

1885

# Annual Report of the Town Officers of the Town of Pittsfield, for the Municipal Year Ending Feb. 28, 1885

Pittsfield (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF PITTSFIELD,

For the Municipal Year Ending

**FEB. 28, 1885.**

PITTSFIELD:  
ADVERTISER STEAM JOB PRINT  
1885.

## REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN

### For the Fiscal Year Ending February 28, 1885.

#### *Schools.*

Raised by vote of town.....	\$1,530 00
State school fund and mill tax.....	915 20
Undrawn Mar. 1, 1884.....	462 90
	\$2,908 10
Amount drawn during the year.....	\$2,611 40
Undrawn Mar. 1, 1885.....	296 70
	\$2,908 10

#### *Poor Farm Account—Dr.*

Salary of Superintendent and wife.....	\$200 00
Paid for supplies, etc.....	187 15
Paid for Casket.....	11 00
Interest on Farm and stock.....	55 00
Decrease in value of stock and hay on Farm.....	75 00
	\$528 15

#### *Cr.*

Produce, etc., sold off the Farm.....	\$160 53
Stock “ “ “ “ .....	54 00
Labor in breaking roads.....	7 80
	\$222 33

Net cost of Poor Farm, exclusive of Doctors' bills..... \$305 82

#### *Cost of Poor Off the Farm.*

Ora Merrick, support, etc.....	\$45 75
Watson Merrick, support, etc.....	27 50
Grace May Corson, paid to town of Brighton.....	18 86
James Fowler.....	10 50
Mrs. Wm. H. Whitten, support, etc.....	1 82
William Cooper, jail pauper.....	36 08
Tramps .....	9 45
Cost of removing W. G. Whitney to Insane Hospital... ..	13 60
“ “ Eugene Merrick “ “ .....	13 60
Taking care of Whitney and Merrick before removal... ..	3 50
Paid to Insane Hospital, \$9.70; due, \$56.52.....	66 22
Due Palmyra for Wesley Campbell and family.....	30 00
	\$276 88

*Doctors' Bills.*

Paid Dr. J. C. Manson.....	\$110 62
“ “ Wm. S. Howe.....	35 50
“ “ F. J. Taylor.....	21 75
	—————\$167 87
Total cost of Poor.....	\$750 57

*Cemeteries, Etc.*

Paid Stephen Hodgkins, repairing fence.....	\$ 6 25
Cost of building new fence around Hodgkins burying ground.....	171 68
Paid Geo. Call, Sexton of village cemetery.....	12 45
Paid Snell & Davis for building hearse-house at West Pittsfield burying ground.....	125 13
Paid for lot for hearse house.....	5 00
Paid for double harnesses for hearse.....	65 00
Paid for hearse.....	375 00
	—————\$760 51

*Repairs on Sewers.*

Paid E. C. Bryant.....	\$ 3 95
Paid Benj. Thompson.....	35 91
Paid H. A. Morrell.....	5 25
Paid Grant & Ellingwood.....	2 15
Paid S. Phinney.....	2 50
	—————\$49 76

*Fire Department.*

Paid H. H. Gilman, labor.....	\$ 5 00
Paid H. B. Heald, “.....	2 62
Paid Burton & Rhoades, hydrant box.....	1 00
Paid Dexter & McMaster, lumber.....	10 00
Paid Robert Dobson & Co., labor.....	4 00
Paid Oliver Grover, trucking.....	1 20
Paid J. H. Davis.....	5 00
Paid J. H. Gilman, care of engine.....	10 00
Paid H. C. Pooler, labor, etc.....	9 50
Paid Union Hall Co., stove and pipe.....	11 20
Paid C. M. Hersey, labor, etc.....	7 11
	—————\$66 63

*Cost of Perambulating Town Lines.*

Between Pittsfield and Burnham.....	\$19 50
“ “ “ Clinton.....	42 60
	—————\$62 10
Cost of determining road boundaries by County Com- missioners, setting hubs, etc.....	\$27 80

