

1877

Annual Report of the Board of Selectmen, to
Which is Added the Report of the Chief Engineer
of Fire Department, and the Report of the
Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Topsham, for
the Year Ending March 12th, 1877

Topsham (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN,

TO WHICH IS ADDED THE REPORT OF THE

CHIEF ENGINEER OF FIRE DEPARTMENT,

AND THE REPORT OF THE

SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,

OF THE

TOWN OF TOPSHAM,

For the year ending March 12th, 1877.

1877.

TELEGRAPH PRINT, BRUNSWICK.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

We, the Selectmen of the Town of Topsham, respectfully submit the following Report in relation to the financial affairs of the Town, showing the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town from March 11, 1876, to March 12, 1877; also, the resources, liabilities and present indebtedness of the town.

APPROPRIATIONS AND RECEIPTS.

For State tax of 1876,	\$3,304 64
County tax of 1876,	1,299 48
Common Schools,	1,300 00
High School,	500 00
Highways and Bridges,	1,000 00
Poor and other expenses,	1,500 00
Debts and Interest,	4,000 00
Abatements and Discounts,	800 00
Repair of school houses,	600 00
Fire Department,	300 00
Overlayings,	667 50
Uncollected highway tax of 1875,	439 44
Non-resident highway tax of 1876, committed,	55 69
Supplementary tax,	273 69
Cash of State School Fund and Mill Tax,	790 88
State for High School,	500 00
Town school fund interest,	40 04
Loans,	768 75
State for new Railroad tax,	75 69

Received from Town Farm,	182 00	
Other towns,	1,616 17	
Individuals on pauper account,	171 06	
Individuals for highway taxes,	126 09	
Individuals for Dog Licences,	33 00	
All other individuals,	50 25	
Rent of Toll House,	26 00	
Due from C. E. White, ex-collector,	121 96	
J. F. Whitney, ex-collector, old account,	182 94	
F. W. Dearborn, ex-coll. Mar. 11, 1876,	8,253 33	
Outstanding orders Mar. 12, 1877,	866 31	
	<hr/>	\$29,844 91

EXPENDITURES.

Paid balance of State tax of 1875,	\$805 18	
County tax of 1876, in part,	499 48	
State tax of 1876, in part,	600 00	
Common schools,	2,630 29	
High school for teaching,	1,000 00	
Poor out of the house,	563 12	
Town Farm,	514 83	
Highways and Bridges,	647 02	
Abatements,	316 70	
Interest,	538 46	
Coupons on Town Bonds,	913 50	
Fire Department,	414 64	
Discount for prompt payment of taxes,	368 75	
Notes, (\$25 by order),	4,508 50	
Miscellaneous expenses,	2,025 59	
Due from C. E. White, on note to balance,	121 96	
F. W. Dearborn, Mar. 12, 1877,	1,377 12	
J. F. Whitney, old account,	182 94	
J. F. Whitney, coll. Mar. 12, 1877,	10,172 58	
Balance in Treasury, Mar. 12, 1877,	1,297 94	
Outstanding orders Mar. 11, 1876,	346 31	
	<hr/>	\$29,844 91

SCHOOL ACCOUNT.

By Balance due March 11, 1876,	\$261 98	
Appropriation,	1,900 00	
State fund,	790 88	
Town fund interest,	40 04	
	<hr/>	\$2,992 90

BILLS PAID.

Otis S. Mustard, care of house,	\$2 25
Joseph Whitney, labor and material,	6 00
Bartholomew Reed, wood,	19 25
David Scribner, labor on fence,	2 00
C. A. Patten, wood in 1875,	13 00
Emery Barnes, wood,	11 00
B. D. Carter, cleaning house,	2 50
Frank Barron, care of house,	10 00
E. J. Whitten, care of house,	3 00
Willie F. Tate, care of house,	2 00
James Lambert, repairs,	100 00
J. Stetson, repairs,	65 21
James Lambert, repairs,	400 00
Charles E. Niles, painting inside,	27 00
Ellen Fuller, cleaning house,	2 50
E. D. Toothaker, paint,	17 74
W. S. Rogers, wood,	12 50
Joseph Whitney, wood,	6 50
J. F. Blondell, land adjoining school lot,	5 00
D. L. Smith, painting blackboards,	14 25
William M. Howland, wood,	77 00
A. M. Graves, labor about school house,	1 50
J. C. Fall, care of house,	2 50
J. S. Newell, wood,	15 00
Harvey Stetson, furniture,	20 50
John Furbish, supplies,	20 20
Frank Barron, care of house,	10 50

I. S. Balcome, ventilator,	1 75	
Calvin Dyer, labor and material,	1 50	
E. J. Whitten, care of house,	4 60	
Geo. L. Wilson, labor and material,	1 50	
A. L. Whitehouse, labor and material,	9 41	
Charles A. Patten, wood,	13 00	
Charles A. Patten, building fires,	2 50	
Eddie W. Mallett, care of house,	2 50	
Charles W Purinton, wood,	2 50	
E. B. Earle proportion of school money,	14 08	
Wm. A. Alexander, care of house,	3 25	
Charles Holbrook, care of house,	3 00	
Charles Holbrook, care of house,	3 00	
D. L. Smith, supplies and expense,	26 85	
J. F. Blondell, wood,	8 25	
A. A. Purinton, stationery,	95	967 54

FOR TEACHING.

