

1891

Annual Report of the Selectmen, Assessors,
Overseers of the Poor, Town Agent and Treasurer
and S.S. Committee, for the Town of Searsmont, for
the Municipal Year, Ending March 2, 1891

Searsmont (Me.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the
Poor, Town Agent, Town
Treasurer and S. S. Committee,

—FOR THE—

Town of Searismont,

—FOR THE—

MUNICIPAL YEAR,

ENDING MARCH 2, 1891.

—
BELFAST :
Belfast Age Job Print.
1891.

EXPENDED.

For town charges and contingent,	\$ 813 02
“ support of poor,	1017 38
“ roads and bridges,	141 51
“ school books,	349 26
“ Collector and treasurer's commission,	158 81

\$ 2479 98

Raised and assessed, \$ 2074 19

Overdrawn, \$ 405 79

Town raised for town charges and contingent expenses,	\$ 600 00
Expended on Metcalf law suit,	339 90
Rent of office and hall,	43 89
M. P. Woodcock & Son for books,	8 83
Printing of town reports 1889,	7 50
E. S. Cushman auditor of “	1 50
L. C. Poor services as selectman, assessor etc.,	58 00
L. S. Marriner “ “ “ “	51 25
O. P. Fuller “ “ “ “	39 75
L. C. Poor town agent,	12 40
J. W. Farrar S. S. Committee,	31 00
A. L. Maddocks “	23 00
A. N. Jewett “	26 75
A. L. Maddocks town clerk,	6 50
A. G. Caswell constable,	6 00
J. W. Farrar auditor,	4 50
“ “ postage etc.,	1 55
L. C. Poor “ “	1 34
J. L. Bean for wood,	1 32
O. D. Wilson surveyor,	1 00
A. G. Caswell error on orders,	4 94
Expenses looking after and moving J. G. Mahoney from Rockland,	38 30
Abatement to A. G. Caswell on tax 1888,	87 60
“ “ Wm. Berry “ “ “	3 20
“ “ Horace Muzzy “ “	13 00

Expended, \$ 813 02

\$ 600 00

Overdrawn, \$ 213 02

Raised and assessed for treasurer's and collectors coms. \$150 00

EXPENDED.

Paid A. G. Caswell treasurer commission,	\$ 25 00
“ “ “ collectors “	133 81

\$ 158 81

\$ 150 00

Overdrawn, \$ 8 81

Town raised for support of the poor,	\$ 500 00
Received from town of Washington on acct. of H. Leighery	52 42
“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ A. K. Jameson,	52 26
“ “ “ “ Lincolnville “ I. Metcalf,	18 79
	<hr/>
Total pauper fund,	\$ 623 47

EXPENDED.

Paid James Fuller for support of J. Ladd,	\$ 75 00
“ Abby O. Heal “ “ Abby Conant,	54 42
“ S. S. Bean “ “ “ “	9 00
“ G. W. Richards “ “ Rufus Richards,	26 00
“ A. A. Buck “ “ “ “	38 50
“ City of Rockland “ “ J. G. Mahoney and family,	101 75
“ James Fuller “ “ “ “ “ “	70 48
“ Insane Hospital “ “ C. Spear and Warren Whitaker,	303 28
“ Rufus Richards clothing,	8 15
“ Roxy Fitzgerald for support of J. Richards,	5 00
“ A Sleeper “ “ Charles Richards,	15 00
“ For A. K. Jameson,	65 17
“ For Daniel Hart family,	98 44
“ A. G. Caswell for support of I. Metcalf.	4 63
“ For Melvina Pierce,	4 00
“ Town of Camden for F. H. Metcalf for 1889,	65 28
“ “ “ Lincolnville “ “	22 43
“ Supplies and moving “ “	36 10
“ For Irving Field,	14 75

Total expenditure,	\$ 1017 38
Fund,	623 47

Overdrawn,	\$ 393 91
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Raised for support of roads and bridges,	\$ 200 00
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EXPENDED.

Paid L. C. Poor for work and bills paid on Richards road.	13 40
“ O. P. Fuller labor on roads,	13 33
“ L. S. Marriner labor on Butler bridge,	7 18
“ C. D. Richards for plank,	1 10
“ Wm. Cooper labor on Nickerson road,	5 87
“ T. W. Nickerson, “ “ “	4 62
“ Otis Wellman “ Arnold bridge,	4 60
“ L. C. Poor labor and bills paid on Muzzy bridge,	5 12
“ H. N. Brown labor and lumber on Ruffingham bridge.	23 95
“ B. F. Fuller, lumber,	58 01
“ Taylor Gilman damage on plow,	2 50
“ C. S. Adams for plank,	83

Unexpended.	141 51
	58 49

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	\$ 200 00

Raised for School Books,	\$ 600 00
Expended,	349 26
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Unexpended,	250 74
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	600 00
Highway tax of 1888 unexpended,	263 51
Paid overwork on highway tax of 1887,	7 83
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Unexpended,	255 68
Raised by town in 1889 for highways	2041 76
Abated to S. S. Bean (worked by surveyors),	1717 40
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Leaving unworked in the hands of collector,	324 36
Paid surveyors for overwork on deficient highway tax,	136 69
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Unexpended,	\$ 187 67

REPORT OF SCHOOL FUND, 1890.

