

1883

Annual Reports of the Selectmen and S.S. Committee of the Town of Skowhegan, For The Year Ending March 4, 1883

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 4, 1883.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Selectmen of Skowhegan

For the Year Ending March 4, 1883.

VALUATION OF 1882.

Real Estate,	\$1,275 525	
Personal Estates,	636,600	
		\$1,912,125
No. Polls, 897 at \$2.00. Rate per cent. 94. on \$100.00.		

ASSESSMENTS.

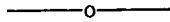
For State Tax,	\$9,252 33	
“ County Tax,	2,201.34	
“ Schools,	3,700.00	
“ Poor and Town Expenses,	2,000.00	
“ Breaking Snow Roads,	800.00	
“ Bridges and Culverts,	500.00	
“ Land Damages on Road,	200.00	
“ Cemetery Fences and Roads,	300.00	
“ Dog Tax,	60.00	
“ Overlayings,	819.73	
“ Supplemental Tax.	61.59	
		\$19,894.99

MISCELLANEOUS RECEIPTS.

License of Circus,	\$20.00	
Railroad Tax, from State,	1,500.63	
Interest on Railroad Bonds,	14.00	
Rent and Grass from Cemetery Lots,	13.00	
Liquor Vessels,	9.25	
Vol. Maine Reports,	2.50	
		\$1,559.38

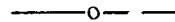
STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

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



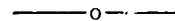
SCHOOLS.

Amount Assessed for Schools,	\$3,700.00	
From State School Fund and Mill Tax,	2,059.22	
Balance due Districts, last year,	876.56	
	<u> </u>	\$6,635.78
Amount Paid the Several Districts,	\$5,922.27	
Balance Due " " " "	713.51	
	<u> </u>	\$6,635.78



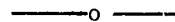
BRIDGES AND CULVERTS.

Amount Assessed for Bridges and Culverts,		\$500.00
Paid for Culvert from Water Street to River,	81.87	
" " Bridge near Isaac Ames',	107.70	
" " Railing at Neil Hill,	38.53	
" " Sundry Small Culverts,	23.35	
" " Plank for Sundry Bridges,	81.62	
Balance unexpended,	166.93	
	<u> </u>	\$500.00



CEMETERY FENCES AND ROAD.

Amount assessed for same,		\$300.00
Paid for Fence and Lotting, South Cemetery,	\$189.39	
Road and Fence near Eddy,	50.84	
Balance Unexpended,	59.77	
	<u> </u>	\$300.00



SUPPORT OF POOR.

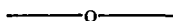
DR.	FARM ACCOUNT.	
Paid for Labor and Supplies,	\$467.46	
Insurance on Town Buildings 1 year,	22.50	
Stock and Supplies on hand March 1, 1882	1,025.00	
Balance in favor of Farm,	109.34	
	<u> </u>	\$1,624.30
CR. By Sales from Farm,	\$569.30	
Stock and Supplies on hand March 1, 1883,	1,055.00	
	<u> </u>	\$1,624.30

Number of weeks Board of Poor, 412 2-7 or including Overseer and family, 524 week, thus showing that the income of the Farm has paid for 412 2-7 weeks board of Poor, and has besides paid a profit to the Town of \$109.34.

The Overseer of the Farm and his wife are entitled to the commendation of the Town for their successful management and kind treatment of the Poor.

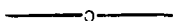
Expense of Poor off the Farm,	\$1,954.56	
Less Profit on Farm,	109.34	
	<hr/>	
Total expense of Poor,		\$1,845.22

A list of the persons aided with the amount paid for each is on file for the inspection of any one desiring it.



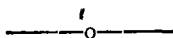
BREAKING SNOW ROADS.

Amount Assessed,		\$800 00
Expended,	\$698 51	
Unexpended,	101 49	
	<hr/>	
		\$800 00



MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURES.

W. K. Shurtleff, Land damages on Road,	\$200.00	
James Harmon, loss of horse,	10.00	
Seth Getchell, care of Town Hall,	5.00	
Aqueduct Co's. Water Rents,	16.70	
Books and Stationery,	25.37	
School Books for Poor,	10.20	
Rent of Target grounds,	8.00	
“ “ Receiving Tomb,	15.00	
Surveying Roads,	3.00	
J. B. Dascomb, Cash expenses,	2.00	
Isaac Dyer,	11.00	
S. F. Steward,	2.00	
Keeping Tramps,	13.25	
Postage and Telegrams,	3.65	
Printing Report, Blanks and Advertising,	24.65	
	<hr/>	
		\$349.82

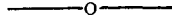


ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Abated on John Weston, Collector, Bills 1882,	\$107.22
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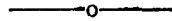
TOWN OFFICERS.

