

1882

Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of Poor, Treasurer, and Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Winthrop, for the Year Ending March 13, 1882

Winthrop (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS,

OVERSEERS OF POOR, TREASURER,

AND

SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,

OF THE

TOWN OF WINTHROP,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 13, 1882.

WINTHROP:
BUDGET JOB PRINT.
1882.

Town Officers Elected March, 1881.

MODERATOR.

WILLIAM H. PARLIN.

TOWN CLERK.

BELA R. REYNOLDS.

SELECTMEN, ASSESSORS AND OVERSEERS OF POOR.

ELLIOTT WOOD,
RUTILLUS ALDEN,
WILLIAM H. PARLIN.

TREASURER.

JOHN M. BENJAMIN.

SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS.

A. ROBINSON CRANE.

ROAD COMMISSIONER.

CHARLES H. GALE.

COLLECTOR.

ALBERT C. CARR.

CONSTABLES.

ALBERT C. CARR,	JOSEPHAS STEVENS
L. M. BERRY,	J. L. METCALF,
LEWIS WOOD,	J. E. BRAINERD,
C. H. GALE,	WILSON NASON,
	E. O. KELLY.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

TO THE CITIZENS OF WINTHROP:

In accordance with a long continued custom, the Board of Selectmen respectfully submit their annual report of the financial condition of the town for the year ending March 13, 1882.

Again the hand of time reminds us that another municipal year has passed, and calls us to render an account of our stewardship, which we hope will satisfy you that, in the management of the affairs of the town, we have looked well to your interests. Few extraordinary expenditures have been demanded. The North Wayne road case has been won after a hard fight, and we have secured a verdict of discontinuance. We did our best to cut down all expenses, at the same time rendering to each his just due. That we have succeeded in satisfying all we do not expect, but we have the consciousness that at all times we have done what seemed best.

VALUATION AND TAX.

Total amount of Real and Personal Estate, as valued by your board, is	\$919,070 00
Amount of tax on same, the rate being 16 mills on a dollar,	14,705 12
Whole number of polls 506, at \$3.00,	1,518 00
Percentage paid for collecting, $5\frac{1}{2}$ mills on the dollar.	

TOWN GRANTS.

The town at its last annual meeting granted, according to the record, the following:

Common Schools,	\$1,800 00	
Support of Poor and other necessary town charges,	2,000 00	
Repairing highways,	2,750 00	
Discharge of indebtedness,	2,500 00	
Lighting and care of street lamps,	187 50	
		\$9,237 50
State tax,	\$5,070 12	
County tax,	1,787 56	
Overlaysings,	298 18	
		7,155 86
		<hr/> \$16,393 36

COMMON SCHOOL FUND.

Amount appropriated by town,	\$1,800 00	
Amount received from state,	937 76	
		\$2,737 76

The above amount has been duly apportioned to the several districts.

Whole number of scholars April 1, 1881, was 612.

The amounts due the several districts March 1, 1882, are as follows:

District No. 1,	\$30 44	District No. 7,	\$6 50
" " 2,	9 27	" " 8,	2 81
" " 3,	7 84	" " 9,	8 03
" " 4,	271 95	" " 10,	4 56
" " 5,	16 31		
" " 6,	53 80	Total,	\$411 51

TOWN FARM.

At the beginning of the year, your board found, as they had anticipated, that Mr. Pulsifer had determined to leave the town farm superintendency. After many inquiries, we decided to employ Mr. A. N. Remick and wife, who were well recommended to us, and they accordingly took charge of the town and family April 1. We are well pleased with their administration of affairs. The house and family have been well cared for, and at our frequent visits presented a neat and tidy appearance. Mr. Remick and wife have always shown a deep interest in all the affairs pertaining to the farm, and much sympathy for the unfortunate poor who have been under their charge.

At the commencement of the year there were at the farm eleven paupers, viz.: Mary Fairbanks, John Foster, Rebecca J. Lambert, Hope Briggs, Willie Fellows, George C. Chandler, and Nathan H. Frost, wife and three children. Of these, John Foster died April 8; Hope Briggs left August 20; Willie Fellows left in March; Geo. C. Chandler has been away a portion of the year, but has been at the farm continuously since January 16; Nathan H. Frost died November 26, and his family left Dec. 14. George Kilton, who has been employed in town for a season, being taken sick, called for assistance, and was sent to the farm February 8. He claims to belong in Machiasport, and we have notified the overseers of that town.

