

1877

Annual Report of the Selectmen, and Supervisor of Schools, for the Town of Palmyra, for Year Ending March 4, 1878

Palmyra (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

SELECTMEN,

—AND—

Supervisor of Schools,

—FOR THE—

TOWN OF PALMYRA,

For Year Ending March 4, 1878.

DEXTER:
ROBBINS & HERRING, STEAM JOB PRINTERS.
1878.

ANNUAL REPORT
 OF
Supervisor of Schools,
 FOR THE
TOWN OF PALMYRA,
 For the School Year Ending April 1, 1878.



Amount of money raised by the town,	\$1058 00
State school fund, bank and mill tax,	768 44
Interest on town school fund,	55 80
	\$1882 24
Whole number of scholars in town, 416.	
Number of male teachers employed the past year, 11.	
do female do do	16.
Cost of school supervision,	\$64 25

Department of Overseers of the Poor.

TOWN FARM REPORT.

INVOICE OF PROPERTY ON THE FARM FEBRUARY 18, 1878.

One pair oxen,	\$185 00
Five cows,	150 00
One two-year-old bull,	50 00
One yearling,	10 00
Two shoats, twenty-six hens,	25 00
Twenty-three sheep and twenty-one lambs,	138 00
	\$508 00

PRODUCTS OF FARM, AND PROVISIONS.

Twelve tons hay, at \$13.00,	\$156 00
One and three-fourth barrels Pork, at 18 cts. per lb.,	31 50
One barrel beef,	12 00
One hundred and sixty bushel potatoes,	40 00
Twenty-five bushel beets and turnips,	6 25
Soap, \$8.00; tallow and candles, \$2.30,	10 30
Peas, corn, beans, butter and cheese,	25 47
Lard, meal and flour,	12 75
Groceries and barrels,	14 05
Barley, shingles, and boards,	14 70
	\$223 02
	\$831 02
Farming tools and household furniture,	420 75
	\$1251 77

STOCK AND PRODUCTS SOLD.

Lambs, wool and woolskins,	\$132 15
Two pair oxen,	235 00
Butter, \$52.71; Cheese, \$39 68; Eggs, \$29 62,	122 01
Poultry, cowhide, calves and potatoes,	58 37
Beans, pigs, hams, lard, and cash for meals,	18 00
Pork, etc., boards, tobacco, and old iron,	4 73
Peas, and use of bull,	17 00
Shovel handles sold, and watch,	6 00
	\$593 26

AMOUNT OF ALL BILLS OF PURCHASE.

One pair oxen,	\$120 00
All other purchases,	365 46
Salary of overseer,	320 00
	805 46
Whole expense of farm,	593 26
Amount of stock and products sold,	212 20
	260 13
Add decrease of property,	\$472 33
Balance against farm,	\$472 33

The management of the farm and house by Mr. Stacy and wife has continued to be very satisfactory. Short crops, low prices, and a general shrinkage in value of nearly all stock and products on hand, together with a considerable increase of paupers, readily account for the increased balance against the farm from former years.

PAUPER BILLS OUTSIDE OF FARM,

Paid Thos. Sherwood, on acct. of Lizzie Sherwood,	\$25 00
Paid on acct. of Bowman Eldridge,	28 08
do L. F. Nason,	91 33
do Miss Parkman,	16 00
do John Bachelder,	61 28
do Jennie V. Cowen,	2 66
do Mrs. Dutton,	20 00
do Nathan Frost,	32 28
do Chas. H. Sally,	100 90
do John Fernald,	119 71
do W. B. Morrison,	114 31
do F. B. Luce,	28 04
do Chas. H. Lewis,	17 81
do Mrs. H. Nichols,	10 00
do Hiram Sally,	51 31
do Wm. E. Gibson,	10 00
do James Tuttle,	11 00
do A. J. Tuttle,	6 00
do A. W. Webb,	26 79
do Chas. M. Maxim,	11 50
do Mary E. McClure,	23 40
do Mrs. S. Shaw, bill of 1875,	20 00
do Isaac Sally,	7 50
Due Dr. Pushor, on acct. of John Fernald,	80 00
do do W. B. Morrison,	90 00
Due Town of Thorndike, on acct. of C. M. Maxim,	9 00
Due H. C. Webber, for supplies for Bowman Eldridge,	6 30
Due Town of Pittsfield, on acct. of Jennie V. Cowan,	25 00
Due Thos Sherwood, on acct. of Lizzie Sherwood,	25 00
Reported due last year,	25 00
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	\$1045 20
Received from other towns,	202 50
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	\$842 70
Due from other towns,	20 73
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Whole cost of paupers outside of farm,	\$821 97

Selectmen and Assessors' Department.

