

1896

Annual Report of the Board of Selectmen with Reports of the Treasurer and Superintendent of Schools of the Town of Topsham, Maine, for the Year Ending Feb. 5th, 1896

Topsham (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT
—OF THE—
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

—WITH—
REPORTS OF THE TREASURER

—AND—
Superintendent of Schools

—OF THE—
TOWN OF TOPSHAM, MAINE,

—FOR THE—
Year Ending Feb. 5th,
1896.

BRUNSWICK, ME.
THE BRUNSWICK TELEGRAPH PRESS
1896.

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TOWN OFFICERS.

FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING FEB. 2ND, 1895, AND ENDING FEB. 5,
1896.

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

EUGENE THOMAS,
E. W. MALLETT,
W. R. HILDRETH.

TOWN CLERK,
M. C. HALL.

TOWN TREASURER,
JOSEPH WHITNEY.

COLLECTOR,
ELBRIDGE CORNISH.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,
EUGENE THOMAS.

AUDITORS,
A. Q. GOUD,
E. M. BROWN.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

Value of taxable property on first day of April, 1895,
was as follows :

Resident Real Estate,	\$375,565 00	
“ Personal Estate,	110,397 00	\$485,962 00
Non Resident Real Estate,	304,820 00	
“ “ Personal Estate,	13,836 90	318,656 00
Total,		<u>\$804,618 00</u>

Number of taxable polls, 473.

Assessed on each poll, \$3.00.

Rate of taxation on the dollar, 16 mills.

ASSESSMENTS.

Common schools,	\$2,000 00
Free high school,	600 00
Highways and bridges,	2,500 00
Poor in and out of alms house,	600 00
Abatements,	200 00
Interest,	100 00
Miscellaneous,	800 00
Fire department,	200 00

Electric lights,	100 00	
School books,	250 00	
Schoolhouse repairs,	150 00	
Iron bridge at Cathance,	1,000 00	
Schoolhouse and lot near free bridge,	1,500 00	
Repairs on cisterns,	150 00	
New streets near O. E. Burkett's,	150 00	\$10,800 00
State tax,	2,207 16	
County tax,	823 92	
Overlayings,	461 81	
Unpaid highway tax.	417 35	
Supplemental tax,	12 40	
<hr/>		
Total commitment,		\$14,722 64

ABATEMENTS.

To individuals as follows :

Albert M. Graves, overvaluation,	\$ 98
Wallace Purington, tax of '93, sick,	3 00
Josiah Orr, poll tax,	3 00
M. F. Joy, poll tax, poor,	3 80
John W. Preston, poll tax, feeble,	3 00
Otis F. Thompson, property not had,	16 00
Thomas Winchell, poll tax,	3 00
Damasse Boucher, overvaluation,	2 40
A. P. Tate, heirs of, property not had,	4 80
Frank L. Hicks, error on highway book,	1 09
Joseph Colombe, overvaluation,	3 20
Charles Clough, overvaluation of R. E.,	1 60
Charles T. Patten, lumber not had,	3 20
Ellen and Alice M. Haskell, bank stock.	8 00

Frank Bruno, overvaluation,	7 20
George R. Powers, property not had,	64
Nancy M. Hunter, bank stock,	00
Abbie E. Hunter, "	20
Joseph Drinkwater, overvaluation,	3 20
Betsey Barron, bank stock,	60
W. Barron,	4 80
Nancy Barron, "	6 40
Frank Noble, poll tax, not here,	3 00
Fabrin Belanger, overvaluation,	4 80
O. E. Burkett, "	60
Cabot M'fg Co., "	74 88
Wm. Gillispie, poll tax of 1893,	3 00
H. B. Fisher, road tax worked out,	9 45
Angeline Fisher, bank stock and road tax of '94,	10 86
E. M. Stone, feeble, poll tax of '93,	3 00

To Elbridge Cornish, collector on
taxes of 1893, as follows :

F. E. Casey, highway tax, gone,	80
Ed Chandler, taxed twice,	3 00
J. W. Cunningham, dead,	3 00
Thomas Chamberlain, away,	3 00
Joseph Dion, away,	3 80
Charles Dennett, taxed in Boston,	3 80
Thomas Emmond, poor,	4 00
Charles Farnham, highway tax, gone,	93
Fred Fielding, away,	3 00
Fred Hunter, taxed in Bath,	3 80
Heirs of Charles E. Haskell, property not had,	75
Charles Jewell, away,	3 00
W. S. Joy, away, in jail,	3 00
Orrin Houghton, highway tax, gone,	80

John Johnson, away,	3 00	
Arthur Michaud, in Canada,	3 00	
John Peavy, away,	80	
F. E. Russell, highway tax, away,	80	
Frank Ricker, unpaid highway, pauper,	80	
Frank Rumrill, away,	3 00	
Stephen Daly,	3 00	
Joseph Thenin, away,	20	
	<hr/>	\$269 98
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,		6 53
		<hr/>
		276 51

	CR.	
By appropriation,	\$200 00	
By balance,	76 51	
	<hr/>	\$276 51

HIGHWAYS.

BILLS OF 1894.

	DR.	
To C. W. Purinton,	\$ 6 00	
John Furbish,	1 30	
J. A. Tarr,	10 91	
Charles Clough,	5 00	
Albert E. Williams,	3 00	
Thomas Rogers,	8 75	
Charles A. Ward,	12 72	
J. L. Hyde,	9 69	
Aaron Goodwin,	16 42	
W. H. Haley,	7 35	
W. J. Wilson,	15 75	
Charles E. Meserve,	13 74	

Foster B. Meserve,	6 00
George B. Luce,	9 83
I. T. Allen,	7 30
Wm. Dunning,	12 62
W. J. Wilson,	23 65
Albion T. Jack,	23 18
George R. Powers,	4 16
W. S. Noyes,	46 82
Alfred R. Hunter,	28 13
Edwin W. Gray,	93
Howland Brothers,	26 26
George M. Patten,	6 40
Charles Ward,	4 18
Elmer G. Powers,	5 25
Thomas Carney,	22 05
B. M. Patten,	17 68
Joseph Foster,	21 02
Cyrus Flagg,	107 81
W. S. Noyes,	6 12
W. S. Noyes,	6 00
S. T. & E. M. Brown,	15 50
Fred A. Rackley,	13 88
Fred A. Rackley,	6 00
Schuyler Andrews,	3 00
A. J. Hildreth,	15 34
Alfred Hilton,	7 20
Frank Hilton,	3 10
C. T. Patten,	55
W. R. Hildreth,	3 02
Schuyler Andrews,	75
Charles Haskell,	1 35
	<hr/>

\$563 21

BILLS OF 1895.