Town raised for school purposes,	\$ 1064 00
State school fund, mill tax,	657 67
Unexpended school fund of 1889,	291 96

Total fund, \$ 2013 63

No. Dist.	Apportioned.	Expended.	Overdrawn.	Due Dist.
1 & 16	\$ 223 57	223 57		
2	326 26	308 00		\$ 18 26
3	432 54	135 65	\$ 3 11	
4	192 18	146 10		46 08
5	261 10	207 30		53 80
6	44 65	31 25		13 40
7	216 30	208 71		7 59
8	68 24	61 06		7 18
10	138 00	139 02	1 02	
11	102 12	101 18		94
12	45 28	45 00		28
13	166 75	166 45		30
14	96 64	96 64		
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 2013 63	\$ 1869 93	\$ 4 13	\$ 147 83

L. C. POOR,
L. S. MARRINER,
O. P. FULLER, } Selectmen
of
Searsmont.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Amount turned in from treasurer of 1889, from A. G. Caswell, collector of 1888,	\$ 711 66
School fund and mill tax,	652 30
Crow bounty,	4 60
Pension State aid,	48 00
Non-resident tax deeds,	161 38
Resident " " "	130 61
Due from S. S. Bean, coll. of 1889,	4743 30
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Charged to treasurer in 1890,	\$ 6,452 85
D. B. Cobb auctioneer's license,	2 00
A. G. Caswell " " "	2 00
J. F. Paine peddler's " "	6 00
Eben Cobb " " "	6 00
By cash from Washington on account of H. Leigher,	52 42
School fund and mill tax 1890,	657 67
Cash from Washington on account of A. K. Jameson,	52 26
J. F. Burgess peddler's license,	6 00
Tax to S. S. Bean 1890,	6735 16
From T. W. Nickerson on account of Thomas Nickerson,	26 85
Supplementary tax to S. S. Bean,	7 84
" " " " "	5 40
Cash from Lincolnville on account of Isaac Metcalf,	18 79
Abated tax by coll. of 1888,	6 00
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	\$ 14,037 24
CONTRA. By amount of orders turned in and canceled,	7672 62
Due from S. S. Bean coll. of 1889,	263 75
" " " " " 1890,	4976 91
School fund and mill tax,	657 67
Res. tax deeds from the year 1884 to the year 1889 inclusive,	157 09
Non-res. tax deeds from the year 1883 to the year 1889 "	204 12
Cash in hands of treasurer,	105 08
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	\$ 14,037 24

Respectfully submitted, A. G. CASWELL,

Treasurer of Searsmont for the year 1890.

The undersigned has made a careful examination of the foregoing accounts and finds them correct and properly vouched, and would respectfully submit them to the town for their approval.

J. W. FARRAR, Auditor.

Searsmont, Feb. 25, 1891.

Superintending School Committee's Report.

To the Citizens of Searsmont:

As required by law, we herewith submit our annual report of the schools of this town for the year ending Feb. 28, 1891.

FINANCES.

At our regular meeting in March, 1890, it was voted to raise the "usual amount" of money to defray the school expenses for the then ensuing year. This amount, \$1064, increased by the amount granted by the State, gave the town the total of \$1721.67 for school purposes.

At first glance, we may think this is a large amount to expend on our schools, but when we consider the fact that an education is nearly if not quite all that many of us can give to our children, and that such education gives to them an unquestioned advantage over those who have it not, and that in this way we can give them legacies which will last them while life and reason exist, then the amount which we are called upon to contribute as individuals sinks into insignificance, and certainly in our town is not sufficient to satisfy the demand upon it.

On account of the great decrease in our population for the last 10 years and also in the number of scholars which draw aid from the State, we would recommend that the appropriation for the schools for the ensuing year be at least one dollar per capita.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

At our last annual meeting, an appropriation of \$600 was made for the purpose of books under the free text-book law. Of this amount, we have expended \$330.91 for the following books:

Readers,	\$ 23 91	Geographies,	\$ 90 40
Spellers,	20 33	Histories,	31 80
Arithmetics,	77 69	Physiologies,	17 16
Grammars,	31 68	Book-keeping,	22 82
Algebras,	15 12		
	Total,		\$ 330 91

Boxes for books in school room,	\$ 10 00		
Labels " " "	2 20		
Express and freight on books,	6 15		
			\$ 18 35

Whole amount expended, \$ 349 26

We have adopted the following books for our schools for the next five years: Barnes' and Swinton's Readers, Harrington's Speller, Greenleaf's Arithmetics and Algebra, Butler's Geographies, New Eclectic Histories, Steel's Physiology, and Harper's Copy Books. For the adoption of the copy books, the town received 12 copies of Webster's Academic Dictionary.

