

1875

# Annual Reports of the Board of Selectmen and Superintending School Committee, of the Town of Topsham for the Year Ending March 6, 1875

Topsham (Me.)

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**ANNUAL REPORTS**

**OF THE**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**AND**

**SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE,**

**OF THE**

**TOWN OF TOPSHAM**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 6,**

**1875.**

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**BRUNSWICK TELEGRAPH PRESS.**

# REPORT OF SELECTMEN.

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The Selectmen of the Town of Topsham respectfully submit the following report of the financial affairs of the town from March 8, 1874, to March 6, 1875:—

## APPROPRIATIONS AND RECEIPTS.

For State tax, 1874,	\$4404 98	
County tax, "	1299 48	
Schools,	1300 00	
High School,	500 00	
Highways and Bridges,	500 00	
Poor and other expenses,	2000 00	
Debts and interest,	3000 00	
Fire Department,	300 00	
Abatements and discounts,	800 00	
Pending lawsuits,	1000 00	
School property,	6200 00	
Overlayings,	589 60	
	<hr/>	\$21,894 06
Additional tax committed,	1 33	
Uncollected highway tax, 1873,	229 29	
Supplementary tax, 1874,	957 60	
State school fund,	784 56	
Interest on Town school fund,	40 04	
Cash—sale of Red School House,	150 00	
Cash from individuals,	45 61	
" towns,	13 85	
" State for High School,	500 00	
" rent of Toll-house.	38 47	
Outstanding orders, March 6, 1875,	133 28	
Due from C. E. White, for 1867-8,	164 85	
" J. F. Whitney, for 1869-'70-'71,	288 35	
" F. W. Dearborn, for 1872-'73-'74,	9150 10	
	<hr/>	\$12,607 33
		<hr/> \$34,501 39

## EXPENDITURES.

Paid balance of State tax, 1873,	1923 98
County tax, 1874, in full,	1299 48
State tax, 1874, in part,	2925 00
Bills approved by Selectmen,	442 03
School remittances,	6644 24
Notes paid (by orders, \$1115),	1515 00
Coupons,	895 50
Town Farm,	684 54
Common schools,	1790 05
High school for teaching,	1056 00
Highways and bridges,	939 93
Fire department,	332 30
Abatements on taxes,	241 77
Poor out of the house,	184 56
Interest,	571 09
Discount for prompt payment of taxes,	465 68
Miscellaneous expenses,	1414 87
Outstanding orders, March 7, 1874,	47 22
Due from C. E. White, March 6, 1875,	164 85
“ J. F. Whitney, “ “	288 35
“ F. W. Dearborn, “ “	10,674 95
	————— \$34,501 39

We assessed upon each poll \$3.00, and upon each dollar of valuation three cents, and have remitted very nearly one per cent. on account of the abolishing of the school district system, which leaves the tax at the rate of about two per cent. on the whole, but varying in the different school districts, as is shown on the following page.

## SCHOOLS.

The town at its last annual meeting, *Voted*, "To dispense with the present District school system, and that the town become one district."

In conformity to the law under which this vote was passed, we have appraised the school property in the several districts, and remitted the value of the same to the inhabitants thereof, by deducting the proportional part of each from their town tax.

The appraised value of school property in the several districts, and the percentage of real and personal estate remitted, is as follows:

Dist. No. 1,	appraised \$272 06,	percentage remitted, 12 mills,	\$ = .012
" 3,	" 591 53,	" 10 "	.01
" 4,	" 454 81,	" 9 "	.009
" 5,	" 472 91,	" 11 "	.011
" 6,	" 212 47,	" 8 "	.008
" 9,	" 511 71,	" 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	.0074
" 11,	" 502 11,	" 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	.001933
" 12,	" 567 94,	" 35 "	.035
Village Dist.	" 1911 00,	" 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	.00525

District No. 8 had no school property.

Districts Nos. 2, 7 and 10, having been previously joined to other districts, are all included in the above.