Good business throughout the country has nearly abated the tramp nuisance, and we have furnished relief for only nine the past year.

For the purpose of correcting an erroneous impression that has obtained in the minds of the tax-payers that the farm runs the town in debt three or four hundred dollars each year we make a more than ordinarily elaborate report. Our farm is, as you all know, not the best in town for farming purposes; and, on a farm like this, for an ordinary farmer to support a family of from ten to fifteen persons and come out even at the end of the year would be considered as doing well. Now let us look at the figures.

Schedule of personal property at farm,

March, 1881,	\$777 46	
Paid for family supplies, meal for stock		
and all incidental expenses on farm,	537 08	
for oxen now on farm,	140 00	
salary of Superintendent,	250 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,704 54

INCOME OF FARM.

Received for butter and cheese sold,	118 36
pork sold,	88 61
beef sold,	27 00
apples sold,	19 25
two cows sold,	58 00
profit on oxen bought and sold,	50 00

Now we have had on the farm, as the record shows, the same as one person 399 weeks; and if we reckon their board at the moderate sum of \$1.50 per week, we have as the cost of board,

	598 50	
Schedule of personal property, March,		
1882,	843 99	
	<hr/>	1,803 71
Balance in favor of farm,		\$99 17

SCHEDULE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE FARM.

1 yoke oxen,	\$160 00
3 cows,	135 00

2 three year old heifers,	80 00
2 shotes,	25 00
3 bushels beans,	9 00
3 barrels cider,	9 60
2 barrels vinegar,	7 68
200 pounds salt pork,	22 00
12 bushels potatoes,	10 00
25 bushels beets,	6 25
3 barrels apples,	7 50
80 pounds bacon,	10 40
80 pounds lard,	11 20
40 pounds dried apple,	2 00
10 pounds tallow,	80
16 gallons soap,	1 60
12 pounds cheese,	1 56
30 pounds butter,	9 00
32 pounds fresh pork,	3 20
2 bushels meal,	1 60
52 bushels oats,	28 60
12 bushels corn,	10 00
1 thousand lumber,	15 00
2½ thousand shingles,	5 50
28 cords wood,	112 00
11 tons hay,	154 00
1½ tons straw,	7 50
	<hr/>
	\$843 99

SUPPORT OF POOR OFF THE FARM.

The opinion is quite general that the expense of paupers off the farm is, to a great degree, unnecessary. To some extent, perhaps, it may be true. But there are cases, the circumstances of which are such that it is impossible to remove them to the farm; and others, where a partial relief at their homes is less expensive than a full support at the alms-house, and far more satisfactory to those receiving aid. In all cases, the past year, on receiving notice of assistance from towns sending it to any of our inhabitants, we have gone for them at once, and kindly, but persistently, invited them to abide with us at our town farm. But, in many cases, our offer was refused with scorn, preferring to eke out a subsistence on a

prodigal's fare rather than come to the poor-house. Seldom have we again heard from them.

The largest single item of expense of paupers off the farm has been the support of Miss Nancy Eastman, in the town of Cornish. Her physical condition has been peculiar; being so paralyzed that she has been unable to move a limb, or speak a word for a long time. Hence, the expense of caring for her has been large. But desiring to reduce it to the lowest terms, consistent with good care, we went to Cornish in June, and, with the kind and effective co-operation of Mr. Pike, the chairman of the Board of Overseers of that town, we succeeded in having her cared for for considerable less than immediately preceding our visit. But death has now relieved her from her suffering, and the town from the expense of her support. She was buried February 23.

Mary Plummer, whose support at St. Mark's Home, in Augusta, we have paid in part, is also dead, and all bills on our part, paid.

The bill of Dixfield for aid furnished John Crocker was contracted before we were notified.