ABATEMENTS.

A. Morrill, bills of 1873,	\$ 3 00
M. Dyer, do 1874,	15 38
do do 1875,	35 96
do do 1876,	31 03
J. P. Longley, bills for 1877,	4 68
	<hr/>
	\$90 05

REPORT OF LIQUOR AGENCY.

Cash turned into the treasury,	\$ 32 58
Increase of stock on hand,	148 55
	<hr/>
Net profits from sales,	\$181 13

AMOUNT PAID OUT ON ROADS AND BRIDGES.

B. F. Parkman,	\$6 00
J. H. Baker,	78 00
D. M. Heald	6 25
Warren Farnham,	28 40
Edwin French,	8 25
H. G. Johonnett,	4 90
Thos. Foley,	48 15
Wm. W. Davis,	13 00
Philip K. Taylor,	17 39
H. Morrill,	9 00
Simeon E. Dyer,	9 00
Howard Estes,	5 00
N. W. Goodrich,	8 00
John Robinson,	12 50
Freeman Davis,	25 00
Due Wm. J. Thomas,	13 00
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	\$292 34
C. B. Cowen,	3 15
	<hr/>
	\$295 49

MISCELLANEOUS BILLS.

Paid H. A. Stevens, for Printing Town Report of 1876.	\$21 00
H. C. Webber, for Transferring Cookson Property,	1 50
Huge Ross, for damage received on the highway,	50 00
Judkins & Morrill, for blank books, stationery and stamps,	14 90
A. B. Frost, services as Moderator,	1 50
Expense of removing A. A. McClure to hospital and home again,	21 70
Hospital Bill,	44 32
John R. Stacy, bal. of salary for 1876,	88 00
do services for 1877,	165 00
H. Sally, house rent,	3 00
Lewis Wyman, supervisor 1876,	74 90
do for school books,	26 75
D. S. Robinson, for books for records,	9 15
T. F. Homsted, for burying ground fence,	136 20
Town Pittsfield, taxes on Wyman land,	8 70
For guide boards Marsh Cor.,	5 00
H. C. Webber, for expense to W. Gardiner looking up Gray Case,	11 50
Wyman and Jordan, Justices in case town against Albert Wyman,	2 00
D. A. H. Powers, for legal services in case of town against Chester,	16 21
Judkins & Murch, goods for town farm,	20 00
R. Stuart, expense to Bangor,	2 00
M. Dyer, col. of taxes for 1876,	32 40
N. Towle, for lamb killed by dogs,	2 50
E. Q. Frost, for burying ground gate,	1 00
M. Dyer, for removing Chas. H. Sally's goods from No. 8,	21 05
For wood for Town Hall,	1 25
T. F. Homsted, for board of Town Officers,	12 25

RECEIPTS INTO THE TREASURY.

Balance in treasury March 5th, 1877,	\$ 147 67
Received of M. Dyer, collector for 1874—5—6,	1048 26
do J. P. Longly, do 1877,	1669 86
Received on Non-resident taxes of 1876,	145 27
do State school fund and mill tax, 1876,	768 44
Received interest on school fund, note in full,	51 67
do of Selectmen, the following sums:	
do money of trustees of school fund,	293 38
do from sale of stock from farm,	165 00
do do Moses Wyman cow,	20 00
do from town of Chester,	98 00
do do Industrv,	28 04
do do Pittsfield,	88 31
do do York,	17 81
do do Plymouth,	26 79
do do Brewer,	10 00
do do Monmouth,	10 00
do do Brighton,	42 58
do do Winthrop,	21 55
do do Skowhegan,	38 10
do from sale of school books,	59 68
do rent of Town Hall,	46 00
do for dog licences, 1877,	16 00
do from sales of liquor,	32 58
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	\$4759 44
Deduct amount of orders turned over,	4107 34
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Amount in Treasury Mar. 4, 1878,	\$652 10

TOWN OFFICERS' BILLS.