Addie B. Hawes,	139 50	
Jose A. Given,	45 00	
Mary L. Whitney,	106 00	
Fannie D. Bowker,	54 00	
Abbie Hunter,	155 00	
Emily J. Whitten,	216 00	
Carrie S. Clapp,	80 00	
Abbie Thompson,	85 00	
Faunie D. Nowell,	155 00	
Lettie Plummer,	155 00	
Emma F. Mallett,	115 00	
Emily J. Thompson,	36 00	
Eugene Thomas,	69 00	
Lilla L. Smith,	75 00	
Emma C. Sargent,	71 25	
H. F. Blondell,	105 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,602 75
		<hr/>
		2,630 29
Unexpended balance,		362 61
		<hr/>
		\$2,992 90

HIGH SCHOOL.

Appropriation for year 1876,	\$500 00	
Amount received from State,	500 00	
	<u> </u>	\$1,000 00
Paid George C. Purinton, for teaching,	745 00	
Annie E. Smith, for teaching,	170 00	
Orlando Dyer, for teaching,	85 00	
	<u> </u>	\$1,000 00

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Sum appropriated,	\$1,000 00	
Uncollected taxes of 1875 committed,	439 44	
	<u> </u>	\$1,439 44

BILLS PAID.

S. A. Perkins,	\$10 50
Winter Marr,	8 29
Dwinal Powers,	12 30
Otis F. Thompson,	15 07
Washington Dill,	19 56
Holman Foster,	6 37
W. H. Haley,	8 12
J. P. Hildreth,	16 89
Alvah Mallett,	9 86
George O. Rogers,	1 16
Eugene B. Earle,	10 42
Actor P Tate,	18 25
E. W. White,	10 25
Kendall & Whitney,	11 55
David H. Flagg,	7 00
Alfred E. Graves,	9 42
W Quint,	7 27

Herbert Haskell,	3 00	
Elbridge Cornish,	46 65	
Charles E. White,	78 00	
David H. Flagg,	13 75	
Horace M. Eaton,	28 47	
A. H. Robinson,	8 23	
T. W. Atkins,	2 42	
Nathan Stewart,	3 90	
W. H. Mallett,	43 85	
J. F. Whitney,	4 45	
M. P. Reed,	16 50	
I. P. Tebbetts & wife,	17 75	
I. E. Mallett,	7 00	
D. H. Flagg,	18 35	
H. P. Mallett,	7 00	
Cyrus Flagg,	36 20	
William E. Haley,	51 00	
Rufus Patten,	13 39	
William M. Howland,	7 50	
William Sprague,	8 82	
S. Stockman,	20 44	
D. W. Johnson,	1 00	
Edward Whitney,	2 61	
Alvah Mallett,	4 00	
L. W. Tedford,	8 00	
Thomas Rogers,	4 46	
E. Griffin,	1 25	
Wm. B. Douglass,	6 75	
	<hr/>	647 02
Unexpended balance.		792 42
		<hr/>
		\$1,439 44

ENGINE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

By appropriation,	\$300 00
Excess of expenditure,	114 64
	<hr/>
	\$414 64

BILLS PAID.

D. A. Haskell, for ground rent,	\$10 00	
Engine Co., meetings and fires,	61 50	
Thomas Finney, repairs on engine,	3 00	
Linen Hose Co., hose,	184 00	
Geo. Moulton & Son, furnishing for engine.	18 00	
Edward Berry, steward of engine,	2 00	
Charles Goud, for engine company meetings to Sept. 30, 1876,	36 00	
John Furbish rope,	2 67	
J. F. Blondell, wood for engine house,	3 38	
I. S. Balcome, lamps,	2 27	
Charles Goud, for engine company, meetings and fires,	88 82	
	<hr/>	\$414 64

