

1881

Annual Reports of the Selectmen and S.S.  
Committee of the Town of Skowhegan, For The  
Year Ending March 7th, 1881

Skowhegan (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN AND

S. S. COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 7TH, 1881.

SKOWHEGAN:  
SMITH & MAYO, PRINTERS.  
1881.



# ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

## SELECTMEN OF SKOWHEGAN,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 7TH, 1881.

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### VALUATION OF 1880.

Real Estate,	\$1,100,970	
Personal Estates,	521,390	
	<hr/>	\$1,622,360
No. of Polls, 855. Poll Tax, \$2.00. Rate per cent \$1.09 on \$100.		

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### ASSESSMENTS.

For State Tax,	\$7916.86	
“ County “	1658.23	
“ Schools,	3700.00	
“ Poor and Town Charges,	4000.00	
“ Bridges and Culverts,	500.00	
“ Repairs on Neil Hill,	400.00	
“ Cemetery Lot, South Side,	200.00	
“ Safe,	200.00	
“ Overlayings,	816.63	
“ Supplemental Tax,	36.00	
“ Tax on Dogs,	49.00	
	<hr/>	\$19,476.72

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### MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS.

Of Unexpended Highway Money,	\$56.82	
“ Joseph Smiley Rent of Cemetery Lot,	6.00	
“ Travelling Show Licence,	5.00	
“ James B. Weston,	98.91	
“ Interest on R. R. Bonds,	14.00	
“ State Railroad Tax,	3.24	
“ J. B. Dascomb, Int. on Taxes, 1878,	16.50	
From Sales from Town Farm,	391.10	
	<hr/>	\$591.57

## STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

Am't Assessed for State Tax,	\$7,916 86	
“ Assessed for County Tax,	1,658 23	
		<u>\$9,575 09</u>
Am't Paid S. A. Holbrook, State Treas.,	\$7,916 86	
“ Paid A. S. Burke, County Treas.,	1,658 23	
		<u>\$9,575 09</u>

## SCHOOLS.

Am't Assessed,	\$3,700 00	
“ Received from State School Fund and Mill Tax,	1,948 41	
“ Bal. Due Districts last year,	1,922 28	
		<u>\$7,570 69</u>
Am't Paid School Districts,	\$6,179 51	
“ Due School Districts,	1,401 18	
		<u>\$7,570 69</u>

## BRIDGES AND CULVERTS.

Am't Assessed,		\$500 00
Am't paid for Repairs on Malbon's Mills Bridge,	\$78 99	
“ “ for repairs on Lower Wesserrunset “	5 83	
“ “ H. H. Dillingham, repairs,	13 58	
“ “ Augustus Strickland, Culverts,	32 00	
“ “ B. M. Hight, Plank,	10 29	
“ “ J. P. Adams, “	17 07	
“ “ P. C. Steward, Culvert No. 15, South,	69 00	
“ “ J. L. Burrill, repairs on Bridge,	2 50	
“ “ Weston & Brainard, Lumber,	32 76	
“ “ Benois Loomis, repairs on Culvert,	9 36	
“ “ Seth Wyman, labor on Bridge	3 75	
“ “ Jos. I. Burrill, repairs on Bridge,	7 70	
“ “ Nath'l Hall, stone for Culverts,	3 20	
“ “ Elbridge Gower, labor on Bridge,	50	
“ “ N. C. Steward, lumber, etc.,	14 85	
“ “ J. M. Ireland, repairs,	9 50	
Balance unexpended,	189 12	
		<u>\$500 00</u>

## SUPPORT OF POOR.

Paid for Labor and Supplies for Farm,	\$623 13	
Stock and Supplies March 1, 1880, as per Schedule of Selectmen last year,	948 54	
		<u>\$1,571 67</u>
Sales from Farm,	\$391 10	
Stock and Supplies on hand	1,015 04	
Bal. against Farm,	165 53	
		<u>\$1,571 67</u>

No. of Weeks Board of Poor on Farm, 446; at a net cost of 37 1-10 cents per week. Or, including Overseer and Family, 602 weeks; at a cost of 27 1-10 cents per week.

