

1894

Annual Reports of the Town Officers of the Town of Skowhegan, For The Year Ending Feb 20, 1894

Skowhegan (Me.)

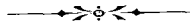
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◇ ANNUAL REPORT ◇
OF THE
TOWN * OFFICERS.
OF THE
TOWN OF
SKOWHEGAN,
FOR
THE YEAR ENDING FEB. 20. 1894.



SKOWHEGAN:
J. O. SMITH & Co., PRINTERS.
1894.

TOWN OFFICERS.



TOWN CLERK .

GEORGE S. WEBB.

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR

WM. B. SNOW, JOHN H. MITCHELL, R. F. PARKER

TREASURER .

FRANK A. NOLIN.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE :

L. L. WALTON, FORREST GOODWIN, NATHAN FOWLER
JOHN H. MITCHELL, N. W. BRAINERD.

TOWN PHYSICIAN :

DR. HOWARD C. TAGGART.

BOARD OF HEALTH :

W. H. WILDES, S. A. BICKFORD, GEO. CUSHING.

HEALTH OFFICER .

DR. J. N. MERRILL.

CONSTABLES :

S. A. BICKFORD, H. H. TUFTS, H. P. THING,
GEO. A. FLYE.

AUDITOR AND AGENT :

S. W. GOULD,

To the Inhabitants of the town of Skowhegan:

We herewith submit the seventieth annual report of the financial standing of the town.

Owing to the extreme depth of frost last winter and the heavy rains in the spring, our roads were in a very bad condition, and a great deal of money was expended upon them to make them safe and passable; but any one riding through our town during the summer season could not help noticing the excellent condition of the roads throughout the entire town. On the river road to Canaan, the soft sand was covered with hard clay, making a most desirable driveway. As no appropriation was made for the Robinson road, that road was built from the amount raised for highways. A petition was sent to the County Commissioners asking for a road from the Canaan road to the town line between Canaan and Skowhegan, leading to Lake George. The Commissioners laid out the road and notified the Selectmen to build it, otherwise they should build it and the town would be obliged to pay for the same. Believing the town could build it much cheaper than the Commissioners, we at once built the road and give the amount for the same in our report for highways.

From the amount raised for culverts and bridges a new walk of hard pine was laid across the Railroad bridge, and quite a number of good, wide, and substantial culverts were constructed, among them were two in District No. one, south, and one on the Robinson road, all built of large stone in a workman-like manner. Our street commissioner, Mr. H. H. Gilman, besides his many other good jobs, has built three thousand square yards of concrete sidewalk. Owing to the heavy snow storms in the latter part of last winter, our snow road bills were rather heavy, and we think that a few dollars expended by cutting bushes by the roadside would save many upon snow roads.

All over the country is raised the cry of the poor and Skowhegan is no exception ; people began to call for help in the early fall, people who never before asked for help, have asked this winter, and that class of poor will suffer many privations and pangs of hunger and cold before they call for help for the first time, and in many cases the father would not ask for help, but the mother could not long listen to the cries of the suffering little ones, and then they for the first time in their lives asked from the town, food, not for themselves but for their famishing little ones. In every case where help has been asked a thorough investigation has been made, generally by two members of the board. We have succeeded in placing many upon other towns where they belong, and by helping others in some small way they have been able to live through the winter. While in some cases we may not have acted wisely, we think it better to be upon the safe side. The poor department is to the town officers, especially in a time like the present, one of the most perplexing questions they have to encounter. We were ably assisted by the Woman's Aid Society, a committee visiting every family reported to them.

The town farm the past year has been under the management of Mr. Huntley and wife, and no words of ours can express our appreciation of their services for the many ways in which they have fulfilled their unpleasant duties. There have been five deaths, one birth and a great deal of sickness at the farm, in fact both the overseer and his wife were unable to attend to the work and sickness of the inmates, but fell victims to sickness caused by over work and care ; Mrs. Huntley was carried from the farm in order to find for her rest and quiet, which she was otherwise unable to obtain. Old people are carried to the farm to die, and if their last days of sickness and poverty can be brightened by a little care and a kind word, we truly appreciate any one who gives them. In addition to Mr. Huntley's regular work upon the farm, he built a large shed adjoining one of the barns, doing the entire work himself, even getting out the lumber from the woods, hauling it to the mill and back, framing and completing the building alone.