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid D. Scribner and Wm. Dennett, auditors,	\$5 00
Lewis Thompson, town vs. H. P. Mallett,	2 10
Chas. W. Purinton, bal. of services to date,	13 75
I. E. Mallett, bal. of services to Mar. 25, '76,	27 84
C. E. Haskell, making up town accounts,	9 75
George Barron, Bay Bridge case,	25 00
Winter Marr, labor on Little River bridge,	112 73
Ira Leland, Supervisor of Schools,	132 50
Charles W. Wilson, services as Town Clerk in 1875,	10 00
Sampson Colby, Constable for 1875,	13 50
C. H. Small, Constable,	1 50

Paid A. G. Tenney, printing,	\$51 00
R. P. Whitney, P. O. box, and supplies,	1 17
P. K. Millay, town vs. H. P. Mallett,	3 50
George Barron, horse and carriage for Supervisor of Schools,	6 00
E. H. Nowe, copy of Maine Register,	1 25
I. E. Mallett, services in part,	50 00
Charles W. Purinton, do.,	60 00
C. H. Small, Constable,	1 50
A. F. Rowe, letter copying book,	3 00
A. A. Purinton, sundries for office, &c.,	5 24
Dresser, McLellan & Co., blank books,	9 41
C. H. Small, Deputy Sheriff, on Goodwin road,	9 70
R. Nichols, cement for Little River bridge,	10 50
I. R. Estes, mill pond expense, Little River,	38 00
I. E. Mallett, services as Selectman,	15 00
I. E. Mallett, expense on Little River,	10 00
M. C. Railroad, cement, Little River,	6 48
I. R. Estes, mill pond, Little River,	32 00
James Maloney, mason work, L. R.,	29 50
I. E. Mallett, services, L. R.,	40 00
C. P. Cobb, derrick on L. R.,	42 00
Zina H. Noyes, do.	38 25
A. S. Jack, work on L. R.,	60 38
Alfred L. Jack, do.	26 69
J. Williams, sundry bills on L. R.,	172 37
I. E. Mallett, do	27 16
Aaron Goodwin, work on L. R.,	34 50
Johnson Clark, do.	76 75
Richard Tarr, bill of services on L. R.,	87 18
H. K. White, work on L. R.,	7 12
Holman Clark, do.	72 50
E. D. Gould, do.	2 00
Richard Tarr, iron bar for L. R.,	75
C. W. Purinton, work on L. R.,	10 00

Paid I. E. Mallett, work on L. R.,	9 00
F. W. Dearborn, do.,	4 00
Edward W. White, do.,	52 50
A. A. Purinton, stone for L. R.,	137 50
A. A. Purinton, cement do.,	31 50
B. R. Jordan, rent of Agricultural Hall,	25 00
William Haskell, care of cistern,	50
Otis F. Thompson, surveying wood Aug. 5th,	75
Charles S. Newell, work on L. R.,	11 62
M. C. R. R., freight on tile,	4 32
Joseph McKeen, examination (B. Flag),	5 00
D. L. Smith, Supervisor of Schools,	65 00
C. E. Haskell, services in Selectmen's office,	25 00
C. Thompson's heirs, rent of office,	30 00
J. W. Forsaith, serving warrants,	4 15
E. Griffin, horse hire for Supervisor of Schools,	23 50
E. Griffin, posting warrant,	1 00
D. L. Smith, services as Supervisor of Schools,	21 50
A. A. Purinton, salary as Treasurer,	25 00
A. A. Purinton, stationery for town,	1 05
J. F. Whitney, commission as Collector, 1876,	53 27
F. W. Dearborn, services as Selectman,	65 00
F. W. Dearborn, commission on collection of 1876,	34 86
	<hr/> 2,025 59

The above account contains the whole expense of building and repairing the abutment and bridge on Little River, which expense was charged to the town of Lisbon, amounting to \$1190.48.

The town of Topsham has received from the town of Lisbon during the year, cash for damages and expense of rebuilding, amounting to \$1,505.60. The sum of \$705.12 was paid on a suit against that town in June of the present fiscal year, and \$800.00 were paid in February, 1877, in settlement of the expense of rebuilding mentioned above.

NOTES.

Amount of Notes outstanding according to last report, Mar. 11, 1876,	\$7,296 09	
Amount given,	768 75	
	<hr/>	\$8,064 84

NOTES PAID.

Marshall B. Graves,	\$221 00	
Eliza J. Thompson,	100 00	
Judith B. Alexander,	100 00	
James Alexander,	150 00	
Charles E. Bradley,	300 00	
Jeremiah Sawyer,	700 00	
Jacob Merryman,	468 75	
Mrs. J. Merryman,	225 00	
Humphrey P. Mallett,	693 75	
James C. Cox,	300 00	
A. A. Purinton,	50 00	
Hannah W. Patten,	100 00	
J. E. Tedford,	200 00	
Thomas C. Maxwell,	400 00	
Joan Reed,	500 00	
	<hr/>	\$4,508 50
Amount outstanding Mar. 12 1877,		\$3,556 34

The *balance* of notes paid, or which is the same thing, the amount of notes *reduced*, is \$3,739 75.