To James Purington,	\$ 17 50
A. M. Graves,	5 00

C. H. Mitchell, for road machine,	170 00
James Purington,	25 00
Walter Cash,	5 80
Nathan Stuart,	10 95
Herbert Stuart,	12 52
Charles Whitten,	13 65
E. H. Phinney,	73 97
William Gillispie,	15 00
Peter Leclair,	11 13
Micho Leclair,	11 13
John Gray,	8 93
Amber Marvir,	11 13
Paul Taltor,	10 50
Joseph Levegueur,	29 22
A. M. Graves,	10 00
James Purington,	20 00
Charles Hart,	13 25
Abraham Bouchard,	8 39
“ “	15 57
Benj. B. Wilson,	12 41
G. Henry Berry,	5 25
William A. Crocker,	4 00
C. H. Alexander,	15 12
Charles Whitten,	4 50
Caleb Ridley,	4 80
Humphrey Mallett,	24 00
Nathan Stuart,	4 50
Albert M. Graves,	22 63
James L. Doolittle,	20 00
Abraham Bouchard,	5 25
Wm. Gillispie,	5 77
James Purington,	28 99
W. F. Atkinson,	4 50
George M. Patten,	5 70
Joseph Levegueur,	8 05

Emery Noyes,	9 90
Josiah Orr,	1 40
D. & C. E. Scribner,	5 00
Howard Carey,	12 00
C. E. Mustard,	8 00
W. S. Noyes,	5 00
G. Henry Berry,	6 00
C. T. Patten,	25 35
Augustus Leavitt,	1 27
Frank Fish,	5 55
Wm. Gillispie,	5 62
Ed. Brawn,	3 25
“ “	2 00
Wm. Muir, Jr.,	9 00
Caleb Ridley,	15 00
Nathan Stuart,	19 35
George Carter,	1 35
W. D. Jack,	6 00
U. A. Jack,	20 50
Arthur Jack,	5 25
W. T. Wilson,	18 75
Holman Foster,	8 40
Wm. Crocker,	4 30
Josiah Orr,	20
J. H. Hale,	3 75
Charles Whitten,	1 12
“ “	3 00
Benjamin B. Wilson,	3 75
Al Levegueur,	5 62
Frank Levegueur,	4 12
Joseph Levegueur,	1 50
Howland Brothers,	77 61
Ridley & Eaton,	5 72
Sam Wilson,	9 90
Albert Carr,	6 75

B. M. Patten and others,	54 50
B. M. Patten,	33 26
J. R. Edgecomb,	3 95
Al Levegueur,	22 05
Joseph Levegueur,	2 25
Wm. Crocker,	14 62
Joseph R. Wilson,	9 90
Fred A. Rackley,	31 97
C. H. Alexander,	7 20
S. P. Graves,	11 20
Nathan Stuart,	60
I. T. Allen and others,	76 28
S. C. Andrews,	5 73
Albert M. Graves,	7 50
John Gray,	2 12
Holman Foster,	9 80
E. F. Brawn,	4 50
C. W. Whitten,	4 50
J. P. C. Fall,	10 95
Caleb Ridley,	27 40
W. T. Wilson,	12 00
Stuart Allen,	3 00
H. Stuart,	3 00
E. H. Phinney,	3 00
Clarance Colby,	6. 00
C. Eugene Shaw,	1 13
Joseph Alexander,	19 25
William Gillispie,	11 10
Nathan Stuart,	3 45
Mrs. D. Blake,	2 00
Eugene Rogers,	4 20
Z. & W. S. Noyes,	7 00
Thomas Rogers,	14 95
D. W. Powell,	2 25
George M. Patten,	45

John Holf,	7 74
J. Orr,	1 00
A. M. Graves,	11 78
James Tarr,	12 45
W. P. W. Purinton,	10 63
Charles P. Edgecomb,	10 88
B. B. Wilson,	75
A. C. Allen,	1 50
Albion S. Jack,	4 20
C. F. Strout,	1 50
W. H. Haley,	9 11
Josiah Orr,	40
Nathan Stuart,	2 10
C. H. Williams,	9 30
A. A. Plummer,	3 00
George W. Tibbetts,	8 00
Josiah Orr,	40
W. T. Wilson,	3 25
Z. & W. S. Noyes,	6 95
A. J. Dennison,	2 40
Wm. Gillispie,	2 25
Caleb Ridley,	29 55
J. P. C. Fall,	10 00
E. J. Miller,	19 25
George Ward,	1 05
Fred A. White,	75
John Gray,	3 30
George Alexander,	6 88
E. W. White,	10 60
Nathan Stuart,	4 50
S. T. & E. M. Brown,	11 44
R. K. Holbrook,	2 50
Joseph Foster,	22 69
Bowdoin Paper Co.,	54 02
Joseph Dufresne,	2 30

Albert M. Graves,	10 65	
Joseph Alexander,	7 74	
F. H. Purinton,	50	
Charles Ward,	8 00	
Alvah Mallett,	12 82	
Town of Lisbon,	16 44	
F. W. Atkinson,	1 95	
Clark Tarr,	3 00	
George L. Quint,	92	
J. P. C. Fall,	3 57	
George W. Hildreth,	5 04	
F. Hunter,	3 50	
W. P. W. Purinton,	2 00	
Caleb Ridley,	2 25	
Frank P. Tate,	75	
Trenton Flint and Spar Co.,	2 70	
Llewellyn Cobb,	50	
Appleton M. Graves,	75	
Ridley & Eaton,	11 35	
George B. Luce,	2 15	
George M. Graves.	1 50	
	<hr/>	\$2,378 16
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,		1,943 41
		<hr/>
		\$4,321 57

CR.

By balance Feb. 2, 1895.	1,795 29	
appropriation,	2,500 00	
highway surveyors, money re-		
turned,	6 82	
Lumber furnished, S. T. & E.		
M. Brown,	19 46	
	<hr/>	\$4,321 57

CATHANCE BRIDGE.

Dr.

Josiah Orr, trucking,	75	
Wm. Crocker, labor hauling stone,	9 78	
A. M. Graves, getting out and laying stone,	40 90	
Wm. Crocker, labor,	6 75	
Joseph Levegueur, trucking.	1 00	
S. P. Graves, labor,	1 50	
Wm. Dunning, Stone,	3 50	
E. W. Mallett, labor getting out stone,	6 50	
H. B. Fisher, labor,	8 00	
E. S. Hacker & Son, cement,	6 60	
George E. King Bridge Co., bridge and extra labor,	409 57	
Samuel Wilson, labor,	6 00	
	<hr/>	500 85
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,		499 15
		<hr/>
		1000 00

Cr.

By appropriation,	\$1000 00	1000 00
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Four hundred and ninety-nine and 15-100 dollars are left over on this account, and it is recommended by the Selectmen that this be turned over to the highways' and bridges' account for next year.