The labors of the selectmen the past year have occupied nearly their whole time, the construction of the sewers, the unusual number of poor, being road commissioners and the usual extra duties that every Legislature and town meeting put upon them, among the many things were repairing school houses, which occupied a great deal of their time. One of the board gave a great deal of his time on the roads, and at the town farm in times of sickness.

Owing to the depression of all kinds of business, and the scarcity of money and labor, we recommend a retrenchment in town affairs for the ensuing year. We think the town business can safely be carried through the year on a smaller appropriation in everything except the support of the poor, which must necessarily be as much if not more, than last year. Even if business should start up at once it would take at least one year to recover from the effects which we have received by the extreme stagnation of all kinds of business in which the business man, as well as the laboring man suffers, and we think in these times of unusual dullness, we should get along with the necessities of life, and look forward to the bright palmy days of future prosperity, which we hope will come, for the luxuries.

As real estate is continually changing in value by reason of age and neglect on one hand and repairs and improvement on the other, we recommend a larger board of assessors for the ensuing year, to use all care and time necessary to fully determine the true value of all real estate in town, as the State Assessors have strongly recommended a revision of valuation of Real estate.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

ASSESSMENT FOR 1893.

✓ Making and repairs on highway,	\$7,000 00
✓ Repairing Bridges and Culverts,	1,000 00
✓ Breaking Snow Roads,	2,000 00
Support of Poor and to defray expenses,	6,000 00
○ On loan of \$20,000.00 on sewer account,	2,000 00
✓ Support of schools,	6,500 00
✓ Support of Free High school,	500 00
✓ Text books for schools,	250 00
Repairing Cemeteries,	100 00
Memorial Day,	100 00
△ Repairs on Old Academy,	2,000 00
	\$27,450 00
Interest on debt,	\$700 00
Bond due May 1. 1894,	3,200 00
State tax,	10,574 28
County tax,	2,970 67
Overlayings,	1,843 63
	\$19,288 58
	\$46,738 58

VALUATION.

Real Estate,	\$2,028,655 00
Personal Estate,	1,093,186 00
	\$3,121,841 00
Rate, \$13.90 per thousand,	\$43,393 58
1338 Polls at \$2.50 each,	3,345 00
	\$46,738 58

SUPPLEMENTAL.

15 Polls at \$2.50 each,	\$37 50
Real Estate,	\$49,300 685 27
Personal Estate,	138,825 1,929 67
	\$2,652 44

RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR 1893-1894.

1893.

Feb. 20, Cash on hand.....	\$10,765 61
One year interest on Bonds.....	14 00
Receipts from Town Farm.....	332 72
Licenses for Shows.....	40 00
" " Auctioneer.....	2 00
Cash of Fairfield on account J. McMann.....	24 00
" for Concrete Walks.....	302 27
" of State of Maine for High School.....	250 00
" " " " " " Mill Tax.....	3,443 40
" " " " " " R. Road Tax.....	864 54
" " " " " " Pensions Re-	
funded.....	312 00
Cash of Sup. School Committee.....	123 65
" " " " " for Brick.....	67 60
" " Anson, Refunded.....	25 91
" " Geo. Dickinson, Refunded.....	8 00
" " Town Clerk for Dog License.....	259 00
" " Bank for Temp. Loan.....	5,000 00
" " State of Maine, Bounty on Bear.....	5 00
" " Abutters to Sewers.....	463 00
" " P. Whittier, rent of Park.....	12 00
" " J. Buzzell, cemetery lot.....	5 00
" " S. A. Bickford, Non Res. Taxes 1891	
and 1892.....	1,020 25
" from Cemetery Deposits.....	300 00
" " Sales of Cement.....	71 25
" of S. A. Bickford, collector, 1893.....	46,943 18
" Refunded from Moscow.....	2 00
" " by A. Veague.....	2 00
" of State, Damage by Dogs.....	5 00
" " " for rent of Armory, 2 years rent....	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$70,863 38
Cash on Sewer Account,.....	18,352 67
	<hr/>
	\$89,216 05

EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDING
FEBRUARY 20, 1894.