*Cost of Fitting up Lock-up.*

Paid Burton & Rhoades, bunks.....	\$ 4 00
Paid J. H. Haskell, iron work.....	11 00
Paid John Dresser, bedding.....	6 00
Paid N. L. Perkins, blankets.....	3 50
	\$24 50

*Paid for Repairing Roads and Bridges.*

To Bryant Burton.....	\$ 3 25
C. H. Emery.....	11 87
Hunter & Humphrey, job.....	72 60
C. H. Foster, job.....	53 00
Volney Sprague.....	21 75
Eben Pooler.....	8 40
John H. Varnum.....	3 75
Edwin Wyman.....	3 67
C. O. Burns.....	8 00
L. L. Frost.....	21 50
Frank P. Davis.....	3 90
C. F. Gerald.....	5 00
Wm. D. Atkinson.....	92 96
C. C. Weeks.....	2 50
C. C. Weeks, job.....	55 50
A. H. Smith, job.....	62 85
C. H. Foster.....	26 75
Geo. O. Nelson.....	3 65
Wm. G. Foster, jobs.....	30 50
Rodney Johnson.....	7 00
Benj. Thompson.....	86 21
Moses Keene.....	5 00
Charles Tilton.....	5 00
W. P. Martin.....	21 50
H. G. Johonnett.....	40 00
S. J. Moore.....	13 50
Wm. Dyer.....	5 00
Joseph A. Call.....	3 50
Sullivan R. Taylor.....	1 00
Alonzo Patten.....	7 20
John Rogers.....	1 00
Noah Marsh.....	4 00
A. H. Smith.....	2 50
Llewellyn Parks.....	12 00
M. V. B. Stevens.....	2 50
A. B. Hodgkins.....	5 00
S. C. Pratt.....	21 95

George Berry.....	34 00
Stanley Small.....	10 00
James A. Hunter.....	34 58
John E. Simons.....	4 50
Charles Getchell.....	13 25
F. C. Dunlap.....	48 75
Geo. W. Patten.....	15 50
Joseph C. Patten.....	5 50
Wm. H. Carr .....	11 75
Frank Leavitt.....	21 00
Geo. D. Wilson.....	43 31
Wm. H. Dunlap.....	10 53
E. C. Bryant.....	147 89
S. A. Whitman.....	16 50
Amasa Taylor.....	5 00
Wm. T. Dingley.....	3 50
H. M. Johnson.....	19 20
Gideon Taylor.....	2 50
Enoch R. Carr.....	12 88
Charles Farnum.....	5 00
G. J. Connor.....	5 60
J. F. Connor.....	4 00
Samuel Wood.....	6 00
E. J. Garcelon.....	30 55
Dexter & McMaster, plank.....	77 34
Abial Call.....	10 50
Grant & Ellingwood, chains.....	1 37
Loren Whitten.....	4 50
B. F. Parks.....	2 00
Town of Hartland.....	8 05
H. A. Morrell.....	2 00
Ryan Fairbanks.....	5 25
	—————\$1,357 56

*Paid for Repairing and Re-building Sidewalks.*

To E. C. Bryant, labor, etc.....	\$ 83 15
Henry Judkins, labor, etc.....	10 87
J. H. Davis, job.....	10 00
W. H. Bailey, labor.....	1 00
Dexter & McMaster, lumber.....	304 14
Dexter & Sampson, nails.....	1 86
	—————\$411 02
Total expended on highways and sidewalks.....	\$1,768 58

