

1882

# Annual Reports of the Selectmen and S.S. Committee of the Town of Skowhegan, For The Year Ending March 6th, 1882

Skowhegan (Me.)

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**ANNUAL REPORTS**

—OF THE—

**Selectmen  S. S. Committee**

—OF THE—

**TOWN OF SKOWHEGAN,**

—FOR THE—

**YEAR ENDING MARCH 6th, 1882.**

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# ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

## SELECTMEN OF SKOWHEGAN,

For the Year ending March 6th 1882.

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### VALUATION OF 1881.

Real Estate,	\$1,255,170	
Personal Estates,	638,820	
		————— \$1,893,990
No. of Polls, 876, at \$2 00. Rate per cent \$1.00 on \$100.00.		

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### ASSESSMENTS.

For State Tax,	\$9,252 33	
“ County Tax,	2,201 34	
“ Schools,	3,700 00	
“ Poor and Town Expenses,	2,500 00	
“ Bridges and Culverts,	1,000 00	
“ Breaking Snow Roads,	750 00	
“ Road Damages,	175 00	
“ Side-walk, R. R. Bridge,	100 00	
“ Tax on 83 dogs,	83 00	
“ Overlayings,	891 98	
“ Supplemental Tax,	124 10	
		————— \$20,777.75

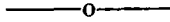
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### MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS.

License of Circus,	\$ 20 00	
From State Railroad Tax,	779 83	
Interest on Railroad Bonds,	14 00	
Rent of Cemetary Lot,	6 00	
Sales from Town Farm,	368 36	
“ 3 vols. Maine Reports,	7 50	
Unexpended Higway Money,	60 30	
		————— \$1,255.99

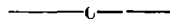
## STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

Assessed for State Tax,	\$9,252 33	
“ “ County Tax,	2,201 34	
	<u>          </u>	\$11,453.67
Paid S. A. Holbrook, State Treasurer,	\$9,252 33	
“ A. S. Burke, County Treasurer,	2,201 34	
	<u>          </u>	\$11,453.67



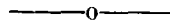
## SCHOOLS.

Amount Assessed for Schools,	\$3,700 00	
Received from State School Fund and Mill Tax,	2,042 51	
Balance Due Districts, last year,	1,401 18	
	<u>          </u>	\$7,143.69
Amount Paid the Several Districts,	\$6,267 13	
Balance Due “ “ “	876 56	
	<u>          </u>	\$7,143 69



## BRIDGES AND CULVERTS.

Amount Assessed for Bridges and Culverts,		\$1,000
Paid for Bridge on Canaan Line,	372 00	
“ “ “ “ Cold Brook,	192 00	
“ “ “ “ near Milton Smith's,	102 00	
“ “ “ “ M. T. Pooler's,	89 00	
“ “ Culvert “ John Lawley's,	25 00	
“ “ “ “ J. A. Swain's,	25 00	
“ “ “ “ Peter Vigue's,	26 00	
“ “ Plank for Bridges,	67 72	
Balance unexpended,	101 28	
	<u>          </u>	\$1,000



## SUPPORT OF POOR.

DR.

## FARM ACCOUNT.

Paid for Labor and Supplies,	\$ 485 14	
Repairs on Farm Buildings,	173 94	
Stock and Supplies on hand March 1, 1881,	1,015 04	
	<u>          </u>	\$2,052.44
CR. Sales from Farm,	368 36	
Stock and Supplies on hand March 1. 1882,	1,025 00	
Balance against Farm,	659 08	
	<u>          </u>	\$2,052.44

Number of weeks Board of Poor, 411 ; at a net cost, exclusive of repairs of Farm Buildings, \$1.18 per week ; or, including Overseer and family, 567 weeks, at a cost of 85½ cents per week.

It is proper to state that there has been an unusual amount of sickness on the Farm during the past year, which has rendered it necessary to hire help indoor and out, no one on the Farm or in the house being able to do any labor. Thus, with the additional expense of funeral charges, makes the cost per week larger than in previous years.

Expense of Poor off the Farm,	\$1,919 15
“ “ “ on the Farm,	485 14
	<hr/>
Total expense of Poor for the year,	\$2,404.29
Paid Poor Bills of last year, not estimated,	34.32

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#### BREAKING SNOW ROADS.