Net Expense of Poor on Farm,	\$165 53	
Paid Expense off the Farm,	1,876 54	
		\$2,042 07
In Addition to this Amount we have paid Bills of last year,		207 15

### MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Paid for Taxes on land bid off by town,	\$23 84	
“ Henry Varney, painting hearse,	21 00	
“ Skowhegan West Aqueduct Co., water tub,	10 00	
“ Robinson Bros., rent of land for use of Soldiers for rifle practice etc.,	8 90	
“ C. C. Arnold, care of Town Hall,	5 00	
“ Bixby & Buck, books, stationery, etc.,	27 03	
“ James Mitchell, for funeral services,	2 00	
“ H. S. Steward, repairs on water tub,	5 50	
“ for Postage Stamps,	2 00	
“ “ Ticket for Soldier to Togus,	1 60	
“ W. M. E. Brown, damage sustained, Oct., 1879, at Malbon's Mills,	100 00	
“ C. K. Turner, sexton,	20 00	
“ Simon Grover, repairs on water tub,	50	
“ W. K. Shurtleff, for land for town way.	15 00	
“ Chas. F. McClellan, land for cemetery,	200 00	
“ Express on Valuation Book,	25	
“ Cushing & White, surveyor's books, etc.,	11 19	
“ Frank Pooler, labor,	6 00	
“ A. G. Blunt, shovels and pick for Notch Road,	3 85	
“ Coburn Hall Association, rent of Armory,	100 00	
“ Estate of J. W. Weston, use of tomb,	15 00	
“ L. W. Weston, water tub, south side,	5 00	
“ For Safe,	200 00	
“ B. F. Baker, repairs on Neil Hill,	400 00	
		\$1,183 66

### TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid J. S. Cushing, )	\$54 50
“ W. Woodbury, } S. S. Committee,	39 26
“ W. O. Ayer, }	42 25
“ James B. Dascomb, Treasurer.	40 00
“ M. D. Ward, Collectors Premium and Post- ing Warrants,	594 45
“ R. B. Shepherd, Auditor,	0 00
“ H. S. Steward, }	250 00
“ A. R. Smiley, } Selectmen,	100 00
“ Chas. A. Marston, }	125 00

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**BORROWED MONEY.**

Paid of Principal,	\$2,535 00	
“ Interest on same,	131 16	
	<hr/>	\$2,666 16

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**ABATEMENTS.**

On J. B. Dascomb's bills for 1877 and 1878,	\$96 73	
“ B. M. Hight's “ “ 1879,	127 43	
“ M. D. Ward's “ “ 1880,	116 12	
	<hr/>	\$340 28

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**LIABILITIES.**

Am't Due to School Districts for Schools,	\$1,401 18	
“ “ “ School District No. 1, on acct.,	914 50	
“ “ “ “ “ No. 9, “	23 30	
“ “ on unpaid Order,	2 50	
“ “ to Shakers for Support of Children,	50 00	
“ “ “ Insane Hospital, about	85 00	
“ of Other Bills, about	25 00	
Balance in favor of the Town,	2,344 21	
	<hr/>	\$4,845 69

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**ASSETS.**

Am't Due for Taxes bid off by Town,	\$36 33	
Cash in the Treasury,	4,609 36	
Maine Central R. R. Bonds,	200 00	
	<hr/>	\$4,845 69

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The Selectmen recommend raising the sum of \$2,500 for Current Expenses the ensuing year; \$1,000 for Bridges and Culverts, and \$750 for Breaking Roads the present winter.

In regard to the Bridge on the Canaan line, we decided after consulting the Selectmen of Canaan, to make repairs, and defer building a new bridge until next summer.

We contracted with Nath'l Hall for the granite to build the abutment and wing walls, to be delivered at the bridge by the first of June next, at a cost of three dollars and fifty cents per square yard. Seventy-five dollars to be paid on the first of June next, and the balance when the abutment is laid up.

Respectfully Submitted.

H. S. STEWARD,	}	Selectmen
A. R. SMILEY,		of
CHAS. A. MARSTON,		Skowhegan.

# ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

## Skowhegan School Committee,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1ST, 1881.

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### FELLOW CITIZENS :

In compliance with law and custom we submit to you the report of our schools for the year ending March 1st, 1881.