This amount with the balance left over from the highway and bridges' account this year, will not necessitate the town's raising more than \$500 for highways and bridges for the coming year. It is, however, recommended that \$500 be raised for permanent repairs on the highways in such parts of the town as the roads are found to be in the worst condition.

NEW STREETS NEAR O. E. BURKETT'S.

Dr.

R. H. Thurman, labor,	9 25	
Joseph Levegueur, labor,	3 00	
W. Gillispie, "	22 50	
Z. H. & W. S. Noyes, labor,	108 15	
	<hr/>	142 90
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,		7 10
		<hr/>
		\$150 00

Cr.

Appropriation,	150 00
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POOR OUT OF THE HOUSE.

Dr.

BILLS OF 1894.

To balance,	314 44	
A. Q. Goud, supplies to Ed Brawn,	6 00	
W. P. W. Purinton, rent for Ed Brawn,	9 00	
	<hr/>	\$329 44

BILLS OF 1895.

To Manning S. Campbell, Treasurer of Maine Insane Hospital, for board and supplies for Celia J. Colby,	136 98
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Eugene Thomas, supplies to Luke Shepard,	7 37
H. O. Curtis, M. D., medical attendance for George Collins' family,	70 00
Wm. McFadden, supplies for M. F. Joy,	5 00
Frank Hunter, supplies for Dun Berry and James Lapham,	11 00
Frank Hunter, supplies for M. F. Joy,	10 00
E. L. Temple, rent for Ed Brawn,	7 50
W. B. Purinton, rent for Ed Brawn,	4 50
Elbridge Small, nursing A. Faulknham,	9 00
Wm. McFadden, supplies to A. Faulknham,	39 26
Wm. McFadden, supplies, to George Collins,	9 08
Wm. McFadden, supplies to Fred White,	5 10
Wm. McFadden, supplies to Mrs. James Clark,	4 50
E. L. Temple, rent for Ed Brawn,	3 75
E. L. Temple, rent for Ed Brawn,	3 75
D. & C. E. Scribner, supplies for A. Faulknham,	9 78
E. L. Temple, rent for Ed Brawn,	3 75
Brunswick remnant store, supplies for A. Faulknham,	10 27
J. R. Edgecomb, supplies, etc., for A. Faulknham,	8 29
Fred A. Rackley, milk for Geo. Collins,	4 80
J. C. Cox, wood for James Lapham,	5 00

W. T. Wilson, rent for Ed. Brawn,	3 75
Town of Lisbon, medical attendance, nursing, etc., Frank Ricker,	316 50
Frank Hunter, supplies Mrs. Dun Berry,	7 00
Smith & Beal, supplies for Luke Shepard,	3 80
Brunswick Remnant store, supplies for A. Faulknham,	9 63
Everett White, rent for Mrs. Dun Berry,	4 00
H. O. Curtis, M. D., medical attendance for Wilbur Allen,	12 00
Julia A. Davis, nursing A. Faulknham,	10 50
Adams & Townsend, boots for family of A. Faulknham,	4 00
Everett White, rent for family of Dun Berry,	4 00
J. F. Chaney, coal for M. F. Joy, Brunswick,	5 20
F. Hunter, family of Dun Berry,	4 00
“ “ A. Faulknham,	8 23
“ “ Fred White,	5 00
Town of Webster, nursing and medical attendance for C. H. Brawn,	39 00
H. O. Curtis, M. D., medical attendance family of George Collins,	10 00
A. Q. Goud, supplies for Dun Berry,	1 00
James C. Cox, wood for Mrs.	

James Clark,	5 00	
	<hr/>	821 29
		<hr/>
		1150 73
Cr.		
By appropriation.	300 00	
Town of Winthrop, acc't of Luke		
Shepard,	11 17	
Town of Brunswick, acc't of		
Geo. Collins and M. F. Joy.	114 08	
	<hr/>	425 25
Balance overdrawn,		725 48
		<hr/>
		1150 73

As will be noticed by referring to the annual Report of the Selectmen of one year ago, this account was overdrawn \$314.44, also by referring to the recommendations, in the same report, it will be noticed that \$300 was recommended to be raised for poor out of the house for this year, leaving the present board of Overseers of the Poor \$14.44 worse than nothing to do business on this year, after the \$300 was raised for this year's expenses. It will be readily seen that, under these circumstances all bills paid on "Poor out of the House" account this year have been overdrawn.

It is also well known that these bills *must be paid* whether there is an appropriation for them or not. Unfortunately for the town some bills have come in which had to be paid, which could not have been foreseen and provided for.

One of them was the case of Frank Ricker, living at Lisbon Falls, which bill alone, amounted to more than all the appropriation for this year on this account. Another case which could not be foreseen was that of C. H. Brawn who was injured in Webster and his bills amounted to \$39.

One other account of considerable importance is that of Alkanah Faulkham who belonged in Canada. We have not yet been able to collect the amount furnished to his family.

One other case was that of Ed. Brawn. His rent has been paid rather than to have him move out of town and thus run up large bills against this town as in the past.

Provisions should be made by the town to take care of such families at the town farm where others are compelled to live who are a town charge.

A few days since a bill was presented to this town for medical attendance on Robert Higgins in 1894. Higgins has a pauper residence in Yarmouth. Yarmouth was notified at the time but later the Selectmen of this town wrote them that this bill had been settled. We are informed, now, that certain parties in this town agreed to pay this bill, but failed to do so. Consequently this town will have to do so without being able, probably, to collect it from Yarmouth.

There will be available for deserving poor, one hundred and two and 81-100 dollars, from the Mustard fund, next year, which by vote of the town, is payable annually.

The Selectmen recommend \$900 to be raised on this account for next year in order to pay the amount overdrawn for the last two years and to have a reasonable amount to do business with next year.

TOWN FARM.

Dr.

To Town Farm inventory Feb. 2, 1895, \$766 10 \$ 766 10

BILLS OF 1894.

W. S. Rogers, wood,	5 00
Otis F. Staples, salary as manager,	
Feb. 1, 1895,	33 35
Morin & Gamache, supplies and	
groceries,	29 83
E. L. Hunter, labor on town farm,	1 00
Holman Foster, wood,	3 00
Thompson & Courson, bread stuff,	1 74
Alonzo Day, shoes for inmates,	3 50
Alexander Brothers, meat,	2 10

Ridley & Eaton, supplies,	33	
James Fulton, threshing,	2	70
Barrett Potter, assignee of L. G. Trudeau,	23	92
Harvey Stetson, coffin and robe for Benj. Carter,	25	00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		131 47

BILLS OF 1895.