Paid for Electric Lights.....	\$	27 05	
“ “ Stationery and expenses.....		318 84	
“ “ Rent of Armory.....		175 00	
“ “ Printing bills.....		55 90	
“ “ Repairing Cemeteries.....		69 34	
“ “ Unsettled accounts in 1892.....		97 27	
“ “ Support of Poor.....		1,367 45	
“ “ Town Officers' bills.....		2,875 91	
“ “ Recording deaths and births.....		75 55	
“ “ Highways.....		6,983 30	
“ “ Culverts and Bridges.....		597 77	
“ “ Sup. School Committee.....		12,607 70	
“ “ Tramps.....		61 00	
“ “ Snow Roads.....		2,490 51	
“ “ Memorial Day.....		100 00	
“ “ Maine Insane Hospital.....		553 86	
“ “ Bond due May 1, 1893.....		3,200 00	
“ “ Overseer's Salary.....		400 00	
“ “ Interest on Borrowed money.....		625 50	
“ “ State Tax.....		10,574 28	
“ “ County Tax.....		2,970 67	
“ “ Abatements for Errors in Assessment.....		382 57	
“ “ “ “ 1892.....		59 35	
“ “ “ “ 1893.....		886 81	
“ “ State Pensions.....		312 00	
“ “ Expenses on Town Farm.....		686 22	
“ “ Watering Tubs.....		21 00	
“ “ Maine Industrial School.....		48 00	
“ “ Insurance on School Houses.....		140 00	
“ “ Damages on Highway.....		1 50	
“ “ Local Board of Health.....		27 25	
“ “ Temporary loan.....		5,000 00	
“ “ Reform School.....		70 17	
“ “ S. Walker on Sewer order.....		260 00	
“ “ on Sewer account.....		26,380 81	
			\$80,502 58
1894 Feb. 20. Cash on hand.....			8,713 47
			<hr/> \$89,216 05

TOWN OFFICERS BILLS.

Wm. B. Snow,	} Selectmen, } } Assessors, } } and Overseers, }	.....	\$500 00
John H. Mitchell,		.....	350 00
R. F. Parker.		.....	250 00
Dr. Howard C. Taggart, Town Physician,		.....	50 00
S. W. Gould, Auditor and Town Agent,		.....	20 00
W. H. Wildes,	} Board of Health,	.....	10 00
S. A. Bickford,		.....	10 00
Geo. Cushing,		.....	10 00
A. K. Butler, Superintendent of Schools,		.....	950 00
J. N. Merrill, Health Officer,		.....	50 00
Frank A. Nolin, Treasurer,		.....	64 00
S. A. Bickford, Collector of Taxes. 1893,		.....	610 16
“ “ Posting Warrants,		.....	1 75
		—————	\$2,875 91

SUPPORT OF POOR ON TOWN FARM.

Stock and Supplies, Feb. 20th, 1893,	.....	\$936 18
Overseer's Salary,	.....	400 00
Supplies and Expenses,	.....	686 22
	—————	\$2,022 40
Receipts from Farm,	.....	\$332 72
Stock and Supplies on hand Feb. 20th, 1894,	.....	899 24
675 1-2 weeks Board of Inmates and Overseer's Family, at about \$1.17 per week,	.....	790 44
	—————	\$2,022 40

Owing to the great amount of sickness and the many deaths at the farm the past year, the expenses have been unusually large. The amount of board per week includes overseer's salary, care of the sick, all burial expenses, (five deaths) clothing, caring for many tramps, and all expenses incurred at the farm.

LIST OF POOR NOT ON THE TOWN FARM.

Blanchett, Mrs. Peter.....	\$151 71
Bismore, Charles.....	12 50
Boyce, J. J.....	8 50
Bragdon, Wm. D.....	61 50
Barney, Isaac.....	12 00
Clukey, Mrs. Amelia.....	16 00
" " John.....	148 23
Cayford, Joseph.....	53 33
Clark, James.....	81 03
Chucott, Frank.....	20 40
Day, Wesley A.....	8 00
Fluett, Joseph.....	64 66
Fonier, Joseph.....	30 15
Fish, Danville F..... (Due from Anson)	20 13
Golen, Frank.....	32 37
Groder, Mrs Levi.....	40 50
" Charles.....	109 25
Genness, Geo..... (Due from Waterville)	12 75
Goodrich, John M.....	25 50
Groder, John.....	39 90
Jewell, Dela S.....	21 57
King, Eddy..... (Due from Farmington)	12 00
Liplet, Lewey.....	6 00
Murry, Philip.....	122 54
" Daniel.....	18 00
McMann, John..... (\$24.00 refunded from Fairfield)	48 00
Pooler, John.....	27 76
Ryan, Patrick.....	2 75
Steward, Thomas.....	30 00
Stearns, Truman.....	18 50
Smith, David.....	4 00
Spaulding, N F..... (Refunded from Moscow)	2 00
Steward, Hiram.....	4 00
Veague, Mrs Lucy.....	91 68
" Frank.....	8 24
" Augustus..... (Refunded)	2 00

 \$1,367 45

SUPPORT OF INSANE AT MAINE INSANE HOSPITAL.