INTEREST ACCOUNT.

Paid on notes,	\$538 46	
Coupons,	913 50	
	<hr/>	\$1,451 96
Amount of notes paid,		3,739 75
		<hr/>
		5,191 71
Sum appropriated for "Debts and Interest,"		4,000 00
		<hr/>
Paid above appropriation,		1,191 71

ABATEMENTS.

By appropriation for abatements and discounts.		\$800 00
Calvin Dyer,	\$3 70	
F. W. Society,	9 25	
F. W. Dearborn, for sundry persons,	187 27	
G. R. Ulmer,	3 70	
Emilie J. Whitten,	3 70	
Samuel Knight,	3 70	
William E. Frost,	9 25	
Thomas M. L. Parker,	2 00	
J. W. Preston,	3 36	
David Scribner,	4 88	
D. F. Patten,	9 30	
Edmund T. Hunter,	2 00	
Perkins & Co.,	1 96	
Alfred S. Jack,	6 00	
William Barron,	2 50	
James Barron,	5 80	
Lucy Barron,	9 24	
Eliza Dennett,	8 40	
Deborah Niles,	5 57	
Otis S. White,	14 55	
J. S. Newell,	6 50	
J. E. Tedford,	3 82	
J. W. Withee,	6 50	
Sarah W. Hunter,	8 50	
George L. Wilson,	3 00	
Otis F. Thompson,	16 00	
Given Jameson,	18 25	
William Small, jr.,	8 00	
	<hr/>	616 70
Discount for prompt payment of taxes,		385 75
Unexpended balance,		14 55
		<hr/>
		\$800 00

TOWN FARM.

DR.

Inventory March 1st, 1876 — Stock,	\$580 00	
Supplies,	278 69	
Utensils and furniture,	413 79	
	<hr/>	\$1,272 48

Orders Paid.

D. S. Curtis, mowing,	\$6 00	
J. R. Alexander, cutting oats,	7 00	
I. E. Mallett, cutting and hauling hay,	20 00	
Chas. A. Williams, labor on farm, in part.	5 00	
F. W. Dearborn, do.	4 75	
D. & C. E. Scribner, meal and shorts,	26 05	
Charles A. Williams, labor,	10 00	
W. S. Alexander, care of cow,	3 18	
H. S. Carey, administrator, bal. due N. Cornish,	2 63	
Zina H. Noyes, mowing.	3 50	
Mrs. Mary G. Cornish, services 12½ weeks,	25 00	
D. H. Flagg, plowing,	11 00	
Charles E. Niles, painting and glazing,	11 12	
Daniel McManus, pasturing colt,	5 12	
Charles A. Williams, services in full,	44 35	
Harvey Stetson, coffin,	10 00	
Calvin Dyer, coopering and sorting pickles,	3 00	
Peter Baldwin, labor,	13 50	
A. G. Poland, grass seed,	3 25	
I. E. Mallett, 1 cord wood,	6 00	
D. & C. E. Scribner, meal, shorts, &c.,	51 56	
I. S. Balcome, supplies,	20 52	
N. W. Quint, freight on barrels,	2 10	
Elbridge Cornish, cutting hay,	24 00	
Owen Howard, Agent, services,	125 00	
Owen Howard, cow, horse blanket, &c.,	71 29	
	<hr/>	514 83

From Farm book :

A. Q. & C. Goud, for supplies,	17 15	
Sundries purchased by Agent,	142 14	
	<u> </u>	159 29
		<u> </u>
		\$1,946 60

TOWN FARM, CR.,

Inventory March 3d, 1877 — Stock,	\$303 50	
Supplies,	273 55	
Utensils and furniture,	413 79	
	<u> </u>	990 84
By cash for sale of cucumbers,	82 00	
do. heifer to J. Barron,	50 00	
do. colt to F. W. Dearborn,	50 00	
produce sold A. Q. & C. Goud,	19 98	
do. sold to sundry persons,	165 31	
1 cow's hide to J. S. Drinkwater,	3 25	
101 meals and lodging to strangers,	33 67	
cash on hand,	25 92	
due from F. W. Dearborn for wool,	9 00	
do. F. W. Dearborn for butter,	1 20	
do. E. G. Cornish do.	60	
do. I. C. Purinton do.	60	
	<u> </u>	441 53
Balance against the farm,		514 23
		<u> </u>
		\$1,946 60

The resident manager of the Town Farm commenced his services Sept. 7, 1876, soon after the decease of Mr. Cornish, the former manager, and the orders drawn and paid from the town treasury for the benefit of the farm amount to about \$290.00 since the time mentioned above. Mr. Howard's farm account shows that he has paid bills to the amount

of about \$140, and has sold about \$165 worth from the farm, leaving a balance of about \$25 cash on hand. There appears to be two or three small bills contracted by Mr. Howard that are not yet paid, but not large, and the expense or cost of the farm cannot be far from \$265. This includes the payment of Mr. Howard up to Mar. 7th, 1877, making a half-yearly settlement.

