

1876

Annual Report of the Selectmen, and Supervisor of Schools, of the Town of Palmyra, for the Year 1876-7

Palmyra (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

SELECTMEN,

— AND —

SUPERVISOR OF SCHOOLS,

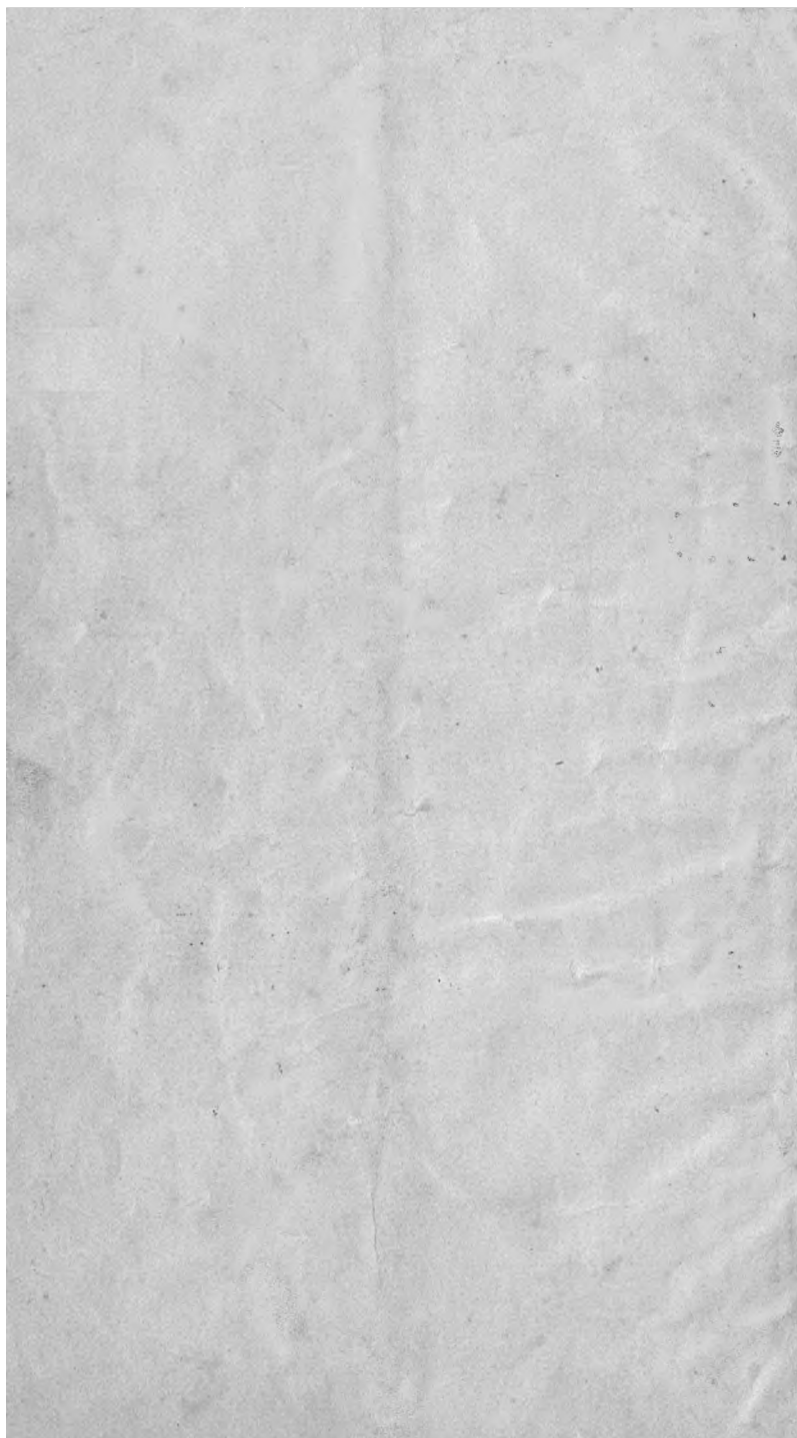
— OF THE —

TOWN OF PALMYRA,

For the Year 1876—7.