Amount Assessed,		\$750.00
Amount Expended,	\$624 48	
Balance Unexpended,	125 52	
	<hr/>	\$750.00

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#### MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES.

Side-walk on Railroad Bridge,	\$100 00
Road Damages to Mike Demo,	175 00
Skowhegan West Aqueduct Co.,	10 00
Island Aqueduct Co.,	5 00
H. P. Thing, damage to horse, 1879,	20 00
Eugene Collins, damage on Highway,	2 00
James Harmon, “ “ “	10 00
Robinson Brothers, rent of target ground,	5 00
Removing Nuisance from Heselton's after fire,	6 50
Books and Stationery for Town,	16 15
School Books for Poor,	18 83
Care of Town Hall, C. C. Arnold,	3 00
R. W. Haines, keeping tramps,	6 50
L. W. Weston, rent of receiving tomb,	15 00
Paid for Stone for railing at Neil Hill,	50 00
Postages and Telegrams,	2 50
Smith & Mayo, Printing Report, and Blanks,	24 30

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#### ABATEMENTS OF TAXES.

John Weston, collector, 1881,	\$217.20
Of this amount \$76.05 were abated on account of loss by fire.	

*Annual Report of the Selectmen of Skowhegan.***TOWN OFFICERS.**

J. S. Cushing, Su. School Com., bal. of last year,	8 75	
Rev. Webster Woodbury,	14 41	} Sup. School Com.
“ W. O. Ayer,	55 50	
“ O. J. Hancock,	65 05	
Miss Lizzie Miller,	21 00	
John Weston, Collector,	415 56	
Albert Fuller, Treasurer,	-40 00	
James B. Dascomb,	250 00	} Selectmen and Assessors,
Isaac Dyer,	115 00	
S. F. Steward,	115 00	

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**LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.**

Due School District No. 1, construction acct.	747 43	
“ “ No. 9, North, “	28 06	
“ the several Districts for Schools,	876 56	
Orders drawn and not paid,	55 80	
Insane Hospital, estimated,	100 00	
Sundry other bills, estimated,	50 00	
	_____	\$1,857.85

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**RESOURCES.**

Due from town of Jay,	8 50	
For Taxes Real Estate bid off by town,	23 84	
Maine Cen. R. R. Bonds, par value,	200 00	
Cash in Treasury,	4,505 14	
	_____	\$4,737.48
Balance in favor of the town		\$2,879.63

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**ESTIMATE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.**

For support of Poor and Town Expenses,	2,500 00
For breaking Roads the past winter,	800 00
For Bridges and Culverts,	500 00
Together with such other sums as the Town may vote under the specific articles in the Town Warrant.	

JAMES B. DASCOMB, } Selectmen  
 ISAAC DYER, } of  
 S. F. STEWARD. } Skowhegan.

# ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

## Superintending School Committee,

For the Year ending March 1st, 1882.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—

We submit herewith the customary annual report of the condition of the schools intrusted to our supervision, and of the work accomplished in them, during the past year.

Amount designated by vote of town for support of Schools,	\$3,700 00
“ received from School Fund and Mill Tax,	2,042 57
	<hr/>
	\$5,742 50
Amount received from High School Fund.	250 00
	<hr/>
Total,	\$5,992 50
Number of Scholars in town, April, 1881,	1332
Of whom, in Village District,	957
Number Male Teachers employed,	9
“ Female “ “	35

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### SUPERVISION.

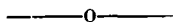
Early in the school year the chairman of the board, Rev. W. Woodbury, resigned his position, as he was about to remove from town. This deprived the board of their most experienced member, the village schools of their special supervisor, and the town of a faithful, efficient and earnest guardian of school interests.

The vacancy thus caused was filled by the election of Miss Lizzie Miller, who for some years had been a member of the Grading Committee in the village district. Miss Miller has had the immediate supervision of the Primary Schools in the village, and has assisted in the supervision of the other graded schools, as well as in teachers



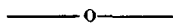
examinations. The supervision of the schools in the outlying districts has been divided between the two other members of the committee.