Paid St. Mark's Home, support and burial expenses of Mary Plummer,		\$51 68
Getchell & Brickett, supplies furnished John Frost and family,		27 60
City of Augusta, support of T. N. Frost,		8 00
Winthrop Grange, supplies furnished T. L. Wing,		11 04
City of Auburn, supplies furnished I. C. Hanson and family,		84 65
Town of Dixfield, support of John Crocker,		42 60
C. D. Wood, supplies furnished Benjamin Peterson,		21 41
Town of Cornish, support of Nancy Eastman,		353 21
C. W. Taggart, medical attendance on Samuel Torsey,		3 00
N. Kimball, wood furnished Samuel Torsey,		2 25
		<hr/>
		\$605 44
Support of insane persons at Hospital:		
Lucy S. Smith,	\$125 72	125 72
		<hr/>
		\$731 16

CURRENT EXPENSES.

Paid L. T. Carleton, Director Dist. No. 4,	25 00
Elliott Wood, " " "	15 00
J. C. Prescott, " " "	15 00
L. T. Carleton, services before Legis-	
lative Committee,	10 85
R. T. Jones, Selectman,	80 00
Elliott Wood, "	80 00
Rutillus Alden, "	65 00
B. R. Reynolds, Town Clerk,	15 00
J. M. Benjamin, Treasurer,	40 00
E. O. Kelly, printing town report,	26 00
L. O. Cobb, for lock, dipper and pail	
for lockup,	3 55
A. R. Crane, Supervisor of Schools,	65 00
Henry Pulsifer, Superintendent of	
farm for 1880-81,	250 00
A. N. Remick, for oxen,	110 00
W. H. Parlin, pauper expenses to	
Cornish,	8 38
Simeon Packard, repairing burying	
ground fence at East Winthrop,	10 92
A. N. Remick, portion of salary for	
present year,	49 82
Levi Richmond, repairing Fairbanks'	
burying ground fence,	38 34
County of Kennebec, costs in Wayne	
road case,	75 87
Bean & Bean, counsel in Wayne road	
case,	64 76
W. H. Keith, for oxen,	110 00
J. P. Richardson, for oxen,	140 00
Chandler Berry, for oxen,	150 00
George H. Morton, repairs of farm	
house, 1880,	3 00
J. E. Brainerd, abatement of taxes	
commitment, 1879,	74 82
C. W. Dillingham, coffin for John	
Foster,	10 00

Amount carried forward,

 \$1,536 31

Amount brought forward,	\$1,536 31	
Paid H. E. Morton, goods furnished farm,	7 30	
Cyrus McCulley, labor, haying on farm,	16 25	
Gustavus House, labor, haying on farm,	15 25	
C. W. Dillingham, coffin for N. H. Frost,	10 00	
C. C. Chandler, goods furnished farm,	20 32	
Elliott Wood, cash paid for transient paupers,	7 25	
C. A. Cochran, medical attendance on paupers on farm,	6 00	
H. Penniman, goods furnished farm,	11 36	
B. R. Reynolds, blank books and stationery,	8 55	
N. Bishop, goods furnished,	222 18	
Hoyt, Fogg & Donham, town order book,	6 25	
A. C. Carr, abatement taxes, commitments 1873-75-76-78-80-81,	224 77	
A. C. Carr, collecting taxes commitment 1880,	149 68	
A. C. Carr, notifying meetings, etc.,	10 90	
C. W. Taggart, medical attendance on paupers on farm,	10 00	
Elliott Wood, pauper expenses to Auburn and Augusta, North Wayne road expenses, stamps, etc.,	24 20	
Levi Jones, goods furnished farm,	3 28	
	<hr/>	\$2,289 85
We have received for three pairs oxen sold,		420 00
		<hr/>
Interest on school fund,	\$170 24	\$1,869 85
Support of poor off the farm,	605 44	
Insane persons at hospital,	125 72	
	<hr/>	\$901 40
		<hr/>
		\$2,771 25

REPORT OF ROAD COMMISSIONER.

Amount appropriated March, 1881,		\$2,750 00
Paid snow bills for winter of 1880-81,	\$761 44	
for summer repairs,	1,969 63	
	<hr/>	2,731 07
Balance of appropriation,		\$18 93

STREET LAMPS.

The town appropriated for this purpose \$187.50. This not being sufficient for the whole year, and wishing to "cut the garment according to the cloth," the lamps remained unlighted, or "under a bushel," for a length of time in the summer, to balance the deficiency. The expense of letting our light shine the remainder of the year was just equal to and consumed the appropriation.