NEWPORT :
News' Job Printing Office.
1877.



REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN
 —OF THE—
TOWN OF PALMYRA.

Department of Overseers of the Poor.

TOWN FARM REPORT.

Invoice of Property on the Farm Feb 23, 1877.

2 pairs oxen,	\$200 00	
5 cows,	200 00	
1 two year old, 1 yearling and 1 calf,	79 00	
26 sheep,	156 00	
3 swine,	30 00	
33 hens,	16 50	
		\$681 50
18 tons hay, 1-2 ton straw,	\$183 00	
42 bushels potatoes,	33 60	
Corn, barley, beans, peas, flour and shorts,	43 75	
Pork, beef, Lard, butter, cheese and dried apple,	106 04	
Turnips, vinegar, cider and soap,	29 80	
14 thousand shingles, 1 M. boards,	36 00	
Groceries,	17 66	
		\$449 85
Farming tools and house furniture.		380 55
Total,		\$1511 90

STOCK AND PRODUCTS SOLD.

Lambs, wool, and wool-skins,	\$129 10	
Potatoes and beans,	95 83	
Butter, cheese, eggs and poultry,	147 10	
Calves, cowhide, pigs,	47 12	
Lumber, barley, lard, etc.,	36 91	
		\$456 06

STOCK AND PRODUCTS SOLD, CONTINUED.

Amount of all bills of purchase including stock,	\$335 15	
Salary of overseer,	335 00	
		\$730 15
Amount of products and stock sold,	\$156 06	
Add increase of property from last year,	39 68	
		\$495 74
Balance against the farm,		\$234 41

We think it due to Mr. Stacy, and wife to say, that we believe they have maintained their former reputation as good managers of the farm, and house. The difference between the balance against the farm this year and last, being chiefly caused by low prices, of stock and products.

PAUPER BILLS OUTSIDE OF THE FARM.

Paid Thos. Sherwood on account of Lizzie Sherwood,	\$25 00	
“ Town of Sherman and Patten, on acct. of Bragg Family,	181 18	
“ “ “ Winslow on acct. of Annie Maxim,	175 80	
“ “ “ Brighton “ “ “ J. G. Prescott,	67 59	
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ Lizzie Sally,	2 30	
“ “ “ Canaan “ “ “ L. O. Leathers,	70 00	
“ “ “ Calais “ “ “ M. E. McClure,	57 87	
“ “ “ W. Waterville on acct. of M. S. J. Fairbrother,	10 05	
“ on acct of Bowman Eldridge and Family,	19 30	
“ “ “ “ L. F. Nason “ “	64 73	
“ “ “ “ John Bachelder “ “	14 67	
“ “ “ “ Wm. B. Morrison	5 00	
		\$693 40
Reported due last year,		242 51
		450 80
Due Thos. Sherwood, on acct. of L. Sherwood,		25 00
Total cost of paupers for the year,		\$475 89

Selectmen and Assessors' Department.

APPROPRATIONS AND EXPENDITURES FOR SCHOOLS.

Sums raised by town,	1058 00
Received from State and interest on School Fund.	837 00

\$1895 00

Divided among the several School Districts as follows:

District No. 1,	\$97 20	District No. 10,	\$126 60
“ 2,	98 80	“ 11,	107 80
“ 3,	103 80	“ 12,	102 00
“ 4,	198 00	“ 13,	104 40
“ 5,	106 40	“ 14,	78 40
“ 6,	151 20	“ 15,	108 60
“ 7,	241 20	“ 16,	10 80
“ 8,	109 40	“ 17,	7 ² / ₂ 20
“ 9,	143 20	“	

\$1895 00

ABATEMENTS.

C. M. Jewett, collector for 1869 and 1871,	\$7 72
A. Morrill, “ 1872 and 1873,	31 05
M. Dyer, “ 1874-5-6,	32 68

\$71 45

REPORT OF LIQUOR AGENCY.

