no other way. That little more than one-half of the scholars in town attend, at any term of school is certainly not creditable, and a combined effort should be made to correct this evil.

The office of school agent should be entrusted to those only who are willing to devote to the duties, all the time needed to the most faithful attention to the wants of the district. The man who, acting in this capacity, will wait for tramps who are in pursuit of school money, to employ as teachers, are wholly unfit for the position. A beginner in teaching may meet the conditions of a first class instructor, but the risk is too much to be incurred. Employ those, who have by experience gained a reputation, or who have by some special outfit at least made success possible. Having once secured the services of a competent and faithful teacher retain him as long as he manifests an interest in the school, You cannot get a good teacher unless you pay for his services.

BRIEF OUTLINE OF SCHOOL WORK IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS.

DISTRICT NO. 1—W. W. WILKINS, AGENT.

Amount of School money, \$101.42. Two terms. Summer term, ten weeks, Miss Ella F. Chadbourne, teacher. This school needs the services of teachers who are willing to work, as it is a little behind in rank. Miss Chadbourne devoted her best energies to make her school a success and with good results. Winter term not closed, taught by Mr. Armstrong. His employment was an experiment, as he had never taught, and had no special qualifications. Good results are hoped for and not impossible.

DISTRICT NO. 2—S. F. LIBBY, AGENT.

Amount of School money, \$105.00. Summer term taught by Miss Tenney, who labored in a quiet way without special enthusiasm, and was no more than fairly successful. Winter term, taught by Mr. V. A. Greenleaf, promised fairly at the first visit, but as I received no notice of the time of closing I cannot report the result. A little more care in the selection of teachers would be followed by gratifying improvement in this district.

DISTRICT NO. 3—GEORGE F. WALKER, AGENT.

Amount of money, \$710.00. Whole number of scholars in the district, 189. I visited the Grammar School at the close of the winter term, '78-9, taught by Mr. A. E. Briggs, I cannot report it as a success. Mr. B's manner of teaching is most unsatisfactory, and a want of thoroughness was everywhere manifested. His government was by no means good and the result was painfully apparent in the condition of the school building with its broken window panes, and the marred and scarred walls for which nobody was responsible. After Mr. Walker's election as agent he at once set about putting the building in condition for the spring term, and we are most happy to report that very little difficulty has been found in keeping it in good repair throughout the entire year. An investigation of the state of the funds appropriated for the schools found them short, and the amount of \$128.00 by having been drawn from time to time. This circumstance crippled the agent very much in his work for the year; the summer term being but nine weeks in duration, and the winter term no more than fourteen.

Miss Nellie M. Pendexter has been in charge of the Primary department for four terms, and I am happy to say no better selection could

have been made for the position. The school was in a chaotic condition when Miss P. entered it, both in the matter of discipline and acquirements. Many of the little ones had never known the meaning of orders in or out of school, and the result, where fifty of these were put into a room together, can be better imagined than described. Under her administration, most happy results have followed, and now a more orderly company of little ones cannot be found in any school room. Her achievements in teaching have been notable, and many older scholars can learn how to read by listening to the little beginners. She should by all means be retained in this position.

The Intermediate, under the charge of Miss Lizzie M. Griggs for the three terms past, is also a model in all that goes to make a good school. Systematic in teaching, inspiring her pupils with her own enthusiasm, governing well and quietly. She has done a noble work, combining general information with special teaching, nothing of a superficial nature can be detected in her work. She, too, is the right one in the right place and should be retained so long as she continues in her present course.

The Grammar school has been under the instruction of A. W. Potter, a graduate of Bates College. Mr. P. found the school in a very unsatisfactory condition, both as to acquirements and discipline. With a few conscientious diligent scholars, there were others who manifested no interest in the school, and whose time was divided between the school room and the street, the latter presenting more attraction than the former. No Systematic course of study had been attempted here, and there were bad influences at work which had become so notorious in the district, that many parents hesitated as to whether more of good or evil was to result from the attendance of their scholars. Mr. Potter, aided by your Supervisor, set about to correct these defects, and if possible to introduce some system and too root out the evils complained of. A Systematic grade was determined upon extending to all departments, whereby the rank of each scholar should depend upon individual effort. The grand effort of this movement was at once manifested, and a more diligent devotion to the school was secured. I believe the schools in this district are entering upon an era of prosperity, such as has never been before, if judiciously fastened by the parent.

There are those who are entirely indifferent in the matter of the attendance of their children at school, and who will not send them unless compelled to do so. I would suggest whether it would not be well to publish the names of such in the annual report?

DISTRICT NO. 4—SAMUEL WEBBER, AGENT.