Paid H. C. Webber, Selectman, etc.,	\$76 50
“ R. Stuart, do	40 50
“ M. Dyer, do	55 25
“ H. C. Webber, Town Agent,	6 00
“ Samuel Clement, Treasurer,	25 00
“ D. S. Robinson, Clerk,	10 00
Due Lewis Wyman, Supervisor,	64 25
do do Auditor,	3 00
	<hr/>
	\$280 80

FUNDS OF THE TOWN.

Cash in the treasury,	\$652 10
Due from M. Dyer, col. for 1876,	215 34
do J. P. Longley, col. for 1877,	579 45
Due on Non-resident taxes returned,	167 86
Liquors and casks in hands of agent,	249 85
School books on hand cost	57 39
Due from Winthrop,	10 73
do Brewer,	10 00
do rent of hall, Good Templars to March 4, 1877,	4 25
Cash in hands of overseer on farm,	2 36
	<hr/>
	\$1949 33

LIABILITIES.

School fund order outstanding,	\$1163 33
Other orders,	83 00
Due the several school districts,	287 97
" Lewis Wyman, Supervisor,	64 25
do Auditor,	3 00
" J. P. Longley, for col. of tax for 1877,	34 57
" J. R. Stacy, overseer on farm,	75 00
" Thos. Sherwood, on acct. of Lizzie Sherwood,	25 00
" Dr. Harris Pushor, estimated,	170 00
" Town of Pittsfield, do	25 00
" H. C. Webber,	6 30
" Wm. J. Thomas,	13 00
" Town of Thorndike,	9 00
Probable amount of abatements to close col.	75 00
	<hr/>
	\$2084 42
Deduct amount of funds,	1949 33
	<hr/>
Balance against the town,	\$85 09

The Selectmen submit the foregoing as the financial standing of the Town, and the expenditures for the year, commencing Mar. 5th, 1877, and ending March 4th, 1878.

H. C. WEBBER,	} SELECTMEN	
R. STUART,		OF
M. DYER,		} PALMYRA.

I hereby certify that I have examined the bills and statements from which the foregoing report is made, and find them correct.

LEWIS WYMAN, Auditor.

Palmyra, Eeb. 25, 1878.

DISTRICT NO. 1.—B. F. Damon, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Alma E. Hubbard, of this town. This was Miss Hubbard's first effort at teaching, and she acquitted herself well, giving the best of satisfaction. The drill was thorough, and the improvement was full an average with the summer terms. Length of school, six weeks; whole number of scholars, eleven; whole number reg., four; average, three; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.55; amount apportioned district, \$91.81.

Winter term, taught four weeks, by Miss Alma E. Hubbard, and ten weeks by Miss Lilla Goodwin, of Detroit. Both of these young ladies labored faithfully for the improvement of the school, and the result was satisfactory. Length of school, fourteen weeks; number reg., 8; average number, 4 1-2; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.50.

DISTRICT NO. 2.—John Carr, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Mae Libby, of Detroit. Miss Libby had charge of this school last year, and so well satisfied were the citizens of the district, that they engaged her this season, and the result proved their wisdom in so doing. Length of school, seven weeks; whole number of scholars, 16; number reg., 11; average number, 8; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.25; amount apportioned district, \$100.80.

Winter term was also taught by Miss Libby, with like satisfactory results. Although the room is small and inconvenient, yet Miss Libby kept it neat and attractive, and maintained excellent order. The drill was thorough, and the improvement full an average of the summer terms. Length of schools, 16 weeks; number scholars reg., 14; average number, 12; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.25.