TOWN HALL.

The net proceeds from the hall were just \$2.00.

LIABILITIES.

Amount of outstanding bonds,	\$6,100 00	
Unpaid interest on same (estimated),	175 00	
Bills of town officers, including balance of salary of Farm Superintendent (estimated),	550 00	
Unsettled bills (estimated),	80 00	
Snow bills (estimated),	1,000 00	
Outstanding orders,	1,043 97	
Due school districts, special tax,	68 01	
Due school district No. 4, loan account,	675 55	
	<hr/>	\$9,692 53

RESOURCES.

Due from A. C. Carr, Collector,	\$6,825 20	
J. E. Brainerd, Collector,	18 30	
State,	1,024 97	
Cash on hand,	103 63	
	<hr/>	\$7,972 10
Balance against the town,		\$1,720 43

Respectfully submitted.

ELLIOTT WOOD
RUTILLUS ALDEN,
W. H. PARLIN,

Selectmen of Winthrop.

WINTHROP, March 4, 1882.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

March 3, 1882.	Cash balance from last account,	\$1,393 70
	Received of A. C. Carr, Collector,	9,473 52
	“ of J. E. Brainerd, Collector,	378 79
	“ for three pairs oxen sold,	420 00
	“ for heifers and farm produce sold,	77 74
	“ of state, R. R. tax 1881,	19 40
	“ of G. C. Chandler, for board at farm,	2 00
	“ for rent of Town Hall,	2 00
	“ Town Bonds issued,	100 00
	“ of State of Maine,	1,050 86
		<hr/> \$12,918 01

EXPENDITURES.

EXPENDITURES.	
Paid Town Bonds,	2,250 00
“ interest on Town Bonds,	378 75
“ State Pensions,	132 00
“ orders for support of poor and town charges,	3,202 18
“ “ “ “ highways,	2,769 61
“ “ “ “ schools,	2,523 26
“ on account of school district No. 4, loan account,	1,558 58
Balance on hand,	103 63
	<hr/>
	\$12,918 01

LIABILITIES.

Town Bonds due in 1879,	\$100 00
“ “ 1882,	1,700 00
“ “ 1883,	2,050 00
“ “ 1884,	2,250 00
	<hr/>
\$2,850, at 6 per cent, \$3,150 at 4 per cent, \$100, int. ceased,	\$6,100 00
Due on account of schools,	436 58
“ “ “ support of poor, etc.,	490 88
“ “ “ highways,	119 71
“ school district No. 4, loan account,	675 55
“ school districts on special tax,	68 01
Balance in favor of the town,	81 37
	<hr/>
	\$7,972 10

RESOURCES.

Due from A. C. Carr, Collector,	6,825 20
“ “ J. E. Brainerd, Collector,	18 30
“ “ State,	1,024 97
Cash in Treasury,	103 63
	<hr/>
	\$7,972 10

J. M. BENJAMIN, *Treasurer.*

WINTHROP, March 3, 1882.

We have examined the foregoing account and find it correct.

ELLIOTT WOOD,
RUTILLUS ALDEN,
W. H. FARLIN,
Selectmen of Winthrop.

ABSTRACT OF TOWN WARRANT.

- ART. 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.
- ART. 2. To choose all necessary town officers.
- ART. 3. To grant a sum of money for the support of schools.
- ART. 4. To grant a sum of money for support of poor and other necessary town charges.
- ART. 5. To grant a sum of money for building and repairing high-ways.
- ART. 6. To see if the town will grant a sum of money to discharge the present indebtedness or any part thereof.
- ART. 7. To see if the town will grant a sum of money for lighting and care of street lamps.
- ART. 8. To see if the town will choose one or more road commissioners.
- ART. 9. To see if the town will grant a sum of money to lay a hard wood floor in Town Hall and make other repairs, or act anything thereon.
- ART. 10. To see if the town will grant a sum of money to buy a hand fire engine.
- ART. 11. To see if the town will grant a sum of money to build a sidewalk from the end of the concrete walk on Main street, near the Samuel Chandler house, so called, to the M. C. R. R. depot.
- ART. 12. To see if the town will grant a sum of money to defray the expenses of Memorial Day in Winthrop.
- ART. 13. To see if the town will vote to reduce the poll tax from three to two dollars.
- ART. 14. To see if the town will abolish the school districts therein, or annex them all to district No. 4, or act anything thereon.
- ART. 15. To see if the town will enlarge the burying ground at the village, and grant a sum of money to defray the expense of the same.
- ART. 16. To see if the town will instruct the Selectmen to direct and order night watchman for Winthrop village.
- ART. 17. To see if the town will accept a town way duly laid out by the Selectmen, beginning on the easterly side of the county road at the northwest corner of E. H. Norcross' south field, thence south 58 degrees east 20 rods, thence north 83 degrees east 61 rods, thence north 63 degrees east 45 rods to a stake and stone on south line of road leading from Stevens' Corner, so called, to near James Sedgley's.
- ART. 18. To see if the town will discontinue the road on the westerly side of the mill stream, beginning near Henry Penniman's coat shop, and running northerly to the North pond.
- ART. 19. To hear reports of committees, choose committees and instruct them.
- ART. 20. To allow accounts against the town.

REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS.

I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ending March, 1882.

The School Agents made the following returns of the number of school children in the several districts in April, 1881.

District No. 1, J. D. Packard, agent,	41	scholars.
" " 2, H. F. Tuttle, "	68	"
" " 3, J. E. Brainerd, "	48	"
" " 4,	341	"
" " 5, J. H. Moore, agent,	26	"
" " 6, T. Buzzell, "	25	"
" " 7, G. H. Sedgley, "	16	"
" " 8, J. R. Raymond, "	12	"
" " 9, Geo. O. Packard, "	25	"
" " 10, Henry Robie, "	10	"
Total,	612	

The town appropriated for the support of schools at its last annual meeting,	\$1,800 00
Due from State,	937 76

Total,	\$2,737 76
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This amount was apportioned to the several districts as follows:

District No. 1,	\$209 00
" " 2,	277 00
" " 3,	237 00
" " 4,	1,364 00
" " 5,	149 00
" " 6,	145 00
" " 7,	84 00
" " 8,	68 00
" " 9,	144 76
" " 10,	60 00
Total,	\$2,737 76

DISTRICT No. 1. Summer term, Ida A. Porter, teacher. 8 weeks. No. scholars, 18. Average attendance, 16. Fall term, Anna E. Bradford, teacher. 8 weeks. No. scholars, 17. Average attendance, 14. Winter term, M. Alice Robbins, teacher. 11 weeks. No. scholars, 16. Average attendance, 12.

DISTRICT No. 2. Summer term, M. Alice Robbins, teacher. 9 weeks. No. scholars, 31. Average attendance, 26. Fall term, M. Alice Robbins, teacher. 10 weeks. No. scholars, 34. Average attendance, 30. Winter term, Lewis Scott, Jr., teacher. 12 weeks. No. scholars, 39. Average attendance, 28.

DISTRICT No. 3. Summer term, Eugenie Hobbs, teacher. 9 weeks. No. scholars, 19. Average attendance, 17. Fall term, Eugenie Hobbs, teacher. 10 weeks. No. scholars, 24. Average attendance, 19.

Winter term, Carrie E. Allen, teacher. 10 weeks. No. scholars, 24. Average attendance, 18.

DISTRICT No. 5. Summer term, Louise B. Lacroix, teacher. 8 weeks. No. scholars, 16. Average attendance, 14. Fall term, Stella O. Sumner, teacher. 10 weeks. No. scholars, 16. Average attendance, 12. Winter term, Stella O. Sumner, teacher. 10 weeks. No. scholars, 13. Average attendance, 12.

DISTRICT No. 6. Summer term, Nellie York, teacher. 8 weeks. No. scholars, 10. Average attendance, 8. Winter term, Louise B. Lacroix, teacher. 10 weeks. No. scholars, 8. Average attendance, 6.

DISTRICT No. 7. Summer term, Adelia I. Weymouth, teacher. 8 weeks. No. scholars, 8. Average attendance, 7. Winter term, Frank A. French, teacher. 9 weeks. No. scholars, 16. Average attendance, 12.

DISTRICT No. 8. Summer term, Leonora C. Dexter, teacher. 10 weeks. No. scholars, 11. Average attendance, 9. Fall term, Nellie F. Prescott, teacher. 5 weeks. No. scholars, 9. Average attendance, 5.