Amount of money, \$150.00. Summer term, Miss Lizzie Sawyer, teacher. School well disposed and Miss Sawyer in her easy, quiet manner worked conscientiously, but has hardly the enthusiasm to insure the largest success. Fair progress is all we can report.

The winter term now in session with Mr. Fernald Sawyer, teacher. Mr. S. has had considerable experience, and the beginning was such as to give great promise. The school has been interrupted by an epidemic of measles which is an unfortunate circumstance in the way of the best results.

DISTRICT NO. 5—W. L. STANTON, AGENT.

Amount of money, \$103.75. The number of scholars in this district is very small, the full number registered at any time being only eleven. Miss Dora Jackson, teacher for the summer term. No great amount of enthusiasm was apparent, yet some progress was noticeable at the close.

Miss Shurtleff is teacher for the winter term just closed. Number of scholars at last visit, six, and fair progress was made.

DISTRICT NO. 6—JULIUS F. FULLER, AGENT.

Amount of money, \$110. Ten weeks summer school, Miss Elba A. Potter, teacher. Fifteen scholars registered with an average attendance of thirteen. Miss P. has had little experience in teaching and the success was in no way marked.

Winter term under the instruction of Mr. Elder, now in session. The school promised fairly at the first visit.

DISTRICT NO. 7—L. D. ANDREWS, AGENT.

Amount of money, \$172.50. Length of summer term ten weeks; teacher, Miss Myra A. Allen. Miss Allen is well qualified by nature and acquirements for a teacher as was apparent at my visit at the beginning of the term. By an unfortunate circumstance I failed to visit her school at the close and cannot report the progress. The winter term now in session, Mr. Bennie Pratt, teacher, and promised well at the outset.

DISTRICT NO. 8—ALBERT WITHAM, AGENT.

Amount of money, \$100.00. The smallest district in town, there being only six scholars now residing within its limits. There is, however, enthusiasm enough among the inhabitants to do great credit to a much larger number. Miss L. E. Ripley, teacher through the entire season. She is a thoroughly qualified, faithful, conscientious teacher, and the little band of scholars who were models of punctuality showed marked success.

DISTRICT NO. 10—HENRY COY, AGENT.

Amount of money, \$292.50. Miss Ada V. Haskell, teacher for the summer and fall terms. Miss Haskell is well qualified for her work and has the best method of teaching, and in a school where there were not so many conflicting elements would do excellent work. A new school house and a grade with two departments is needed here, one teacher cannot do justice to all the demands made upon him in the present condition of affairs. The winter term taught by Mr. Charles A. Strout has been as successful as could be hoped for under the circumstances. Mr. S. is one of those teachers who believe in doing thorough work, as was shown in the examination near the close.

DISTRICT NO. 11—HORACE RICH, AGENT.

Amount of money, \$101.42. Both terms of school under the instruction of Mrs. Lizzie A. Wardwell, who combined an aptitude for teaching and interesting her scholars to an unusual degree. She found a school backward in every sense and her task seemed a discouraging one. She accomplished much, and a few more terms of such work would place the school on a good footing. A backward school should by all means have the best teachers, by which means it will soon take place among the forward. The average attendance at this school was larger than that of any school in town except in No. 8.

DISTRICT NO. 12—JARED WHITMAN, AGENT.

Amount of money, 112.50. Miss Bertie Phillips teacher of summer term. She made this school profitable by hard and patient work. This school has had too many inefficient teachers in the past, and we hope the district may be as fortunate in the selection of teachers in the future as during the present year. F. B. Andrews was the teacher for the winter term and was unsparing in his efforts for the improvement of the scholars, not counting an hour or so days time, extra, as of any account to

him personally .so long as the pupils were benefitted by it. The school is in much better condition for the years expenditure.

SUMMING UP.

A review of the report of the several schools, shows that in many of the districts, as in No. 3, 7, 10, 11, and 12, really good work has been done, while in no one school has there been decided incompetence. All of the teachers, without exception, have tried conscientiously to do their whole duty, the most of them with fair success. I hold that all cannot be first-class teachers as the capacity for this calling is an inheritance and is denied to a large number who are engaged in it at the present day. Natural and acquired abilities, with energy, and love of the work are the essentials for success. A complete change of the Reading and Spelling books has been made throughout the town on terms advantageous to the parents. Some more changes will be needed in the near future, and should be made so gradual as to bear as lightly as possible on the purchasers. We would recommend to the several districts an early call for the district meetings to give an opportunity to secure the best teachers, who are usually taken up at an early day. I have to record more than ordinary care of the school buildings the past year, no very marked case of Vandalism coming to my notice.

Respectfully Submitted,

A. L. Hersey.