Edward P. Morrill,	\$150 69	
John C. Foster,	185 01	
Carol P. Barker,	140 16	
Mrs. D. S. Jewell,	21 23	
Louisa Malbon,	48 57	
Chas. H. Leavitt, (due from Athens,)	8 20	
	<hr/>	\$553 86

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

Laura A. Richardson,	39 00	
C. M. Jewell,	9 00	\$48 00

REFORM SCHOOL.

Albert Pomeroy,		\$70 17
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SCHOOL APPROPRIATIONS.

Balance due, unexpended 1892,	\$ 154 87	
Appropriation by Town,	6,500 00	
" " " Free High School,	500 00	
" " " For Text Books,	250 00	
" " " Repairing School Houses,	2,000 00	
" " " State for mill tax,	3,443 40	
Cash from State for High School,	250 00	
Cash of S. S. Committee for books and tuition,	123 65	
	<hr/>	\$13,221 92
Town orders to S. S. Committee as per receipts,	12,607 70	
Balance unexpended,	614 22	
	<hr/>	\$13,221 92

FOR HIGHWAYS:

Highway appropriated by Town,.....	\$7,000 00	
Cash for Concrete Walks,.....	302 27	
Carried to accounts of Bridges and Culverts by H. Gilman,.....	133 00	
		<hr/>
	\$7,435 27	
Amount expended on Highway,.....	6,983 30	
		<hr/>
Unexpended,.....		\$451 97

FOR CULVERTS AND BRIDGES:

Culverts and Bridges, Appropriation,.....	\$1,000 00	
Amount expended on Culverts and Bridges,.....	597 77	
		<hr/>
Unexpended,.....		\$402 23

FOR SNOW ROADS:

Amount Expended on Snow Roads,.....	\$2,490 51	
Snow Roads Appropriation by Town,.....	2,000 00	
		<hr/>
Overdrawn,.....		\$490 51

The amount overdrawn on Snow Roads account is about equal to the amount paid on Snow Roads for the past winter for which no appropriation has been made.

FOR CEMETERIES:

Cemetery Appropriations by Town,	\$ 100 00	
Amount expended on Cemeteries,.....	69 34	
		<hr/>
Unexpended,.....		\$30 66

LIABILITIES OF TOWN.

Borrowed Money,.....	\$11,250 00
Maine Insane Hospital. about.....	160 00
“ Industrial School, “	20 00
Cemetery Deposits,.....	400 00
Accrued Interest,.....	500 00
Borrowed on account Sewers,.....	18,352 67

Of the above amount borrowed on Sewers account, \$260.00 has been paid.

RESOURCES.

2 Maine Central Bonds.....	\$ 200 00	
Non Resident taxes uncollected not paid into Treasurer for 1893.....	1,870 17	
Due from other Towns on account of poor.....	70 88	
“ “ P. Whittier	12 00	
Cash on hand.....	8,713 47	
Town Farm.....	2,700 00	
Austin Farm	300 00	
Lot on North Street.....	500 00	
Cemetery lot on Parkman Hill.....	500 00	
Lot on Pine Street	500 00	
Stone Quarry on Notch Road	150 00	
Coburn Park.....	5,000 00	
Personal Property as per Schedule returned by H. H. Gilman.....	1,018 25	
	<hr/>	\$21,934 77

ESTIMATES FOR 1894-95.

Interest on Debt.....	\$1,000 00
Payment of Bond due May 1, 1895	3,200 00
For Bridges and Culverts	1,000 00
“ Highways	6,000 00
“ Snow Roads.....	2,500 00
“ Support of Poor and Town Charges.....	6,000 00

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLIAM B. SNOW,	} Selectmen of Skowhegan.
J. H. MITCHELL,	
R. F. PARKER,	

REPORT ON SEWERS.

In making our report on sewers constructed in the town of Skowhegan for the year of 1893, we merely refer to the vote of March 6th, at the annual town meeting, leaving the inhabitants of the town to make themselves familiar with the revised statutes of Maine, 1883, chapter 16, acts and resolves of the state of Maine for the year 1889, chapter 285; also private and special laws, 1891, chapter 252. If you study all of these laws carefully you will understand them equally as well as we do, and we hope much better.