DISTRICT NO. 3.—George W. Hanson, Agent. Summer term taught by Mr. Byron P. Hanson. This was a quiet, orderly school, and the improvement in the branches taught more than an average in the summer schools. Length of school, 7 weeks; whole number of scholars, 19; number reg., 12; average number, 10; wages, \$12.00 per month; board, \$1.95; amount apportioned district, \$99.20.

Winter term was also taught by Mr. Byron P. Hanson. This was a profitable school, and the district have reason to be satisfied. Length of school, 10 weeks; whole number reg., 9; average, 8; wages, \$17.00; board, \$1.90.

DISTRICT NO. 4.—Geoerge F. Bachelder, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss I. Louise Prince, of Detroit. Miss Prince is one of our best qualified and most successful teachers. She has a happy faculty to gain the good will of her scholars, and to keep up an interest throughout the term. She takes especial pains to make the school exercises pleasant and interesting for the little ones. Length of school, 10 weeks; whole number of scholars, 51; whole number regular, 35; average number, 27; wages, \$4.00; board, \$1.40; amount apportioned district, \$193.80.

Winter term taught by John Weston, of this town. Mr. Weston is an experienced teacher, a good disciplinarian, and an energetic worker. The classes made good proficiency in the several branches pursued. Length of term, 12 weeks; whole number of scholars reg., 30; average, number, 25; wages, \$35.00; board, \$2.12 1-2.

DISTRICT NO. 5.—J. C. Millett, Agent. No summer term. Winter term taught by Mr. W. R. Grant, of Newport. Mr. Grant is a young man and has had but little experience in teaching. He succeeded well

for about three weeks, after which time he seemed to loose his control over the large boys. A short time before the school closed I was called upon by the agent to investigate a case of insubordination in the school, and I fixed upon a time, notified the district, and met with the larger part of the parents, who assisted in a thorough investigation, which resulted in the removal of one of the boys from the school. In the course of a few days I was called again by the agent, to settle another difficulty, and made another removal. Shortly after the last removal, I learned that several of the boys had an encounter with the teacher, and that he left the school the next day, claiming that he was so severely injured that he was unable to continue his school. Amount apportioned district, \$101.84.

DISTRICT NO 6.—Frank Cook, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Sadie C. Walker, of Newport. Miss Walker's literary attainments are of a high order. She makes her school-room attractive by neatness and adornment. She is thorough in review and drill, and her school was a success in order and proficiency. Length of term, 8 1-2 weeks; whole number scholars, 38; whole number reg., 22; average number, 20; wages, \$3.75; board, \$1.48, amount of money apportioned district, \$144.40.

Winter term by Frank H. Gardiner, of Corinna. Mr. Gardiner possesses rather a mild and quiet disposition, and did not exhibit sufficient sternness at the beginning, which is so necessary to a profitable school; but I learn, as the school progressed, the discipline was decidedly improved, and on the whole the school was about an average. Length of term, 9 weeks; number reg., 24; average number, 16; wages, \$33.00; board, \$1.70.

DISTRICT NO. 7.—Alvin Howes, Agent. Summer term taught by Mrs. E. F. Hilton, of St. Albans. Mrs. Hilton is an old and experienced teacher, and maintained good order in the schoolroom. She kept up a general interest throughout the term, having an average of 27 scholars out of 32, whole number registered. With the smaller classes the drill was thorough, and the improvement satisfactory; but Mrs. Hilton lacked that familiarity with the higher English branches, necessary to make the exercises interesting and successful. Length of term, 12 weeks; whole number scholars, 62; number reg., 32; average number, 27; wages, \$3.50; board, \$1.15; amount apportioned district, \$235.60.

Winter term taught by Alvin Howes. Mr. Howes has taught several terms in our town previous to this, two at least in this same district, and with the best of success; but, for some cause unknown to me, there has been a prejudice exhibited against him this term on the part of a very few of the scholars, and several of the parents and citizens. Some of the citizens claimed during the term that the school was unprofitable, but no one who spoke with me on the subject would consent to enter a complaint and assist in an investigation. I think resident citizens, who are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that their school is not being profitably conducted, and especially that the money is being worse than thrown away, should notify the Supervisor, and go with him in person and assist in thoroughly investigating the matter, and help to correct the evil; and in my opinion, whoever is not willing to take such responsibility had far better remain silent. At the closing examination, I found a very few of the scholars had left, but those present were as quiet and orderly as any one could desire, and they passed a very commendable examination.