The accounts of the districts previous to the uniting of the same into one, are as follows:

There was due District No. 1,	\$ 27 20
Balance due " " 3,	100 49
" " " 5,	12 99
" " " 6,	33 33
" " " 8,	58 41
" " " 9,	10 89
" " " 12,	49 02
	<hr/>
	\$292 33
The amount overdrawn by Dist. No. 4 was	\$12 65
" " " 11 "	14 74
" " Village District,	6 51
	<hr/>
	\$33 90
Leaving a balance due the Districts of	<hr/>
	\$258 43

## SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

By balance due March 6, 1874,	\$ 258 43
Appropriation,	1300 00
Amount received from State,	784 56
Interest on town school fund note,	40 04
Sale of school property,	150 00
	<hr/>
	\$2533 03

## BILLS PAID.

J. S. Drinkwater, supplies,	\$ 1 75
Andrew Plummer, wood,	12 00
C. W. Wilson, supplies,	8 44
H. P. Mallett & Co., express on books,	1 49
Alvah Mallett, wood,	15 00
Richard Tarr, supplies,	3 25
Bell A. Jack, teaching,	35 00
Lewis Thompson, repairs,	1 50
William E. Graves, sawing wood, &c.,	4 25
Hattie W. Snow, teaching,	40 00
Jane Graves, “	40 00
Emma F. Mallett, “	44 00
Martha Curtis, “	40 00
Emily J. Whitten, “	64 00
Hattie A. Purinton, “	40 00
Alice E. Hunter, “	40 00
Jacob Graves, wood,	16 50
F. G. Barron, teaching,	64 00
Charles E. Pierce, care of school-houses,	7 00
H. P. Mallett & Co., supplies,	3 76
John B. Larabee, labor and material,	14 30
A. E. Work, teaching,	40 00
Oliver Brawn, work on well,	4 50
M. Nowell, wood and sawing,	12 00
Thos. Whitehouse, labor and material,	2 50
Geo. L. Richardson, supplies,	1 42
Joseph Whitney, labor and material,	4 25
Jennie E. Graves, teaching,	44 00
D. F. Potter, incidental expenses on school-houses,	15 78
F. G. Barron, teaching,	64 00
Martha Curtis, “	40 00
J. H. Whitehouse, supplies,	80

Orlando Dyer, care of school-house,	11 00	
Lindie E. Ladd, teaching,	56 00	
George Crossman, teaching and supplies,	39 25	
James Allen, supplies,	3 00	
Emily J. Whitten, teaching,	64 00	
B. T. Roberts, labor,	67	
Annie E. Work, teaching,	40 00	
A. S. Jack, wood,	17 50	
I. E. Mallett, supplies,	3 00	
Calvin Dyer, material and repairs,	5 52	
William M. Howland, wood,	91 00	
J. W. Haley, sawing wood,	2 00	
M. Nowell, wood,	2 75	
Abbie E. Hunter, teaching,	40 00	
William Anthoine, care of school-house,	4 00	
Annie F. Bartlett, teaching,	64 00	
Lindie E. Ladd,           “	60 00	
E. J. Whitten,           “	68 00	
A. Somes,               “	75 00	
Albion S. Jack, board of teacher,	35 00	
G. L. Richardson & Co., supplies,	11 62	
A. E. Work, teaching,	48 00	
A. A. Plummer,       “	60 00	
F. C. Potter,           “	48 00	
Jude Hyde, care of school-house,	2 50	
C. B. Hewey, teaching,	75 00	
Harvey Stetson, table,	1 75	
Orlando Dyer, care of school-house,	16 00	
E. F. Adams, teaching,	120 00	
	<hr/>	\$1790 05
Balance due schools,		742 98
		<hr/>
		\$2533 03

## HIGH SCHOOL.

By amount due from State for 1873,	\$198 00	
Appropriations, 1874,	500 00	
Amount received from State, 1874,	500 00	
	<hr/>	\$1198 00
Paid F. Hutchinson for teaching,	\$800 00	
Annie M. Tate, assistant,	256 00	
	<hr/>	\$1056 00

As the law in relation to High Schools limits the amount payable by the State to \$500 each year, there remains nothing due for the present year from the State; but the sum of \$198, due for the year 1873, remains due, as the town expended for teaching in that year \$996, and have received but \$300 for the same year, which is \$198 less than half the amount expended for teaching.