*Paid for Breaking Roads.*

To Volney Sprague.....	\$ 9 30
B. F. Fairbrother.....	3 17
S. J. Moore.....	7 00
Joseph A. Call.....	10 00
Geo. D. Wilson.....	11 18
Geo. Wilkinson.....	17 40
Eri Small.....	11 75
W. H. Carr.....	28 35
George W. Patten.....	12 89
James F. Rand.....	7 50
Sullivan R. Taylor.....	42 35
Gideon Taylor.....	12 30
Thomas Holway.....	6 70
Joseph Patten.....	26 15
A. H. Taylor.....	36 35
Alonzo Patten.....	5 50
F. C. Dunlap.....	2 10
John Rogers.....	13 20
Wm. T. Dingley.....	4 95
Eben Pooler.....	8 35
Nathan Burton.....	12 96
Hiram Berdeen.....	16 70
George W. Maine.....	5 17
James Knight.....	11 63
Augustus F. Nelson.....	6 50
Noah Marsh.....	31 76
Calvin Jacobs.....	4 35
Samuel A. Whitman.....	2 55
Loren Whitten.....	26 03
Frank P. Davis.....	20 85
Alfred Huff.....	1 95
Llewellyn Parks.....	13 84
L. L. Frost.....	2 68
W. P. Martin.....	4 20
H. M. Johnson.....	10 12
G. J. Connor.....	5 00
J. H. Willis.....	7 84
Levi J. Merrick.....	1 50
J. V. Frederick.....	26 30
Howard Johnson.....	9 32
F. J. White.....	17 50
Albert Snell.....	4 04
W. H. Carr.....	31 30

To George D. Wilson.....	9 54
C. N. Rolf.....	4 91
E. J. Garcelon.....	20 00
C. C. Weeks.....	27 50
Stanley Small.....	33 87
Ryan Fairbanks.....	11 67
Albert H. Smith.....	23 24
George W. Patten.....	30 89
C. F. Gerald.....	9 85
Joseph C. Patten.....	37 40
C. H. Foster.....	32 82
Noah Marsh.....	15 00
Wm. F. Tilton.....	38 85
Dexter & McMaster.....	27 00
Frank P. Davis.....	19 95
F. C. Dunlap.....	4 00
H. A. Morrell.....	4 00
Llewellyn Parks.....	12 45
C. O. Burns.....	7 85
O. M. Frost.....	38 95
Frank J. White.....	3 60
David T. Jones.....	33 98
Randall Weymouth.....	32 30
Wm. T. Dingley.....	12 09
James A. Hunter.....	16 89
George W. Maine.....	6 15
Fred A. Chase.....	5 55
Eben Pooler.....	18 95
Hadley P. Johnson.....	1 95
S. J. Moore.....	8 25
Joseph P. Tuttle.....	25 05
Lorenzo Willis.....	37 00
	—————\$1,161 99

*Town Officers' Bills.*

Alonzo Patten, Selectman, etc.....	\$99 75
Chas. H. Foster, " ".....	79 25
E. C. Bryant, " ".....	56 25
E. C. Bryant, S. S. Committee.....	11 55
F. J. Taylor, ".....	20 25
C. C. Weeks, ".....	53 25
Levi Greenleaf, ".....	8 50
T. S. Dexter, Treasurer.....	25 00
A. D. Mitchell, Clerk.....	25 00
O. S. Haskell, Auditor.....	2 00



C. E. Vickery,     "     .....	2 00
D. M. Parks,     "     .....	2 00
Alonzo Patteu, Road Commissioner,.....	25 00
C. H. Foster,     "     .....	19 50
E. C. Bryant.     "     .....	3 75
	—————\$433 05

*Miscellaneous Bills Paid.*

Grand Army, for Memorial purposes.....	\$ 50 00
H. A. Morrell, insurance.....	12 50
C. A. Farwell, attorney's fees, etc.....	44 50
A. H. Smith, Collector's commission.....	154 47
Levi Greenleaf, attorney's fees.....	25 00
Paid for posting notices for town meetings.....	7 74
Paid Clerk of Courts, copy of road record.....	2 00
Paid for table, chairs, etc., for office.....	8 50
Paid Llewellyn Parks, serving notice on Mrs. Loud....	1 12
Paid for stove and funnel for Selectmen's office.....	14 41
Paid S. B. Waterhouse, taking deposition.....	2 00
Paid for blank books, stationery, postage, etc.....	26 60
Paid car-fare, hotel bills, teams, etc.....	70 00
	—————\$418 84