From my own observation, I feel safe in saying that Mr. Howes rendered the district good service, all things considered. Length of term, 13 7-11 weeks; whole number scholars reg., 40; average number, 28 1-2; wages, \$33.00; board, \$1.75.

DISTRICT NO 8.—John S. Wright, agent. Summer term taught by Miss Lydia A. Morrill, of this town. Miss Morrill has a temper and disposition adapted to teaching. She gains the good will of her scholars at the onset, and retains it to the last. The order was good and the improvement in the studies more than an average. Length of term seven weeks; whole number of scholars, 24; whole number reg., 17; average number, 13; wages, \$3.00; board, \$1.60; amount apportioned district, \$107.20.

Winter term taught by Mr. Alfaro Palmer, of this town. For a young and inexperienced teacher, Mr. Palmer acquitted himself well. He maintained good order, and the proficiency in the branches taught was fully an average with the winter terms. Length of term, seven weeks; whole number of scholars, 24; number reg., 17; average number, 13; wages, \$11.00; board, \$1.60.

DISTRICT NO. 9.—John Pooler, agent. Summer term taught by Miss Isadore Sawyer, of Hartland. There were but a very few scholars present at the closing examination, and I judged there was a lack of interest on the part of both parents and scholars, although Miss Sawyer appeared anxious and interested. Length of term, eight weeks; whole number of scholars, 36; number reg., 12; average number, 9; wages, \$3.00; board \$.89; amount apportioned district, \$140.80.

Winter term taught by Mr. J. B. Wood, of Stetson. Mr. Wood had the best average attendance of any of the Winter terms. The closing examination showed commendable progress in the branches taught, and an orderly school. Length of school ten weeks; whole number reg., 26; average number, 25; wages, \$30.00; \$1.15.

DISTRICT NO. 10.—Perry Furbush, agent. Summer term taught by Miss Abbie Morse, of this town. This school was one of the successful Summer terms. The order was good, and the scholars made more than average progress in the branches pursued. Whole number of scholars, 27; numbers reg., 22; average, number, 18; wages, \$3.00; board \$1.40; amount of apportioned district \$107.60

Winter term taught by Miss Morse. There was not the same general satisfaction manifested by all of the parents as there was during the summer term; yet I think Miss Morse labored to the best of her ability for the good of the school, and in my judgment, this was about an average of the winter terms for order and proficiency. Length of term, 11 weeks; whole number reg., 27; average, number, 23; wages, \$3.50; board, \$1.50.

DISTRICT NO. 11.—Charles Cowan, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss A. Louise Bennett, of this town. Notwithstanding this was Miss Bennett's first experience in the schoolroom, as a teacher, this school closed as one of the most successful summer terms, not only for the advancement in the studies pursued, but also for good order maintained. Length of term, 9 weeks; whole number scholars, 22; number reg., 14; average number 12; wages, \$2.25; board, \$1.40; amount apportioned district, \$108.60.

Winter term taught by Gilman Burleigh, of this town. This term

was among the profitable winter terms, and this district has reason to be satisfied with Mr. Burleigh's services. The order and improvement were both satisfactory. Length of term, 15 weeks; whole number reg., 24; average number, 17; wages, \$15.00; board, \$1.75.

DISTRICT NO. 12.—Charles A. Lang, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Alice E. Libby, of Detroit; This was about an average with the summer terms. The order was quite good and the progress fair. Length of term, 8 weeks; whole number scholars, 18; number reg., 10; average number, 8; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.60; amount apportioned district, \$104.40.

Winter term taught by Miss Dora Crocker, of Pittsfield. Miss Crocker's literary attainments are of a high order, and she is methodical in her work in the schoolroom. The district has reason to be satisfied with the result of the term. Length of term, 11 weeks; whole number reg., 15; average number, 10; wages, \$4.00; board, \$1.70.