We wish to record, that with very few exceptions we have been aided in our efforts to advance the interests of our schools, by a corps of faithful, efficient, painstaking teachers, who have entered cordially into the spirit of our plans for their schools, and have made honest efforts to accomplish the work laid upon them.



### TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS.

More care than usual has been taken in the examinations of teachers applying for schools. These examinations have been uniform, impartial and thorough; and every teacher who has been employed bears from us a certificate, with rank attained in the examination recorded thereupon. Many of those examined received high rank, and none were accepted to teach who did not attain fair rank. Such examinations are required by law; and it is the determination of the committee to make them careful tests of the knowledge and of the teaching abilities of the applicants, and to grant certificates only to such as are truly qualified. The co-operation of Agents is earnestly solicited, and they are especially urged to engage teachers seasonably, that they may appear at the public examinations, as advertised.



### VILLAGE DISTRICT.

The High School continues under the faithful instruction and care of Mr. Jefferson Taylor. A good class graduated in June, last, who acquitted themselves creditably in the public graduating exercises. The attendance of the school is fully up to the large average maintained in former years.

Miss Belle Allen, assistant, resigned at the close of the school year, in June. The position which had been so ably filled by Miss Allen was filled by the election of Miss Myra A. Allen.

In the Fall term the Principal was absent from the school several weeks, on account of sickness. During this time the school was in charge of the Assistant, and Mr. Taylor's classes were ably taught by Mr. Charles M. Coburn, a graduate of the school. It is highly creditable to the school, and worthy of special commendation, that during this enforced absence of the Principal, the labors of the instructors in charge were lightened by the cheerful co-operation and ready obedience of the pupils.

Miss Myra A. Allen, the efficient Principal of the **FIRST GRAMMAR SCHOOL**, resigned at the close of the Spring term, to take a position as assistant in the High School. She was succeeded in the Sum-

mer term by Mr. Milton T. Emery, a teacher of large experience and good scholarship. He resigned at the close of the term, and was succeeded by Miss Annie Hubbard, a graduate of Waterville Classical Institute, who retains the position. Miss H. is a teacher of limited experience in schools of this grade, but under her brief leadership the school is making good progress.

Miss Cora Elliott still retains the position of Assistant, and is doing excellent work.

The Third Class of the Grammar School continues in charge of Miss Annie Ward, who is doing good work and commending herself by her faithfulness.

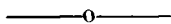
The INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS have suffered no change of teachers and have been conducted with their usual good success by Miss Mae Elliott in the Leavitt street school, and Miss Dora Pollard in the Main street school.

The SECOND PRIMARY School, on Leavitt street, remains in charge of Miss Helen Blackden, who has so long and so faithfully been its teacher.

The PRIMARY SCHOOLS on Mechanic and Front streets are fortunate in remaining in charge of Miss Dora Cleaveland and Mrs. Lizzie Healey, who are thorough and successful teachers, and who not only have the affection and respect of their pupils, but of the parents also.

The Primary Schools on North and Pleasant streets still continue under the charge of Miss Kezzie Monroe and Miss Mae Pollard, who have shown themselves to be faithful teachers and well fitted for the positions which they occupy.

During the Winter term Miss Monroe has supplied the vacancy in the Second Primary School, caused by the temporary absence of Miss Blackden. Her own school was successfully cared for by Miss Delia Weston.



## DISTRICT SCHOOLS.—NORTH.

### DISTRICT NO. 2.

Summer and Fall Term taught by Miss Addie M. Swain. Each term of 8 weeks. Whole number of scholars for Summer term, 22; average, 19. Fall term 17; average, 15. These terms were both successful. At the close of the Fall term the examination showed that considerable progress had been made in all branches taught. The recitation in geography, with specimens of map drawing, was especially excellent.

Winter term taught by Mr. Alonzo Smith. Whole number attending school, 27; average, 24. Mr. Smith is an experienced and familiar

teacher in this town, and as usual, his school this winter was a success. A good interest was maintained throughout, and much progress made. Seven were not tardy, and twelve were not absent during the term. Length of term 12 weeks.