Amount of cash turned into treasury from sales of liquors	151 90
Add difference in amount on hand from last year	1 90

Net profits from sales, \$153 80

AMOUNT PAID OUT ON ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid O. L. Soule,	\$25 65
“ N. Towle,	7 00
“ H. Estes,	5 00
“ W. Maxwell,	8 00
“ Stephen Wedgwood,	6 00
“ A. Morrill,	5 37
“ D. M. Heald,	3 60

AMT. PAID OUT ON ROADS AND BRIDGES CONTINUED.

Paid Joseph Sedgwick,	9 10	
“ H. B. Allen,	5 00	
“ C. A. Dyer,	9 00	
“ J. S. Spaulding,	16 32	
“ N. W. Goodrich,	13 50	
“ J. R. Leathers,	9 80	
“ J. Patten,	30 37	
“ C. R. McCrillis,	11 60	
“ O. C. Baker,	44 72	
“ N. A. Davis,	26 93	
Freeman Davis bridge installment,	25 00	
J. J. Emery,	12 67	
John S. Spaulding,	13 00	
		\$287 63

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Paid A. Morrill, Selectman, etc.	103 00	
“ H. C. Webber, “ “	40 50	
“ R. McCrillis, “ “	38 75	
“ Samuel Clement, Treasurer,	25 00	
“ D. S. Robinson, Clerk	10 00	
Due Lewis Wyman, Supervisor,	74 90	
		\$292 15

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Paid J. R. Stacy balance of service on town farm for 1875,	\$50 00
“ “ “ “ for service in part for 1876,	252 00
“ S. Judkins printing town report for 1875	12 00
“ Lewis Wyman, Supervisor, for 1875,	72 60
“ For insuring town house,	34 75
“ N. B. Douglass for guide boards,	2 50
“ L. Wyman school-books furnished,	50 49
“ A. Morrill, Moderator,	1 50
“ for cleaning town house,	2 70
“ A. Morrill expense to Chester, Patten & Glen- burn,	26 00
“ “ “ expense to Glenburn and driving home stock,	6 75
“ M. Dyer for posting notices,	3 00
“ A. Morrill for wood for town house,	1 65

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS, CONTINUED.

" T. F. Homestead, board town officers,	11 00	
" A. Morrill blank books, stationary and stamps,	13 00	
" " " expense to Brighton and Winslow,	13 00	
		\$552 94

RECEIPTS INTO THE TREASURY,

Balance in treasury March 6th, 1876,	\$470 08	
Rec'd of A. Morrill, Collector, 1873,	35 00	
" " M. Dyer, Collector of 1874, '5 and '6,	2102 01	
" on State school fund and mill tax,	772 22	
" for musket balls sold,	2 00	
" interest on school fund note.	40 00	
" from town of Troy on account of S. Hamilton	10 25	
" " sales of liquor,	151 90	
" for rent of Town Hall,	21 00	
" from sale of school books,	74 14	
" " products sold from farm,	120 42	
" " town of Ripley,	29 54	
" " non-resident tax returned,	233 64	
		\$4062 20
Deduct amount of orders turned over,		3914 53
Balance in treasury March 5th, 1877		\$147 67

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Amount of Outstanding orders,	951 00	
Due the several school districts,	305 03	
" L. Wyman Supervisor,	74 90	
" M. Dyer, for col. tax of 1876,	32 40	
" J. R. Stacy, Overseer on farm,	83 00	
" Thos. Sherwood on acct. of Lizzie Sherwood,	25 00	
" Dr. Howe on acct. of Seraphina Shaw,	20 00	
" Probable amount of abatements to close col.	75 00	
		\$66 33

FUNDS OF THE TOWN.

Due from M. Dyer, col. 1874,	50 10	
" " " " 1875,	492 70	
" " " " 1876,	720 80	
Interest on school fund note,	48 15	
" " School Books on hand,	68 10	
Liquor in hands of Agent,	101 30	

FUNDS OF THE TOWN, CONTINUED.