Otis F. Staples, wood bought,	4	75
Otis F. Staples, balance salary as manager,	41	65
Charles Ward, chopping wood and dressing bought,	15	00
Charles Ward, expenses for town farm,	30	46
Charles Ward, salary as manager, in part,	50	00
Rhoda Carter, nursing James Lapham,	14	00
Nathan Stuart, care James Lap- ham,	4	00
Harvey Stetson, coffin for James Lapham,	14	00
Charles Ward, groceries from July 15th to Oct. 15th,	17	38
Charles Ward, salary in part,	25	00
H. O. Curtis, M. D., medical at- tendance to inmates,	2	00
Charles Ward, bal. supplies to Jan. 18, 1896,	14	58
Charles Ward, salary in part,	75	00
Supplies bought and paid for by produce sold,	170	50

Charles T. Rackley, cow,	<u>35 00</u>	513 32
		<u>\$1,410 89</u>

Cr.

By Balance, Feb. 2, 1895,	100 60	
Appropriation,	300 00	
Labor on highway with team,	8 00	
Pasturing cow for Milton Ward,	6 00	
Town Farm inventory, Feb. 5,		
1895,	758 60	
Produce sold,	170 50	
Balance brought over from "Stock for Town Farm" account, Feb.		
2, 1895,	37 00	
Balance overdrawn Feb. 5, 1896,	<u>30 19</u>	
		\$1,410 89

There is not one dollar outstanding against the Town Farm at this date.

NEW SCHOOLHOUSE NEAR FREE BRIDGE.

At the last annual town meeting the town voted to raise \$1500 for a schoolhouse and lot in the vicinity of the Free Bridge and appointed the School Committee and Selectmen, a committee to purchase a lot and build a schoolhouse there during the past season.

Early in the spring, as soon as the snow was off so that the land could be looked over, your committee looked the land over with a view to purchasing a lot and practically decided upon a lot, when we were informed that during the coming year it was the intention

of the Catholic society of Brunswick to build a Parochial school there. We were also informed that in all probability, almost all the scholars in the vicinity of the Free bridge in Topsham, would attend that school when finished.

Under those circumstances your committee did not feel warranted in going ahead to build the schoolhouse voted by this town at the last meeting, without first presenting this matter before the town again, accordingly the \$1500 was raised last year but has not been spent and an article will be inserted in the warrant at the next annual town meeting to see what the town will vote to do with the money.

In hiring money for the new high school building during the past season a point was made not to hire money until it was actually needed. Consequently only \$7000 has been hired on this account up to this time which leaves in the neighborhood of \$1500 on the new schoolhouse building account, not yet hired, as there was money enough to pay all the remaining bills in the treasury without hiring more money. It was thought best by the committee to recommend to the town to turn in, towards paying for the new schoolhouse the \$1500, which was raised the last year for a new school house at the Free bridge.

Until matters are in shape so that we can know what is needed for a schoolhouse near the Free bridge, your committee recommends that transportation be furnished for scholars in that vicinity to our other village schools, or that some other temporary arrangements be made for their education.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Dr.

BILLS OF 1894.

J. F. Chaney, election clerk,	\$	2 00
T. M. Giveen, town clerk,		13 30
Joseph Whitney, services as election officer, stationery, stamps and treasurer's salary,		84 25
G. M. Elliott, M. D., birth certificates.		2 75

William J. Wilson, digging grave for Mr. Carter,	3 00	
M. P. Whitney, supplies for board of Health,	65	
W. S. Rogers, bal. services as select- man of 1894,	23 25	
A. C. Shorey, printing town reports of 1894,	33 00	
Samuel Knight, salary as town agent,	15 00	
A. Q. Goud, services as auditor,	5 00	
E. L. Hunter, balance of services as selectman,	50 00	
C. H. Alexander, balance of services as selectman,	40 00	
J. C. Purinton, supplies for select- men's and school com. office,	4 75	
C. H. Alexander, express on scraper for road machine,	40	
Eugene Thomas, services as supervi- sor of schools for 1894,	157 50	
Dunning Bros., hearse for funeral Benj. Carter,	3 00	
Ridley & Eaton, miscellaneous sup- plies,	13 26	
C. H. Cumston, M. D., reporting births and deaths,	4 00	
	<hr/>	\$455 11

BILLS OF 1895.

DR.

E. L. White, preparing hall, wood, etc., for annual March meeting, 1895,	1 25
--	------

George Carter, preparing wood for Selectmen's office,	35
Joseph Levegueur, services as inter- preter taking valuation,	1 00
W. T. Wilson, cleaning vaults,	1 65
H. S. Dunning, paper and printing Selectmen's office,	3 50
W. R. Hildreth, express, road ma- chine scraper,	50
Josiah Orr, jobbing and trucking,	1 25
Howard Colby, labor for Board of Health,	1 00
Willard Wilson, freight and trucking, edge to road machine,	40
Dunham Berry, tearing down old schoolhouse,	4 75
Walter Cash, tearing down old school- house,	9 00
Herbert Stuart, tearing down old schoolhouse,	2 25
Harry Barron, tearing down old schoolhouse,	5 25
Frank Cunningham, tearing down old schoolhouse,	3 00
W. F. Atkinson, tearing down old schoolhouse,	8 25
Arthur Barnar, tearing down old schoolhouse,	4 50
Joseph Lubel, tearing down old school- house,	5 75
J. L. Courson, labor for board of health,	1 00
J. C. Purinton, supplies for select- men's and school committee's of- fices,	6 42
Caleb Ridley, tearing down old school-	

house,	8 25
W. T. Wilson, watching nights of July 3 and 4,	4 00
S. L. Fogg, looking up records in re- gard to land adjoining high school lot,	3 00
Loring, Short & Harmon, books and blanks for selectmen's office,	25 75
Eugene Thomas, services as auditor and Supt. of schools in part for '95,	50 38
Wellington Tedford, sheep killed and injured by dogs,	50 00
Mrs. H. M. & U. E. Tedford, sheep killed and injured by dogs,	6 00
Joseph Levegueur, sheep killed and injured by dogs,	11 22
Andrew Plummer, sheep killed and injured by dogs,	4 00
I. T. Allen, sheep killed and injured by dogs,	15 00
Moses C. Barnes, sheep killed and in- jured by dogs,	2 50
Joseph Levegueur, for sheep killed and injured by dogs,	6 00
Mrs. D. S. Blake, sheep killed and in- jured by dogs,	6 00
R. G. Edwards, tearing down old schoolhouse,	1 50
Eugene Thomas, express on drills,	50
A. W. Townsend, supplies for town clerk,	2 85
M. P. Whitney, supplies for Board of Health, and storing voting booths for 1894 and '95,	3 12
Harry Barron, moving furniture, etc.,	

from old high school building,	30
C. H. Alexander, hauling road machine from Brunswick depot to place of storage,	1 00
J. C. Cox, wood for selectmen's office,	1 25
A. C. Shorey, printing notices of re- ward,	1 25
W. R. Hildreth, services as selectman, in part, 1895,	40 00
W. E. Frost. Agt., freight on drills,	25
Caleb Ridley, watching nights of July 3 and 4,	4 00
L. E. Smith, treasurer, use Fair Hall for 1895 for town meetings,	25 00
F. H. Blackbird, supplies for select- men's office,	1 25
F. P. Shaw, supplies for selectmen's office,	4 00
H. C. Upton, printing by-laws for En- gine Co.,	6 50
Wm. M. Pennell, insurance on new school building,	37 50
M. C. Hall, insurance on new school building,	103 95
J. C. Purinton, supplies for select- men's and school committee's of- fices,	6 25
W. S. Rogers, watering privilege,	3 00
H. O. Curtis, R. P. Whitney and Dana S. Colby, services on Board of Health, for 1895,	31 93
M. C. Hall, services as town clerk, in part, '95,	24 55
H. O. Curtis, M. D., reporting births and deaths, etc.,	3 00