The whole amount of money due schools from the town appears to be the unexpended balance of common schools, less the over-expended balance of the High School, which is \$686.98.

### TOWN FARM ACCOUNT.

Stock on farm, March, 1874,	\$268 50	
Supplies       "       "       "	421 50	
Utensils and furniture       "	287 30	
	<hr/>	\$977 30

### RECEIPTS FOR PRODUCE SOLD.

J. T. Adams,	\$36 06	
H. P. Mallett & Co. and A. A. Purinton,	19 77	
A. Q. & C. Goud,	110 37	
F. W. Dearborn,	16 10	
E. Griffin,	9 12	
Sundries, others,	215 91	
	<hr/>	\$407 33
		<hr/>
		\$1384 63
<i>Cr.</i> Balance of farm,		180 89
		<hr/>
		\$1565 52

Error in reporting fence and wood in appraisal, March, 1874, \$187.50.

Town farm credits carried forward, \$368 39.

Stock on farm March 1st, 1875,	\$487 00	
Supplies       "       "	344 54	
Utensils and furniture       "	369 19	
	<hr/>	\$1200 73



## EXPENSE FOR BILLS PAID.

Scribner & Co.,	\$38 25	
Purinton & Beaumont,	14 02	
A. Q. & C. Goud,	83 21	
J. T. Adams,	36 06	
H. P. Mallett & Co.,	17 27	
A. A. Purinton,	3 10	
Board and lodging of strangers,	16 25	
Sundry other bills paid,	156 63	
	<hr/>	\$364 79
		<hr/>
		\$1565 52

## BILLS PAID BY ORDERS FOR TOWN FARM.

A. Q. & C. Goud, for the year 1873,	\$11 83	
Purinton & Beaumont, "	17 22	
H. P. Mallett & Co., "	43 26	
J. F. Blondell, "	10 00	
Willis S. Whitney, "	12 85	
J. F. Mallett, "	3 72	
Samuel Jameson, "	3 15	
G. L. Richardson, "	2 71	
J. F. Whitney, for the year 1874,	80 00	
Nathaniel Cornish, (cow, &c.) "	57 50	
" (getting hay) "	99 50	
Samuel Jameson, "	55 30	
Daniel W. Johnson, "	15 00	
Harvey Stetson, "	10 00	
Nathaniel Cornish, services, "	262 50	
	<hr/>	\$684 54
Town farm balance brought down,		368 39
		<hr/>
Balance against the farm March 6, 1875,		\$316 15
Deducting bills of 1873, as above,		104 74
		<hr/>
Leaves the total cost for 10½ months of		\$211 41

Included in the above products sold from the farm are 565 2-3 lbs. butter, amounting to \$181.00.

## POOR OUT OF THE HOUSE.

Paid Henry Morang, board of Lucy Foye,	\$38 24
Joseph McKeen, attendance on Ruth Mitchell,	39 75
I. E. Mallett, supplies to Ruth Mitchell,	4 00
C. E. White, goods to city of Lewiston,	7 38
H. P. Mallett & Co., supplies to Ruth Mitchell,	4 36
A. Q. & C. Goud, supplies to Rufus Griffin, Phippsburg,	6 25
Insane Hospital, for Rebecca Haley,	69 58
Thomas Cannon, support of Ruth Mitchell,	10 00
Horatio Staples, rent, Ruth Mitchell,	5 00
	<hr/>
	\$184 56

## HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Amount appropriated,	\$500 00
"    tax of 1873 committed,	339 29
Excess of expenditure,	100 64
	<hr/>
	\$939 93

## BILLS PAID.

George M. Patten,	\$34 04
Wm. H. Mallett,	43 00
A. S. Jack,	21 06
H. P. Mallett & Co.,	1 89
Anson D. Crocker,	30 77
C. T. Patten,	17 49
George R. Powers,	16 31
Rufus Thompson,	17 07
Charles Ward,	18 08
E. D. Gould,	3 78
Rufus Patten,	39 75
Isaac S. Allen,	28 48
Elbridge Hunter,	5 89
Thomas Rogers,	25 94
Robert O. Hunter,	23 83
Henry Flood,	16 11
C. E. Mustard,	25 18
David Flagg,	7 55
E. B. Earle,	8 98
George L. Wilson,	37 63
Lewis Thompson,	5 25