	Non-resident tax returned,	145 27
Due from	Town of Chester,	98 00
" "	" " Pittsfield on acct. of H. Sally,	32 00
" "	" " Brighton " " J. Tuttle,	12 58
" "	" " " " " " A. J. Tuttle,	19 10
" "	" " " " " " W. C. Flanders	39 50
" "	" " Industry on acct. F. B. Luce,	15 91
" "	Rent of Town Hall, Temperance Society,	3 00
In hands of	Overseer of farm,	39 38
" " "	Treasurer,	147 67
		\$2033 56
Deduct amount of	Liabilities	1566 33
Bal., in favor of the town,		467 23

There was reported, last year, in the funds of the town three hundred dollars, due on school fund note, by an error which did not properly belong to the available funds. Also the Cookson note, reported in the funds last year, has been exchanged for stock and transferred to town farm property. The remainder of the falling off of the assets from last year are accounted for by less money raised, and large increase of pauper bills.

The Selectmen submit the forgoing, as the financial standing of the town, and the expenditures for the year commencing March 6th, 1876, and ending March 5th, 1877.

A. MORRILL,	} Selectmen of
H. C. WEBBER,	
R. McCRILLIS,	

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

Supervisor of Schools,

Of the Town of Palmyra,

For the SCHOOL YEAR ending April 1, 1877.

FELLOW CITIZENS. I submit the following as my annual report of the schools in the town of Palmyra, for the year 1876-7:

Amount of money raised by town for schools,	\$1058.00
State school fund, bank and mill tax,	772.22
Interest on town school fund.	64.78
Total.	\$1895.00
Whole number of scholars in town,	445
Number of male teachers employed past year,	8
“ “ female “ “ “ “	14
Cost of school supervision,	\$74.90

District No. 1.—Joseph Richardson, agent. Summer term, taught by Mrs. Alice F. Wood of this town. Although small in number, this school was first-class in every respect. Length of school seven weeks. Whole number of scholars eleven; Whole number reg. six; Average number, four; Wages \$3.65; board \$1.25.

Winter term was also taught by Mrs. Wood, and was one of our most successful winter terms. Mrs. Wood is well qualified. She is earnest and thorough in her labors, hence a successful teacher. Length of school, twelve weeks; whole number reg. seven; average six; wages, \$3.40; board 1.50.

District No. 2. David Heald agent. Summer term taught by Miss May Libby of Detroit. Miss Libby kept a good school. Her scholars made good progress, and the term was a profitable one. Length of term, seven weeks, whole number of scholars, thirteen; whole number reg. eleven; average, ten; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.25.

Winter term also taught by Miss Libby. This was also a profitable term. The order was good, and the advancement in the studies pursued full an average. Miss Libby made good use of the geographical wall map, and the whole school profited by it. Length of school, twenty weeks; whole number reg. twelve; average number, nine; wages, \$2.50 board, \$1.25.

District, No. 3. Charles Wyman agent. Summer term taught by Miss Lois M. Leavitt of this town. Miss Leavitt succeeded in gaining the good will of her scholars, and the confidence of the parents. I did not visit this school at the close, but judging from the examination at the opening of the winter term, I class it among our profitable summer terms. Length of the term, six weeks; whole number scholars, eighteen; whole number reg. fifteen; average number, eleven; wages, \$3.50; board, \$2.00.

Winter term taught by Miss Ella Holbrook of Newport. Miss Holbrook is a live wide awake teacher, and she spares no pains on her part for the advancement of her school. I did not visit the school at the close, but I learn that all appear to be satisfied with the winter term. Length of term, weeks; whole number reg. ten; average number, seven; wages, \$4.00, board 2.00.

District No. 4. J. M. Jordan agent. Summer term taught by Miss Emma A. Smith of this town. This was among the profitable terms of our summer schools, Miss Smith is well qualified, and has had considerable experience in teaching. She has an easy manner of communicating her ideas to her pupils, and is thorough in drill. Length of term, eleven weeks; whole number of scholars, fifty-five; whole number reg. thirty-three; average number, twenty-six; wages per week, \$3.50; board, \$1.38.