C. H. Cumston, M. D., reporting births and deaths for 1895,	3 75	
E. W. Mallett, services, in part, as Selectman,	100 00	
Eugene Thomas, services as Selectman, in part,	100 00	
Eugene Thomas, services as Supt. of Schools for 1895, in part,	73 50	
W. P. W. Purinton, services as Justice of Peace,	2 25	
W. E. Frost, storing road machine '95 and winter of '96,	1 00	
Wm. McFadden, oil for school com- mittee's office,	36	
G. J. Roy, M. D., recording births and deaths,	6 25	
W. R. Hildreth, services, in part, as Selectman,	25 00	
Eugene Thomas, services, in part, as Selectman,	25 00	
Elbridge Cornish, commission as Col- lector for 1894 taxes, in part,	150 00	
A. C. Shorey, printing notices of re- ward,	1 25	
	<hr/>	1497 59

Cr.

By balance,	78 90
Appropriation,	800 00
Overlayings,	461 81
Supplementary tax,	12 40
Money recd. from W. S. Noyes, dam- age to sheep,	6 25
State Treasurer, dog license money returned, for sheep	

killed by dogs,	105 29	1464 65
Balance overdrawn,		32 94
		<hr/> 1497 59

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

DR.

BILLS OF 1894.

J. F. Chaney,	6 60
B. R. Jordan & Co.,	19 46
Town of Brunswick, Bickford fire,	55 50
A. Q. Goud,	1 60
C. P. Edgcomb, wood,	5 00
F. H. Purinton, repairs on engine,	2 70

BILLS OF 1895.

C. M. Giveen, clerk,	39 25
W. S. Noyes, " " " "	38 00
Dunham Berry,	8 00
Herbert Stuart,	1 80
W. P. W. Purinton, clerk, Franklin school building, and Purinton mill fires,	114 50
W. P. W. Purinton, clerk, attendance at meetings,	5 75
Joseph McKeen, services at fire,	1 50
E. H. Lapham, " " " "	1 50
W. P. W. Purinton, clerk, attendance at meetings,	13 25
W. P. W. Purinton, clerk, fighting	

forest fires—John Crowley's and Llewellyn Cobb's,	22 10	
Revere Rubber Co., hose,	2 50	
S. T. & E. M. Brown,	10	
F. Hunter, supplies and repairs,	1 43	
J. F. Chaney, coal,	12 30	
Town of Brunswick, Purinton mill fire,	40 00	
Ridley & Eaton, supplies and repairs,	3 90	
W. P. W. Purinton, clerk, meetings,	9 25	
W. P. W. Purinton, clerk,	25 33	
W. McFadden, supplies,	36	
Dana S. Colby, repairs platform en- gine hall,	3 25	
Ernest George,	1 50	
M. P. Whitney,	8 00	
Harry Hall,	1 50	
	<hr/>	525 96
CR.		
By balance,	135 08	
Appropriation,	200 00	
	<hr/>	334 08
Balance overdrawn,		191 88
		<hr/>
		525 96

ELECTRIC LIGHT.

DR.

BILLS OF 1894.

Brunswick Electric Light and Power Co.,	50 00
--	-------

BILLS OF 1895.

Brunsw k Elec. Light and Power Co.,	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
" " " " " "	50 00	
	<hr/>	650 00
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,		18 72
		<hr/>
		668 72

C.R.

By balance,	68 72	
Appropriation,	600 00	
	<hr/>	668 72

INTEREST.

Dr.

BILLS OF 1895.

Joseph Whitney, Treasurer,	20 00
" " "	5 00
" " "	14 00
" " "	30 00
" " "	4 00

"	"	"	16 00	
"	"	"	14 00	
"	"	"	6 00	
"	"	"	2 00	
"	"	"	20 00	
Interest on school fund,			33 36	
			<hr/>	164 35
Balance due Feb. 5th, 1896,				36 63
				<hr/>
				200 99

CR.

By balance,	100 99	
Appropriation,	100 00	
	<hr/>	200 99

CISTERNS.

H. Stuart, clearing snow,	\$ 1 25	
George Carter, labor on new cistern,	1 20	
E. F. Brawn, " " "	6 62	
A. J. Dennison, " " "	5 62	
Wm. Gillispie, " " "	10 42	
Fred A. White, " " "	2 62	
Dunham Berry, " " "	2 62	
Frank Fish, " " "	2 62	
Nathan Stuart, " " "	2 25	
Wm. Gillispie, " " "	12 24	
F. H. Purinton, labor and materials on new cistern,	21 13	
Charles Whitten, labor on new cistern,	1 50	
Caleb Ridey, labor on cisterns,	3 60	
E. S. Hacker & Son, labor and mate- rials,	71 70	
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,	4 61	
	<hr/>	\$150 00

CR.

By appropriation,

150 00

COMMON SCHOOLS.

DR.

Teaching :	
Nellie E. Tate,	30 00
Fannie M. Graves,	72 00
Sarah E. Clark,	60 00
Jennie M. Williams,	84 00
A. E. Hunter,	78 00
Nettie Alexander,	60 50
W. M. Williams,	78 00
Winifred M. Stevenson,	72 00
Clare P. Hussey,	78 00
Clara E. Coombs,	90 00
Edith M. Thompson,	55 00
Martha R. Purington,	60 00
Helen L. Smith,	65 00
Clara E. Coombs,	82 50
Walter M. Williams,	78 00
Frances Wilson,	72 00
Clare P. Hussey,	84 00
Fanny M. Graves,	72 00
Lizzie A. Williams,	54 00
Abbie E. Hunter,	78 15
Ella C. Fisher,	66 00
Nettie Alexander,	71 50
Martha R. Purington,	77 00
Hattie H. Fisher,	58 50
Helen L. Smith,	6 50
Sarah F. Cook,	32 50