John B. Larrabee,	1 97	
Joseph P. Curtis,	32 12	
John Knight,	1 00	
H. Weymouth,	9 72	
J. F. Whitney,	12 15	
T. W. Hardie,	3 00	
John Graves,	20 36	
H. P. Mallett,	1 35	
John B. Larrabee (toll bridge),	10 75	
Wm. E. Haley,	3 50	
O. B. Merrill,	5 00	
Charles Ward,	12 00	
J. W. Brown,	7 50	
Frank Berry,	4 50	
Wm. E. Haley,	7 97	
Purinton & Hall,	309 01	
Elbridge Cornish,	17 00	
Calvin Dyer,	11 25	
Wm. H. Mallett,	35 50	
Collins P. Thompson,	3 20	
William Dennett,	3 00	
	<hr/>	\$939 93

## ENGINE.

By balance due March 6, 1874,	\$ 3 18	
Appropriation,	300 00	
Excess of bills paid,	29 12	
	<hr/>	\$332 30

## BILLS PAID.

D. A. Haskell, rent of land,	\$10 00	
Edward Berry, care of engine,	5 00	
N. E. Linen Hose Co., rubber hose,	44 10	
Boston Elastic Fabric Co., suction hose,	46 25	
H. P. Mallett & Co., supplies,	37	
L. Dickinson, repairing hose,	4 00	
F. H. Purinton, repairs on engine,	49 10	
Samuel E. Curtis, services,	4 75	
F. H. Purinton, repairs on engine,	124 65	
Hunneman & Co., " "	40 03	
Samuel E. Curtis, services,	4 05	
	<hr/>	\$332 30

# Abate ments

F. W. Baptist Church	10 00
Horace Staples	3 50
William Howland	2 00
S. W. Sonall	1 50
Harvey Berry	3 00
Cabot Company	24 75
Oscar Patten	12 00
F. W. Dearborn	58 54
W. Jack	9 84
Purinton & Hall	12 37
Betsy Morse	4 19
S. D. Williams	7 74
Albert Minot	55 60
O. Brown & wife	14 36
Isaac Mallett	5 70
Albert Minot	8 68
Stephen Cram	6 00
	<u>241 77</u>

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## NOTE ACCOUNT.

Amount of notes outstanding by last report, March 1, 1874,		\$11,561 09
Paid Hannah Jacques, one note,	100 00	
C. W. Purinton, four notes,	1300 00	
C. W. Purinton, part of one note,	115 00	
	<hr/>	\$1515 00
Amount outstanding March 6, 1875,		\$10,046 09

## INTEREST ACCOUNT.

Interest paid on notes by orders,	\$571 09	
Discount to F. W. Dearborn, by order,	465 68	
Coupons on Town Bonds paid,	895 50	
	<hr/>	\$1932 27

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid Chas. W. Purinton, services as Selectman to March 28, 1874,	\$14 75
Joseph H. Purinton, services as town agent, &c.,	12 50
C. W. Wilson, services as town clerk,	28 00
Sampson Colby, constable, 1873,	2 00
C. H. Small, constable,	7 50
H. P. Mallett & Co., office supplies, &c.,	5 99
Uriah Jack, board of man and oxen,	1 00
W. B. Staples, damage to pung,	5 00
J. F. Whitney, court at Portland,	4 00
Lewis Thompson, services,	3 00
Dresser, McLellan & Co., books for office,	4 50
W. H. Mallett, laying aqueduct,	36 55
Ira Leland, S. S. Committee, 1873 and '74,	42 00
Ira Leland, horse hire for same,	29 50
W. Gilbert, law services, 1872 and '73,	45 00
R. O. Linsley, plans of town hall,	15 00
J. Griffin, books and paper,	2 30
Joseph McKeen, health committee,	6 00
Geo. A. Rogers, services as Town Agent and Selectman,	13 25