Winter term taught by Mr. Oscar Davis of this town. Mr. Davis taught this school last year, giving the best of satisfaction, and in the present term, he has more than sustained his former high reputation, as a teacher of youth. He was always master in the school-room, yet he was never severe, especially with the smaller portion of the school. The progress in the sciences taught, was excelled by none of the winter terms in town, and there were more of the higher English branches, taught in this school, than in any other in town. One of the students made very commendable progress in the study of Latin, during the term. Near the close of the term, a complaint was made that the school was unprofitable, and an investigation was had in the presence of the school, the agent, and quite a number of the citizens, showing that

there was no cause whatever for complaint. In fact the complainant sustained no single charge against the teacher, of any kind whatever. Such a course on the part of a citizen, is highly censurable. He should have knowledge of the facts, before complaining. Length of term, ten weeks; whole number reg, thirty-five; average number, thirty; wages, \$39.00 per month; board \$2.25 per week.

District No. 5.—John Parkman, agent. Summer term taught by Miss Lena Stimpson of Newport. This was Miss Stimpsons first effort at school teaching. yet she succeeded in maintaining good order and the proficiency in the studies pursued, was up to an average of the summer terms. Length of the term, eight weeks; whole number of scholars, twenty-four: whole number reg. eleven; average number eight; wages per week, \$2 00; board, \$1.25.

Winter term taught by Miss Addie Stimpson of Newport. Miss Stimpson is well qualified, and the closing examination, showed such progress and discipline as bespoke praise on the part of, both teacher and pupils. Length of term, ten weeks; whole number reg. twelve; average number, ten and one-third; wages, \$3.50 per week; board \$1.55.

District No. 6.—Nathan Cole agent. Summer term taught by Miss Addie Stimpson of Newport. Miss Stimpson is an excellent disciplinarian, and is thorough in her work, in the school-room. This was one of our most profitable summer terms. Length of term, ten weeks; whole number of scholars, forty-two; whole number reg. nineteen; average number, seventeen; wages, \$3.75 per week; board, \$1.50.

Winter term taught by Mr. J. M. Sanborn of Newport. Mr. Sanborn's literary qualifications are excelled by none who teach in our common schools. He is active, energetic and enterprising in his work in the school room, maintaining the best of order, without seeming effort. We would call the attention of our future agents to Mr. Sanborn as a teacher of youth, worthy of their patronage. Length of term, nine weeks; number of scholars, reg. twenty-four; average number, eighteen; wages \$35. per month; board \$1.70.

District No. 7.—Hartley Woodbridge, agent. Summer term taught by Clara E. Woodbridge, of this town. Miss Woodbridge is a live teacher, always maintaining the best of order, and keeping up a constant interest in her school. The advancement was rapid and the drill thorough. Length of term, twelve weeks; whole number scholars in district, 67; number registered, 31; average number, 29; wages, \$3.50 per week; board, \$0.99

Winter term taught by Laforest Robinson of this town. Mr. Robin-

son has an easy, quiet way in the school-room. He has an excellent faculty of imparting his ideas to his pupils, making the recitations interesting as well as profitable. District No. 7 has been among the fortunate ones the past year. Length of term, fourteen weeks; number of scholars registered, thirty-five; average number, twenty-four; wages, \$32.40 per month; board, \$1.90.

District No. 8.—H. G. Johonnett, agent. Summer term taught by Miss Grace E. Burleigh of this town. Miss Burleigh is quite young, and this was her second effort at school teaching. She did not succeed in keeping the control of her scholars, and the school became disorderly and she closed at the end of the fourth week. Whole number scholars in district, twenty-four; number registered, nineteen; average number, sixteen; wages, \$2.75 per week; board, \$1.50.