Ella C. Fisher,	66 00	
Jennie M. Williams,	84 00	
Lizzie A. Williams,	60 00	
Alta M. Reed,	69 00	
Clara E. Coombs,	96 00	
Hattie H. Fisher,	66 00	
Winifred M. Stevenson,	75 00	
A. E. Hunter,	78 00	
Clare P. Hussey,	84 00	
Nettie Allexander.	66 00	
Helen L. Smith,	97 50	
Walter M. Williams,	84 00	
	<hr/>	2640 65

Wood and Coal :

James C. Cox,	24 76	
Otis F. Thompson,	4 63	
E. W. Mallett,	6 00	
Wm. A. Foster,	5 50	
Albion S. Jack,	1 87	
George B. Luce,	9 25	
C. T. Patten,	9 00	
George B. Luce,	9 25	
Albion S. Jack,	9 55	
U. A. Jack,	8 12	
W. T. Wilson,	1 00	
W. H. Haley,	5 00	
W. J. Wilson,	3 60	
A. E. Tedford,	5 00	
B. M. Patten	L4 94	
J. F. Chaney, coal,	110 15	
L. M. Williams,	12 12	
A. A. Plummer,	13 25	
	<hr/>	252 99

Supplies, care of school houses, etc. :

M. P. Whitney,	90	
John Furbish,	85	
Town of Lisbon, Tuition pd,	5 00	
A. C. Shorey,	1 75	
R. P. Kelley,	12 50	
Guy Merriman,	3 25	
Albert S. Owen,	1 80	
Everett Furbush transportation		
scholars,	25 00	
Ridley & Eaton,	3 05	
M. P. Whitney,	91	
John Rolf,	1 00	
Everett Furbush, transportation		
scholars,	25 00	
J. P. C. Fall,	50	
Wm. McFadden,	1 60	
John Gray,	50	
Wilbur Hunter,	2 00	
C. F. Rassweiler & Co.,	15 80	
J. McKeen and E. White,	10 00	
Wm. McFadden,	2 26	
Ridley & Eaton,	17 60	
	<hr/>	\$3,027 91
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896.		2,218 31
		<hr/>
		5,246 22

By balance,	1,821 25
Appropriation,	2,000 00
State, mill tax,	1,259 88
R. R. and Telegraph tax, from	
State,	102 88
Geo. H. Staples, tuition,	12 55

John Barrett, tuition,	6 00	
L. M. Williams, material from		
old schoolhouse,	6 50	
Sale of old stove,	4 00	
Interest on school fund,	33 36	
	<hr/>	\$5,246 22

FREE HIGH SCHOOL.

DR.

J. A. Cone,	250 00	
" "	10 00	
" "	1 75	
" "	250 00	
" "	10 00	
" "	50 00	
" "	222 65	
	<hr/>	\$794 40
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,		386 88
		<hr/>
		\$1,181 28

CR.

By Balance,	206 28	
Appropriation,	600 00	
Amount from the State,	375 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,181 28

SCHOOLHOUSE REPAIRS.

C. W. Purinton,	\$ 5 00
W. J. Wilson,	2 00
W. M. Williams,	1 50

W. A. Foster,	15	
G. Henry Berry,	6 00	
John Rolfe,	1 48	
Albion S. Jack,	75	
C. H. Williams,	10 00	
O. W. White,	2 85	
Mrs. John Grover,	2 50	
W. S. Cash,	8 65	
W. S. Cash,	2 95	
Thomas Rogers,	2 00	
Walter M. Williams,	75	
S. T. & E. M. Brown,	16 25	
Charles P. Edgecomb,	12 00	
C. & T. W. Fogg,	14 00	
F. W. Atkinson,	50	
Caleb Ridley,	15	
Ridley & Eaton,	6 17	
George B. Luce,	2 00	
		97 65
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,		52 35
		<hr/>
		\$150 00

CR.

By appropriation, \$150 00

NEW HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

DR.

Peter St. Peter, stone and labor for foundation,	100 00
Peter St. Peter, stone and labor for foundation,	10 00

Peter St. Peter, stone and labor for foundation,	21 00
B. M. Edwards, stone for Logia,	42 50
Peter St. Peter, stone and labor for foundation,	594 91
Hall & Davis, contractors,	4,950 00
I. H. Danforth, dressing stone.	166 50
Dunham Berry, labor,	45
W. E. Frost, Agent M. C. R. R.,	81 95
J. W. Crawford,	6 00
Brunswick Electric Light and Power Co.,	55 00
U. S. School Furniture Co.,	462 70
G. M. Coombs, architect,	211 50
W. E. Frost, Ag't M. C. R. R.,	94
F. H. Purinton, heating, piping for water, etc.,	1,350 03
Wm. Gillispie, labor on water supply,	14 40
Nathan Stuart, " " "	14 55
C. F. Strout, carting stone for Logia, etc.,	10 00
M. C. R. R., freight on blackboards,	13 90
J. P. C. Fall, carting blackboards from depot,	1 25
Wm. C. Goodwin, oiling floors,	16 80
Joseph Levegueur, labor on water supply,	75
Brunswick Electric Light and Power Co.,	37 24
George E. Stinson, setting up desks, etc.,	19 00
W. S. Cash.	19 70
W. P. W. Purinton,	2 25
Harvey Stetson, curtains, tables and chairs,	124 15

John Furbish,	8 30	
Lawellyn Cobb,	9 93	
S. W. Melvin,	4 00	
E. S. Hacker & Son, cement, and brick for water supply,	12 85	
D. S. Colby, table for Primary school,	13 00	
Ridley & Eaton,	1 55	
O. D. Case & Co., slate blackboards,	132 59	
	<hr/>	\$8,509 69

For some years past the school committees' reports have mentioned that the old high school building was not safe for occupancy. It was also true that the primary schoolhouse near the Free Baptist church was unfit for school purposes, also an intermediate school had become a necessity.

Accordingly, the town voted at its annual meeting last March, to raise \$3000 to build a schoolhouse in place of the old high school building, and to include in it, a primary school room. Your committee found that the amount appropriated was not sufficient to build such a building as was needed. Accordingly, a special town meeting was called to see if the town would appropriate money in addition to what had already been appropriated at its annual meeting, and at that meeting it was reported by your committee that two new schoolhouses had been built at Lisbon during the last two years, one of them costing a little less than \$6000, and the other a little over \$6000, and that each of these houses contained only two school rooms.

At that special town meeting, the town voted by a large majority, to instruct the committee, consisting of the selectmen and school committee, to build a good, substantial wooden school building, and to hire the money needed for the purpose. Immediately, some persons in town began to circulate the story that the town vote was illegal. Thereupon certain parties circulated a petition throughout the town to have the original vote rescinded, and a large number of the voters in town signed it, as it was represented that the vote was illegal and also that the committee intended to expend \$15,000 in building the school building. Accordingly another special town meeting was held, and after discussing the matter fully, it was voted again in favor of building, by a majority of 107 to 17.