The town voted at the annual town meeting March 6th, 1893, to raise the sum of twenty thousand dollars to be expended upon the construction of sewers, two thousand dollars were to be assessed per year for ten years, and the law said a sum not exceeding one-half of that amount should be assessed upon the land abutting the sewers, leaving in the hands of the municipal officers thirty thousand dollars to be expended. Voted to expend a sum not less than two-fifths on the south side; also voted to construct a sewer from Park School building out of the amount raised. We intended to expend only twenty thousand dollars on the whole. We engaged the services of Wm. M. Bailey, a graduate of Maine State College, Orono, an engineer of more than ordinary ability, with considerable experience in constructing sewers, and we found him the right man in the right place, and we desire to call your attention to the manner in which he carried the sewer under Currier brook on East Front street and running under the mill pond through the bulk head into the river below. In Mr. Bailey we found a man, honest, capable and energetic, and we predict for him a brilliant future as an engineer. We have, no doubt, a system of sewerage second to none in the state and first in regard to the

size of the town and the number of inhabitants. The principal streets and most of the low, wet, cross streets are drained. The deepest and most expensive part of the sewer is completed, leaving only a few streets in which a shoal cut and a small pipe is required with easy digging, and probably no street in town that needs a sewer, will require any ledge removed except Water street. The whole system is constructed deep enough to let in every street in Skowhegan, and with capacity to carry away three times the amount of sewerage for the present number of inhabitants, making it a permanent construction for the future as well as for the present. In constructing the sewers we concluded that a work of this kind, buried so deeply beneath the surface, should be of the best material and labor. We purchased nothing but the best of everything. Every piece of pipe was tested and every one put in its place under the direction of an inspector. The engineer, superintendent and inspectors were on the work at all times, and gave their entire attention to the work, and during the season we laid nearly three miles of pipe, used one hundred thousand of brick, built one hundred man holes and catch basins, used one hundred bbls. of Portland, and three hundred of Rosendale cement.

We have published the approximate cost of each street given us by the engineer for the purpose of making assessments. The entire cost was fully made out after all of the bills were audited. The town voted to have the whole amount raised to be borrowed at four per cent interest, not knowing of, or realizing the money panic that came upon us soon after, and while we were negotiating with parties for the loan of money at that rate of interest, some of the largest and most substantial business houses in New England were trying in vain to raise money in Boston at seven per cent. So it was utterly impossible for us to raise the required amount at the low rate of interest voted at the town meeting, and below we give you the amount borrowed at four per cent, and while we were offered the remainder at five per cent we could not legally accept it.

Another feature is the extreme depression of business and the impossibility of obtaining employment which makes it extremely

hard for a laboring man to pay his assessments. Many men who have depended upon their daily wages to pay for their homes and support their families, have found themselves thrown out of employment, a long, cold winter before them, a large family to support, taxes which must be paid and no means to earn a dollar. We earnestly desire to call your attention to these men and we hope the town will consider their circumstances and remember in brighter days these same men have supported their families, paid their taxes, and saved up something towards a home, and we feel now, that with want staring them in the face the town will make some provision for their assessments to be paid in the future when the sun of brighter days may shine upon us. We can not help respecting a man who, by his own industry and labor, supports his family, pays his taxes, and makes a heroic struggle to make for himself a home. Upon this subject we have no need to say more, as we know the people of Skowhegan too well to think for a moment that they will do otherwise than help the worthy laboring man.

Below we give the amount for which we have the vouchers and receipts for each itemized bill on file.

Amount voted by Town March 6, 1893.....	\$20,000 00	
Amount assessed on Abutters.....	7,266 15	
	<hr/>	
	\$27,266 15	
Amount Expended.....	\$25,782 38	
	<hr/>	
Unexpended.....		\$1,483 77
Amount raised by Town.....	\$20,000 00	
Assessed in 1893.....	2,000 00	
	<hr/>	\$18,000 00
Amount to be Borrowed.....	\$18,000 00	
Amount Borrowed at 4 per cent, including		
\$260.00 paid on order No. 874.....	12,092 67	
	<hr/>	
Amount remaining to be Borrowed at 4 per cent.....		\$5,907 33

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

I have examined the Receipts and Expenditures of the Selectmen, and Accounts of the Treasurer of the Town of Skowhegan, for the year ending Feb. 20th, 1894, and find them correct, with vouchers for all orders drawn.

S. W. GOULD, AUDITOR.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Of Receipts and Expenditures, for the year ending Feb. 20, 1894.

RECEIPTS.