POOR OUT OF THE HOUSE.

Paid Harvey Berry, for Ralph L. Berry.	\$67 00	
Insane Hospital, Dunning, Dunning and Haley,	335 72	
Henry Morang, Lucy Foye,	39 00	
Joseph McKeen, Boswell and Ridley,	22 00	
Thomas R. Ridley, Mrs. R. Boswell,	6 00	
Mary E. Flye, T. R. Ridley,	10 00	
A. A. Purinton, T. R. Ridley,	19 57	
Swanzy Wilson, Wm. Lovely,	3 00	
John Atkins, Wm. Lovely,	2 00	
William Berry, Mrs. David Flagg,	2 00	
William Flye, T. R. Ridley.	5 00	
Fred. Berry, William Lovely,	14 00	
Charles W. Purinton, Seth Tebbetts,	27 25	
I. E. Mallett, Mrs D. Flagg,	4 90	
E. Griffin, T. R. Ridley,	2 80	
A. A. Purinton, T. R. Ridley,	2 88	
	<hr/>	563 12
<i>Received from sundries on account of poor:</i>		
From Dunning Brothers,	104 00	
Henry M. Dunning,	67 06	
Town of Bowdoinham,	43 57	
do. Brunswick,	67 00	
	<hr/>	281 63
Cost of Poor out of the House,		281 49
Town Farm, or Poor in the House.		514 23
		<hr/>
Total paid on pauper account,		\$795 72

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year beginning Mar 11, 1876, and ending Mar. 12, 1877.

RECEIPTS.

Received of Jerry F. Whitney, Collector for 1876,	\$5,559 26
F. W. Dearborn, Collector for 1872, '73, '74, '75,	2,618 00
from Town of Lisbon,	1,505 60
from State Treas. for Free High School,	500 00
of Selectmen on account of Town Farm,	182 00
do. for highway taxes,	123 44
do. on account of Miss Lydia A. Dunning,	104 00
do. do. Henry Dunning,	67 06
do. do. Brunswick,	67 00
do. do. Bowdoinham,	43 57
do. for stone sold Elbridge Cornish,	24 00
do. for rent of Toll House,	23 00
do. do. Brick School House,	10 00
do. for refuse lumber sold Johnson Clark,	5 00
do, use of hearse out of town,	2 00
of State Treas., railroad tax for the year 1875,	75 69
of A. A. Purinton, Treasurer of School Fund,	40 04
for dog licenses,	33 00
	<hr/>
	\$10,982 66
	<hr/>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Orders paid,	\$5,077 47
Notes paid,	3,714 75
Coupons,	892 50
Balance in Treasury,	1,297 94
	<hr/>
	\$10,982 66
	<hr/>

TOWN SCHOOL FUND.

DR.

Amount of Fund,	\$667 28
Interest on note of Town of Topsham, year ending March 5th, 1877,	40 04
	<u>\$707 32</u>

CR.

Note of Town of Topsham,	\$667 28
Interest on note paid to Town Treas. for support of schools,	40 04
	<u>\$707 32</u>

BILLS RECEIVABLE.

Chas. E. White note on demand,	\$121 96
One year's interest due,	7 32
	<u>\$129 28</u>

A. A. PURINTON, *Treasurer.*

LIABILITIES.

Due Bonds (\$5000 of which are due in July, 1877),	\$15,000 00
Balance of State tax of 1876,	2,704 64
Balance of County tax of 1876,	800 00
Notes outstanding,	3,556 34
Orders outstanding,	866 31
Schools,	362 61
Accrued interest,	100 00
All other bills estimated,	25 00
	<u>\$23,414 90</u>

RESOURCES.

Due from State permanent School Fund,	\$326 63
State Mill Tax " "	464 25
Charles E. White, note and 1 year's int.,	129 28
J. F. Whitney, ex-collector,	182 94
F. W. Dearborn, ex-collector,	1,377 12
J. F. Whitney, collector for 1876,	10,172 58
Joseph Barron,	50 00
	<u>12,702 80</u>
Excess of liabilities Mar. 12th. 1877,	\$10,712 10
Town debt diminished,	\$3,876 58

TABLE

SHOWING THE EXCESS OF LIABILITIES ABOVE THE RESOURCES, OR, TOWN DEBT, EACH YEAR IN MARCH, COMMENCING 1870, TOGETHER WITH THE RATES OF TAXATION AND NUMBER OF POLLS.