Accordingly the committee proceeded to make arrangements to build, and as soon as the spring term closed, had the old building torn down and a new one built in its place, which contains four school rooms with sufficient accommodations for all the scholars in the village. This building is finished in hard wood, with hard wood floors, and slate blackboards, and heated by steam. It is a thoroughly well built house and will cost the town about \$8600. It is probably safe to say that there is no school building in the State which is better adapted for the purposes intended than this one. We think we are perfectly safe in saying that all bills were cut down to the smallest possible figure for the kind of work which we got.

The committee have this to say, that they have worked honestly and hard for the town in this matter, and have not spent one dollar excepting where the town has received full value.

SCHOOLHOUSE LOT.

It was voted by the town to instruct the selectmen to take a strip of land east of, and adjoining the old schoolhouse lot, sufficiently wide for the purposes needed, in accordance with provisions in the Statutes. It was supposed, at the time, that Humphrey Purinton owned the land. It soon developed, however, that other parties claimed to own the land so taken by the town.

A short time ago we procured, for the town, a deed from Mrs. Pendleton and her daughter for the irregular piece of land east of the schoolhouse lot, including not only the land which we had taken for increasing our school lot, but extending east of where Mr. Purinton's old building now stands. We have not yet been able to find that Mr. Purinton owns the lot. Under these circumstances the selectmen did not feel warranted in paying him anything for the same, and have decided to present this matter to the town at the annual meeting and let the town decide whether or not it sees fit to pay him anything for the land.

We have informed Mr. Purinton all along that we were ready at any time to pay him for the land when he could show that he owned it, but he has failed, so far, to do so. The selectmen have simply acted in this matter as in all other matters during the year, viz: to pay only such bills as the parties could show they were entitled to.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

Dr.

BILLS OF 1894.

Byron Stevens,	9 68	
J. F. Chaney,	8 50	
Leach, Shewell and Sanborn,	75 00	
	<hr/>	\$ 93 18

BILLS OF 1895.

To balance,	31	
H. C. Upton,	1 50	
American Book Co.,	100 25	
University Publishing Co.,	9 60	
Leach, Shewell and Sanborn,	36 88	
A. M. Thayer & Co.,	21 60	
Eugene Thomas, express on books,	6 65	
W. E. Frost, Agent, freight on books,	1 05	
J. W. Orr, trucking,	45	
George F. King and Merrill,	1 20	
Ginn & Co.,	65 60	
A. C. Shorey, printing school book labels,	1 50	
Henry Holt & Co.,	4 89	
	<hr/>	\$344 66

Cr.

By appropriation,	250 00	
American Book Co., money re-		
turned,	15 17	
	<hr/>	\$265 17
Balance overdrawn Feb. 5, 1896,		79 49
		<hr/>
		\$344 66

BANK BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Dr.

To Geo Stinson, labor,	\$21 37	
I. A. Pennell, labor and materials,	4 37	
F. W. Atkinson, " " "	11 70	
Wm. Gillispie, labor,	37	
S. T. & E. M. Brown, materials,	27 49	
F. W. Atkinson, labor,	25	
A. W. Townsend, materials,	4 21	
Ridley & Eaton,	2 50	
	<hr/>	\$72 26

This was paid out for repairs on the building by an agreement with the representative of the building, that it should be credited on rent for the selectmen's and school committee's offices, settlement for which has not been made for a number of years past.

COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNT.

1893.

Due from Elbridge Cornish, Feb. 2,		
1895,	\$ 359 52	\$ 359 52

Cr.

By Paid Town Treasurer,	247 70	
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,	111 82	
	<hr/>	359 52

1894.

Balance due from Elbridge Cornish,		
Feb. 2, 1895,	4,989 75	4,989 75

Cr.

By Paid Town Treasurer,	4,855 21	
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,	134 54	
	<hr/>	4,879 75

1895.

Commitment to Elbridge Cornish, collector,	14,722 64	14,722 64
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Cr.

By Paid Town Treasurer,	9,030 52	
Balance due Feb. 5, 1896,	5,692 12	
	<hr/>	\$14,722 64

TREASURER'S REPORT.

TOWN OF TOPSHAM IN ACCOUNT WITH JOSEPH WHITNEY, TREAS.

Dr.

To town orders paid from Feb. 3, 1895, to Feb. 5, 1896,	\$20,437 12	
Paid State tax,	2,207 16	
County tax,	823 92	
Supplemental county tax,	25 54	
Balance in treasury, Feb. 3, 1896,	1,061 82	
	<hr/>	\$24,553 56

Cr.

By Bal. in treasury, Feb. 3, 1895,	1,215 19	
E. Cornish, coll., years '92, '93, '94 and '95,	14,247 53	

E. Cornish, coll. interest,	31 49	
State of Maine, high school,	375 00	
State of Maine, mill tax,	1,259 88	
R. R. and Tel. tax,	102 68	
Town of Brunswick,	114 08	
L. M. Williams, lumber,	6 50	
John Barrett, tuition,	6 00	
Geo. H. Staples, tuition,	12 55	
Town of Winthrop,	11 17	
Selectmen, stove and books,	4 60	
Loan for high school building,	7,000 00	
American Book Co.,	15 17	
W. S. Rogers, damage to sheep		
by dog,	6 25	
State Treasurer, dog license re-		
funded,	105 29	
Selectmen, highways,	6 82	
Interest on school fund,	33 36	
	<hr/>	24,553 56

JOSEPH WHITNEY, TREASURER.

THE CARRIE EMUS FUND.

By Bal., Oct. 1, 1894,	\$221 20	
Int. on same to Oct. 1, 1895,	8 92	
	<hr/>	\$230 12
Paid W. J. Wilson, care of lot,	2 00	
Bal. Oct. 1, 1895.	228 12	
	<hr/>	230 12

This fund is on deposit in the Topsham and Brunswick Twenty-Five Cent Savings Bank, and is separate from town account.

THE MUSTARD FUND.

Rec'd of Adms. of estate of Eliza Mustard,	\$2,937 50	\$2,937 50
Bought town bonds as per vote of town,	2,928 22	
Balance,	9 28	
	<hr/>	\$2,937 50

This fund is invested in town of Topsham notes, the interest to be expended for the benefit of the worthy poor under the direction of the selectmen.

JOSEPH WHITNEY, TREASURER.

We have examined the accounts of receipts and expenditures presented by the selectmen, as Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor, for the town of Topsham for the year to February 5, 1896, and find them correctly kept and properly vouched for.

The accounts of the Treasurer, Joseph Whitney, we have examined and found correct.

A. Q. GOUD, {
EDWIN M. BROWN, { Auditors.

LIABILITIES.