The whole amount of money expended for our schools the past year,	\$5,898.41
Amount raised by the town,	3,700.00
“ received from the State,	1,948.41
“ “ “ “ “ for High School,	250.00
Whole number of scholars in town,	1,340
Increase over last year,	94
This increase being in Village District.	
Amount of money per scholar,	\$4.40
Whole number of scholars in Village District,	941
“ “ “ “ “ Rural “	399
Whole number attending Summer Schools; Rural, 202, Village, 507, total,	709
Average number attending Summer Schools; Rural, 153, Village, 432, total,	585
Whole number attending Winter Schools; Rural, 230, Village, 443, total,	673
Average number Winter Schools; Rural, 186, Village, 346, total,	532
Average length of Summer Schools; in weeks,	9½
“ “ “ “ “ “ “	11
Average wages of male Teachers per month, excluding board,	\$23.50
Average wages of female Teachers per week in Summer,	\$3.00
Average wages of female Teachers in Winter,	\$3.35

In the 18 School Districts we have had the past year 62 terms of School, 32 in the Rural Districts and 30 in the Village District. For these Schools we have had 42 different teachers, 6 males and 36 females All but two having had previous experience in teaching. Several have held their positions for many successive terms. In the Rural Districts the average number of scholars per School in Summer, only 10, and the average whole number, 12. In Winter, 13 and 16 scholars per school. This is a smaller attendance than we have had in any previous year. If this gradual decrease in attendance should continue it would seem that we could hardly expect, under the old District limits, to realize a judicious expenditure of money, or our children to receive the desired amount of schooling. We think some of our very small Schools would do well to consider the provisions of a Law passed a year ago this past winter, whereby scholars can be conveyed from one District to another. It provides that

“When in the opinion of the Municipal Officers, and Superintending School Committee a School becomes too small for a profitable expenditure of money apportioned to said District, the board may cause the money to be expended in an adjoining District or Districts, for the benefit of said scholars.”

If desired, one half of the School funds may be expended in conveying scholars to and from school. We have a few Districts in town that this law properly applies to. We hope it will be considered. Though it is desirable as well as convenient to have our School privileges near at hand, still in the education of our children, we should be willing to *act* upon the principle of the “greatest good for the greatest number,” rather than convenience.

Many of our Schools have done good and satisfactory work in which the teachers have shown themselves competent and able to comprehend the little things necessary to make a school a success in order, and in what it accomplishes. In some others, while there is much to approve, and not much to complain of, they do not come up to the high standard of excellence we all hope to see, which comes only by experience, competency and a special tact for the duties of a teacher. In a few of the Winter Schools, trouble arose to diminish the harmony and profit of them. This may be attributed to various causes and influences, which are not necessary to here enumerate further than to say that teachers should try to be always discreet, and parents charitable. Two things are requisite for a good school. 1st, The teacher should be well qualified, and especially fitted for school work. Secondly, There should be a union of feeling and effort between teacher, scholars and parents. One of the most essential aids in making a School a success, and progressive, is the ability of the teacher to impart instruction orally, independent of the text books, in the various branches and subjects necessary for the young to know and understand. Small scholars learn largely from their perceptive faculties, so that they take in more readily, and with more interest, what is told

them by their teacher than they do when they take it from the text book, too often in terms beyond their comprehension. In our opinion scholars should take their start in the principles of Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, Physiology, etc., largely from oral instruction, and the teacher who is not able to impart it understandingly is not capable of making a School what we reasonably should expect it to be, and to accomplish. We trust teachers will consider this point and prepare themselves to act accordingly.

In addition to the above requirements and aptness for teaching, there is another quality Agents need to take into consideration in the selection of teachers.

There is demanded a certain condition, which we may term the *morale*, a condition affected by or dependent upon, moral considerations, such as zeal, spirit, hope and confidence. Everything pertaining to the teacher, both in the School and out of it, has its power to impress the plastic mind of the scholar. The teacher on the street, in the public assembly, in the sphere of social intercourse, is moulding for good or evil the mind, heart and conduct of the pupil. Agents may receive aid in securing these conditions, by consulting the Committee.

There has been no change in text books the past year, except with Arithmetics. For a long time we have felt the need of a different Mental and Primary Arithmetic for our small scholars.

Upon a careful examination of the Fish & Robinson Arithmetics we decided to make a complete change, being convinced that the small Arithmetic was the most perfect arrangement to meet the capacities of small scholars, we had seen, and that the Complete Arithmetic so called, possessed many decided merits over the Practical.