William L. Putnam, law services,	200 00
Colby, Chaney & Co., lumber,	27 84
H. P. Mallett & Co., supplies,	89
Thos. M. Given, law services,	100 00
Jos. McKeen, health committee,	2 00
C. E. Haskell, services as clerk,	30 75
Sarah A. Thompson, rent of office,	30 00
F. B. Curtis, damage,	15 00
Jos. McKeen, services (Mrs. Key),	7 00
Lavina Key, damage,	40 00
D. F. Potter, services S. S. Committee,	46 80
A. W. Dennett, attendance at court,	2 70
Jno. F. Thorn, repairs on toll house,	3 75
C. E. Scribner, services as referee,	2 50
I. E. Mallett, services as Selectman,	50 00
Herbert Ridley, work on aqueduct,	2 50
Sag. Ag. & Hort. Society, use of hall,	25 00
C. H. Small, constable,	1 50
W. E. Dunlap, work on cistern,	6 00
S. R. Libbey, attendance at Brunswick,	39 13
Insane Hospital, board R. Haley,	37 84
C. W. Purinton, services as Selectman,	75 00
“ “ “ Town Agent,	20 00
Calvin Dyer, damage,	9 00
E. Griffin, services at court,	12 10
R. P. Whitney, stamps, envelopes, &c.,	2 65
I. E. Mallett, services as Selectman,	20 00
A. A. Purinton, store bill of sundries,	10 64
William Dennett, services in Mallett case,	15 00
C. W. Purinton, services as Selectman,	22 00
I. E. Mallett, “ “	25 50
C. E. Haskell, services,	46 65
F. W. Dearborn, commission as Collector and Treasurer,	207 29

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\$1414 87

## COLLECTOR AND TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Due from Chas. E. White, March 6, 1875,	\$164 85
“ J. F. Whitney, “ “	288 35
“ F. W. Dearborn, Mar. 6, 1874, \$	9150 10
Cash received and taxes committed,	24,764 81
	<hr/>
	\$33,914 91
Am't of bills paid and vouchers rendered,	23,239 96
	<hr/>
Due from F. W. Dearborn, March 6, 1875,	\$10,674 95

## LIABILITIES.

Balance of State tax of 1874,	\$ 1,479 98
Notes outstanding,	10,046 09
Orders outstanding,	133 28
Due schools,	742 98
Accrued interest,	100 00
Bills estimated,	300 00
Town bonds,	15,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$27,802 33

## RESOURCES.

Due from C. E. White, for 1867-'68,	\$164 85
“ J. F. Whitney, for '1869-'70-'71,	288 35
“ F. W. Dearborn, for 1872-'73-'74,	10,674 95
“ State for High School, year 1873,	198 00
“ State, mill tax school fund,	453 54
“ State, savings bank school fund,	324 77
“ Wm. Whitten,	15 34
“ Wildes P. Walker,	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$12,120 80
Excess of liabilities, or town debt, March 6, 1875,	\$15,681 53
	<hr/>
	\$27,802 33
 Town debt reduced since March 6, 1874,	 \$2,755 72



We estimate the following appropriations necessary for the ensuing year : —

For Common Schools,	\$1300 00
Town High School,	500 00
By loan for the same,	500 00
For repair of Highways, in labor,	2000 00
“            “            in cash,	500 00
Support of Poor,	300 00
Current expenses,	1500 00
Payment of notes and interest,	4000 00

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES W. PURINTON,	} Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor, of the Town of Topsham.
ISAAC E. MALLETT,	

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TOPSHAM, March 11, 1875.

We have examined the foregoing accounts and compared them with the books, orders and bills. and find them correct.

DAVID SCRIBNER,	} Auditors.
CHARLES E. HASKELL,	

# REPORT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1875.

A very important change has been effected in school management during the year.

At the annual town meeting in March, it was voted that the town avail itself of the enabling act ( Rev. Stat., ch. 11, sect. 3 ), whereby towns are empowered to abolish the school districts, and thus transfer all power belonging to the districts to the town. In pursuance of this vote, the school districts in town have been abolished, the property of each district has been appraised by the Selectmen, and all the rights and interests of the several districts have been absorbed by the town.