*Assessments and Receipts for 1884.*

Raised by vote of town for support of schools....	\$1,530 00
For support of Poor, town charges, indebtedness, etc.....	4,500 00
Highways and Bridges.....	1,500 00
Breaking Roads.....	500 00
Purchase of Hearse and to build Hearse-House .....	400 00
Fencing Hodgkins' burying-ground....	100 00
Double harness for hearse.....	75 00
Memorial purposes.....	50 00
Indebtedness in building Eel-Weir and Sibley Bridges.....	500 00
State Taxes.....	2,247 61
County Taxes.....	647 22
Supplemental Taxes.....	30 00
Overlayings .....	277 80
Received of Collector, interest on taxes.....	29 75
S. H. Mosher, delinquent highway taxes of 1883	3 74
C. H. Emery,     "     "     "     "     "	3 41
L. Baxter,     "     "     "     "     "	5 00
H. Berdeen,     "     "     "     "     "	3 71
J. H. Davis, license as auctioneer.....	2 00

License for circus.....	4 25
R. A. Conant, for stone.....	1 50
H. Nickerson, hall rent.....	23 47
	—————\$12,434 46

*Current Cash Expenses Chargeable to Fiscal Year 1884, Paid and Incurred.*

Schools.....	\$1,530 00
Poor.....	750 57
Cemeteries, Hearse, etc.....	760 51
Repairs on Sewers.....	49 76
Fire Department.....	66 63
Perambulating Town Lines.....	62 10
Road Lines.....	27 80
Lockup .....	24 50
Repairing Roads, etc.....	1,768 58
Breaking Roads.....	1,161 99
Town Officer's Bills.....	433 05
Miscellaneous .....	418 84
State Taxes.....	2,247 61
County Taxes.....	647 22
Abatements.....	173 40
Printing Report.....	22 50
Interest on Town's Debt.....	575 00
Charged to Indebtedness of Town.....	1,714 40
	—————\$12,434 46

*Old Bills Paid.*

L. J. Moore, breaking road.....	\$ 5 50
A. P. McMaster, Salome Hart case.....	35 00
Reuben Norton, watering trough.....	5 00
James Rand, road bill.....	5 28
S. R. Taylor, " .....	4 00
Nathan Burton " .....	12 00
John Gilman, care of engine.....	10 00
Alfred Huff, road bill.....	7 48
I. P. Tash, T. Eldridge pauper bill.....	10 00
O. S. Haskell & Son, printing.....	20 00
J. C. Connor, sidewalk.....	11 10
	—————125 36

Total valuation of Real Estate.....	\$466,470
"    "    " Personal Estate.....	111,290

Total Valuation of town.....	—————\$577,760
Number of Polls Assessed.....	450
Poll Tax.....	\$3 00
Rate of Taxation.....	\$1 90 on a \$100 00

Amount of indebtedness drawing 3 per cent.....	\$11,026 52
“ “ “ “ “ 3½ “ “ .....	8,039 46
“ “ “ “ not on interest.....	85 77
Total debt (outstanding orders) Mar. 1st, 1885 .....	\$19,151 75
Cash in the Treasury.....	\$2,361 73
Outstanding debt less cash in the Treasury.....	\$16,790 02
Amount of interest-bearing debt, Mar. 1st, 1884....	\$20,209 56
“ “ “ “ Mar. 1st, 1885....	19,065 98
Reduction of interest-bearing debt the past year, .....	\$1,143 58
Non-interest-bearing debt, Mar. 1st, 1884.....	\$271 35
“ “ “ “ Mar. 1st, 1885.....	85 77
Reduction of non-interest-bearing debt the past year .....	\$185 58
Total reduction of outstanding debt the past year.....	\$1,329 16

*Outstanding Liabilities, March 1, 1885.*

Outstanding orders, interest included.....	\$19,151 75
School money undrawn.....	296 70
Due Insane Hospital.....	56 52
Unsettled bills.....	25 00
	\$19,529 97

*Resources.*

Cash in Treasury.....	\$2,361 73
Due from H. S. Nickerson, Collector of 1879.....	187 10
Collector's deed, S. J. Moore farm.....	18 05
“ tax deed of 1880.....	10 94
“ “ “ 1881.....	8 92
Town Farm, stock, etc., as usually valued.....	1,850 00
Engine house, engine, hose, etc.....	1,600 00
Interest in Union Hall Building.....	5,000 00
Furniture, etc., in Selectmen's office.....	50 00
	\$11,086 74
Town's debt above resources.....	\$ 8,443 23
Debt as reported one year ago.....	\$9,858 27
Debt as reported to-day.....	8,443 23
Reduction of indebtedness since one year ago.....	\$1,415 04

Respectfully submitted.