Ex-Treas., R. T. Patten,	\$10,765 61	
S. A. Bickford, tax 1893,	46,943 18	
Non-resident taxes 1892 and 1891,	1,020 25	
Borrowed for sewers,	18,352 67	
Tempory loan at Bank,	5,000 00	
STATE OF MAINE :		
Pensions refunded,	\$ 312 00	
Rent of Armory,	200 00	
Damage by dogs,	5 00	
Bounty on bear,	5 00	
Free High School,	250 00	
School fund and mill tax,	3443 40	
R. R. and telegraph tax,	864 54	
	<hr/>	\$ 5,079 94
CEMETERY DEPOSITS :		
Daniel S. Webb,	\$ 100 00	
Edward Manchester,	100 00	
Mary S. Davis,	100 00	
	<hr/>	300 00
Refunded, town of Fairfield,	24 00	
" Anson,	25 91	
" Moscow,	2 00	
Geo. Dickinson,	8 00	
Aug. Vigue,	2 00	
	<hr/>	61 91
Licenses, 3 circuses,	40 00	
1 auctioneer,	2 00	
201 dogs,	259 00	
	<hr/>	301 00
Amount carried forward,		<hr/> \$87,824 56

Amount brought forward,		\$87,824 56
Sales, from Town Farm,	332 72	
" sewers, brick and cement,	138 85	
" highways, concrete walks,	302 27	
" Coburn park, hay &c,	12 00	
" Cemetery, 1 lot, James Buzzell,	5 00	
	-----	790 84
School Committee, tuition and use of books,		123 65
Sewer assessments,		463 00
Interest on two M. C. R. R. bonds,		14 00

		\$89,216 05

EXPENDITURES.

Geo. L. Beal, State tax, 1893,	\$10,574 28
R. T. Patten, County tax, 1893,	2,970 67
State Pensions,	312 00
Town orders, 804 to 1361,	66,645 63
In Treasury,	8,713 47

	\$89,216 05

FRANK A. NOLIN, TREASURER.

REPORT OF HEALTH OFFICER.

In considering the public health and the sanitary condition of the town we are able to report a very general improvement. A comparatively small number of complaints was made to the Board of Health, and, upon investigation none was found that could be regarded as a real public nuisance. The semi-annual tour of inspection by the Health Officer, was pretty generally anticipated by a thorough cleaning up of out-houses and foul places, so that hardly one place to twenty, as compared with three years ago, when the system was first adopted, was found in an unsanitary condition. Not a single case of Diphtheria, or Typhoid fever, which, more than any other diseases are the results of unsanitary surroundings and foul emanations, has occurred in town during the past year. Previous to the adoption of our present sanitary system, Diphtheria and Typhoid fever were quite prevalent in certain locations and materially increased the death rate.

If the same favorable conditions can be maintained for the next ten years, it will result in the saving of lives valued at more than the principal and interest of all that has been expended for sewers and sanitary improvements, reckoning each human life saved at one thousand dollars.

Our people have vied with each other in keeping their lawns and premises looking neat and clean, while our road commissioner has shown commendable energy and pride in looking after our streets and side-walks.

During last spring and early summer, several cases of scarlet fever made their appearance among our school children, mostly from the Leavitt street school. Owing to the reluctance and prejudice of some against reporting mild cases to the Board of Health, and complying with the quarantine and sanitary laws, the spread of the disease was not materially abated until after the close of the spring term.

Although the school rooms and furniture were pretty thoroughly cleansed with hot water, soap and scrubbing brush under the supervision of the school-board during the summer vacation, yet, as soon as

the schools were opened in the fall the dread pestilence again made its appearance among the scholars of the Leavitt street school. The first case was very mild, and not attended by any physician nor reported by any one to the Board of Health, and after an absence of only a few days from school, the child returned in a highly infective state to mingle with her class-mates, and exposed them to the contagion. Another case soon developed, more severe, and was promptly reported by the medical attendant. Investigation of this case led to the discovery of the first, with still another in the same family, and a third to follow a few days later. Your health officer reported these cases to the board of health and recommended prompt action and radical means to stamp out and prevent the further spread of the disease.

After consultation with the secretary of the State Board of Health, the local Board voted to close the Leavitt street school for one week, and instructed the health officer to thoroughly disinfect the school rooms with all their appurtenances, and direct that all children attending that school remain at their respective homes, and not mingle with other children during the week.