The terms of exchange we were enabled to make were very satisfactory. The giving of an old book for a new one, larger and better bound, is a bargain we rarely make. Very many teachers and scholars have expressed themselves much pleased with the books.

We give the following brief comment upon the several schools.

Of the attendance on the higher grade of Schools in the Village a good idea may be obtained by the numbers reported for this Winter term.

	Whole No.	Average No.
<i>High School.</i>	84	76
First Grammar School,	61	53
Second Grammar School,	28	23
<i>Intermediates.</i>		
Leavitt Street,	40	36
South Side,	34	31

The High School and First Grammar School have each 36 weeks, divided into three terms. The Second Grammar School has 32 weeks, and the Intermediates 30 weeks.

Mr. Jefferson Taylor remains in charge of the High School, each year's experience enabling him more and more fully to meet the demands which such a school makes upon a teacher. Mr. Taylor is never satisfied with well done, if there is a better to be attained.

Miss Holt, resigning her position as Assisiant, Miss Belle Allen has been employed in that position, a most happy and fortunate selection. She is a thorough teacher, and gains and holds the affection and respect of the pupils.

Your Committee cannot speak too highly of the character of the work done by Miss Myra Allen, who continues in charge of the First Grammar School.

Miss Denison resigned her position as Assistant in this School at the close of the Winter term last year. Miss Annie M. Pinkham was elected to the position. Miss Pinkham is a perfect lady and conscientious teacher, and thoroughly acquainted with Normal methods, but naturally of a delicate constitution, added ill health, rendered her unable successfully to cope with so difficult a position.

In the Fall term, Miss Cora Elliott was transferred from the Second Grammar School to this position, which she has filled with the acceptance which has attended her teaching in other grades.

Miss Annie Ward was promoted to the vacancy caused by Miss Elliott's transfer. Miss Ward is a thorough scholar and an intelligent and diligent teacher, and is earnestly acquainting herself with the duties of her new position and adapting herself thereto.

These three teachers, each have recitations from the High School, testing them more severely than the usual work of their grades, and demanding higher efficiency than would otherwise be necessary.

The Intermediate Schools on the North Side and South Side have been under the care of Miss Mae Elliott and Miss Dora Pollard respectively, and show faithful and painstaking work and good proficiency.

Miss Juliette Weston, a teacher in the Primary and Intermediate Grades for some years on the South Side, last year having charge of the Intermediate grade on Leavitt Street, was obliged to resign on account of ill health. Her sickness baffled the skill of her physicians, and soon after our Annual meeting she passed to that reward which awaits the faithful. In reviewing her long connection with our Schools, her patient and conscientious work in teaching, we can but write as her epitaph, "well done." More lasting than tablets of brass, more enduring than monuments of marble, are these epitaphs, spoken out of the lives of appreciative pupils upon whom has been exerted the teacher's molding influence.

Our aim has been in all these grades to make the studies as practical as possible. To this end some changes have been made in the text books, and in the course of study. Other changes in this same

direction will be made as soon as suitable text books can be obtained. We hold that a correct use of the English language, a practical knowledge of business mathematics, instruction in the duties of citizenship, some knowledge at least of the Science of Common things, and a study of men and ideas in past History, are essential; that all study should tend to develop the man and the woman, so that whatever the calling the scholar of to-day may choose, he shall find that no honest toil is menial, or but drudgery, and shall glorify that life however lowly by the educated mind he carries into it.

The Primary Schools on North and Pleasant Streets have been under the charge of Miss Kezzie Monroe and Miss Mae Pollard—Miss Pollard taking the place of Miss Ward, on North Street. We believe both these teachers labored to make their schools a success and to have the little ones under their charge do well in every sense of the word. They succeeded well, considering that this is their first experience in Primary Schools.

The Second Primary School still continues in charge of Miss Helen Blackden. The fact that this school has been under the direction of Miss Blackden 13 years is sufficient assurance that the scholars under her instruction have done good work.

#### PRIMARIES—SOUTH SIDE.

*Mechanic Street*,—Miss Dora Cleaveland. The school is overcrowded; no less than 70 being enrolled in the Fall Term, and 50 in the Winter Term. The labor of caring for such a school has been severe, but Miss Cleaveland is doing her work thoroughly and successfully, as in former years.