DISTRICT NO 13.—Lawrence Maxim, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Clara E. Woodbridge. Miss Woodbridge is a successful teacher, and she made this term a success. Length of term, 9 weeks; whole number scholars, 44; number reg., 21; average number, 19; wages \$4.00; board, \$1.00; amount apportioned district, \$119.40.

Winter term taught by Frank H. Wiggin, of Exeter. When I visited this school at the commencement I found it well organized; the order good, and the school well classified, with a fair prospect for a successful term. I did not visit it at the close, but I learned that the citizens were generally satisfied. Length of term, 10 weeks; whole number scholars reg., 32; average number 30; wages, \$36.00; board, \$1.50.

DISTRICT NO. 14.—Eben F. Pooler, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Lena E. Pooler, of this town. Miss Pooler is quite young, and this was her first school; yet she kept an orderly school, and the progress was fair. Length of term, 9 weeks; whole number scholars, 19; number reg., 15; average number, 11; wages, \$2.50; board, \$1.15; amount of money apportioned district, \$102.20.

Winter term taught by Warren B. Davis, of this town. Mr. Davis is an experienced teacher, and is one of our best disciplinarians, and he made the school a success in every respect. Length of term, 7 weeks; whole number scholars reg., 19; average number, 17; wages, \$25.00; board, \$1.65.

DISTRICT NO. 15.—Isaac Farnham, Agent. Summer term taught by Miss Lois M. Leavitt, of this town. Miss Leavitt taught the school last year, and the satisfaction was such that the district secured her services for the summer term this year. The order was good, and the improvement full an average of the summer terms. Length of term, 8 weeks; whole number of scholars, 24; number reg., 12; average number, 9; wages, \$2.75; board \$1.00; amount apportioned district, \$112.20.

Winter term taught by Mr. B. F. Lang, of this town. Mr. Lang maintained good order in the schoolroom, and although the classes did not advance so far in the branches taught as in some other schools in town, yet the drill was thorough and the several classes seemed to understand the branches thoroughly so far as they had progressed. Length of term, weeks; whole number reg., 16; average number, 12; wages, \$82.00, including board.

DISTRICT NO. 16 has not been reported. Amount apportioned, \$12.40.

CONCLUSION.

On the whole, we have reason to be satisfied with the expenditure of the school money for the past year. Comparatively speaking, our summer terms are unusually successful, far more so than the average of schools in rural districts, and the same can be said of the winter terms, with perhaps one exception, and the exception applies to only part of the term; the first three weeks being nearly an average for improvement in the studies pursued, compared with the other schools in town. And I have no hesitation in saying that, for the amount of money expended, Palmyra has to-day in her common schools a greater number of proficient students in the common and higher English branches, than can be found among the same number in our sister towns. I also venture the assertion that, on the above named basis, Palmyra can furnish a greater number of students, who possess the legally required literary qualifications for common school teaching, than can any adjoining town. And I do not say this in a spirit of braggadocio, but I am willing to fix upon a time and place, and test the same by a competitive examination. One great cause of the prosperity of our schools, is the general interest manifested by the citizens and parents in correcting any wrong doing on the part of their children, when the same is fully and rightly understood; the greatest difficulty that I have encountered in this respect, being an unwillingness on the part of those who think they have cause for complaint, to take the responsibility of an investigation, such as the law requires. I do not complain that the citizens or parents in our town have more than an average of this shirking of responsibility; nevertheless, here is a needful reformation. The past winter has been a very favorable one for cold schoolrooms, and but little inconvenience has been experienced on this account; but we have no such assurance in the future, and such districts as have seriously suffered in the past, for the want of comfortable and convenient schoolrooms, should no longer defer building new houses. In visiting our schools at the commencement of the several terms, I have endeavored to impress upon the minds of both teacher and pupil, that there are other lessons to be learned at school, besides those found in the text-books—lessons of correct deportment, of self-restraint, something of neatness and cleanliness in the schoolroom, of correct deport, of self-reliance and of the principles of morality and justice. And I am satisfied from observation that our schools have profited in moral culture during the past year, as well as in scientific pursuits.

LEWIS WYMAN, SUPERVISOR.