There are many reasons justifying and demanding this change;—  
First: It simplifies the management. Heretofore there has been a divided responsibility. Two boards of school officers, district agents and school committee, have been doing the work, which can be done by a single board. The inconvenience arising from this double set of school officers is obvious. It creates unpleasant friction between the two. It sometimes occasions a diversity of feeling and action. It is always a source of embarrassment. All this is done away by substituting the town system in place of the district system. Then, the sole responsibility devolves upon the school committee, and the praise, or blame, of success, or failure, can be meted out to them, to whom it is due. Second: It secures unity of aim and results. Under the district system, the town does not, and cannot, act as a unit. The unit is divided into as many fractions as there are districts, and each fractional part constitutes a separate and independent section, whose whims and claims and fancied interests must be regarded and consulted. This operates disastrously to any unity of effort. Then, again, it is often the case, one or more sections of the town lie secluded from the rest, and have drifted into ways and methods injurious to its best interests, and all school matters are backward, and a denser ignorance is found there than exists elsewhere.—How is that section to be brought abreast of the average degree of intelligence, and be pervaded with a more advanced spirit? Let it swing loose

from its isolation and avail itself of the influence and advantages of the more favored portions of the town. Let there be an interchange of views and sentiments, and a mutual contact between each and every part, and out of this must come a common unity of aim and result. It will be manifest every way,—in the selection and assignment of teachers, in improved school houses and apparatus, and in a general subordination of the school to the larger interests of the town, instead of to the narrow prejudices of the district. Third: it proves equality of rights. It is certainly right and equitable that every scholar in town should have the same amount of instruction. Under the district system, this is impossible. Every child must there take his chances, according to the census of the little fraction where he happens to be located. One year ago it was reported that the inequality in town was in the ratio of one to four. One scholar had eight weeks of schooling in No. 8; while another in the village had thirty-two weeks. The town system, which is now in practical working condition, gives to all the same amount of instruction, so that no scholar within its limits has any superiority over another, as regards the quantity of time allotted to each. In the remote and small and sparsely settled neighborhoods, the advantages here are the same with the most highly favored, thus securing the largest possible school privileges to all, consistent with the means at our disposal. Fourth: It stimulates improvement. We have introduced into our workshops and all our mechanic industries the principle of division of labor. As a result of this, we get skilled labor and higher style of workmanship, and as a consequence, better wages are demanded and received. Education has brought this idea, and transferred this principle of division of labor, into our schools. Hence, we have graded schools, not only practicable, but actually existing in all our large towns. Under the district system, but a single school is possible, and that mixed, with a heterogeneous assemblage of all ages and attainments, and without any proper classification, and with no prospect of anything better in the future. The town system, wherever it can be done, secures and establishes graded schools, enabling an honorable ambition to pass through the various grades, until ready to enter the college and university.

From these reasons, it will be seen that the town in adopting the present system has put itself in the van of school progress, and stands abreast with the most advanced of our New England towns.

As to the practical working of the new system, we have simply to say, a single year is insufficient to determine the matter — especially a year of

transition, like the past, much of which has been spent in adjusting the schools to their new relations, and in preliminary work. For the first time in the history of the town, the school committee have had the sole charge of the schools. They have had the various duties of taking the school census; receiving the applications of teachers, and examining and certificating the same; contracting for the wood and supplies; visiting the school; regulating the discipline and attending to repairs, and providing the needed text books; all which demand time, patience and judgment.

Sufficient time has elapsed to indicate that the new change will not of itself transform our schools, but more than ever will demand the fostering care and the hearty coöperation of all our people. A few things should here be noted, in which much may be done by parents and guardians—

(1).—*The boarding of teachers.* In some instances, teachers have found it difficult to obtain convenient board even for a single term. Under the district plan, there has been generally a disposition to furnish board gratuitously, but now every teacher will pay a reasonable compensation. It is hoped in the new change we shall have a cheerful response made to the requests of our teachers in this regard.