YEAR.	DEBT.	TAX ON \$1	POLLS.
1870	\$17,573 76	20 mills	340
1871	21 300 91	20 "	335
1872	22,959 46	22 "	339
1873	20,609 10	20 "	346
1874	18,437 25	30 "	357
1875	15,681 53	18½ "	366
1876	14,588 68	20 "	361
1877	10,712 10		

The following appropriations are recommended for the coming year:

For payment of Town Bonds,	\$5,000 00
Common Schools,	1 300 00
High School.	1,000 00
Highways and Bridges,	2,000 00
Poor and other expenses,	1,500 00
Abatements and Discounts,	800 00
Notes and Interest,	4,000 00
Fire Department,	300 00

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

TOPSHAM, MARCH 16th, 1877.

We have examined the foregoing accounts, and compared them with the books orders and bills, of which the foregoing is a true copy and find them correct.

DAVID SCRIBNER, }
 CHARLES E. HASKELL, } *Auditors.*
 D. L. SMITH, }

REPORT

OF

CHIEF ENGINEER OF FIRE DEPARTMENT.

To the Selectmen of Topsham:

GENTLEMEN: — The Chief Engineer of the Fire Department for the municipal year ending March 1st, 1877, asks leave to submit the following report. viz. :

BOARD OF ENGINEERS.

Daniel A. Hall. *Chief;*

James M. Scribner, Joseph McKeen. Eben Colby. *Assistants;*

James Barron, Samuel Knight, *Wardens.*

ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES.

Joseph McKeen to have charge of Kennebec, No. 1, Eben Colby to have charge of Niagara No. 3, James M. Scribner to have charge of Protector. No. 4, while on duty at fires in Topsham. James M. Scribner to have charge of Hooks and Ladders; Samuel Knight and James Barron to superintend the removal of goods when necessary.

FIRES AND ALARMS.

There have been during the year, six alarms and but five fires, viz. :

April 27th, 1876, a fire broke out in the woods on Brunswick Plains. Androscoggin engine was ordered out, but learning our services were not needed, she was ordered back. Time allowed to company, one hour.

May 5th, an alarm was given, caused by a fire at the house of W. B. Purinton. This fire being within three hundred feet of a good cistern, and the Androscoggin quickly at work, the fire was easily controlled. The Kennebec and Niagara were quickly on the ground with hose stretched and filled, eager for the fight, but as there had been more water thrown into the house than was needed, they were not allowed to work their machines. Time allowed to Androscoggin, two hours.

June 26, an alarm at Brunswick; proved false. No time allowed.
 Sept. 15, alarm caused by fire in house of H. B. Cobb, Brunswick. Androscoggin quickly reported. Time allowed, two hours.

Nov. 6, an alarm of fire was given, which proved to be the stable attached to the house occupied by J. D. Stanwood, Brunswick. Androscoggin was promptly on the ground. Time allowed, one and one-half hours.

Dec. 5, an alarm was given, caused by the burning of Stephen Walker's house, Brunswick. The Androscoggin was quickly on the road, but the distance being so great she was ordered back. Time allowed, one hour.

Total time of service to Androscoggin, 7½ hours.

ENGINE.

Androscoggin, No. 2; number of men. 60. Engine was built by Hunneman & Co., Boston, Mass., in 1850, and bought by the town of Topsham in the same year. Diameter of cylinders, 5½ inches; length of suction hose, 36 feet; length of leading hose, 700 feet. This engine is now 26 years old, and I take pride in saying that she is worth more money to-day than she cost the town when she was bought. The engine house is in good repair. The engine room is not large enough. We have recommended that the hearse be removed from the engine room, to make room for our hooks and ladders, which are now stored some distance from the engine house. I would recommend to the town to purchase a light truck for the purpose of conveying the hooks and ladders to and from fires.

RESERVOIRS

We have four reservoirs in the village. Three of these, built of brick and cement, are in good order, and are kept filled. The fourth reservoir is built of plank, and needs some repairs. I would here state that the distance between our reservoirs is so great that we are often obliged to use every foot of hose to reach the fire. Consequently we have recommended to the town to purchase 200 feet more, the cost of which would be about \$165. We have also recommended to the town to build two more reservoirs, one near the southeast corner of Wm. Dennett's lot on Pleasant street; also, one near the stores on Main street, to take the place of the old one long since abandoned.

We trust the town will cheerfully respond to the wants of the Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. HALL,

Chief Engineer.

SCHOOL REPORT.