#### DISTRICT NO. 3.

Summer and Fall terms taught by Mrs. Ella H. Pratt. Both terms were 10 weeks each. Whole number of scholars for Summer term 12; average 11. Fall term 16; average 15. Mrs. Pratt succeeded in maintaining a good interest in her school and hence great progress was shown at the close of both terms.

#### DISTRICT NO. 4.

Summer Term of 8 weeks taught by Miss Cora A. Cain. Miss Cain ranks high as a teacher, and in this school maintained her former rank. Whole number of scholars attending school 12; average 10.

Winter term taught by Miss L. May Knight. Length of term 12 weeks. Whole number attending school, 9; average, 8. This was Miss Knight's second term in this town, and thus far she shows elements of success as a teacher. Her scholars for the above term have shown commendable progress.

#### DISTRICT NO. 5 AND 6.

Summer term taught by Miss Cora A. Cain with marked success. The scholars made great progress and the only regret is that the term could not have been 12 rather than 6 weeks. Whole number attending school, 10; average, 9.

The Winter term was taught by Mr. Willie H. White. Mr. White labored faithfully, but the irregularity of attendance made great advancement impossible. He had 23 different names enrolled, but more than one-half attended less than two weeks. Only 10 became members of the school, and the average reached only 6. This seems all the more strange as no complaint was entered against the teacher. Length of term 10 weeks.

#### DISTRICT NO. 7.

Summer term taught by Miss Annie E. Emery. At both visits of the Committee the school appeared well, but Miss Emery failed to give satisfaction to some in the district, and, though engaged for the Fall term, it was thought advisable for her not to return.

Mrs. C. N. Underwood taught the Fall term. Length of term, 8 weeks; whole number of scholars attending, 19; average, 16. Mrs. Underwood was thoroughly qualified to teach, and was very faithful in her duties. We fear her efforts were not appreciated. The school was far less orderly than it should have been.

The Winter term was commenced by Mr. C. E. Smith, but at the

close of the third week he resigned. Mr. Geo. McIntire is now completing the term with apparently good success.

#### DISTRICT NO. 8.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Nellie D. Boardman. Whole number attending school, 6; average, 4. At the close of the fourth week the teacher was dismissed by the agent, without notifying the committee; hence no second visit. Mr. Abner Currier is now teaching the Winter Term.

#### DISTRICT NO. 9.

Summer term taught by Miss Emma F. Maynes, There seemed to be a general lack of interest in the school this term, and but little progress was discernible. Length of term, 9 weeks; whole number of scholars, 18; average, 13.

The Winter term was taught by Miss May C. Allen. Whole number attending school, 14; average, 11. Miss Allen succeeded in awakening a very good interest, and considerable progress was made. Length of school, 12 weeks.

#### DISTRICT NO. 11.

Summer term taught by Miss L. Mae Knight. Whole number attending school, 12; average, 9. Miss Knight labored faithfully, but the committee cannot judge accurately of the progress made, as there were but six present at the second visit. Length of term, 8 weeks.

The Winter term is now in session, under the instruction of Miss Cora A. Cain, and is showing excellent progress. The people in this district have shown a very commendable interest, in giving the board of teacher for both Summer and Winter terms, thereby lengthening the Winter term several weeks.

#### DISTRICT NO. 12.

Summer term taught by Miss Z. A. Pierce. Whole number attending school, 18; average 14. Miss Pierce is an experienced teacher and successful. In this school she succeeded in gaining the good will of both parents and scholars, and the term was pleasant and profitable.

The Winter term, beginning late, is now in session, and is being taught by Mr. L. D. Rand. The school appeared well at the first visit of the committee, and we judge from reports that it is moving along successfully.

## DISTRICT SCHOOLS.—SOUTH.

## DISTRICT NO. 2.

Summer School 2 terms, 16 weeks; Miss Alice Emery teacher. Attendance, 13; average, 11. This was Miss Emery's first school and she proved to have the qualities of a successful teacher. By giving her undivided attention to her work, and laboring faithfully, she won the esteem of parents and scholars. The classes worked dilligently and made good progress. A commendable pride and interest in their school on the part of the pupils was manifest, not only in their punctuality and dilligence, but by their personal tidiness and the tasty adornment of the not-over-attractive school room.