(2).—*Text books.* A scholar without books is as poorly furnished for study, as the mechanic without tools for his special occupation. During the year it has been found, in some cases, two or more children dependent upon the same book. A class in Reading, consisting of eight scholars, recited in two sections. On enquiry, only four books were provided for the eight, necessitating two recitations instead of one. By vote of the town, the committee have contracted with Dresser, McLellan and Co., of Portland, to supply us with school books at wholesale prices, thus saving twenty per cent. on their cost, with the hope that every child attending school will have the needed book for each branch of study.

(3).—*Teachers in the schools.* It is hoped our High School will eventually give us all the teachers we need for the rural schools. This is our expectation and aim. Until this is done, we cannot be independent and truly alive to our own interests. It is more difficult every year to obtain the right sort of teachers, and it is poor economy to go out of town for them. The normal schools and academies cannot meet the demand. Our main reliance must be upon our young men and women in our High school. They must be trained for this work, and parents can do much in assisting us in its accomplishment, by their personal and persistent approval.

(4). *The Duties of the School Committee.* Two things are to be noted here. *First*, in selecting and assigning teachers. It is evident the Committee are *limited* in such selection and

assignment by such teachers as personally apply, or can otherwise be procured. Preference is always had for those applicants in town, provided they come up to the requisite standard. If they fall below the minimum of qualification, we feel relieved of the duty of employing them. Let this be understood at the outset, which will prevent all misunderstanding and save the acts of the School Board from uncharitable remark. *Second*, in the discipline of schools. It is earnestly requested that no parent shall give ear to the gossip of the scholars at their homes, in the way of complaint or criticism of the teacher. Nothing tends so much to insubordination and lawlessness. Let the Committee be notified, in every case of any consequence, and any existing irregularity can be kindly adjusted, in the absence of all parental faultfinding, for the good of the school. (5). *The claims of scholars.* It has been the aim of the Committee to do exact and equal justice to all. Some rule or limit for determining where a school ought to be sustained has been found necessary. This limit has been fixed for the present by the Committee. Where five scholars can be had, this number will warrant the holding of a school for a term. But if the scholars in any given locality fall below that minimum, it is deemed injudicious to tax the town for its support. In the several districts and neighborhoods of the town, with the exception of two on the Lisbon Road (Nos. 1 and 8), there have been three terms of school for the year, of eight weeks each, making for every scholar 24 weeks of instruction. In the excepted parts, the children of No. 8 have been assigned to No. 12, and those of No. 1 to the village primary. By this arrangement, it is believed only one child in town has been abridged of its rights, and in this case ten weeks of schooling (the same as the year previous) have been had under a male teacher. So that for the first time in the history of the town, every child within its limits has had, so far as practicable, the same *amount* of instruction. As to the *quality* of instruction, this will depend, of course, on the tact of teachers, and the character of school.

## STATISTICS.

### CONDITION OF THE SCHOOLS.

HIGH SCHOOL. Teachers: Freedom Hutchinson, A. B., Principal; Miss Annie M. Tate, Assistant. 32 weeks of instruction; consisting of three terms, divided into, Summer term, 10 weeks; Fall term, 11 weeks; and Winter term, 11 weeks. During the year 68 different pupils have attended. Registered: Summer term, 50; Fall term, 50; Winter term, 42,

Average attendance, Summer and Fall, 42; Winter, 33. Number of daily recitations, eight in each department. Besides the common English branches, there has been instruction in the higher Mathematics, Grammar, Analysis, and in Latin. The smaller attendance in winter was owing to prevailing sickness. Wages: Principal, \$82 per month; Assistant, \$4.50 per week.

#### VILLAGE.

**1ST PRIMARY.** Teachers: For Summer and Fall terms—Miss Frances G. Barron. Winter term—Miss Anna F. Bartlett. 24 weeks of instruction, consisting of three terms, 8 weeks each. Registered—Summer term, 26; Fall term, 19; Winter term, 24. Average attendance—22, 14, 21. Wages—\$4.50 per week.