Winter term taught by Miss Emma A. Smith of this town. Miss Smith had heretofore proved one of our most successful teachers, and commenced this school with every prospect of a profitable term. Some three weeks before its close I was notified by one of the citizens that the school was becoming somewhat demoralized. I fixed upon a day to investigate and met several of the parents at the school-house, and after careful inquiry decided to sustain the teacher, and she kept her school out to the close with quite satisfactory results. Much praise and many thanks are due the parents who assisted with their advice and good judgment in settling this difficulty in a satisfactory manner. Length of term, eleven weeks; whole number registered, twenty-one; average number, eighteen; wages, \$1.50 per week; board, \$2.00.

District No. 9.—Horatio Morrill, agent. Summer term taught by Della Ricker, of Detroit. Miss Ricker is a fine scholar, and she kept an orderly school, but the advancement in the studies pursued was not an average with the summer terms. There appeared to be a lack of that thorough drill which is necessary to success. Length of school nine weeks; whole number scholars in Dist. 37, number registered eighteen, average number fourteen; wages \$3.00 per week, board .90.

Winter term taught by A. B. Morrill, of this town. Mr. Morrill is well qualified, and a faithful laborer in the school room. The advancement in the studies pursued, was about an average on the part of those who attended regularly. But for some reason there were too many absentees. Parents, as well as teachers, should endeavor to remedy this evil. Length of school eleven weeks; number registered twenty-six; average number nineteen; wages \$23.00 per month; board \$1.00.

District No. 10. B. F. Spaulding agent. Summer term taught by Miss Abbie H. Morse of Newport. At the first visit I found the

school well organized, the order good, and the teacher active and apparently interested. During the sixth week I learned from the teacher that she was having trouble in governing the scholars. I immediately examined the school and found it so demoralized, that I thought it advisable to stop it. Accordingly an arrangement was entered into with the teacher and the agent to have the school close at the end of that week, without a formal dismissal of the teacher. This arrangement although made out of sympathy for the teacher, was disregarded and an investigation was made the following Monday, and the teacher duly dismissed, because it was deemed that her services had become unprofitable. Length of term six weeks; whole number of scholars in district thirty-two; number registered twenty-one; average number eighteen; wages per week \$2.50; board \$.

Winter term taught by Miss Hattie F. Parsons of Hartland. This school appeared well at the commencement, but on visiting it the fourth week, I found the teacher so disheartened and the school so disorderly that I deemed it too unprofitable to continue, and accordingly dismissed the teacher. Length of term, week; number reg. ; average number, ; wages, \$, per week; board, \$

District No. 11.—S. A. Bennett, Agent. Summer term taught by Flora Smith of this town. Although Miss Smith is quite young, with but little experience in teaching, yet she kept an excellent school. The order was good and the progress such as gave evidence of hard labor and thorough drill. She rendered the district good service, and they appeared to be well satisfied. Length of term, eight weeks; whole number scholars, twenty-three; number reg. fifteen; average number, thirteen; wages, \$2.75 per week; board \$1.45.

Winter term taught by George Lucas of St. Albans. This was Mr. Lucas first attempt at school teaching, and he acquitted himself well. He maintained good order through the term, and the closing examination showed commendable progress in all the branches taught. Near the close of the term the teacher called on me to settle the difficulty between him and one of the scholars, who refused to obey his orders. I investigated the case, found the scholar obstinately disobedient and unwilling to make reparation and I expelled him. Length of term, eight weeks; number reg. nineteen; average number, seventeen; wages, \$18 per month; board, \$1.90.

District No. 12.—J. F. Spaulding, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Annie Littlefield of Pittsfield. Miss Littlefield kept an orderly, quiet school and gave good satisfaction. Length of term eight weeks;

number of scholars twenty; number reg., sixteen; average number, thirteen; wages, \$2.00 per week; board \$1.49.

Winter term was commenced by Miss May E. Maxwell of this town. At the first visit I found the school well organized and in good running order. Miss Maxwell closed her school at the end of the fourth week, on account of her health failing, and the balance of the term was taught by Mr. Frank Lang of this town, with satisfactory results. Length of term eleven weeks; number reg., fifteen; average number thirteen; wages, Miss Maxwell, \$3.00 per week; board \$1.45. Mr. Lang \$22 per month, board included.