*Front Street*,—Mrs. Lizzie W. Healey. The school is smaller than the other Primary on the South Side; 30 enrolled in Winter Term. This continues to be one of our very best schools.

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#### DISTRICT SCHOOLS—SOUTH.

##### NO. 2, RIVER ROAD.

Summer Term taught by Miss Hattie Blunt. The school was small but good progress was made. Winter Term—Mr. Wm. White. School has been in session ten weeks and is to continue two more. This is Mr. White's first school, and bids fair to be a marked success.

During the year the District has taken a wise step, in changing the location of the school-house to a position a few rods further south. The new lot was built up to the level of the highway, at considerable expense and in a workman-like manner. The school-house is now more centrally located, is eligible, and we trust will soon be further repaired and painted, when it will be as attractive a building as is to be found in any district.

## NO. 3, RIVER ROAD.

Miss Addie M. Varney teacher of Summer Term, (9 weeks,) and Miss Cora A. Cain teacher of Fall Term, (10 weeks.) There are but 8 scholars in the District. Both terms were profitable, the scholars showing interest and progress.

## NO. 4, MIDDLE ROAD.

Summer term under the charge of Mrs. Underwood. This School though small, we regard as one of the best conducted in town. Mrs. Underwood is an experienced teacher, and familiar with the different methods of instruction. She knows the *how* to do it. We wish we had more like her.

Winter term taught by Miss Cora A. Cain. Twelve weeks; attendance 14, No. in District 15. The reputation of this School reflects much credit on the teacher. Though somewhat disappointed, at the final examination, in the recitations of some of the scholars, we are satisfied that a good term's work was done, and that the scholars labored hard and willingly.

## NO. 8, MIDDLE ROAD.

Fall School—Miss Nellie D. Boardman. Ten weeks; nine scholars in District. This was the first School taught by the teacher, and was satisfactory, on the whole, as to progress made in studies, but showed lack of judicious government.

## NO. 5, PITT'S DISTRICT.

Summer term taught by Mrs. Bigelow. The School when visited appeared well. As the school closed earlier in the day than expected, the Committee was not in season for the second visit.

Winter Term—Miss Nellié D. Boardman, teacher. Number in District 18, attendance 16. Miss Boardman began this School immediately after the close of her other School, (No. 8). It was soon manifest that she had made a mistake in undertaking a Winter School with her limited experience. Miss B. is a good scholar, but needs, as many other teachers do, instruction in methods of teaching and government, such as is to be obtained in our Normal Schools. After teaching nearly seven weeks Miss B. resigned, and the school was taught out (3 weeks), by Mrs. Bigelow, who had charge of the Summer School.

## NO. 6, BIGELOW HILL.

Summer Term—Eight weeks. No. in District 24, attendance 17. Winter Term—Fourteen weeks. Attendance 18. Miss Carrie I Sullivan teacher of both terms. Miss S. is a graduate of our High School, and this was her first effort at teaching. She is to be heartily commended for untiring and conscientious application to her duties. Many of the scholars show unusual progress as a result of the years work. The Summer Term gave general satisfaction, both to the Committee and the District; but fault was found with the Winter school. The teacher was evidently injudicious in her government. Several of the parents

were also injudicious in their too free and open criticisms of the teacher and the school. The result was an apparent disrespect for the teacher on the part of some of the pupils, that reacted unfavorably on the general progress of the school. The school was continued too long, and while it was profitable to those who attended to the close, it was unprofitable to the District as a whole, after the twelfth week. This District also is to be congratulated on their enterprise, by which one of the most uncomfortable and unsightly school buildings in town has been transformed into one of the most neat and comfortable. The house was raised, thoroughly repaired, reseated and repainted, and, be it said to the credit of teacher and pupils of the Winter term, the school-room has been kept free from cuts and stains, showing a commendable pride in the children to use well what has been given them, at the expense of the District, for their comfort and profit.

NO. 7, LARONE.

Summer Term—Five weeks. Miss Laura O Huff, teacher. No. in District 11, attendance 6. Miss Huff is a teacher of considerable experience, but the school was too short to be of much profit.

Fall Term—Ten weeks. Miss May E. Allen, teacher. Attendance 5. This little school was favored with excellent instruction, and showed good results. But the school is too small to be really profitable.

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DISTRICT SCHOOLS—NORTH.