There is also in use Reed & Kellogg's Grammars and Meservey's Book-keeping.

On account of competition between publishers, we were enabled to procure 350 reading books at even exchange for the old ones which were not to be collected. This one item made a saving to the town of more than \$150. The prices on the other books were greatly reduced from regular rates.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

No. of Dist.	Amount of money.	No. of Scholars.	Attendance.	Average.	No. of weeks.	Teachers.
1&16	\$223 57	45	19	15	8	Inez M. Peavey.
			21	18	6	Mamie Woodbury.
			25	22	10 3-5	J. W. Farrar.
2	326 26	71	71	35	9	Maud E. Muzzy.
			29	25	8	Annie M. Vose.
			24	17	8	Maude A. Feader.
			33	28	7	A. N. Jewett.
			19	15	7	Sibyl Marriner.
3	132 54	21	15	12	8	Sadie T. Jordan.
			14	9	13	Mabel Packard.
4	192 18	40	15	10	6	L. Georgie Wentworth.
			17	15	8	Nellie L. Howard.
			24	22	10	R. W. Howard.
5	173 10	32	15	13	12	Annie M. Smith.
			14	12	10	" " "
7	144 30	31	25	21	9	Dora Jackson.
			28		15	T. W. Pease.
8	68 24	11	9	5	14	Claire Hodges.
10	138 00	25	*	*	*	Arvilla Thorndike.
			*	*	6	Minnie A. Dunton.
			21	12	9	Jas. F. Burgess.
11	102 12	17	7	5	7	Maude A. Feader.
			9	6	10	Nettie M. Brown.
13	166 75	25	15	12	8	Grace M. Pendleton.
			18	14	8	Addie B. Marriner.
			15	13	10	Willard A. Marriner.
14	96 64	17	27	26	5	L. Abby McDowell.
			24	20	10	" " "
			17	13	10	" " "

Free High School now in session in Dist. No. 2—E. C. Bowler, }
Mabel D. Bowler. }

* Register not returned.

TEACHERS.

"As is the teacher so is the school" is a proverb which every parent and every committee has proved true, and certainly if it be true, enough cannot be said against the employment of third rate teachers. A poor teacher is a positive injury to a school.

Certain it is that a superior teacher who has prepared himself for the position of teacher will not work for inferior wages. They are entitled to fair compensation which our agents, limited by so small amount of school money, feel that they cannot afford to pay, and in consequence hire those who either are inexperienced or who have tried to teach and can't do it, and who are willing to work for what they can get. Two remedies suggest themselves. First, let us raise more school money. Second, at your coming school meetings elect

for your agent, some man who has a direct interest in your schools and instruct him to hire reliable, experienced teachers at any cost, and when you have secured a good teacher retain him as many consecutive terms as possible.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

In regard to our school houses, it may be said that some are fairly good, others bad, while some are wholly unfit for occupation. In several districts, steps should be taken to make the houses more comfortable and inviting to both teacher and scholars. We think if all our school rooms were more comfortable and pleasant, we would see a larger attendance in nearly all our schools, and greater interest in all the studies.

One of the great wants in several of the school houses is more and better blackboards. Maps and a globe should be found in every school room. Let us not expect too good work from our teachers, unless we give them tools to work with.

CONCLUSION.

We think the schools for the past year will compare favorably with former years, yet we feel that more might have been done if the parents had taken more interest in them. Would it not be a step in advance if every parent would feel it his duty to visit the school at least once each term? Then instead of saying when asked about the school, "I guess we are having a good school. I don't hear any complaint," say "I know we are having a good school for I have been there to see."

One of the great evils of our school system is irregular attendance of pupils, and as a remedy, we would suggest that every parent see that his scholars are in school at the proper time, and on all occasions within range of possibility, remembering that every day they are absent is *a day lost*, never to be regained. Another evil is the mistaken ambition on the part of both parents and scholars for premature advancement in their studies. The practice of advancing a scholar faster than he is qualified to go is an injurious one.

But whatever else you do never speak of a teacher in disparaging terms before your children. Never destroy your children's respect for their teacher by unguarded remarks in their presence. No cause can be more destructive of order and discipline in the school than this. It is the chief cause of failure in many schools.

We think that many of the evils of the present school system would be remedied by the abolition of the district system. Among the many advantages which would be secured under the town system are the following: "Equality of school privileges," "Equality of taxation for school buildings," "Better teachers, more continuously employed," "Better Supervision," "Better school houses, better furnished," "Economy of expenditures" and "Greater average length of schools."

J. W. FARRAR,	}	S. S. Com.
A. L. MADDOCKS,		of
A. N. JEWETT,		Scarsmont.