DISTRICT No. 9. Summer term, Eva Pratt, teacher. 11 weeks. No. scholars, 12. Average attendance, 9. Fall term, Clara Woodward, teacher. 11 weeks. No. scholars, 12. Average attendance, 9. Winter term, 4 weeks. Scholars, 9.

DISTRICT No. 10. Summer term, Susie M. Foster, teacher. 8 weeks. No. scholars, 8. Average attendance, 7. Fall term, Susie M. Foster, teacher. 7 weeks. No. scholars, 7. Average attendance, 6.

In the conduct of their schools the teachers were requested to observe the following rules published in the last report, viz :

1. To carefully arrange, at the beginning of the year, all the scholars into classes according to their attainments and ability, and to lay out for each class a course of study for the year.
2. To require all scholars who will be able to take up new studies during the year, to do so, if possible, at its commencement.
3. To require all scholars to take the studies prescribed for the classes to which they belong, unless requested by their parents to excuse them.
4. To require all scholars to use the text-books that have been adopted by the town.
5. To give oral instruction to small scholars who cannot read well enough to use text-books.
6. To drill their scholars so thoroughly from day to day that they will be able to advance regularly, and will not be obliged to spend every other term in reviewing work that was but imperfectly done.
7. To study their own lessons so thoroughly that they will not be bound to their text-books when teaching their classes.
8. To notify the supervisor and the parents of those scholars with whom any trouble may arise which they are not able to settle, stating in writing what the trouble is.

The teachers employed during the year varied considerably in their attainments and ability to impart instruction. A few of them were well qualified for their work, both by education and experience. Anna E. Bradford is a graduate of the Normal School at Farmington. Ida F. Porter, Eugenie Hobbs, Eva Pratt and Carrie E. Allen are graduates of the Seminary at Kents Hill. Lenora Dexter and Stella Cummings are both experienced and successful teachers. Alice Robbins, Nellie

York and Louise Lacroix rendered acceptable service in our schools last year. Frank A. French is a student at Kents Hill, and Lewis Scott, Jr., has studied at the Commercial School at Augusta. Nellie Prescott has attended school at Monmouth Academy. Clara Woodward and Susie Foster were quite successful in their first efforts at teaching. While some of these teachers are exact scholars and able to teach all the branches usually taught in public schools, others are well instructed in the higher branches of study but deficient in the lower. It is desirable that teachers should excel in reading. There is no reason why a good linguist or mathematician should be a miserable penman. All the teachers appeared to be interested in their schools, and anxious to excel.

The progress of the schools during the year has been, in some respects, quite satisfactory. The school in No. 5 was unusually prosperous during the last two terms. In District No. 3 excellent work was done, especially during the last term. During a part of the year the schools in Districts Nos. 1 and 2 were in a prosperous condition. No serious difficulty has occurred in any school, and good order has generally prevailed. The text-books used are more nearly uniform, and the scholars have been better classified than formerly. The classes have advanced with more regularity, and the number of advanced scholars in the schools is larger than at any time during my term of service. The registers kept by the teachers show that 39 scholars have studied history; 4, physical geography; 1, geometry; 21, algebra; 7, physiology; 6, book-keeping; 51, composition; and 5 have read Cicero's orations.

In other respects, the condition of the schools has not been satisfactory. The attendance has not been good, and the changes of teachers have been frequent. In five schools the average attendance did not exceed 10. In the nine schools under my supervision the average attendance in the summer term was 115; fall term, 100; and winter term, 88. The whole number of school children in these districts is 271, but not a single teacher remained during the entire year in the same school.

I heartily endorse the plan of uniting all the school districts of the town.

I have made fifty-three visits to the schools during the year, for which I have charged \$65.00.

Thanking the citizens for repeatedly electing me to the office of Supervisor, I wish to assure them that I do not desire a re-election, and trust that they will not consider me a candidate.

A. R. CRANE,
Supervisor.

WINTHROP, March 1, 1882.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4.

The Directors of the Village Schools submit to the town the following abstract of their district report for the School Year 1881-2.

There have been thirty weeks of school in this district. The whole number of scholars in the district is 340.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Miss JULIET M. STANLEY, Teacher.