The following is submitted as a report of the schools for the year closing March, 1877 :

Scholars in town, April 1, 1876,	458
Registered in Summer and Fall,	226
Registered in Winter,	241
Average attendance, Summer and Fall,	201
Average attendance, Winter,	202
Average wages of female teachers, per week, including board,	\$6.40
Average wages of male teachers, per month, including board,	\$46.50

HIGH SCHOOL. Teachers.—Principal, Geo. C. Purington; Assistants, Miss Anna E. Smith and Mr. Orlando Dyer. Three terms of 10, 12 and 11 weeks—33 weeks. Registered number of scholars.—Summer, 38; Fall, 40. Average attendance.—Summer, 34.5; Fall, 37. The attendance of the Winter term does not appear, as the term is not closed at the time of making this report. Wages per month—Principal, \$74.31, board, \$16.00—\$90.31. Assistants, per week, \$4.73, board, \$3.00—\$7.73. Total wages and board, \$1000.

FIRST PRIMARY. Teachers—Miss Addie B. Hawes and Miss Emma T. Mallett. Three terms of 9 weeks each—27 weeks. Registered.—Summer, 31; Fall, 40; Winter, 34. Average.—Summer, 28.2; Fall, 30; Winter, 28. Wages per week—(average) \$4.88, board, \$3.00—7.88. Total, \$211.50.

SECOND PRIMARY. Teacher, Miss Emily J. Whitten. Three terms of 9 weeks each—27 weeks. Registered.—Summer, 44; Fall, 49; Winter, 40. Average.—Summer, 39; Fall, 41; Winter, 35. Wages per week, \$5.00, board, \$3.00—\$8.00. Total, \$216.

No. 1. Teachers, Miss Carrie S. Clapp and Mr. Eugene Thomas. Three terms of 8, 8 and 9.2 weeks—25.2 weeks. Registered.—Summer, 7; Fall, 3; Winter, 7. Average.—Summer, 6; Fall, 3; Winter, 6.5. Wages per week, Summer and Fall, \$2.75, board, \$2.25—\$5.00. Wages per month, Winter, \$20, board, \$10—\$30. Total, \$149.

No. 3. Teacher, Miss Lettie Plummer. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks — 27 weeks. Registered.— Summer, 16; Fall, 15; Winter, 11. Average.— Summer, 14; Fall, 15; Winter, 9. Wages per week, (average) \$3.74, board, \$2.00 — \$5.74. Total, \$155.

No. 4. Teacher, Miss Mary L. Whitney. Three terms of 9, 8 and 3 weeks — 20 weeks. Registered.— Summer, 14; Fall, 15; Winter, 18. Average — Summer, 12; Fall, 12; Winter, 16. Wages per week, (average) \$3.30, board, \$2.00 — \$5.30. Total, \$106. Winter term closed early on account of scarlet fever.

No. 5. Teachers, Miss Josie A. Given, Miss Emma T. Mallett and Miss Lilla L. Smith. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks — 27 weeks. Registered.— Summer, 14; Fall, 10; Winter, 13. Average.— Summer, 10; Fall, 9; Winter, 11. Wages per week, (average) \$3.87, board, \$2.20 — \$6.07. Total, \$164.

No. 6. Teachers, Miss Fannie D. Bowker, Miss Emily A. Thompson and Mr. F. H. Blondel. Three terms of 9, 6 and 12 weeks — 27 weeks. Registered.— Summer, 21; Fall, 25; Winter, 32. Average — Summer, 17; Fall, 21; Winter, 22. Wages per week, Summer and Fall, \$4.00, board, \$2.00 — \$6.00; Winter, per month, \$21, board, \$14 — \$35. Total, \$198.

No. 9. Teacher, Miss Abbie E. Hunter. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks — 27 weeks. Registered.— Summer, 13; Fall, 13; Winter, 20. Average.— Summer, 11; Fall, 11; Winter, 16. Wages per week, (average) \$3.74, board, \$2.00 — \$5.74. Total, \$155.

No. 11. Teacher, Miss Fannie D. Nowell. Three terms of 9, 8 and 10 weeks 27 weeks. Registered.— Summer, 7; Fall, 9; Winter, 10. Average.— Summer, 7; Fall, 8; Winter, 10. Wages per week (average) \$3.74, board, \$2.00 — \$5.74. Total, \$155.

No. 12. Teachers, Miss Abbie Thompson and Miss E. C. Sargent. Three terms of 9, 8 and 9.5 weeks — 26.5 weeks. Registered.— Summer, 13; Fall, 15; Winter, 17. Average.— Summer, 11; Fall, 12; Winter, 13. Wages per week (average) \$3.90, board, \$2.00 — \$5.90. Total, \$156.25.

SUMMARY.

Number of terms taught during the year, 33; weeks, 294. Total wages of teachers, \$2,665.75. Per cent. of number registered, attending regularly, 85.36.