W. O. Ayer,	} Sup. School Com.	55.50
O. J. Hancock,		52.50
Lizzie D. Miller,		33.50
John Weston, Collector,		447.64
Albert Fuller, Treasurer,		40.00
James B. Dascomb,	} Selectmen and Assessors,	250.00
Isaac Dyer,		115.00
S. F. Steward,		115.00
		\$1,109.14



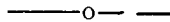
LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Due the several School Districts,	713.51
Orders drawn and not paid,	188.50
Due Insane Hospital, estimated,	105.00
Sundry Pauper bills, estimated,	175.00
Balance in favor of Town,	<u>4,369.55</u>
\$5,551.56	



RESOURCES.

Due from the Town of Houlton,	23 60
Due from the Town of Waterville,	10 00
Due from State Rent of Armory,	39 62
Maine Cen. R. R. Bonds, par value,	200 00
Cash in Treasury,	<u>5,278 34</u>
\$5,551 56	



ESTIMATE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

For support of Poor and Town expenses,	1,500.00
Breaking Roads the present winter.	500.00
Bridges and Culverts,	500.00

Together with such other sums as the Town may vote under specific articles in the Town Warrant.

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

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sup'tending School Committee

For the Year Ending March 5, 1883.

The following is submitted as the report of the committee on schools for the past year:

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL.

Amount designated by vote of town for support of Schools,	\$3,700.00	
Amount received from School Fund and Mill Tax as per Select Men's Report,	2059.22	
		\$5,759.22
Amount received from the State for High Schools,	\$250.00	
		\$6009.22
Total for support of Schools,		
Number of scholars in town April 1st, 1882,	1306	
Number of different Scholars attending School,	887	
Number of Scholars in Village District,	939	
Number of same in attendance,	623	
Number of Male Teachers employed,	4	
Number of Female " " "	34	

VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT NO. 1

HIGH SCHOOL. This school, whose superior advantages are free to scholars of all the districts in town, enjoys the reputation of being one of the best schools of the kind in the State. The comparatively little expense to the town of maintaining this school is due to the aid derived from the Bloomfield Academy Fund. Graduates from the four years, classical course of our High School have no difficulty in passing the examinations of entrance to our best New England Colleges. On the other hand, without sacrificing anything essential in the advanced studies, it is a constant aim of the committee and of the principal of the school, to furnish a complete practical course, requiring less time, for the benefit of those who do not intend to enter college, and for those who wish to teach in lower grades, and in ungraded schools. Looking towards this end, more time has been given this year to the review of Arithmetic, and a place for the review of English Grammar has been made in the course. Also Physiology has been placed in the Grammar School, first class, and its time given in part to Book-keeping. The school has for years been noted for the comparatively large number of young men in attendance. It is intended to keep up the classical standard, and to so modify and advance the practical English Course, as to make the school a necessity to all our scholars who advance to this grade.

Mr. J. Taylor is still at the head of this school. Miss Myra A. Allen resigned, much to the regret of all, and the vacancy has been satisfactorily filled by the election of Mrs. Caro M. Palmer. All the teachers of the Grammar department have also had classes from the High School during the year.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS. Miss L. Maria Knight has been principal in the room occupied by the first and second classes since the beginning of the school year. Miss Knight is a graduate of the Farmington Normal School, a teacher of extensive experience in grammar grades, and of uniform success. Under her supervision and instruction the school is prospering. Miss Cora Elliott continues as assistant, and has the instruction of the second class. The examinations of both these classes have exhibited satisfactory results. The third class continues under the able instruction and discipline of Miss Annie Ward, whose work and methods continue to give increasing satisfaction.

The **INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS** still continue in charge of Miss Dora Pollard, south side, and Miss Mae Elliott, north side, who have proved themselves to be faithful and efficient teachers.

There have been no changes of teachers in the Primary Schools. Mrs. Lizzie Healy and Miss Dora Cleveland continue with those on the south side, Miss Helen Blackden, Miss Kezzie Monroe and Miss Mae Pollard with those on the north side. These teachers are laboring faithfully to have the little ones under their care do well in every sense of the word. They are succeeding well.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.—NORTH.

DISTRICT NO. 2.

Spring and fall terms of 8 weeks each, were taught by Miss Cora A. Cain. Attendance, 20; average, 15. Miss Cain pursued her usual thorough course of instruction and discipline, and the school showed commendable progress at the close of each term. We regard Miss Cain as one of our best teachers, and as only needing the hearty support of the parents in order to the largest success. Co-operation here is especially desirable.