ALONZO PATTEN,	}	Selectmen, Assessors and
C. H. FOSTER,		Overseers of the Poor
E. C. BRYANT,		of Pittsfield.

We have carefully examined the accounts of the Selectmen and Treasurer covering their administration of the affairs of the town during the fiscal year ending March 1, 1885. The books and accounts have been kept in a plain and systematic manner, and proper vouchers are on file for all expenditures.

We find the present financial standing of the town to be substantially as shown in the foregoing report.

Five outstanding orders, however, being among those last issued, aggregating \$61.10, and two items due the town amounting to \$65.60, were found to have been overlooked and omitted from the report. The actual indebtedness of the town is, therefore, \$4.50 less than reported.

We beg leave to report also that we have made examination of the books and accounts of the town covering the time from March 1, 1879, to the present, and we find nothing to show any liability of the town except as shown in the foregoing report.

PITTSFIELD, March 5, 1885.

ORIN S. HASKELL, }  
 C. E. VICKERY, } Auditors.  
 DAVID M. PARKS, }



➤REPORT OF THE◀

# Superintending School Committee.

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The undersigned respectfully submit the following as their annual report of the schools of Pittsfield for year ending March 1st, 1885:

Amount of money raised by town for schools.....	\$1,530 00	
State school fund and mill tax.....	915 20	
		\$2,445 20
Number of scholars, as per last report to State Superintendent		
of schools.....		586
Number of different pupils registered during the year.....		474
Number registered in summer schools.....		332
Average number attending in summer.....		269
Number registered in winter schools.....		375
Average number attending in winter.....		299
Average length of summer schools.....	13w 3d	
Average length of winter schools.....	12w 3d	
Number of districts in town.....		11
Number of parts of districts.....		4
Average wages of male teachers per month.....	\$29 00	
Average wages of female teachers per week.....	4 50	
Average cost of teachers' board.....	2 02	

*District No. 1.*

R. M. FAIRBANKS, Agent. The summer term of eight weeks was taught by Miss Olive H. Frost, of Canaan. This is a difficult school to teach, but Miss Frost gave excellent satisfaction to the district. Whole number of scholars attending school, 16; average, 15. Wages of teacher per week, \$4.00; board, \$1.75.

The winter term of eight weeks was taught by Mr. Frank Weeks, of this town. He is perfectly at home in the school-room, and has the tact to keep the scholars all at work to the extent of their abilities. Whole number attending school, 20; average, 17. Wages per month including board, \$40.00.

*District No. 2.*

EPHRIAM HIGGINS, Agent. The summer term of eight weeks was taught by Miss Lucelia S. Osborn, of Hartland. Good order was maintained, and the scholars made good progress. Whole number attending school, 22; average, 18. Wages of teacher per week, \$3.50; board, \$1.40.

The winter term of eight weeks was taught by Mr. Frank Weeks, with good results. Whole number attending, 18; average, 16. Wages per month, \$30.00; board, \$2.00.

*District No. 3.*

A. H. TAYLOR, Agent. Miss Alice P. Holmes, of this town, taught the summer term of ten weeks. Miss Holmes maintained excellent order throughout the term. The scholars made good advancement under her instruction. Wages of teacher per week, \$4.00; board, \$2.00. Whole number of scholars registered, 30; average, 23.

The winter term of twelve weeks was under the instruction of Geo. W. Higgins, of Clinton. Mr. Higgins gave good instruction, and the pupils made good progress. Whole number in school, 39; average, 30. Wages of teacher per month, \$30.00; board, \$2.25.

*District No. 4.*

J. M. PATTEN, Agent. This district has four terms of eight weeks each. The summer and fall terms were taught by Miss Eva A. Stinson, of this town, a graduate of the Institute. Miss Stinson has earned a good reputation as a teacher in our public schools; and her work in this district the past year should detract nothing from her reputation. Both terms were successful. Whole number registered in summer school, 43; average, 38. Wages \$6.00 per week. Whole number in fall term, 41; average, 36. Wages, \$7.00. Board for both terms, \$2.00 per week.