District No. 13.—William Brooks agent. Summer term taught by Miss Annie F. Libby of Detroit. Miss Libby seemed anxious for the advancement, of her pupils, and the progress was about an average, with that of the summer terms. Length of term, nine weeks; number of scholars in Dist. forty-two; number reg. twenty-seven; average number, twenty-two; wages, \$3.00 per week; board \$1.00.

Winter term taught by Gilman Burleigh of this town. Mr. Burleigh had his school well classified, and appeared anxious for its improvement. The house is too small to accommodate the winter school, three scholars frequently occupying one seat, making it difficult to maintain that quiet necessary to a successful school. Length of school, eleven weeks; whole number of scholars, forty-two; number reg. thirty-eight; average number, thirty-two; wages, \$24.00 per month; board \$1.45.

District No. 14.—Peter B. Osborn agent. Summer term taught by Miss May E. Maxwell. At the commencement of this term, every thing bid fair a prosperous term. At the close of the fourth week, Miss Maxwell left, as I heard on account of sickness in the family at home. Number reg. 16; average number 14; wages \$2.50; board \$1.49.

Winter term was commenced by Miss Cora E. Marr of Canaan, who lacked that energy and perseverance necessary to insure a good school. Several of the most advanced scholars became dissatisfied and left the school. I was called upon to investigate in relation to the school near the close of the seventh week, and did so, finding that the school had been of little or no profit to the district, and Miss Marr by my advice left. The balance of the term was kept by Mr. Russell Davis of Hartland. Mr. Davis is an experienced teacher, a good disciplinarian, and labors constantly for the advancement of his school. He gave good satisfaction. Length of term ten and one-half weeks; whole number registered twenty-two; average number sixteen; wages, Miss Marr \$4.25 per week, Mr. Davis \$25.00 per month; board \$1.75

District No. 15. John Crawford agent. Summer and winter term united, and taught by Miss Lois M. Leavitt of this town. Miss Leavitt at my first visit, had her school well organized, and there appeared to be a good interest manifest by both teacher and scholars. About three weeks before the close, the teacher called on me to investigate a question of disobedience on the part of some of the large boys. I did so, and found that several of the large boys had refused to obey reasonable requests of the teacher. All but one apologized to the teacher and school for their disobedience, and promised to behave the remainder of the term. The one who refused to apologize or amend, I removed with the understanding that he would be restored if he repented. The closing examination showed that those who attended the school punctually, had made good progress in their several studies, but that there was a lack of interest in the general attendance, a part of which was chargeable to the course pursued by the parents of the absentees. Length of school seventeen weeks; whole number of scholars twenty-six; number registered twenty; average number twelve; wages per week and board \$5.75.

District No. 16. I have not been consulted in relation to the expenditure of the money apportioned to this district, hence I can make no report. The law provides that the money in the district shall be expended under the written approval of the Supervisor.

Conclusion.

Notwithstanding a minority of our schools have proved unprofitable, it is gratifying to know that a majority of them have been very successful. The most of the agents have been very fortunate in their selection of teachers, and the past year's experience goes to justify those who engaged able teachers, even at what may be considered exorbitant prices. Book-keeping has been taught in several of the summer terms, and the most of the winter terms, and a large number in the advanced classes have become sufficiently acquainted with the common forms to keep very correct business accounts.

In several of the winter terms many of the students have made commendable progress in history, algebra, and physiology without neglecting the more common English branches. About one-half of the school

houses in town are very comfortable and convenient; the remainder are very cold in winter and inconvenient in every respect. Several districts are suffering great loss by neglecting to build new houses. There should be at least three if not more built the coming year. The scholars are deserving better accommodations and I think the citizens are abundantly able. It is a fact worthy of note that our most successful schools, have been found in our best houses. Our public schools are our great national safeguards against ignorance and vice, and every parent, yes, every citizen, who has the welfare of his country at heart, should throw aside personal prejudices, and give his hearty influence and support in favor of sustaining and elevating our common school system.

LEWIS WYMAN, Supervisor.