Winter term, 12 weeks. Attendance, 23; average, 17. Mr. Fred R. Sinclair, teacher. Although this term was considerably disturbed by sickness among the scholars, yet it proved very successful. Mr. Sinclair is a live teacher and consequently has a live school. He succeeded in awakening a lively interest in study, recitation, composition and declamation. Being thoroughly practical in his methods, diligent in his work and interesting in his manner of conducting the exercises of the school room, he secured, as he justly merited, the commendation of all. The examination at the close of school showed thorough drill and good progress. We would like to retain so good a teacher as Mr. Sinclair in our public schools.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

The school in this district, consisting of three terms, was taught by Mrs. Ella H. Pratt. Attendance, spring term, 12; average, 9½; fall and winter terms, attendance, 7; average, 7. The school was quiet, orderly and profitable. Two members of the committee visited the school, and heartily concur in the opinion that for thoroughness and progress it could not easily be excelled by any school of like grade.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Summer term, 8 weeks. Attendance, 8; average, 7. Taught by Miss Ada M. Wyman. Order and progress good.

Winter term now in session under the instruction of Miss Cora A. Cain. The school is considerably increased by attendance of scholars belonging out of the district. The teacher is maintaining her former good reputation, and the scholars are making satisfactory advancement.

DISTRICTS NO. 5 AND 6.

Summer term, 8 weeks. Attendance, 11; average, 8. Miss Rosa L. Buzzell, teacher. This was Miss Buzzell's first term, but she labored with interest for the welfare of her scholars. Had the attendance been more regular, the school would have shown better results.

Winter term, 9 weeks. Attendance, 12; average, 7½. Miss L. Mae Knight, teacher. Attendance more and average less than in the summer term. Miss Knight is a faithful and conscientious teacher, but worked against too great odds in this case; consequently less progress was made than could have been desired. This school needs the inspiration of a vital interest. Regular attendance and close application to study will effect a desirable result.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Summer term, 8 weeks. Attendance, 11; average, 9. Taught by Miss F. Belle Neil. A pleasant and profitable term. Miss Neil evidently gained the confidence and respect of her pupils, aroused their interest and inspired them by her personal presence in the duties of the schoolroom. Faithful labor was rewarded by good results.

Winter term. Mr. George McIntire, teacher. At the first visit of the committee, the school appeared well and to be doing good work. At the second visit, unfortunately, nearly all the large scholars were absent, which made it impossible to judge accurately of the progress made.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

One term of 12 weeks. Attendance of scholars belonging in the district, 8; from other districts, 8; average, 9. Miss Caddie Cayford, teacher. Miss Cayford has the necessary elements for a very successful teacher. She is well at home in the school room, active and ready. We considered the progress good and the term a success.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

Summer term, 8 weeks. Attendance, 17; average, 13. Winter term, 13 weeks. Attendance, 16; average, 11. Both terms taught by Miss Louise M. Harvey. The interest was well sustained through the term, and considerable proficiency was made in all the classes. Miss Harvey is a graduate of the Seminary at Kent's Hill, and is well adapted to the art of teaching. She is original in her methods, and diligent in her work, and will succeed.

DISTRICT NO. 11.

Summer term, 6 weeks. Attendance, 8; average, 7. Winter term, 10 weeks. Attendance, 14; average, 12. Both terms taught by Miss Cora A. Cain. Under the faithful instructions of Miss Cain the pupils advanced satisfactorily. They seemed to acquire a desire for knowledge and applied themselves to its acquisition. Both teacher and scholars are to be commended for faithfulness in their work.

DISTRICT NO. 12.

Summer term, 10 weeks. Attendance, 21; average, 17. This term under the instruction of Miss Clara J. Weymouth, showed good results. Everything moved on harmoniously and profitably, and we consider the progress satisfactory.

Winter term taught by Mr. Lester Sheaff. Length of term, 10 weeks. Attendance, 26; average, 18. As this school closed one week earlier than was expected by the committee, a second visit was not made. At first visit everything indicated a pleasant and profitable term which we trust was realized.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.—SOUTH.

DISTRICT NO. 2

Summer term of 12 weeks taught by Miss Zetta A. Pierce. Attendance, 18; average, 16. Miss Pierce is an experienced and successful teacher. Under her faithful labors the school made good progress.