Mr. J. H. Winchester, of Corinna, taught the winter term. Mr. Winchester labored hard to give the district a good school, but the results were not, in all respects, satisfactory. Unless a teacher receives the cordial support of all in the district, the result is not gratifying. Whole number attending school, 32; average, 29. Wages, \$36.00 per month including board.

The spring term is being taught by Miss Lottie M. McLuer, of Palmyra, and, at our first visit, the indications pointed to a successful term.

*District No. 5.*

J. D. MILLS, Agent. Summer and winter terms of eight weeks each, and fall term of six, were all taught by Miss Etta M. Abbott, of Clinton. Whole number attending summer term, 25; average, 21. Board, \$2.00. Whole number in fall, 22; average, 18. Board, \$1.80.

Wages during the year, \$5.00 per week. The statistics for the winter term were about the same as in the fall. It is very evident that Miss Abbott is at home in the school-room. She is a fine disciplinarian and a good instructor. The pupils exhibited marked improvement during the year.

*District No. 6.*

ANDROS FOSTER, Agent. The spring and fall terms of seven weeks each were taught by Miss Etta E. Parks, of this town. The success of this school under her management was highly gratifying. Wages, spring term, \$3.00; board, \$1.50. Whole number attending, 12; average, 10. Wages for fall term, \$3.50; board, \$1.50. Number registered, 13; average, 11.

The winter term of seven weeks was taught by Miss Lutie Hilton, of Hartland. Good order, good methods of instruction and rapid advancement, were characteristics of the school. Whole number, 20; average, 16. Wages, \$3.25; board, \$1.50.

*District No. 7.*

**GRAMMAR SCHOOL.**

WM. A. GRAVES, Agent. The school year consists of four terms of eight weeks each. The summer term was taught by Miss Lottie M. McLuer, of Palmyra. Whole number attending, 52; average, 45. Wages, \$7.00; board, \$2.00. Miss McLuer has a pleasing faculty of imparting her knowledge to the pupils. She worked faithfully, and the result could not be otherwise than successful.

Mr. W. W. Cushman, of Hermon, and a graduate of the Institute, has taught the last two terms. Whole number attending fall term, 38; average, 33. Whole number attending winter term, 34; average, 29. Wages for each term, \$40.00 per month; board, \$2.50 per week. Mr. Cushman is a fine teacher and gave good satisfaction. The school was highly benefited by his instruction and influence.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

The terms are the same in length and number as the Grammar School. Whole number registered in summer, 56; average, 46. Whole number attending fall term, 63; average, 54. Whole number in winter, 58; average, 46. Wages for year, \$7.00 per week; board, \$2.00. Miss Ida M. Holmes, of this village, has taught the full year with perfect success. Miss Holmes possesses the rare faculty of winning both the love and obedience of her scholars. The school exhibited marked improvement and careful training. We regard this school as a *model* in every respect, and invite parents and friends to visit it this term.

The spring term of both departments is now in session under the same instructors as last term. Both are continuing to do good thorough work.

*District No. 8.*

HENRY CARR, Agent. Miss Ettie R. Edgerly, of this town, taught the summer term. The order was not satisfactory to the Committee. The progress made was fair. Miss Edgerly is a good scholar, and with experience will no doubt make a successful teacher. She is a graduate of the Institute. Whole number attending school, 29; average, 23. Wages, \$3.00 per week; board, \$2.00.

Fall and winter terms were taught by Miss Alice P. Holmes, of this town. Miss Holmes is one of our most thorough teachers. The instruction was clear and systematic; and the discipline firm and steady. The district was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Holmes. Whole number attending fall term, 28; average, 22. Winter term, 26; average, 23. Wages for fall term, \$4.00; for winter term, \$5.00. Board, the same for each term, \$2.00.

*District No. 9.*

CHAS. F. GERALD, Agent. The summer and fall terms were taught by Miss Rose M. Gerald, of Hartland. Her method of instruction was good. Sterner discipline would have improved the school. Wages for each term per week, \$3.00; board, \$1.50. Whole number attending each term, 12; average, 10.