**2ND PRIMARY.** Teacher: Miss Emily J. Whitten, for all the school year. 24 weeks of instruction, consisting of three terms, 8 weeks each. Registered—Summer term, 30; Fall term, 41; Winter term, 32. Average attendance—24, 37, 29. In both primaries, more or less cases of illness have diminished the attendance. Wages—\$4.50 per week.

**LISBON DISTRICT** (late No. 12). Teachers: Summer term—Miss Hattie W. Snow. Fall term—Miss Georgie Crossman. Winter term—Mr. Albert Somes. 24 weeks of instruction, consisting of three terms, 8, 6 and 10 weeks. Registered—Summer term, 20; Fall term, 20; Winter term, 18. Average attendance for the three terms, 15. Wages of the female teachers, \$3 per week; of Mr. Somes, \$30 per month.

**THOMPSON DISTRICT** (late No. 1). Teacher: Mr. C. B. Hewey.—One term, 10 weeks of instruction. Registered and average attendance, 10. This school is noticed elsewhere in the report. Wages of teacher, \$16 per month.

**OAK HILL DISTRICT** (late No. 3). Teachers: Summer and Fall terms—Miss Martha Curtis. Winter—Mr. Alvah A. Plummer. 24 weeks of instruction, consisting of three terms, 8 weeks each. Registered for the three terms, 11. Average attendance, 10. Wages for the female teacher, \$3 per week; male teacher, \$26 per month.

**ALEXANDER DISTRICT** (late No. 11). Teacher: Miss Annie E. Work. 24 weeks of instruction, consisting of three terms of 8 weeks each. Registered—6, 8, 10. Average attendance—6, 7, 9. Wages for Summer and Fall, \$3 per week; Winter, \$4 per week.

**MALLET DISTRICT** (late No. 5). Teachers: For Summer term—Miss Hattie Purinton. Fall and Winter—Miss Lindie E. Ladd. 24 weeks of instruction, consisting of three terms of 8 weeks each. Registered—11,

17, 15. Average attendance—10, 14, 14. Wages for Summer, \$3.50; Fall, \$4.50; Winter, \$5.

CATHANCE DISTRICT (late No. 6). Teachers: Miss Emma F. Mallett and Mr. E. F. Adams. 20 weeks of instruction (equivalent to 24 in other districts), consisting of two terms, 8 and 12 weeks each. Registered, 29; average, 23. Wages for female teacher, \$3 50 per week; \$30 per month for male teacher.

MIDDLESEX DISTRICT (late No. 4). Teachers: Miss Jennie S. Graves, Summer and Fall; Miss Fannie E. Potter, Winter term. 24 weeks of instruction, consisting of three terms, of 8 weeks each. Registered—15, 16, 16. Average attendance—13, 11, 13. Wages—\$3 and \$3.50 per week; former for Summer, latter for Fall and Winter.

FORESIDE (late No. 9). Teacher: Miss Abbie E. Hunter. 24 weeks of instruction, consisting of three weeks each. Registered—15, 15, 17.—Average attendance—14, 13, 14. Wages—\$3 per week. In all the above the wages are exclusive of Board.

#### SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

There have been 30 schools in operation, and 254 weeks of instruction. One year ago, we reported 23 schools and 219 weeks. Scholars in town (1874-5), 453. In 1873-4, 469—a loss of 16. Scholars registered, in all the schools—Summer and Fall, 227; Winter, 233. Average attendance—Summer and Fall, 185; Winter, 197. Per cent. of average attendance, 50. Reported last year, 48. Compensation of teachers—Male, \$35.60 per month, and female, \$3.81 per week.

Rev. Mr. Manson having declined to serve as a member of the S. S. Committee, to which he was elected in March, the vacancy was filled for the year by the Committee in choice of Rev. Mr. Leland. There will be two vacancies in the School Board to be filled—one for two years, in place of Rev. Mr. Leland, and one for three years, instead of the Secretary, who by removal from town is ineligible. It is thought by the Committee that nothing more will be required for schools for the current year but the ordinary appropriations—\$1300 for Common Schools, and \$1000 for High School.

Respectfully submitted for the Committee,

D. F. POTTER, SECRETARY.

TOPSHAM, March, 1875.