NO. 2, NORTH. (DUDLEY'S CORNER)

Summer and Fall terms of eight weeks, each taught by Miss Addie Swain. Though one labors sometimes under a disadvantage in their own District, still we believe Miss Swain taught a good school. She is a graduate of the Farmington Normal School, and the ideas received there proved a help in her mode of instruction.

Winter School under the charge of Geo. Clark. The largest school in town outside the village District, the whole number being 35, average 33. At the time of our visit it made a very favorable appearance. Scholars were quiet, orderly and attending to business. We considered it a very pleasant and profitable term.

NO. 3, (HASKELL'S CORNER).

Summer and Fall terms taught by Mrs. E. H. Pratt. We considered this a very pleasant little school. The general management good, and the progress made very commendable to teacher and scholars.

NO. 4.

No Summer term. Winter term under the instruction of Miss Lizzie Adams. Miss A. was very successful in this school, both in her instruction and general management. An examination at the close of the school showed a proficiency rarely manifested in our common

schools. We would especially commend the general exercises introduced by Miss Adams.

NO. 5 AND 6.

Summer Term—Six weeks. Miss Nettie M. Sanford, teacher. No. in District 14, attendance 12. Miss Sanford took her scholars over but little advanced ground, being of opinion, with the Committee, that drill and thoroughness were required, rather than rapid advance. Good results were reached, considering the shortness of the term.

Winter term under charge of Mr. LaForest Robinson. School small, whole number 9, average 5. Mr. Robinson is able and capable of managing a much larger school. From what we saw of it we believe it was judiciously conducted. Severe storm prevented the second visit.

NO. 7, (MALBON'S MILLS).

The school in this District up to this year has been one of the largest in town. This past year the whole number was only 19. There having been some difficulty in the management of the school in former years, the last two years a male teacher has been employed Summer and Winter. The past Summer Miss Zetta Pierce was engaged to teach the school. Though much smaller than usual we considered the school well conducted and profitable. Upon the expressed wish of several in the District, Miss Pierce was employed for the Winter term. Miss Pierce labored earnestly and conscientiously for the good of the school, but the disorderly conduct of a large scholar or two broke the harmony of the school and interfered with the profit that might otherwise have been realized.

NO. 8.

Summer term taught by Mrs. Grant. This school of only 4 or 5 scholars was really too small to report. The Committee advised against the continuance of this school, on the ground that it was too small to be profitable, but it went on.

Miss Maria Davis taught the Winter school. It was small; whole number 7, average 6. Though the government of the school was made unpleasant to the teacher, by the unruly conduct of a large scholar or two, still the general progress of the scholars was very satisfactory. Miss Davis was truly devoted to her school work.

NO. 9.

Summer term taught by Miss Emma Mayue. The school was visited near its commencement. From its appearance then we were led to conclude that the scholars were to have favorable opportunities for learning. The school closing a day sooner than expected, the second visit was not made. Alonzo Smith, an experienced and successful teacher, taught the Winter term. He found himself disappointed in the school being so small, a great change in this respect the past year. This was a good school for those who attended, but we fear some did not try as they should to avail themselves of it.

NO. 11.

Miss Nellie Merrill teacher for Summer Term. This School for general deportment and the progress made will compare favorably with other schools. Winter Term under the charge of Miss Emma Mayne. When visited the school was orderly, and in the main the classes were well conducted. The school closing sooner than expected the second visit was not made.

NO. 12. (RICHARDSON DISTRICT.)

Miss Smith commenced the Summer Term and continued for some two weeks, when being taken sick she was obliged to close her school. Miss Zetta Pierce was engaged to complete the term. The examination showed that the teacher had labored to make the school a success, the scholars giving evidence of drill and study. The school while under the care of Miss Smith was not visited. We hope that in the future when teachers are called unexpectedly from their school they will give due notice to the Committee, that they may make no useless trips. The Winter term taught by Mr. Elvyn F. Burrell, a resident of the District, and a student of Bates College. Mr. Burrell is a good scholar and was devoted to his school work. If the progress and proficiency of a school is not so marked as desired, it is not always to be attributed to the teacher. As in a former report, we would express the desire that this District may take measures this season to secure a new School House.

J. S. CUSHING, }  
W. WOODBURY, } Superintending  
W. O. AYER, } School Committee,  
of Skowhegan.