Winter school, 2 terms. First term taught by Miss Addie M. Swain, a graduate of the Farmington Normal School, and a teacher of considerable experience. 8 weeks. Attendance 18, average 16½. The school was a marked success. Special mention is made of Miss Swain's patient and successful efforts in developing the power of analysis in her pupils; also of her valuable oral instruction, especially in geography.

Second term, Miss Mary Smith, teacher. The school is but just begun, with an increased attendance. The increase of attendance in all the terms of this year over last year, is noticeable and gratifying.

DISTRICT NO. 3.

Summer school only. Eight weeks. Attendance 4. Miss Lillian C. Smith, teacher. The school though small, was profitably conducted. Besides attention to the ordinary studies, Miss Smith obtained some excellent results from her scholars in composition.

DISTRICT NO. 4.

Winter school only. Two terms. First term taught by Miss Rose E. McIntire. 6 weeks. Attendance, 10; average, 7. Though Miss McIntire did not give satisfaction to some in the district, we believe she labored conscientiously; and that, had her school not been broken up by general sickness, she would have had creditable results to show for the term's work. The term came to an abrupt end after 6 weeks, on account of the sickness of nearly all the children, and the necessary suspension continued 3 weeks, during which time Miss McIntire resigned her position.

Second term, 8 weeks. Miss F. Belle Neil, teacher. Attendance 15; average 13. This was a profitable term and gave general satisfaction. Special mention is made of the progress of the grammar classes under Miss Neil's instruction.

DISTRICT NO. 5.

Summer School. 9 weeks. Miss Alice S. Emery, teacher. Attendance, 14; average, 12. This was a profitable term. The school has come to be marked for its general excellence in reading.

Winter school. 10 weeks. Taught by Miss Annie B. Hoxie. Attendance, 13; average, 11. Miss Hoxie is a teacher of great energy

and enthusiasm, and inspired her pupils with her spirit. Though the term was interrupted by sickness, it was very successful. Special mention is made of Miss Hoxie's attention to analysis in arithmetic; and of her success in interesting a class of little scholars in the elements of grammar, by oral instruction.

DISTRICT, NO. 6.

Summer school. Miss Alice M. Fletcher, teacher. 8 weeks. Attendance 14; average, 11. Miss Fletcher has taken one year of the Normal course at Farmington, and the success of this, her first school, showed the value of the special training there received.

The winter term was taught by Miss Helen M Hoxie. 12 weeks. Attendance; 17; average, 13. Miss Hoxie is a teacher of considerable experience, and we believe that this school was favored with excellent instruction and that the scholars labored hard and willingly. A good term's work was the result.

DISTRICT NO. 7

No school during the year.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

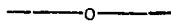
Summer School. Miss Addie M. Varney, teacher. Miss Varney also is taking a course at the Normal at Farmington, greatly to her advantage as a teacher. Under her instruction the scholars made fair progress. 7 weeks. Attendance, 13; average, 11.

Fall term. Miss Lizzie M. Dinsmore, teacher. 8 weeks. Attendance, 11; average, 10. This term's work also gave good satisfaction.

The school house in this district cannot be said to be a flattering advertisement, either to the district or to the town.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

After an intermission of several years this district has resumed its school. Two terms. 20 weeks. Miss Emma Tobey, teacher. Attendance, 4. This has been a profitable little primary for the scholars in the district. Miss Tobey gave valuable instruction in drawing as well as in the ordinary branches, and held the interest of her pupils completely, though there were so few of them.



GENERAL REMARKS.

Only one change in text books has been made during the year. The old time Progressive Speller has given place to the Harrington's Speller, at moderate cost. The new speller is giving universal satisfaction.

Too frequently in our village, and occasionally in rural districts,

teachers are much annoyed by truancy, on the part of scholars, over whom their parents or guardians have little restraining power. It is also an evident fact that in the village there are several boys connected with no school, idle, profane, sometimes vicious, who ought to be receiving school discipline, for their own good and for the safety of society. It is not in the power of the committee to enforce the attendance of these *gamins* in school, nor to to arrest truants. We therefore recommend the appointment of a truant officer, who shall be instructed to correct the growing evils here mentioned.

It is manifest to all that the certain and permanent increase of the number of scholars, incident to the growth of the manufacturing interests of our town, will not only materially increase the labor of the committee to whom the schools are entrusted, but will soon necessitate a larger outlay for instruction. It is therefore evident that the standard already attained cannot be kept, without an appropriation from the town at least equal to that of last year.

Respectfully submitted,

W. O. AYER,
O. J. HANCOCK, } S. S. Committee.
L. E. MILLER, }