The winter term of six weeks was under the instruction of Mr. W. M. Getchell, of Palmyra, a graduate of M. C. Institute. The school was indeed profitable. The order and improvement were alike commendable. Number registered, 9; average, 7. Wages, per month, \$20.00; board, \$2.00.

*District No. 10.*

WM. DYER, Agent. The summer and fall terms were taught by Miss Sybil E. Maine, of this town. Order not as good as desirable, but the scholars made very good improvement. Whole number in summer term, 14; average, 11. Number in fall term, 20; average, 17. Wages for summer term, \$3.00; board, \$2.00. Wages in fall, \$3.50; board, \$1.75.

The winter term of five weeks was taught by Miss Etta E. Parks. On account of drifting snows, the school was visited but once; but it was undoubtedly successful. Number registered, 21; average, 19. Wages, \$5.50; board, \$2.50.

*District No. 11.*

RODNEY JOHNSON, Agent. Miss Marion T. Boynton, of Houlton, taught the summer term of seven weeks. As your Committee were not informed of the time the school was to close, it was visited but once; but we understand that the people of the district were well satisfied with their school. Whole number attending, 8; average, 7.5. Wages, \$3.50; board, \$1.08.



The winter term of nine weeks was taught by Miss Flora McLuer, of Palmyra. The order was good, and most of the pupils made excellent advancement. Whole number attending, 12; average, 8. Wages, \$4.50; board, \$1.50.

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From the foregoing reports of the schools in the several districts, it is evident that our schools have been very successful during the past year. The Agents, as a rule, have been uncommonly fortunate in their selection of teachers. Good teachers, in most cases, insure profitable schools. Many teachers are not able to conduct a recitation without a text-book in hand. Such teachers are not prepared to teach the lessons as they should be; there is nothing fresh and inspiring in their minds upon the subject to be presented. They go through with the dry details of the lesson in a mechanical way without an original illustration, or imparting a live thought to the pupils. We are sadly deficient in teachers who possess the faculty of imparting their own knowledge to others in a clear and systematic way, and who can teach their pupils habits of reflection and observation. Our scholars need more *cultivation* and less *cramming*. Cramming may be a good thing for turkeys and pigs, but it surely is not a success in the school room.

We would again urge the parents of our town to visit the schools and see for themselves what is being done. Children like to have father and mother manifest an interest in their amusements and studies. If parents would pay an occasional visit to our schools it would stimulate both teacher and pupils to more effective work.

Before closing this report we wish to call your attention once more to the advantages accruing from the "town system," so called, and urge you to look into its merits. Massachusetts long since abolished the "district system." Vermont followed her example. The Western States never incorporated it in their educational system. In all states and parts of states where the "town system" has obtained the concurrent testimony to its advantages and superiority over the "district system" is unanimous. We commend the "town system" to your careful and conscientious consideration.

In conclusion we have only to say that your Committee have endeavored to make our schools productive of as much good as possible. Whether we have been successful we leave to your judgement. Our efforts have been guided by strong and unyielding convictions of right and duty. Neither individual interests nor personal sympathy has interrupted the execution of measures that we believed would promote the efficiency of our schools. For ourselves we have no favors to ask, but for your children, whose cheerful faces and kindly words have endeared them to our hearts, we call upon you to work

harmoniously and intelligently for the good of our common schools. "The school-master is abroad," is the word that has been caught up by nations as prophetic of mighty changes, but his presence is as unavailing as the warmth and light of the sun, and all the sweet influences of the heavens, shed upon the desert sand, unless parents and pupils stand ready in their places to receive him with open and active minds, and labor with him for their own benefit and the upbuilding of our schools. "Let education be regarded as the nucleus around which should gather all that refines society and beautifies life; let the affections of the people twine around it and their hopes cling to it, and it will bear fruit of newer intellectual life and a fresher moral beauty."

E. C. BRYANT,	} S. S. Committee	
F. J. TAYLOR,		of
C. C. WEEKS,		Pittsfield.