Summer Term—Whole number, 42; average attendance, 36.

Fall Term—Whole number, 49; average attendance, 40.

Winter Term—Whole number, 43; average attendance, 32.

This school has been under the care of the present teacher for several years, and is an excellent school. The scholars get the right kind of care and training, and make rapid progress in the elements of learning. Miss Stanley for many years has demonstrated her peculiar fitness for the school-room, and especially for this department of the work.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL.

Miss ANNIE B. MEYERS, Teacher.

Summer Term—Whole number, 48; average attendance, 44.

Fall Term—Whole number, 46; average attendance, 38.

Winter Term—Whole number, 36; average attendance, 34.

Miss Meyers came to this school very highly recommended, and with considerable experience in teaching. Going into a graded school is a great change from an ordinary district school; nevertheless Miss Meyers the first term gave promise of being successful in this department, and our expectations were fully realized in the good results obtained during the year.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Miss HELENA T. PRESCOTT, Teacher Summer Term.

Miss MAY NORCROSS, Teacher Fall and Winter Terms.

Summer Term—Whole number, 34; average attendance, 32.

Fall Term—Whole number, 34; average attendance, 31.

Winter Term—Whole number, 31; average attendance, 30.

Miss Prescott is no novice in the work; she resigned the position of matron of the Soldiers' Orphan Asylum, at Bath, to take charge of this school during the summer term. She had previously, in 1876, taught this school, and she fully maintained the high reputation she then gained as a pains-taking, conscientious and successful instructor of youth. Miss Norcross, we all know, cannot be excelled in this department, yet she appeared to infuse into her scholars, during the fall and winter terms, much of the Western vim which she acquired during her visit to the principal schools of the West last summer. It is entirely safe to say that better results were never obtained in this school.

HIGH SCHOOL.

Miss LUELLA F. BEAL, Teacher Summer Term.

Miss NANCY E. HUNTON, Teacher Fall and Winter Terms.

Summer Term—Whole number, 38; average attendance, 35.

Fall Term—Whole number, 42; average attendance, 39.

Winter Term—Whole number, 41; average attendance, 37.

Miss Beal at the close of the summer term, much to the regret of

the directors and the district, was forced to resign her position as teacher of this school on account of her own poor health, and sickness in her family. Her connection with this school has been long and honorable, and highly creditable to herself and the district also—her last term's work was one of the best—and she retired with the thanks of all who were acquainted with her noble and successful labors in the school-room. She was succeeded by Miss Nancy E. Hunton, of Readfield, than whom there is none better in the State of Maine. Miss Hunton was assiduous in her labors, both in and out of school hours, and grand results were obtained. Fortunate indeed will be the district if her services can be secured for this school the present school year. A fine class of ladies and gentlemen, numbering in all, 8, was graduated at the close of the school year, with appropriate exercises at Packard Hall, which was filled to overflowing, as well, if not better equipped, and as far, if not farther advanced than any class that has heretofore gone out from this school.

A few suggestions to close with may not be entirely inappropriate. Our schools are steadily decreasing in numbers. What is the cause? What the remedy? The school census for last year shows but a slight decrease in numbers in this district; the number of French is largely increased. But very few, less than a dozen of these, attend school any portion of the year. There is a marked tendency to leave school young, altogether too young. Parents should put an absolute veto upon this. The young girl better go to school with a calico dress than work in the mill with silks and satins for her apparel. The question is being agitated in the outlying districts, of abolishing the district system. This, (if we may be allowed to speak for them) is a move in the right direction. We have a district charter, and it is believed that if such a vote should be passed at the next, or any subsequent town meeting, it would not affect our status. A feasible plan would seem to be for all the "outside" districts to unite with district No. 4; but if this cannot be effected, abolish, by all means, the old district system, and institute the "town plan" which gives far better results for the money expended. There are those, probably, who will shake their heads dubiously at this assertion, but let them consult authority, learn wisdom of experience, and they will be convinced. Our foremost educators, those most conversant with school matters, assure us that the old district system is a clog, a heavy weight upon the wheels of education; if so, by all means get rid of it and adopt the new and better way.

L. T. CARLETON,
J. C. PRESCOTT,
LEVI JONES,

Directors School District No. 4.

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