Mustard Fund,	2,937 50	
Bonds,	2,300	
School Fund,	667 28	
School building loan,	7,000 00	
	<hr/>	
Interest bearing debt,		12,904 78

Common schools,	2,218 31	
Interest,	68 12	
Free High School,	386 88	
Highways,	1,943 41	
Abatements,	6 53	
Electric lights,	18 72	
Old order,	1 87	
Due Charles Ward, salary to Feb. 5,		
1896,	13 80	
Repairs on schoolhouses,	12 35	
Cathance bridge account,	499 15	
Schoolhouse, near Free bridge,	1,500 00	
New streets, near O. E. Burkett's	7 10	
Cisterns,	4 61	
G. M. Elliott, M. D.,	5 00	
C. E. Lancaster, M. D.,	6 00	
Outstanding orders for year of 1895,	14 35	
	<hr/>	\$6,746 20
		<hr/>
		\$19,650 98

RESOURCES.

Due from F. Cornish, Collector,	
taxes of 1893,	111 82
Due from E. Cornish, Collector,	
taxes of 1894,	134 54
Due from E. Cornish, Collector,	
taxes of 1895,	5,692 12
Non resident tax of 1889,	56 00
" " " 1890,	33 08
Balance in Treasury, Feb. 5, 1896,	1,061 82

Due from Town of Bowdoinham,	27 10	
“ “ “ “ Brunswick,	9 50	
“ “ Sagadahoc Ag. & Hort. Society,	10 60	
	<hr/>	\$7,136 58
Town debt,		\$12,514 40
		<hr/>
		\$19,650 98

APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR 1896.

Abatements,	150 00
Repairs and improvements at Town Farm,	200 00
Poor in the Alms House,	300 00
Poor out of the Alms House,	900 00
Highways and bridges, cash,	500 00
Common schools,	1,800 00
Free High school,	600 00
School books,	250 00
School house repairs,	125 00
Miscellaneous,	500 00
Fire Department,	350 00
Electric lights,	600 00
Interest,	500 00
Town debt,	1000 00

EUGENE THOMAS,) Selectmen, Assessors and
E. W. MAILETT,) Overseers of the Poor
W. R. HILDRETH,) of Topsham.

SCHOOL REPORT.

The time has again arrived when it is necessary for your school Committee to make a report of the condition of the schools and school property in town.

The census of scholars in the spring of 1895 showed that there were 507 persons in town within the ages required by the State to be taken, on April 1st, 1895. On April 1st, 1894 there were 457 scholars.

LENGTH OF TERMS.

On account of an increased appropriation last year we have had 36 weeks' schooling in town the past year in all schools, excepting when sickness prevented. It is probably true that no town in the State of Maine has more weeks' schooling in the rural districts than this town. It will be noticed that the Law of the State requires the same number of weeks' schooling in all schools in any town.

REPAIRS.

One schoolhouse has been shingled during the last year and another partly shingled, to be finished in spring. A few schoolhouses need to be patched for the present and one needs shingling very soon.

Small repairs have been made in several schoolhouses and several houses now need patching of plastering and blackboards, also two schoolhouses need small repairs to the underpinning. Shingles for Middlesex Dist. have been paid for but the labor not having been completed, the bill

for same has not been presented, although it was asked for.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

Some changes have been made in books this year and now, with one or two exceptions, the town of Topsham is as well supplied with modern first-class books, probably, as any town of its size in the State. It is just as important for scholars to have good text books, in order to do good work, as it is for anyone else to have good working tools for his calling or profession.

But few changes will be necessary in text books during the coming year. One change made during the last year was in small geographies. It was also found that almost all large geographies in town were worn out so completely that it was necessary to replace them by new ones. The committee succeeded in making an exchange and getting new books for old ones, book for book without any expense to the town. This, however, cannot often be done.

Our arithmetics are in about the same condition that our geographies were, viz: A large majority of them so thoroughly used up that they cannot be used any more. Those books must be replaced by new ones in order that the scholars may have some to use. This must be done in one of two ways, viz: Either to buy new ones outright, or to exchange for some more modern book, and in that case, we are allowed from cents to cents for each old book which we have on hand. We have several dollars' worth of those books now in town if exchanged for a new kind of arithmetic, which are worthless to the town unless such change is made.

The school committee, therefore, think it the best plan to pursue, to exchange for a new kind, and thus get exchange rates, rather than to buy new books of the old kind and pay full price for same and still have a lot of old

books on hand which are nearly worn out and must, themselves, be replaced by new ones very soon, at full prices. Accordingly, they recommend that appropriation large enough to cover that exchange be made for books this year, in addition to what is needed for the regular wear and tear of books each year.

VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Mr. J. A. Cone, who taught in this school during the fall and winter terms of 1894, has continued in the school during the present year. It is sufficient, at this time to say that no member of the school committee has yet heard any fault found with Mr. Cone as a teacher in this town, since he has been connected with our High school.

The number of scholars has increased in this school considerably during the year and first class work is being done by the teacher and scholars. The grade of this school has been raised considerably during the last two years.

No class was graduated from this school last year thereby adding one year's work to the class, which would have graduated last June.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Miss Clara E. Coombs has taught in this school during the past year. She has worked hard for the interest of the school and has been successful as far forth as circumstances would permit.

The fall term was kept in the old building adjoining the old schoolhouse lot. The quarters were cramped and, as a result, the discipline of the school was harder than

usual and as good results could not be expected on the part of the scholars as may be expected from this time. No class was sent from this school to the High school this year, thereby adding one year more to their work before entering the High school.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

For years your School Committee has seen the necessity of such a grade here, and it has been recommended for several years but nothing could be done in regard to establishing such a grade, previous to this time, as there was no school building or room for it.

The completion of the new school building in the village during the last season gave the opportunity for establishing this long needed grade. This school was made up from scholars from the Grammar and two Primary schools. This school was an absolute necessity as there was not sufficient accommodations in the other schools for the scholars attending, as Primary school No. 1 last term had over fifty scholars for one teacher to care for.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

This school has been in charge of Miss Clare Hussey during the year and very satisfactory work has been done by the teacher. The first part of the year was not so fruitful of good results as the last part, from the fact that the school had nearly twice as many scholars as one teacher could possibly attend to. The school is now in shape to do good work.

UNGRADED SCHOOLS.

In most cases throughout the town we have succeeded in getting teachers who have given satisfaction to the committee and the parents. We have not hesitated in any case to make a change of teachers when satisfactory work

was not done. We recall but three cases in town in the rural districts, where any fault has been found with the teachers. Two of those cases upon investigation were found to be well founded, in the minds of the committee, and changes were made in teachers.

On the whole, excellent work has been done during the year, and we are satisfied that our rural schools compare favorably with those of any town in the State.

J. F. CHANEY, EUGENE THOMAS, J. A. FISHER,	}	School Committee.
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EUGENE THOMAS, SUPERINTENDENT.