The methods and means employed for disinfection were as follows: All the books used in the building were stood upon the tops of desks and improvised racks, in an opened condition so that fumes of sulphur could penetrate between all the leaves. All the books, charts and other school utensils having been arranged for fumigation, a large iron kettle containing a little kindling wood saturated with kerosene was filled with sulphur and placed in a tub containing a pail of water, and set in each room, also a kettle filled in the same way, was placed in the basement on either side of the building. The windows and ventilators being tightly closed, the fires were rapidly started commencing in the upper rooms. The doors were kept closed for twenty-four hours, when the fumes were sufficiently settled to render it safe to enter the rooms and refill the kettles for a second smoking for the same length of time, after which the doors and windows were thrown wide open and the rooms thoroughly aired out.

All the school furniture and wood-work were next washed in a solution of carbolic acid and corrosive sublimate, and every book and slate used in the intermediate department, where most of the cases originated were immersed in a similar solution, and stood upon the desks and racks to dry without injury to the books. Seventy-five pounds of sulphur, one pound of carbolic acid, and one quarter pound of corrosive sublimate, were used. It is hardly necessary to say there have been no new cases reported since.

Every case reported to the Board of Health was visited by the Health Officer, and the house in which the disease occurred was placarded and put under quarantine regulations as required by law. Considerable opposition was manifested in a few families against submitting to the requirements of the law, and in one case open and wilful determination to disregard the instructions, was persisted in to such an extent that the Board was compelled to appeal to the strong arm of the law to enforce compliance. This action of the Board had a salutary influence over that class who have little regard for the safety and comfort of others.

In several families where the parents and physician all thoroughly cooperated with the Health Officer, to prevent the spread of the disease, it was confined to a single member of a family where there were several other children. This was accomplished by isolating the patient from the rest of the family usually in an upper room, with as little furniture as possible, and without curtains and carpets, the attendant not mingling with the rest of the family, without first changing of clothing and bathing in disinfecting solutions, and at the close of the disease thoroughly disinfecting the room and its contents.

Wall paper, plastered walls, upholstered furniture and unwashed clothing will retain the infectious poison for a long time, even years, unless heroically treated. The old paper should be stripped off, never covered with the new, and a coat of fresh white wash containing disinfectants should be applied to the ceilings and plastered walls. If the paper is not removed it should always be wiped down with a flannel dampened in a strong disinfecting solution, after fumigating the room, which can be done with little injury to most paper.

The burning of a little tar in the rooms, and the sprinkling of the floors with a little carbolic acid solution, and even the burning of a few spoonfuls of sulphur in a room and filling it so full of fumes for an hour, that you could not remain in the room one minute with comfort or safety, will have but little effect in destroying the infectiousness of the poison. The disinfection must be *thorough* and *complete* to be *successful*. Where proper and ample sanitary precautions are observed, there is absolutely no need of scarlet fever spreading beyond the house in which it first appears unless others have already been exposed to the infection.

The first cases that occurred last spring were easily tracable to a family who had the disease three years ago, and where the directions for disinfecting the clothing and furniture were not fully carried out.

The terms scarlet fever, scarlet rash, and scarlatina are identical. They are employed to designate one of the most frequent and fatal of

the zymotic diseases, but there is no disease that presents a greater difference as regards character, and severity of symptoms. It is some times so mild, its characteristic features so slight, that the diagnosis remains uncertain or even unsuspected, but in these mild cases fatal complications or sequelae may follow from exposure, after the health is apparently fully restored.

In the more severe forms of the disease it may be so malignant from the outset that it may prove fatal during the first twenty-four hours. The most malignant forms of the disease may follow infection from the mildest form, hence the importance of employing the most rigid quarantine and sanitary precautions in all cases.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. N. MERRILL, M. D., HEALTH OFFICER.

Coburn Charity Bequest.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

1893.			
Feb. 22,	Cash on hand,	.....	\$ 19 00
April, 1,	Dividend on \$10,000, Me, Central R. R.		
	Bonds,	.....	350 00
May, 1,	Dividend on 25 Shares Skowhegan Hall		
	Stock,	.....	75 00
July, 1,	“ on 24 Shares First National Bank,		
	Fairfield,	.....	96 00
“ 1,	“ “ 6 shares First National Bank Port-		
	land,	.....	18 00
Oct. 1,	“ “ \$10,000 M. C. R. R. Bonds,	.....	350 00
Nov. 1,	“ “ 25 shares Skowhegan Hall Stock,	.....	75 00
1894.			
Jan. 2,	“ “ 24 “ First National Bank Fairfield,	..	96 00
“ 2,	“ “ 7 “ “ “ “ Portland,	..	21 00
			<u>-----</u>
			\$1,100

PAYMENTS.