Winter school, 12 weeks. Attendance, 19; average, 17. Mr. W. H. Swain, teacher. This was Mr. Swain's first experience at teaching. He commended himself to all by his faithful labors. His methods are practical, the results reached satisfactory. No better comment need be made on the success of his school than the generally expressed desire that a supplementary term of school shall soon be held, under his instruction.

## DISTRICT NO. 3.

Summer term 8 weeks. Attendance 5. Miss Addie Varney, teacher. Fall term 8 weeks. Attendance 5. Miss Delia Morton teacher. Both these schools were faithfully instructed, and the pupils showed good interest and progress.

## DISTRICT NO. 4.

Fall term, 12 weeks. Attendance, 13. Average, 12. Miss Clara I. Tibbetts, teacher. This district omitted the usual Summer school, and the children have thus had but 12 weeks schooling; tho' a few of them attended summer schools in neighboring districts. Miss Tibbetts is a teacher of experience. and her school was very successful. The studiousness and general good deportment of this school seem to us worthy of special mention.

## DISTRICT NO. 5.

Summer term, 10 weeks. Attendance, 12. Average  $10\frac{3}{4}$ . Winter, two terms, about 16 weeks. Miss Lucy Dinsmore, teacher. This school, the winter session of which has not yet terminated, has been under the faithful instruction of Miss Lucy Dinsmore, a graduate of our High School. The Summer term was satisfactory. The Winter school has not been visited by the committee since the beginning of the first term, but we believe it is being wisely and faithfully managed.

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Summer term, 10 weeks, Attendance, 15. Average, 11. Miss Jennie Sawtelle and Miss Laura O. Huff, teachers. Miss Sawtelle was engaged for this school, but after five weeks service, resigned. Miss Huff was engaged to finish the school, and under her leading the pupils advanced as satisfactorily as could be expected in so short a time.

Winter term, 11 weeks. Attendance, 16. Average, 14. Mr. D. K. Allen, teacher. This was a busy and profitable term, and Mr. Allen commended himself to all by his diligence and faithfulness. The most of the scholars show marked improvement in their studies.

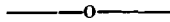
DISTRICT NO. 7.

Fall term, 12 weeks. Attendance, 5. Average, 4. Miss Mae C. Allen, teacher. This school, small as it is, was faithfully conducted by Miss Allen and the scholars spent their time profitably. Miss Allen is one of our best teachers.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

Summer Term, 5 weeks. Attendance, 9. Average, 7. Miss Addie Varney, teacher. This school made improvement, especially in reading. Miss Varney is conscientious in her work, and with the advantage of a Normal Course, which she hopes to take, will make an excellent teacher.

Fall term, 8 weeks. Attendance, 11. Average, 10. Miss Lizzie Dinsmore, teacher. Miss Dinsmore is one of the youngest teachers, and this was her first experience. The results were quite satisfactory, especially in inspiring a spirit of diligence.



GENERAL COMMENTS.

While much has been said in commendation of the work done by our teachers, we would not convey the impression that our schools are all that could be desired. They have attained a high grade of excellence, but we regret that better results have not been reached. There is on the part of many in the schools a lack of gentleness and courtesy so essential to true manhood and womanhood. For *this* lack however, our teachers are not largely to blame, though there has not probably been sufficient firmness in all cases in insisting on good manners, and courteous behavior. Other defects are such as follows :

In the conduct of recitations too little care and patience in contending against false syntax and wrong pronounciation of words ; and especially has there been far too little care given to the correction of indistinct articulation and monotony in reading. There is altogether too much bad English allowed in our schools in conversation and recitation, and there are too many poor readers. Insufficient attention also has been given to the development of the powers of independent reasoning, that is so profitably cultivated by the thorough oral analysis of problems in Arithmetic. Much good work has been done in working problems, but not satisfactory average result has been reached in explaining clearly the work done.

In these respects particularly, and in every direction generally, we shall labor for improvement in the future.

LIZZIE D. MILLER, }  
W. O. AYER, } S. S. Committee.  
O. J. HANCOCK, }