Incidental expenses of the schools will be found in the Selectmen's Report.

When entering upon the duties of the office of Supervisor, I found myself entirely unacquainted with the schools of Topsham; therefore I could not so well meet their specific wants. When I learned that former teachers had been successful and had given general satisfaction, I tried to employ such, provided their qualifications were satisfactory. I may have made mistakes, but have always been ready to correct them when convinced of the fact. There has seemed to be a good degree of interest exhibited on the part of both teachers and scholars, and a good degree of harmony has pervaded all the schools. No outbreak nor case of insubordination has been reported.

There have been some breaks on account of scarlet fever, when it was deemed prudent to close the schools.

Without going into the details of each school, I would call attention to a few things of a general character which need careful looking after. There seems to be an inclination on the part of many pupils to go over a good deal of ground without a thorough understanding of it; and perhaps there may be a fault in some of the teachers in not making practical applications of what is studied.

Some scholars seem to commit a lesson merely to recite, as though they would never need any more of it; and I fear that some parents measure their children's knowledge by the number of pages gone over, rather than by a thorough understanding of what is studied. It is better to do a little *well*, rather than a good deal *poorly*. I have, in some instances, found scholars ciphering in square and cube roots, when they could not solve, with any degree of accuracy, problems which pertain to the simplest business transactions. Many of our boys will not go to school much more, and in the short time allotted them for schooling, they need to pay careful attention to those things which will be beneficial to them in business; therefore our teachers should be well acquainted with all business calculations and forms, that they may give such instruction as will fit their pupils for business. Our common schools are intended to fit our boys and girls for the common business of life, therefore the instruction given in them should be of a very practical nature; and I think it should be, to some extent, independent of books. Some of our text-books have a good deal of matter in them, which serves more to fill up the book and make it large than anything else, thus requiring a good deal of judgment, as well as of time, on the part of the teacher, in selecting what to get and what to omit.

There are plenty of teachers, but those of the requisite qualifications are not so easily found; they are in good demand at higher wages than

we have been paying. It is not always cheapest in the end to employ teachers who may be obtained for small salaries. I think we may soon look to our High School for good teachers. If some who have been teaching during the past year would attend the High School a term or two, it would increase their usefulness as teachers, and perhaps their chances of getting schools in the future. The instruction in the High School during the year, has been of the most thorough and practical nature. Every thing has seemed to move along in wonderful harmony. Mr. Purington, the Principal, seems to have perfect control of the school. He is a faithful, hard working teacher, who is interested in the *work*, which I understand, he has chosen as a profession. Persons who doubt the propriety of continuing the Free High School, should visit this school. They will find it a very pleasant place in which to spend an hour or two.

The general deportment and punctuality of the students of this school have been very gratifying. Those who have not been absent nor tardy on any account during the entire year up to the time of making this report, are, Minnie Goud, Bertha Mallett, Nettie F. Baldwin, Hattie Barron, Lizzie M. Wilson and Frank Barron. Those who have only been absent on account of sickness, (some only one half day,) are, Nettie Alexander, Clare Hussey, Carrie Barron, Belle Whitehouse and Mattie Barron.

One of the great drawbacks under which the teachers in the rural schools labor is, the schools are so small that it is hard getting up any enthusiasm in them. A school of five or six pupils is well calculated to make any person, teacher or pupil, *stupid* and *lazy*. My experience in teaching would incline *me* to send my own children two miles to a good sized school with a good teacher, rather than half a mile to a school of six or eight pupils.

The average number of scholars attending the schools outside of the village is 94; being less than 12 pupils to each school. The entire cost of these schools is about \$1,380 for the year, being a tuition of about \$5.00 to each pupil for a term of 9 weeks; while the entire cost of the village schools, including the High School, for the same time is about \$1,308, being a tuition of about \$4.20 to each pupil for a term of 9 weeks. Now it will be seen that if the rural schools could be consolidated, so as to have half as many, they would be *better* schools, and worth more to each pupil, at half the expense that they now are.

The school-houses of the town are in very good condition. Some little repairs or new blackboards may be needed in some of them. School house in No. 6 has undergone general repairs; and the foundation stones of the village Primary School house have been put in good condition. All the rooms in the High School building have been plastered and painted, so that they are now in a very respectable condition. But few of the schools are supplied with maps or globes for the study of geography. A little outlay for apparatus of this kind would be an advantage to the schools.

Good school houses, well furnished and well filled with intelligent scholars, eager for knowledge, and managed by well qualified and judicious teachers, are the very best safe-guards against vice and poverty,

Respectfully submitted,

D. L. SMITH, SUPERVISOR.

Topsham, March 16, 1877.