1893.			
April, 1,	Cash to Woman's Aid Society,	.....	250 00
July, 1,	“ “ “ “ “ “		250 00
Oct. 1,	“ “ “ “ “ “		250 00
Nov. 11,	One Share First National Bank Portland,	..	100 00
1894.			
Jan. 2,	Cash to Woman's Aid Society,	.....	250 00
			<u>-----</u>
			\$1,100

FUND AS INVESTED FEBRUARY 22, 1894.

<i>Description of Security.</i>	<i>Cost.</i>	<i>Carried at</i>	<i>Par Value.</i>
Maine Central R. R. Bonds 7s. registered, 1912, ..	\$13,200	\$12,328	\$10,000
*Shoe and Leather Bank, Auburn, 16 shares,	1,840	1,640	1,600
First National Bank, Fairfield, 24 shares.	2,832	2,832	2,400
“ “ “ Portland, 7 shares,	703	700	700
Skowhegan Hall Association, 25 shares,	2,500	2,500	2,500
	<u>\$21,075</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>\$17,200</u>

*Shoe and Leather Bank, Auburn, has paid no dividend during the year.

WOMANS AID SOCIETY.

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
FEBRUARY 21, 1894.

Number of meetings of the Executive Board,	25
“ “ money orders voted by the Executive Board and signed by the President and Secretary,	164
“ “ families aided,	80
“ “ “ “ with money (\$477 65).....	27
“ “ “ “ “ wood (10 1-2 cords).....	8
“ “ “ “ “ boots and rubbers,	67
“ “ “ “ “ dry goods,	31
“ “ “ “ “ groceries,	16

We have paid the board of one person for the year, also house rent of one family for the year. A free bed at the Maine General Hospital, Portland, and a pass on the railroad has been obtained for two persons.

The following articles of second hand clothing contributed by residents of the town have been distributed :

Suits of clothes,.....	8	Sheets (6 new).....	13
Stockings and leggings (pairs) 115		Pillows cases (4 new)	8
Undervests,	49	Comforters,	9
Drawers,	79	Quilts,	5
Coats,	16	Blankets,	2
Vests,	10	Night-dresses,.....	23
Pants,	32	Hats, caps, bonnets, hoods,.....	29
Overcoats,.....	6	Shirt-waists,	20
Cloaks and ijackets,	35	Dresses,.....	55
Skirts,.....	63	New cloth (yds.).....	12
Boots and rubbers,	44	Carpets,	1
Shirts,	38		

MARY E. PAGE, *Secretary.*

WOMAN'S AID SOCIETY.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF TREASURER OF SKOWHEGAN "WOMAN'S AID SOCIETY."

1894.

Feb. 20.	By cash balance Feb. 1893,.....	\$ 135 64	
	“ “ interest of Coburn fund,.....	1000 00	
	“ “ returned on order 145.....	67	
	“ “ from Miss Julia Coburn,.....	20 00	
	“ “ “ Miss Louise H. Coburn,.....	30 00	
		\$1,187 31	<u>\$1,187 31</u>

To paid 164 orders voted by Executive Board of Society, and signed by the President and Secretary, the items of which will be shown by report of Secretary of Society,.....		953 81	
Cash balance to new account,.....		233 50	
		\$1,187 31	<u>\$1,187 31</u>

MARY W. VARNEY, *Treasurer.*

H. W. VARNEY. *Auditor.*

Coburn Library Fund.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand Feby. 18, 1893.....	\$405 92	
Received rent of Library Parlors.....	140 00	
" from sale of cards.....	63 00	
" Rebate on Dictionary.....	5 00	
Interest on \$7,450, St. Paul and Taylor's Falls R. R. Bonds	521 50	
" " 3,000 Mexican Central R. R. Bonds	120 00	
" " 2,000 Little Rock & Ft. Smith R. R. Bonds	140 00	
" " 2,000 Maine Central R. R. Bonds	120 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,635 42

EXPENDITURES.

Paid Librarian	\$260 00	
" Skowhegan Water Co., for water	25 00	
" Printing	8 00	
" Binding	36 45	
" Repairs	24 59	
" New Book Case	20 25	
" Janitor	30 00	
" Electric Lights	89 67	
" New Books	194 18	
" Coal and Wood	218 88	
Invested during year.....	168 10	
Cash on hand Feb. 23, 1894	560 30	
	<hr/>	\$1,635 42